

WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL

PROPOSED SUBMISSION CORE STRATEGY

INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY PLAN

FEBRUARY 2010



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Introduction and context

- 1.1 This is the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) for West Berkshire Council (WBC). The IDP is a supporting document for the Core Strategy and part of the Local Development Framework. The IDP covers the plan period from 2010 to 2026, although its content will be annually monitored and periodically reviewed.
- 1.2 This written report includes details of the infrastructure identified by WBC and other service providers as being needed to support the delivery of the Core Strategy. It explains the approach the Council has taken to identifying this infrastructure, their importance to the Core Strategy, how they will be delivered, and an assessment of the potential risks associated with doing so. This report also contains an Infrastructure Schedule, which summarises the infrastructure items in a comprehensive table.
- 1.3 Although the IDP seeks to identify the key infrastructure items which are required to meet the growth objectives set out in the Core Strategy, it does not capture every project being planned by each Council service or external service provider. The IDP recognises there are other plans and strategies that exist, providing more detail on what, how and when those services are to be delivered. The IDP draws heavily on those plans and strategies in order to complete this IDP. The IDP process has involved consultation and involvement from a wide range of officers within the Council as well as with key partners across the Local Strategic Partnership and beyond.
- 1.4 The IDP process included a number of key stages:
 - The identification of relevant service providers for each infrastructure type included within the South East Plan definition of Infrastructure.
 - The identification of plans and strategies for those service areas, and a review of existing planned capital and infrastructure investment, as detailed in various plans and strategies for each infrastructure category.
 - Liaison with the service providers to identify the infrastructure requirements related to the Core Strategy development proposals, including opportunities to deliver new infrastructure or opportunities for expanding existing provision, including locations, phasing and costing where known.
 - Identifying the delivery mechanisms for infrastructure proposals and assessing the potential risk to successful delivery.
 - Preparation of a draft IDP and re-consultation with the service providers on its content.
 - Identification of mechanisms for regular monitoring of infrastructure delivery, and periodic review of the IDP.
- 1.5 These stages are explained in more detail in Section 6.
- 1.6 The detailed assessment of infrastructure delivery plans and requirements are set out on a topic by topic basis in Appendix A and B to this IDP.
- 1.7 This IDP has been produced as a collaborative project by a team of WBC Officers working alongside planning consultants from Adams Hendry Consulting Ltd.

2 Purpose of this Document

- 2.1 Although the IDP is primarily a planning tool supporting the Local Development Framework (LDF), it also has a wider corporate role within WBC, extending to its work with key external partners.
- 2.2 Its principal role is to satisfy the requirements of Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 12 by showing how the development set out within the Core Strategy will be delivered through infrastructure provision. It does this through identifying the key pieces of infrastructure needed to achieve the objectives and policies in the Core Strategy, and identify the broad locations where the infrastructure will be located.
- 2.3 Its corporate role for WBC is to identify, support and inform other strategies and decisions relating to capital investment. The IDP identifies infrastructure requirements across West Berkshire arising from the development and growth proposals in the Core Strategy. WBC will need to align its own financial decision making to facilitate the deliver of necessary infrastructure for which it is responsible and work closely with its external partners within the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and beyond. Funding will also need to be secured through the development control process as planning obligations and through any future arrangements, e.g. the forthcoming Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
- 2.4 The IDP will be 'owned' by West Berkshire Council and will be viewed as a key corporate document. Day to day management of the IDP, including monitoring and review will be the responsibility of the Planning Policy Team Leader.
- 2.5 The IDP is and will always be a living document. It relies on information from WBC and its various external partner organisations and thus by its nature its content will be subject to change. This (February 2010) is the first version of the IDP. Subsequent versions will include updates to the proposals and information contained within each of the service-based sections, enabling the infrastructure planning process to reflect updates to the various plans and strategies on which this IDP is based. It is intended that the IDP will be updated annually alongside the Annual Monitoring Report. A wider update may be necessary in order to support the preparation of the Site Allocations and Delivery DPD.
- 2.6 The IDP contains information regarding the type, timing and potential costs of infrastructure needed to support the growth proposed by the Core Strategy. The IDP and its subsequent updates enable the Council to plan effectively for this growth and to maximise the potential associated with this growth to achieve wider sustainability, economic, social and environmental objectives.
- 2.7 WBC's role in facilitating and securing the delivery of the infrastructure identified in the IDP will be different for different infrastructure types. These roles include:
 - the delivery of the infrastructure through its spatial policies – e.g. by allocating sites for infrastructure in later DPDs or by drafting criteria based policies to support infrastructure provision
 - the direct funding of the infrastructure

- indirect funding of infrastructure through enabling private sector investment, including through negotiating to secure planning obligations
- indirect funding through influencing third party public sector investment
- providing a statutory service which impacts on its spatial policies (such as schools, adult and children's services and public transport).

3 Policy context

- 3.1 PPS12 'Local Spatial Planning' (June 2008) clearly identifies that adequate infrastructure planning is a key test of soundness for Core Strategies. PPS12 states that the infrastructure planning process should identify: infrastructure needs and costs; the phasing of development; funding sources; and responsibilities for delivery.
- 3.2 PPS12 has been supported by various separate guidance documents and reflections on lessons learnt from examinations of Core Strategies to date, including those published by the Planning Inspectorate, Department for Communities and Local Government and the Planning Advisory Service.
- 3.3 The consistent themes throughout the various guidance documents is the importance of the up front identification of infrastructure necessary to support the development proposed in the Core Strategy, testing the risks associated with that infrastructure and setting out contingencies to ensure that there is sufficient flexibility when required to overcome any future delivery problems that may be experienced.
- 3.4 WBC considers that its IDP fully reflects the requirements set down for infrastructure planning, and responds to the guidance available.

4. Local context

- 4.1 The development proposals in WBC's Core Strategy are heavily influenced by the existing settlement pattern within West Berkshire, identifying sustainable locations for the level of growth required by the South East Plan through the identification of a hierarchy of centres. There is an urban focus and a particular emphasis on Newbury, given its identification as a sub-regional hub within the South East Plan.
- 4.2 Existing infrastructure provision within West Berkshire is to a great extent related to the settlement pattern and population centres that already exist. Infrastructure and services are concentrated more within the larger urban areas, with lower levels of accessibility within the large rural parts of West Berkshire. This infrastructure pattern is not likely to change significantly over the lifetime of the Core Strategy, indeed the concentration of services in a smaller number of larger facilities could be expected to continue given the budgetary pressures that the current economic recession may bring.

5. Definitions and assumptions used in the IDP

- 5.1 In the context of the IDP, WBC considered it important to clearly identify what infrastructure is needed to deliver the development set out within the Core Strategy and by exclusion, what is not. The definition of infrastructure used as the basis for this consideration is that set out within the South East Plan. This IDP therefore considers infrastructure requirements within the following

service headings:

Transport

- Road Network
- Rail Network
- Public Transport
- Cycling and Walking Infrastructure

Housing

- Affordable Housing
- Gypsy and Traveller Sites

Education

- Nursery Education
- Primary and Secondary Education
- Further and Higher Education

Health

- Health Care (Acute Care and General Hospitals, Psychiatric Hospitals, Primary Care Services and Ambulance Services)

Green Infrastructure

- Green Infrastructure

Social Infrastructure

- Community, Arts, Culture and Leisure
- Sports Centres and Pitches
- Parks, Open Space and Play Areas
- Adult Social Care and Supported Accommodation

Public Services

- Libraries
- Cemeteries and Places of Worship
- Emergency Services
- Drug Treatment Centres and Prisons
- Waste Management

Utility Services

- Water and Waste Water
- Energy Supply (gas, electricity and renewable energy)
- Telecommunications
- Flood Defences

- 5.2 These service areas have been used as the basis for the detailed schedules in this IDP.
- 5.3 WBC recognises that whereas some infrastructure types such as essential utility infrastructure, schools etc are critical to ensuring that sufficient services are available to meet the needs of existing and future residents, there are other infrastructure categories that are more directly related to quality of life and biodiversity enhancement objectives. WBC recognises that whilst it may wish to secure the delivery of all infrastructure items, prioritisation may be required particularly at the development control stage on applications for development proposed in the Core Strategy to reflect development viability, availability of public sector funding sources and service priorities at that time.
- 5.4 In light of this, the IDP has adopted a categorisation for each infrastructure item, to reflect its importance to the delivery of the Core Strategy in terms of the level of risk it poses to the Core Strategy. The categories used are:

RISK TO THE CORE STRATEGY	DEFINITION
Critical	The identified infrastructure is critical , without which development cannot commence. <i>E.g. some transport/utility infrastructure</i>
Necessary	The identified infrastructure is necessary to support new development, but the precise timing and phasing is less critical and development can commence ahead of its provision. <i>E.g. schools/primary health care</i>
Preferred	The delivery of the identified infrastructure is preferred in order to build sustainable communities. Timing and phasing is not critical over the plan period. <i>E.g. libraries, green infrastructure, youth provision.</i>

- 5.5 The IDP also includes an assessment of the likely risk of infrastructure items not proceeding, linked where appropriate to a commentary on any contingencies that may be required. The definitions of risk used in the IDP are:

RISK OF NOT PROCEEDING	DEFINITION
High	Either/or: Infrastructure requirements are identified but there is no clear mechanism at present to secure funding. Planning and/or other consents are required to secure delivery. The likelihood of consents being granted is uncertain.
Medium	Infrastructure requirements are identified and there is a clear mechanism identified to secure funding. Planning /and or other consents may be required to secure delivery. There is a strong likelihood that consents would be granted.
Low	Infrastructure requirements are identified, costs are known and funding is secured or a robust mechanism identified to secure funding. No other planning or consents are required, and/or there is a statutory duty to provide the required infrastructure in step with development.

6. Methodology adopted for the IDP

6.1 The methodology adopted for the IDP comprised the following stages.

The identification of relevant service providers

6.2 Using the South East Plan definition of infrastructure, WBC identified relevant service providers for each infrastructure type. Initial contact was made with those service providers to confirm contact details for the provision of infrastructure information for West Berkshire. In most cases, this was building upon earlier discussions regarding infrastructure which had taken place during the earlier stages of the Core Strategy process with infrastructure providers.

The identification of plans and strategies for infrastructure service areas

6.3 A list of plans and strategies for each infrastructure service area was drawn up. Existing and emerging plans and strategies were reviewed to identify existing levels of infrastructure provision within West Berkshire, including any deficiencies that may already exist.

6.4 Alongside this, a review of existing planned capital and infrastructure investment, as detailed in various plans and strategies for each infrastructure category, was undertaken to identify existing plans for infrastructure investment and improvement within West Berkshire.

6.5 Draft schedules were compiled for each infrastructure service area, to identify:

- responsible delivery bodies
- existing plans and strategies
- existing infrastructure provision
- planned infrastructure provision

Liaison with Service Providers

6.6 The draft schedules were sent to the relevant infrastructure service providers to review and comment on. Service providers were also sent information on the scale, type and broad locations for the Core Strategy development proposals to enable them to identify the infrastructure requirements necessary to support the delivery of the Core Strategy.

6.7 Service providers were requested to consider opportunities to deliver new infrastructure or opportunities for expanding existing provision, including locations, phasing and costing where known. Where specific items of infrastructure could be identified, service providers were asked to complete a schedule of information on each item, identifying:

- the item of infrastructure required;
- whether required in the short (2006-2011), medium (2011-16) or long term (2016-2026);
- the lead delivery organisation;

- the cost, if known;
- sources of funding, if known;
- details of any dependencies – e.g. permissions or funding approvals required; and
- the site or location to which the infrastructure requirement related.

Identification of delivery mechanisms, risks and contingency

- 6.8 The draft schedules were completed by the service providers and returned for review. Each infrastructure item was reviewed to assess its importance to the delivery of the Core Strategy and the robustness of the delivery mechanisms that had been identified.
- 6.9 On the basis of this information, an assessment of the potential risk to the Core Strategy was made, utilising the definitions set out in Section 5. Where relevant, contingencies were identified to mitigate potential risks.

Preparation of IDP and re-consultation with service providers

- 6.10 The information from service providers, together with the risk assessment and contingency information was all compiled into draft final Infrastructure Topic Schedules and Infrastructure Delivery Schedules.
- 6.11 These draft schedules were sent out to the service providers in a re-consultation process for their comments. Amendments were made to the schedules, as appropriate, following which the IDP was finalised (the final schedules are enclosed in Appendix A and B).

Identification of mechanisms for regular monitoring and periodic review

- 6.12 The final element of the IDP is the identification of mechanisms to ensure that it remains as a living document and is subject to regular monitoring and periodic review. The monitoring proposals are set out in Section 7.

7. Monitoring of the IDP

- 7.1 WBC already has a duty to undertake regular monitoring through its LDF Annual Monitoring Report (AMR).
- 7.2 It is considered that the most appropriate mechanism for ensuring that the IDP is regularly monitored will be to incorporate this into the AMR process. The AMR would then include a separate section specifically on the IDP, reviewing the progress made against the IDP Delivery Schedules and identifying whether this gives rise to concerns such that a more formal periodic review of the IDP is necessary.
- 7.3 It will be important to ensure that there is liaison with the service providers as part of the monitoring process each year.
- 7.3 The AMR is subject to approval by the Executive Member for Planning and Housing before it is submitted to the Secretary of State each year. This approval process will ensure that there is corporate and political recognition of the progress that has been made on infrastructure planning in the preceding

year, and commitment to any corrective or additional actions necessary to ensure the continued delivery of the Core Strategy proposals.

- 7.4 AMRs are published on WBC's website, ensuring that the information on progress on infrastructure delivery is publicly available.

8. Conclusions

- 8.1 This is the first IDP that WBC has prepared. It considers that the methodology that it has adopted reflects Government and other guidance and is proportionate to the scale and infrastructure development identified as necessary to support the development strategy set out within the Core Strategy.
- 8.2 The detailed Infrastructure Topic Schedules set out in Appendix A identify the existing plans and strategies already in place to facilitate and secure the delivery of necessary infrastructure in West Berkshire. They also identify the requirements arising from the Core Strategy development proposals.
- 8.3 The detailed Infrastructure Delivery Schedules in Appendix B identify the individual items of infrastructure that will underpin the implementation of the Core Strategy. The schedules identify responsibilities, funding, risks and contingencies for the items of infrastructure.
- 8.4 It will be essential that the IDP is regularly monitored, in close consultation with service providers, to ensure that any implications for the IDP arising from changes in funding or service delivery methods are identified at an early stage and, where appropriate, action taken.
- 8.5 This IDP will be published alongside the Core Strategy DPD as it forms a key part of the technical Evidence Base which supports its delivery. The IDP will then be submitted as part of the Evidence Base for the Core Strategy Examination.

TRANSPORT

Road Network	
RESPONSIBLE DELIVERY BODIES	West Berkshire Council (Highways & Transport, Environment Directorate) Highways Agency
STRATEGIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES	<p>Delivering a Sustainable Transport System, 2008, DfT Roads – Delivering Choice and Reliability, July 2008, DfT Britain’s Transport Infrastructure, Motorways and Major Trunk Roads, January 2009, DfT RSS: The South East Plan, May 2009, SEERA Delivering the South East Plan, a revised South East Implementation Plan, October 2006, SEERA Local Transport Plan 2006 – 2011 (LTP2), WBC West Berkshire Freight Route Plan, February 2009, WBC A4 Route Corridor Study 2007, WBC North South Access & A4 Feasibility Study, July 2008, WBC 2009 District Profile, WBC Transport Assessment Phase 1 (evidence paper for LDF), WBC Transport Assessment Phase 2 (evidence paper for LDF), WBC Emerging Transport Assessment Phase 3 (evidence paper for LDF), WBC Delivering Investment from Sustainable Development (SPG), WBC</p>
EXISTING PROVISION	<p>West Berkshire lies at the crossroads of the strategic road networks, with the M4 and A34 providing direct linkages in all directions. The South East Plan identifies that West Berkshire is within a strategic corridor linking the South of England with the Midlands and the North as well as the West of England with the East. Reading acts as a regional hub, with Basingstoke also identified as a growth point.</p> <p><i>Strategic Road Network (SRN)</i> M4 Motorway runs east - west with access for West Berkshire via Junctions 12, 13 and 14. Services are located at Membury, Reading and at Chieveley (accessed from Junction 13).</p> <p>A34 runs north - south through West Berkshire with Junctions which give access to East Ilsley and West Ilsley, Beedon, Chieveley, Junction 13 of the M4, Newbury, Speen and Wash Common.</p> <p>The M4 and A34 are classed as part of the national SRN, managed and maintained by the Highways Agency. Ninety kilometres of the SRN crosses West Berkshire.</p> <p><i>Local Road Network</i> The local road network comprises the A4, A340, A329, A339, A343 and A338, as well as numerous B and C Roads. WBC manages and maintains the local road network, extending to approximately 1255 kms of highway.</p>

	<p>WBC's role as local highway authority also includes responsibility for traffic management (e.g. traffic calming, weight/speed limits & pedestrian refuges), management of traffic signals, road safety, car parking, enforcement of on-street parking restrictions, and highway / cycleway / footway maintenance.</p> <p>WBC has developed a Freight Route Network Plan to help manage freight routes in the district, highlighting strategic routes for through freight movements, district access routes and local access routes to help freight access locations in the district.</p>
<p>PLANNED PROVISION</p>	<p>The DfT published 'Roads – Delivering Choice and Reliability' in July 2008, setting out how the key role of the SRN will be sustained in the face of current congestion at peak times and traffic growth. Up to £6 billion has been made available to fund improvements to the SRN in England. The Highway Agency's programme of capacity enhancements includes a proposal for the introduction of Hard Shoulder Running (HSR) on the M4 J3-12 west of London for construction by 2015.</p> <p>The South East Plan identifies the area West of Reading to London as a priority transport link likely to come under increasing transport pressure as a result of underlying traffic growth and the development strategy of the RSS. There is a need to address the unreliability of the SRN, including consideration of M4 management and capacity measures. Improvements to the M4 interchanges near Reading and Reading Station are identified as regionally significant schemes. The Regional Transport Board (RTB)'s Delivering a Sustainable Transport System (DaSTS) process sets out national and regional transport priorities for 2014 and beyond. It identifies a future programme of work to address the challenges facing the nationally significant West of Reading to London corridor.</p> <p>WBC's Local Transport Plan (LTP2) covers the period from 2006 to 2011. LTP2 sets out WBC's transport planning policy framework for the next ten to fifteen years along with a five-year programme of delivery. WBC's funded programme is likely to be close to, or exceed, £13.5 million annually. Transport schemes are funded from this overall pot. WBC is also developing a new LTP to run from April 2011 to 2026 to tie in with the South East Plan and the LDF. At the same time, WBC is developing a new wide-ranging Transport Vision for the District, which will outline how WBC would like to see transport develop and delivered in the District to 2026.</p> <p>The Highways Capital Programme for 2006 -2011 includes a programme of improvements for junctions at, or approaching capacity, and areas of growth where congestion is anticipated to be a problem in the future, if not managed effectively.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bear Lane and Robin Hood junctions on the A339, and junctions on the A4 have been identified for improvement within the duration of LTP2. • The A4 Corridor Study aimed at identifying potential future hot-

	<p>spots for inclusion within the programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The North South Access and A4 Feasibility Study also identified improvements for the Eastern Area to assist with reducing congestion. <p>Highway Maintenance is managed by WBC's Highways and Transport Service through a partnered term contract with a major highway contractor. The total planned expenditure on road surface improvements is £11.1m over the LTP2 period.</p> <p>Substantial funding will come forward through S106 agreements, ensuring that the pressure new development places on the highway infrastructure is mitigated (on average it is predicted that over £1million will be received each financial year). Over the LTP2 period it is anticipated that a number of major Section 106 funded schemes will be undertaken (table 8.8 chapter of LTP2). In addition, highway works and improvements will be undertaken as Section 278 works by developers. WBC uses S278 agreements effectively to secure improvements, with a significant number achieved to the benefit of the wider community.</p> <p>A Parking Strategy for Newbury has been developed. The main focus of this is to provide long-stay car parking on the fringes of the town centre, with a concentration of short-stay spaces in the town centre itself.</p>
<p>INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS TO SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF THE CORE STRATEGY</p>	<p>Improvements to the highway network will be crucial in facilitating the development included in the Core Strategy, particularly the strategic sites. These will take place alongside the promotion of sustainable means of travel, minimising congestion and emissions. This will support the economy of West Berkshire whilst also protecting quality of life and air quality and improving accessibility and road safety.</p> <p>Various studies have identified improvements and upgrades to the highway network necessary to deliver the Core Strategy. These are highlighted below, including schemes directly related to the strategic housing sites:</p> <p><u>West of Reading to London Corridor (M4) (Highways Agency):</u> Includes Hard Shoulder Running as part of the delivery plan from Junction 12 (Theale) eastwards to help improve traffic management along the M4 corridor.</p> <p><u>A4 Corridor Study:</u> A number of improvements for both traffic management and road safety for all road users along the A4 corridor between Newbury and Theale. The key improvement for the Core Strategy is the improvements to the Hambridge Road / A4 / Fir Tree Lane crossroads.</p> <p><u>Strategic Sites - Newbury Racecourse and Sandleford:</u> The LDF evidence paper 'West Berkshire LDF Phase 2 Newbury and Thatcham Report' identifies specific potential highway mitigation</p>

	<p>measures required for the strategic sites at Newbury Racecourse and Sandford Park and more general requirements that would be of benefit to the wider area. (currently being updated: LDF Phase 3) These include additional capacity at key junctions along the A339 and A4 and the need for more capacity to link these two roads providing a new route to the east of Newbury town centre.</p> <p>The Council has also undertaken a study to look at routes between Tilehurst and the A4/M4 corridor, which includes the following scheme options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dualling of A4 from M4 J12 to Calcot • A4/Langley Hill junction improvements • North/South link from Tilehurst to A4 at Calcot. <p>Other scheme options being considered as part of the new LTP and Transport Vision include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role and function of the A339 through Newbury, including looking at reallocating roadspace on dual carriageway sections of the route through the town • Sainsbury's / Bear Lane junction improvement • Upgrading of B4640 Newtown Straight • In-house traffic signal control centre • Re-routeing A4 along Charnham Park, Hungerford. <p>The Infrastructure Delivery Plan table for highways provides more detailed information about the infrastructure requirements planned and being considered / tested in order to support the delivery of the Core Strategy.</p>
<p>ROLE OF THE LDF</p>	<p>The Council will aim to support and implement South East Plan Policies T1 (Manage and Invest) and T8 (Regional Spokes) through appropriate upgrades to the highway network in order to support the regional network of hubs and spokes, to facilitate a sustainable pattern of development and increase overall levels of accessibility. T2 (Mobility Management) will also be important as the allocation and management of road space is considered.</p> <p>Core Strategy Policy SP1 focuses development on the main urban areas where the extent and capacity of supporting infrastructure, services and facilities is greatest to facilitate walking, cycling and the use of public transport in order to reduce car dependence and increasing congestion on the road network. This policy supported by other Spatial Policies for the main four geographical areas of the district which identify the necessary requirements to build a network of sustainable and accessible future communities and to minimise congestion, improve safety and enhance connectivity; and by Core Policies CS3 and CS4 for the strategic site allocations which seek to mitigate the impact of the development on the local road network.</p> <p>Policy CS6 provides general guidance on infrastructure provision for all new development seeking to ensure that infrastructure is available or can be made available in time to serve new developments or mitigate its impacts.</p>

	<p>Policy CS14 encourages a sustainable transport network for West Berkshire that improves accessibility, enhances economic viability, protects the environment and promotes quality of life. The Policy provides the necessary framework to enable the Council to seek transport improvements to provide greater travel choice and more reliable journey times within and between the main urban areas and rural service centres of West Berkshire.</p> <p>The SPG 'Delivering Investment from Sustainable Development' expects developers to provide on-site estate roads, parking spaces, lighting and associated landscaping in relation to the scale of the development proposed. In addition, where appropriate, West Berkshire Council seeks contributions towards off-site improvements such as new and improved road infrastructure, traffic calming, lighting and associated landscaping to mitigate the potential transport impact of a development. Where larger developments are proposed, Travel Plans are required.</p>
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Rail Network	
RESPONSIBLE DELIVERY BODIES	West Berkshire Council (Highways & Transport, Environment Directorate) First Great Western (FGW) Network Rail (NR)
STRATEGIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES	Delivering a Sustainable Transport System, 2008, DfT Delivering a Sustainable Railway, White Paper, 2007, DfT RSS: The South East Plan, May 2009, SEERA Delivering the South East Plan, a revised South East Implementation Plan, October 2006, SEERA Great Western Route Utilisation Strategy, Consultation Draft, 2009, led by Network Rail on behalf of the rail industry. Great Western Mainline Route Plan, Network Rail Reading to Penzance Route Plan, Network Rail Stations Improvement Programme, Network Rail Network Rail Discretionary Fund, Network Rail Local Transport Plan 2006 – 2011 (LTP2), WBC West Berkshire Freight Route Plan, February 2009, WBC Transport Assessment Phase 1 (evidence paper for LDF), WBC Transport Assessment Phase 2 (evidence paper for LDF), WBC Emerging Transport Assessment Phase 3 (evidence paper for LDF), WBC
EXISTING PROVISION	<p>The Kennet Line runs between Reading in the east and Bedwyn in the West, as part of the mainline route from London to the South West. There are 8 station stops on this line in West Berkshire.</p> <p>The Oxford and Thames Valley Line runs north to south with a station at Pangbourne in West Berkshire, and at Goring & Streatley in Oxfordshire, and Tilehurst in Reading. The line runs between Reading and Oxford and is part of the London to Bristol / South Wales, the London to Birmingham route and south coast to the west midlands and the North.</p> <p>The Basingstoke Line runs north/south through a small section of West Berkshire with a station at Mortimer. The line runs between Reading and Basingstoke, providing links to the south coast. A new station is planned outside West Berkshire at Green Park, Reading.</p> <p>The busiest station is Newbury, with approximately 1.29 million journeys starting or finishing at this destination.</p>
PLANNED PROVISION	The Great Western Route Utilisation Strategy (RUS) to 2019 indicates that the greatest concentration of traffic on the Great Western Main Line (GWML) is on the initial 36-mile section between London Paddington and Reading. The redevelopment of Reading station is a £425 million scheme to relieve the bottleneck currently experienced

	<p>there, with preliminary works commencing during 2009 with full implementation currently programmed for 2016.</p> <p>The remodelling of Reading station will provide necessary capacity for current and future growth. The proposed electrification of the GWML between London to Bristol/South Wales, Oxford and Newbury, and other network improvements such as the Intercity Express Programme (IEP) could provide further increases in capacity, service frequency and improved journey times. The draft RUS consultation document suggests that an increase in service frequencies on the Kennet Valley line may be achievable in the medium term (2019).</p> <p>As part of the £150 million National Stations Improvement Programme (NSIP), funded by DfT, Network Rail will deliver a number of improvements to Newbury Station in 2010, supported by any available section 106 funding which the Local Authority make available. The works will provide improved facilities for cycling, retail and waiting.</p> <p>WBC is developing a new LTP to run from April 2011 to 2026 to tie in with the South East Plan and the LDF. This will include a wide-ranging Transport Vision for the District, outlining how transport will develop and be delivered in the period to 2026.</p> <p>WBC undertook a Rail Interchange Study (RIS) in 2003/4 to examine the attractiveness and accessibility of rail stations in the district, setting out possible improvements to facilities at a number of stations to enhance access. This includes a commitment to maximising the opportunities to improve access to rail stations and the ease of transition to other passenger transport modes, walking and cycling; and to investigate opportunities to maximise the value of Theale Rail Station as an interchange location.</p> <p>Improvements to level crossing safety in rural areas and improvements to level crossing efficiency by minimising the downtime of gates are also under discussion with Network Rail and First Great Western.</p> <p>The Freight Strategy (Annex F) recognises the opportunities provided by the rail network in West Berkshire. Rail sidings are identified as important future assets. The strategic rail site at Theale is protected for freight related uses with WBC encouraging the expansion and use of its existing rail freight facilities.</p> <p>WBC will seek to improve interchange and general facilities at rail stations in West Berkshire, including the Market Street Bus/Rail Interchange Improvements in Newbury which are likely to come forward in the medium term as part of the delivery of the Newbury Vision.</p>
<p>INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS TO SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF THE CORE STRATEGY</p>	<p>Infrastructure to support and increase rail travel should be facilitated across the district through Core Strategy policies. Improved rail facilities will help to address the key transport challenges identified in the South East Plan. In particular for the rail lines in West Berkshire these are: to maintain high quality radial connectivity to London; address unpredictable journeys in buoyant areas; and to reduce the impact of the transport system on the environment. The Council will</p>

	<p>also safeguard opportunities at Theale for increased movement of freight by rail and therefore support Policy T11 of the South East Plan.</p> <p>Infrastructure schemes to support rail travel will focus on improving customer facilities at stations, the accessibility of stations and the quality of the interchange (level of parking for cars and cycles, links with buses, taxis, etc.). Improvement schemes will be funded in a range of ways including the Council's Capital Programme (through the Local Transport Plan), developer contributions, grants from DfT funding, NSIP funding and partnership funding (First Great Western / Network Rail). Schemes will be identified through existing study work, liaison and planning with Network Rail, First Great Western, and working with local groups and stakeholders such as Parish / Town Councils and Parish Planning Groups. They will also be identified as new development is proposed and delivered.</p> <p>Specific schemes already identified to improve and encourage rail travel and support the sustainable implementation of the Core Strategy include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements to Newbury Racecourse Station as part of measures associated with the proposed Newbury Racecourse development totalling £150k • Redevelopment and improved interchange facilities at Newbury Rail Station - £20million • General and varied improvements at rail stations across the District with a focus on improving accessibility and interchange opportunities.
<p>ROLE OF THE LDF</p>	<p>Policy SP1 focuses development on the main urban areas where the extent and capacity of supporting infrastructure, services and facilities is greatest to facilitate to public transport. This policy supported by other Spatial Policies for the main four geographical areas of the district which identify the necessary requirements to build a network of sustainable and accessible future communities and to meet community needs; and by Core Policies CS3 and CS4 for the strategic site allocations.</p> <p>Policy CS6 provides guidance on infrastructure provision, seeking to ensure that infrastructure is available or can be made available in time to serve the development or mitigate its impacts.</p> <p>Policy CS14 encourages a sustainable transport network for West Berkshire that improves accessibility, enhances economic viability, protects the environment and promotes quality of life. The Policy provides the necessary framework to enable the Council to seek transport improvements to provide greater travel choice and more reliable journey times within and between the main urban areas and rural service centres of West Berkshire.</p>

Public Transport	
RESPONSIBLE DELIVERY BODIES	<p>West Berkshire Council (Highways & Transport, Environment Directorate)</p> <p>Bus operators – Reading Transport Limited (trading as Newbury Buses, Reading Buses and goGoldline.com), Newbury & District, Stagecoach Hampshire</p> <p>Long distance coach operator (National Express)</p> <p>Community/Voluntary Transport Providers</p>
STRATEGIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES	<p>Delivering a Sustainable Transport System, 2008, DfT</p> <p>RSS: The South East Plan, May 2009, SEERA</p> <p>Delivering the South East Plan, a revised South East Implementation Plan, October 2006, SEERA</p> <p>Local Transport Plan 2006 – 2011 (LTP2); Annex C Passenger Transport Strategy, WBC</p> <p>Getting there! Passenger Transport in West Berkshire June, 2009</p> <p>2009 District Profile, WBC</p> <p>Transport Assessment Phase 1 (evidence paper for LDF), WBC</p> <p>Transport Assessment Phase 2 (evidence paper for LDF), WBC</p> <p>Delivering Investment from Sustainable Development (SPG), WBC</p> <p>Emerging Transport Assessment Phase 3 (evidence paper for LDF), WBC</p>
EXISTING PROVISION	<p><i>Public Transport</i></p> <p>There are 37 registered Commercial Bus Routes in operation in West Berkshire. Only 4 are commercially viable, with the remaining 33 (89%) being subsidised by the Council at an annual cost in the region of £880,000. Two of the services are supported with a Rural Bus Challenge Grant from Government, operating between Newbury and Pangbourne and between Lambourn and Hungerford.</p> <p>Approximately 18 organisations in West Berkshire provide Community Transport Services with the transport delivered through the use of volunteer drivers.</p>
PLANNED PROVISION	<p>WBC's Local Transport Plan (LTP2) covers the period from 2006 to 2011 providing the Council's vision for transport in the area and setting out its transport planning policy framework for the next ten to fifteen years along with a five-year programme of delivery.</p> <p>The Capital Programme for 2006 -2011 includes the A4 Corridor Study aimed at identifying potential future hot-spots for inclusion within the programme. £470k has been allocated as part of this study over the next five years, with a possible additional £700k becoming available from s106 funding, to be used to investigate bus priority at junctions on the A4 between Reading and Newbury and an upgrade of key stops. The funding will also be used to investigate the feasibility, and where practical implement, Real Time Passenger Information along the route.</p>

	<p>WBC’s Public Transport Strategy 2006 – 2011 sets out a vision for the development of passenger transport, encompassing various elements including, traditional bus services, demand responsive services, community transport, rail travel and taxi travel. Annex C identifies the key improvements and priority schemes for investment including measures to improve and enhance public transport infrastructure. A number of key initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • those flowing from the opportunities identified in the Newbury Vision and supporting studies to make passenger transport faster and integral to the town centre; • maximising opportunities identified in the Strategic Bus and Coach Interchange Study; • to maintain and enhance passenger transport priority measures in congested areas to ensure rapid transit times; • to support the contribution that Community Transport and Demand Responsive Transport services make for those residents unable to access traditional bus services; and • to develop Quality Bus Partnerships to protect and enhance the commercially viable services. <p>Real time information is planned for key routes in the district and will represent an important improvement for customers.</p> <p>There are a number of funding streams (revenue) that can be used in delivering passenger transport services including WBC Revenue Funding, Developer Contributions, Partner Organisation Funding and Social Services Funding along with Capital Investment which varies from year to year. A substantial amount of funding is likely to come forward through S106 agreements. Over the LTP2 period a number of Section 106 funded schemes will be undertaken (table 8.8 chapter of LTP2) including improvements to the Market Street Bus/Rail Exchange at Newbury planned for 2010/11.</p> <p>WBC is also developing a new LTP to run from April 2011 to 2026 to tie in with the South East Plan and the LDF, developing a new wide-ranging Transport Vision for the District, which will outline how the Council would like to see transport develop and delivered in the District to 2026. This will also include an update to the current Passenger Transport Strategy (LTP2 Annex C).</p> <p>There are also proposals at a regional level to improve passenger transport on routes on main inter-urban corridors mainly where there is no existing comparable rail service. In West Berkshire, this relates to the Newbury-Basingstoke and Newbury-Oxford corridors. The Newbury-Basingstoke corridor has been identified as a priority, and investigations are currently being undertaken to enhance the existing bus service (“The Link”) between the two towns.</p>
<p>INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS TO SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF THE</p>	<p>Bus service improvements and better infrastructure and facilities at stops and main terminals will help to deliver a sustainable Core Strategy. These will be implemented in conjunction with transport operators and developers. Various studies have identified bus service</p>

<p>CORE STRATEGY</p>	<p>and infrastructure requirements necessary to deliver the Core Strategy. These are highlighted below:</p> <p>A4 Corridor Study: improved customer facilities, including the quality of bus stops and to introduce Real Time Passenger Information at bus stops. These improvements will support the delivery of the strategic site at the Racecourse by improving the facilities for the bus link between Thatcham and Newbury.</p> <p>Newbury Vision Study: removal of all motorised vehicles from pedestrianised areas in the town centre and provide a bus interchange in Parkway, following completion of the Parkway redevelopment. Bus/taxi and cycle use only of a key north-south link in Newbury town centre will also prioritise public transport for those travelling in and around Newbury.</p> <p>Strategic Sites: Newbury Racecourse and Sandford: The LDF evidence paper 'West Berkshire LDF Phase 2 Newbury and Thatcham Report' identifies specific potential mitigation measures required for the strategic sites at Newbury Racecourse and Sandford Park and more general requirements that would be of benefit to the wider area. Further work is needed on the details of the public transport elements in terms of specific routes and these requirements will also link in with scheme options being considered as part of the new LTP and Transport Vision. The infrastructure delivery plan provides greater details but key elements are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved bus/rail interchange at Newbury rail station and at other rail stations in the district • Newbury/Basingstoke bus link improvements linking with Sandford strategic site • Newbury/Thatcham high frequency shuttle bus service linking with Newbury Racecourse strategic site • Integration of Vodafone buses as part of wider bus network serving all areas of Newbury • Building bus priority where appropriate as part of wider highway improvement proposals (e.g. as part of future reallocation of roadspace on key routes in Newbury, & A4 dualling at Calcot) • Park and Ride for Newbury <p>Also to support other housing development proposed in the Core Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theale/Calcot improved bus links: Improved bus services between Eastern Area and Reading
<p>ROLE OF THE LDF</p>	<p>Through delivering improved public transport facilities, WBC will be supporting and implementing better mobility management in accordance with South East Plan Policy T2, including the specific challenges of rural transport (Policy T7).</p> <p>Core Strategy Policy SP1 focuses development on the main urban areas where the extent and capacity of supporting infrastructure, services and facilities is greatest to facilitate the use of public transport. This policy supported by other Spatial Policies for the main four geographical areas of the district which identify the necessary</p>

	<p>requirements to build a network of sustainable and accessible future communities and to meet community needs; and by Core Policies CS3 and CS4 for the strategic site allocations.</p> <p>Policy CS6 provides guidance on infrastructure provision, seeking to ensure that infrastructure is available or can be made available in time to serve the development or mitigate its impacts.</p> <p>Policy CS14 encourages a sustainable transport network for West Berkshire that improves accessibility, enhances economic viability, protects the environment and promotes quality of life. The Policy provides the framework to enable the Council to seek improvements to the public transport networks in order to provide greater travel choice and more reliable journey times.</p> <p>The SPG 'Delivering Investment from Sustainable Development' expects developers to contribute to provide on-site bus stops, lay-bys, lighting and associated landscaping in relation to the scale of the development proposed. In addition, where appropriate, West Berkshire Council seeks contributions towards off-site public transport improvements. All new or improved services resulting from developer contributions should seek to utilise low floor, low emission vehicles meeting the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act and should be designed to be accessible to a wide range of the community.</p>
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Cycling and Walking Infrastructure	
RESPONSIBLE DELIVERY BODIES	West Berkshire Council (Highways & Transport, Environment Directorate)
STRATEGIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES	<p>Delivering a Sustainable Transport System, 2008, DfT RSS: The South East Plan, May 2009, SEERA Delivering the South East Plan, a revised South East Implementation Plan, October 2006, SEERA Local Transport Plan 2006 – 2011 (LTP2); Annex D Walking Strategy, Annex E Cycling Strategy, Annex G Travel Plan Strategy, WBC Walking maps - Newbury, Thatcham, Theale & Calcot, WBC Newbury & Thatcham Cycle Map, WBC Transport Assessment Phase 1 (evidence paper for LDF), WBC Transport Assessment Phase 2 (evidence paper for LDF), WBC Emerging Transport Assessment Phase 3 (evidence paper for LDF), WBC Delivering Investment from Sustainable Development (SPG), WBC</p>
EXISTING PROVISION	<p>WBC's Cycling Strategy (2005) is a 10-15 year strategy promoting the development of an integrated and realistic network of cycling routes to allow for increased cycling in the District and the provision of a safer environment for cyclists of all abilities. A network of strategic routes has been developed, based on enhancing cycle provision and focusing investment where a need has been identified. The strategy set a target of achieving a 20% increase (based on 2005/06 figures) on cycling activity in West Berkshire by 2010/11. The 2005 Strategy is currently under review as part of the work on the third Local Transport Plan (LTP3).</p> <p>There are also a number of Council initiatives and mechanisms in place to support the promotion and development of walking as set out in the Walking Strategy. These include ensuring that transport schemes are planned and delivered in an integrated way to create a more pleasant environment and better access to the benefit of walkers, the disabled and other transport users. Other initiatives include Public Rights of Way improvements, School and other Travel Planning, and walking to health schemes.</p>
PLANNED PROVISION	<p>WBC's LTP2 covers the period from 2006 to 2011. It sets out the Council's transport planning policy framework for the next ten to fifteen years along with a five-year programme of delivery. The Capital Programme for 2006 -2011 includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a comprehensive programme to upgrade and improve rural walking and cycling routes (£694k over the five year period). • a total of £1.5m over five years for works primarily aimed at improving pedestrian accessibility arising from the Eastern, Hungerford, and Newbury Visions that are complete or are due

	<p>to be completed during the LTP2 period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £250k for the review and upgrade of the cycle network over the five years (with a similar amount of funding to be secured from s106 developer contributions to implement measures identified from the review of the network). • £300k over the five year period to continue with its successful Safer Routes to School Programme. • £500k over the five year period to commit to the investment priorities identified within the Walking Strategy. • £350k has been identified to assist schools and businesses in achieving the aims of their travel plans. <p>In addition, LTP2 studies have taken place and recommended schemes have been incorporated into the capital programme. For example, the A4 Study covering the A4 route between Newbury and Theale recommends schemes that together provide a continuous cycle route. Some sections have been delivered and others are programmed for delivery through schemes planned for the remainder of the LTP2 period.</p> <p>WBC has produced a draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP) to assess the extent to which local ROW meet present and future needs, and the opportunities that they provide. The RoWIP covers a range of routes and considers the full range of users including walkers, equestrians and cyclists. This also includes the accessibility of local rights of way for blind or partially sighted users and those with mobility problems.</p> <p>Guidance providing advice on cycling and the standard for new development (June 2008) has also been prepared by WBC, covering the provision of cycle parking, cycle routes, shower and changing facilities and, where applicable, contributions to other cycling infrastructure and projects.</p>
<p>INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS TO SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF THE CORE STRATEGY</p>	<p>Infrastructure to support walking and cycling will need to be implemented across the district to ensure that new development is delivered in a sustainable way.</p> <p>The South East Plan (particularly T2 Mobility Management and T5 Travel Plans) emphasises the role of walking and cycling in reducing reliance on the private car, and achieving objectives including reducing congestion and contributing to addressing climate change. At a local level the Council Plan, the Sustainable Community Strategy, the Climate Change Strategy and the Local Transport Plan all emphasise walking and cycling for local journeys as ways of supporting a cleaner, greener district and improvements in health and well being through active travel.</p> <p>Walking and cycling projects and schemes will be planned to deliver increased opportunities for people to use these modes of travel, with the greatest need for improvements in accessibility to everyday activities. Throughout the Core Strategy period, infrastructure schemes that support walking and cycling (and therefore the delivery of a more</p>

	<p>sustainable community) will be delivered, including: new, extended and improved footways and cycleways; surfacing improvements; dropped kerbs; new road crossing facilities; new and improved signage. These schemes will be funded in a range of ways including the Council's Capital Programme (through the Local Transport Plan), developer contributions and grants from programmes run by bodies such as the DfT, Sustrans, etc.</p> <p>The Infrastructure Delivery Plan highlights improvements and schemes that have already been identified. Some of these that relate particularly to the delivery of the strategic sites and allocations set out in the Core Strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrian and cycle linkages from strategic housing sites to the existing networks and local facilities (e.g. links to Newbury Town Centre, local shopping areas, and to existing transport interchanges such as Newbury and Racecourse Rail Stations). • Improved pedestrian and cycle crossing links across A339, Newbury. • Improvements to create a continuous cycle route along the A4 from Newbury to Reading. • Improvements to the Kennet & Avon Canal towpath for pedestrians and cyclists. • Theale to Calcot pedestrian / cycle link and Pangbourne to Purley / Tilehurst pedestrian / cycle link to help support development in the East.
<p>ROLE OF THE LDF</p>	<p>Policy SP1 focuses development on the main urban areas where the extent and capacity of supporting infrastructure, services and facilities is greatest to facilitate cycling and walking. This policy supported by other Spatial Policies for the main four geographical areas of the district which identify the necessary requirements to build a network of sustainable and accessible future communities and to meet community needs; and by Core Policies CS3 and CS4 for the strategic site allocations.</p> <p>Policy CS6 provides guidance on infrastructure provision, seeking to ensure that infrastructure is available or can be made available in time to serve the development or mitigate its impacts.</p> <p>Policy CS14 encourages a sustainable transport network for West Berkshire that improves accessibility, enhances economic viability, protects the environment and promotes quality of life. The Policy provides the framework to enable the Council to seek improvements to the local cycle and walking networks in order to provide greater travel choice and more reliable journey times.</p> <p>The SPG 'Delivering Investment from Sustainable Development' expects developers to contribute improved pedestrian and cycling facilities where appropriate. This may include pedestrian priority measures, pedestrian friendly crossings, traffic calming, cycleways and staff shower facilities at large industrial, commercial, retail and leisure developments. Cycle parking is sought in line with the Council's advice note for standards for new development (June 2008).</p>

HOUSING

Affordable Housing	
RESPONSIBLE DELIVERY BODIES	Housing and Performance, Community Services Directorate, WBC Housing Associations (<i>4 preferred partners: A2 Housing Group, Catalyst Housing Group, Sovereign Housing, Testway Housing Association</i>)
STRATEGIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES	<p>South East Plan, May 2009, SEERA Housing Strategy 2005 – 2010, WBC Sustainable Community Strategy, WBC 'A Breath of Fresh Air' – Sustainable Community Strategy Annual Report and Strategy Update (2009-2010), WBC. Council Plan 2007 – 2011, WBC Delivering Investment from Sustainable Development (SPG), WBC Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment, March 2009, WBC Berkshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment, DZT on behalf of WBC and Bracknell Forest, Reading and Slough Borough Councils, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and Wokingham District Council (2007) Economic Viability Assessment, 2007 and Update Report 2009, WBC Combined Strategic Housing Sites Appraisal Document, April 2009, WBC Housing Needs Survey 2002, WBC</p>
EXISTING PROVISION	<p>WBC has responsibility for enabling the provision of new affordable housing. This includes properties to rent from housing associations, low cost or shared ownership options including schemes to assist Key Workers, as well as the provision of supported housing for more vulnerable members of the community.</p> <p>WBC no longer directly provides new housing for rent, but works closely with other organisations, especially housing associations, enabling them to build new homes or to acquire existing dwellings, for households that need rented accommodation. The Housing Enabling Officer works with housing associations, developers, landowners and the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) to secure the sites and the funding for new affordable housing within the district.</p> <p>WBC's Planning, Legal and Finance Services are key partners in this work. WBC's Local Plan states that the Local Planning Authority will negotiate to ensure a reasonable proportion of affordable housing (generally 30%) as part of developments of 15 or more dwellings, or sites of 0.5 hectares or more. On average between 2001/2 and 2007/08 145 affordable units were completed per annum.</p> <p>Generally, of the affordable housing, 70% will be for affordable rent and 30% will be for shared ownership (New Build Homebuy). The specific proportions for any site will be dependent on a range of factors. The Delivering Investment from Sustainable Development SPG requires</p>

	<p>affordable housing to be delivered using the rental stream approach.</p> <p>Specific schemes to meet the housing needs of people in rural parishes may be developed as Rural Exception sites where planning permission would not normally be granted for market housing.</p> <p>Current Need</p> <p>West Berkshire currently faces a continuing high level of housing need, supported by evidence contained in the Housing Needs Assessment, the Housing Market Assessment, the statutory Housing Register and the examination of property prices and income data. As at October 2009, there were 4,992 applicants on the housing register, an increase on both 2007 and 2006 figures. Needs are particularly acute in the urban areas of Newbury, Thatcham and the eastern area of Tilehurst/Calcot and Theale.</p> <p>The core requirement is to meet the need for social rented accommodation but intermediate housing is also required, such as shared ownership. There is a strong requirement for all unit sizes 1-bed and 2-bed units and family sized accommodation, particularly larger 4-bed sized homes.</p>
<p>PLANNED PROVISION</p>	<p>The Council has a responsibility to provide affordable housing and the delivery of such within West Berkshire is a high corporate priority, featuring in the Council's Plan and the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy. The five-year Housing Strategy 2005-2010 sets out the Council's strategy for funding the provision of new affordable housing. Work to update this Strategy is underway. The Council has adopted National Indicator 155 (gross affordable housing completions) within its Local Area Agreements Target for the period 2008/09 – 2010/11.</p> <p>Funding for affordable housing is available from a variety of sources. The main source is in the form of social housing grant (SHG) allocated to registered housing associations by the Homes and Community agencies and subject to a competitive bidding process (current round is for the period 2008 – 2011) under the National Affordable Housing Programme (NAHP). By the end of 2009/10 the Council is expecting 111 housing completions. In 2010/11 the Council predicts 181 housing completions.</p> <p>A variety of other Council schemes and initiatives are also in place including the Equity Loan Deposit Scheme and a shared ownership support scheme that will make £60k available to fill existing vacant stock.</p> <p>National planning policy for housing set out in Planning Policy Statement 3 (PPS3): Housing seeks to achieve a wide choice of high quality homes including both affordable and market housing to meet the needs of the community and stipulates that Local Development Documents should set an overall target for affordable housing. The regional spatial strategy, 'The South East Plan' seeks to deliver a substantial increased in the amount of affordable housing over the plan period to 2026 setting an overall regional target for 25% of all new</p>

	<p>housing to be social rented and 10% intermediate affordable housing (Policy H3).</p> <p>West Berkshire Council's 2007/8 Annual Monitoring Report identifies that there were 350 outstanding commitments for affordable housing at March 2008, including 18 units on rural exception sites.</p>
<p>INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS TO SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF THE CORE STRATEGY</p>	<p>The Affordable Housing Topic Paper (April 2009), a background document to the West Berkshire Core Strategy, sets out considerable evidence that indicates that West Berkshire has a very high level of housing need requiring between 560 and 850 additional units of affordable housing per annum until 2011. This level of affordable housing need exceeds the South East Plans housing provision for the District (525 net additional dwellings required to be built per annum through the Plan period) and therefore it is imperative that the Council maximises all available opportunities to increase the provision of affordable housing, without compromising the delivery of housing development and the overall achievement of the Core Strategy's strategic objectives.</p> <p>The Economic Viability Assessment (EVA, 2007), updated in April 2009, commissioned by West Berkshire Council examines how development viability of market housing sites is impacted by a range of potential policy options for planning-led affordable housing and has advised the development of the revised Affordable Housing policies now proposed in the Core Strategy. The revised Policies, supported by evidence set out in EVA, reduce the site size threshold to 5 units to maximise affordable housing provision over the Plan period without unduly compromising site viability. On this basis, the Core Strategy sets an overall target of 35% of all new housing to be affordable. This target equates to an average of 184 units per annum, depending on housing completions in any given year.</p> <p>Affordable housing is to be provided as part of well-designed mixed tenure schemes helping to create sustainable mixed inclusive communities.</p> <p>In the countryside the Council will continue to operate the Government's rural exception site policy to meet the specific housing needs of small settlements.</p>
<p>ROLE OF THE LDF</p>	<p>Affordable housing is fundamental to the creation of balanced communities and PPS3 identifies that the planning system has an important enabling role to play in securing its provision. It is important that this issue is therefore addressed within the Core Strategy.</p> <p>Policy CS7 of the Core Strategy provides the policy framework to enable the Council to seek an affordable housing contribution from residential development proposals that fall within the site size thresholds specified in that Policy.</p> <p>Under the provisions of Policy CS8 of the Core Strategy, land may be released for affordable housing under the provisions of the</p>

	<p>Government's 'rural exception site policy'.</p> <p>The adopted SPG 'Delivering Investment from Sustainable Development' seeks on-site provision of affordable housing in all but exceptional circumstances. All affordable housing is to be delivered before, as a maximum, 80% of the market housing on the site has been completed. In exceptional circumstances, the Council may agree to a financial contribution in lieu of on site affordable housing. The SPG is currently in accordance with the adopted Local Plan policy on affordable housing and will need to be updated to reflect the revised policy approach set out in the Core Strategy.</p>
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Gypsy and Travellers Sites	
RESPONSIBLE DELIVERY BODIES	West Berkshire Council (primarily Housing and Planning Services, but cuts across all Council service areas).
STRATEGIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES	<p>Circular 01/06 Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites, 2006, DCLG</p> <p>Circular 04/07 Planning for Travelling Showpeople, 2007, DCLG</p> <p>Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Policy, WBC</p> <p>Partial Review of the RSS for the South East—Provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople (June 09), SEERA</p> <p>Regional Transit Study, October 2009, SEERA</p>
EXISTING PROVISION	<p>West Berkshire Council has a range of statutory responsibilities concerning Gypsies & Travellers, broadly including accommodation, health, welfare and education, which are delivered through a breadth of the services provided to the community.</p> <p>West Berkshire has two authorised gypsy sites. The site at Four Houses Corner at Burghfield is owned and managed by the Council, providing 18 permanent pitches for settled accommodation. The site at Paices Hill at Aldermaston is privately owned, providing 24 permanent pitches and 15 transit pitches.</p> <p>There is currently no transit site or temporary stopping provision managed by the Council. 10 unauthorised encampments were recorded in the past year in West Berkshire (Regional Transit Study, October 2009).</p>
PLANNED PROVISION	<p>Draft South East Plan Policy H7: Provision for Gypsy and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople (GTTS) was published for consultation in June 2009. The draft Policy identifies the need for 18 additional permanent residential pitches for Gypsies and Travellers within West Berkshire between 2006 – 2016 and a further 3 for Travelling Showpeople. Beyond 2016, annual requirements are to be calculated on the basis of 3% compounded growth for Gypsy and Traveller pitches and 1.5% for Travelling Showpeople.</p> <p>In addition to the permanent pitches, Draft Policy H7 requires West Berkshire to make provision to meet requirements for transit and temporary stopping places. The Regional Transit Study published in October 2009 provides advisory guidance to LPAs on the provision of transit sites across the region to create an effective regional network of stopping places. For Berkshire, it identifies a need for three additional sites each providing four pitches. If approved as drafted, the Berkshire Authorities would need to work together to agree the appropriate location and distribution of sites across Berkshire.</p> <p>The draft policy will be subject to examination in February 2010.</p>

	<p>Berkshire will deal with any transit issues on a county-wide basis.</p>
<p>INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS TO SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF THE CORE STRATEGY</p>	<p>Planning Circulars 01/2006 Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites (CLG February 2006), and 04/2007 Planning for Travelling Showpeople (CLG August 2007) require the Council to allocate specific sites for GTTS to meet identified requirements, in this case as set out in the South East Plan.</p> <p>Draft Policy H7 of the South East Plan sets out the potential future requirements for West Berkshire as described above. However, the final number of additional pitches required in West Berkshire between 2006 -2016 remains subject to examination in February 2010, and so may change prior to adoption. Beyond 2016, allocations will be updated following a regional review of provision starting in 2011-12.</p> <p>The Council will undertake work to identify suitable sites to meet GTTS requirements during the preparation of the Site Allocations and Delivery DPD working in partnership with the travelling community and other relevant Council Departments. Specific sites will then be allocated within that Plan. The Berkshire Authorities will jointly work together to identify suitable transit and stopping places to meet regional requirements.</p> <p>Funding will be critical to the delivery of sites. For the south-east as a whole, the draft Policy H7 Review Document (SEEPB, June 2009) identifies that at current costs and funding levels, Gypsy and Traveller Site Grant is unlikely to enable more than a third of the pitches required for the south-east region to be delivered. It notes that regional partners, Councils and the GTTS community will have to work together to deliver sites. It goes on to note that publicly funded Gypsy and Traveller pitches count as affordable housing and therefore provision via S106 legal agreement or by developers could potentially be sought.</p>
<p>ROLE OF THE LDF</p>	<p>Core Strategy Policy CS9 sets out the policy framework for the delivery of the number of pitches that are required over the plan period in line with the South East Plan and sets out the criteria for assessing the suitability of sites. Specific sites to meet these requirements will be allocated in the Site Allocations and Delivery DPD and/or will be determined through the development management process.</p>

EDUCATION

Nursery Education	
RESPONSIBLE DELIVERY BODIES	West Berkshire Council, Education Services, Children and Young People Directorate
STRATEGIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES	5 year Education Asset Management Plan, WBC Education Capital Programme, WBC Special Education Needs Development Plan, WBC Children's and Young People Plan, WBC 2009 District Profile, West Berkshire Council Quality of Life in West Berkshire, WBC Delivering Investment from Sustainable Development (SPG), WBC The School Census Early Years and Child Care, Childcare Sufficiency Outcomes (Sure Start), West Berkshire
EXISTING PROVISION	<p>Childcare and formal early years education for 3-4 year olds is included within the Government's Sure Start programme, which brings together a range of early years services. The aim is for every community to have a Sure Start Children's Centre by 2010 to provide a service hub for the under five years olds and their families. Local Authorities have the strategic responsibility to deliver the Sure Start Children's Centres.</p> <p>Formal childcare provision for 3-4 year olds includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-schools (playgroups) that are managed by a voluntary committee who employ staff. • Private day nurseries and nursery schools that are managed and run by a private individual or company. • Maintained Schools – where a nursery provision is available, the school will offer places for 3-4 year olds. <p>The 'Early Years and Childcare Sufficiency Outcomes (Sure Start)' 2008 Report identifies that overall, West Berkshire currently has sufficient places for childcare and early years education for 3-4 year olds with a total of 5,019 places for a population of 3,535. Places are not vacant, as the take-up of places for younger children ensures that childcare facilities are sustainable. The impact of the change to a single point of entry into school in September 2009 will need to be assessed.</p> <p>There are 10 Children's Centres in West Berkshire. There is sufficient provision in 7 areas (Hungerford; Victoria Park; East Downlands; Calcot and Theale; Burghfield; Tilehurst; and Chieveley). One area Centre has surplus spaces (Thatcham South) and there are deficiencies in provision in two areas (South Newbury; and Thatcham North). The impact of the single point of entry to school is likely to reduce the need for places serving 3 and 4 year olds in the private and</p>

	voluntary sector.
PLANNED PROVISION	The Council Plan identifies that in 2009/10 the Council will ensure that 25% of 3-4 year olds in the district receive 15 hours of free entitlement to childcare and early education. West Berkshire has already achieved the target to deliver 10 Children's Centres across West Berkshire ahead of the March 2010 deadline.
INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS TO SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF THE CORE STRATEGY	<p>Existing school infrastructure needs to be sufficient to cope with the proposed increases in population due to the level of housing growth that is required to deliver the Core Strategy. In addition to the above proposals, the following requirements have been identified by the Council.</p> <p><u>Newbury / Thatcham</u></p> <p>The Council considers that it is likely that the development at Newbury Racecourse will require additional early years provision. This could be a nursery class at a maintained school or voluntary provision in a community centre. If new provision was developed in this area, it could also serve the proposed development at Sandford. A developer contribution towards additional early years provision is now to be secured following resolution to grant planning consent for development at Newbury Racecourse.</p> <p><u>Eastern Urban Area (Tilehurst, Calcot, Purley-on-Thames)</u></p> <p>The Council considers that there should be sufficient provision in these areas.</p> <p><u>Rural Service Centres (Burghfield Common, Hungerford, Lambourn, Mortimer, Pangbourne, Theale)</u></p> <p>The Council considers that the availability of childcare places in maintained, and private and voluntary provision, including childminders in the Burghfield and Mortimer areas and in Hungerford should be sufficient to meet the needs of the proposed new developments. There may be a need for additional provision in the Lambourn area, where the school is currently the only early years provider.</p>
ROLE OF THE LDF	<p>South East Plan Policy S3 on Education and Skills recognises the need for local authorities to take account of demographic projection and advises that they should work with partners to ensure adequate provision of pre-school facilities.</p> <p>The Core Strategy will need to ensure that new development within West Berkshire is supported by adequate social infrastructure (which includes education provision). Policy CS6 identifies that the Council</p>

	<p>will work with infrastructure providers and stakeholders to identify requirements for infrastructure provision.</p> <p>Improvements to education requirements within the district are to be brought forward by a number of Spatial Policies and Core Policies set out in the Core Strategy, which set out what new infrastructure improvements are required to be delivered within specific areas and on the Sandford strategic site. Detailed proposals will come forward through the Site Allocations and Delivery DPD and through the development management process.</p> <p>Given existing planned provision, it is not considered that the LDF needs to make further provision for nursery education.</p>
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Secondary and Primary Education	
RESPONSIBLE DELIVERY BODIES	West Berkshire Council, Education Services, Children and Young People Directorate
STRATEGIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES	5 year Education Asset Management Plan, WBC Education Capital Programme, WBC Special Education Needs Development Plan, WBC Children and Young People's Plan, WBC 2009 District Profile, WBC Quality of Life in West Berkshire, WBC Delivering Investment from Sustainable Development (SPG), WBC The School Census Primary Strategy for Change, WBC Council Plan, WBC
EXISTING PROVISION	<p>West Berkshire Council is responsible for education provision in West Berkshire. In accordance with Government guidance, the Council recognises the importance of making proper provision for education needs in the primary (ages 5 –11) and secondary (ages 11-16) age groups. The Council also recognises the need to make suitable and sufficient provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs and for those that can not be educated in mainstream schools.</p> <p>West Berkshire Council is responsible for 8 Infant schools, 7 junior schools, 52 primary schools (both infants and juniors), 10 Secondary schools, 2 Special schools (all ages and needs) and 6 Pupil Referral Units. The schools cover a range of status's, including community, foundation, voluntary aided and voluntary controlled.</p>
PLANNED PROVISION	The 2009/10 to 2013/14 WBC Capital Programme includes proposals to remodel and expand Chieveley and Kintbury St Mary's VC Primary schools, these are required to meet current needs. At Theale provision is to be made for the expansion of Theale Primary School to meet additional education needs arising from the planned development at Theale Lakeside.
INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS TO SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF THE CORE STRATEGY	<p>Existing school infrastructure needs to be sufficient to cope with the proposed increases in population due to the level of housing growth that is required to deliver the Core Strategy. In addition to the above planned proposals, the following requirements have been identified by the Council:</p> <p><u>Newbury / Thatcham</u></p>

	<p>There is currently limited capacity across the primary phase in Newbury and secondary phase in Thatcham.</p> <p>Newbury Racecourse (1500 houses) – the expansion and remodelling of existing provision at the catchment primary school (The Willows) and the secondary school (Park House) will be required.</p> <p>Sandleford (2,000) – there is no capacity at the current catchment primary school site (Falkland) so a new primary school will be required. Significant expansion and remodelling at the catchment secondary school (Park House) will also be required.</p> <p><u>Eastern Urban Area (Tilehurst, Calcot, Purley-on-Thames)</u></p> <p>There is currently limited capacity in Tilehurst and Purley areas at both primary and secondary phases. The expansion and remodelling of existing provision in the areas should be sufficient to mitigate the impact from the proposed development within the Core Strategy.</p> <p><u>Rural Service Centres (Burghfield Common, Hungerford, Lambourn, Mortimer, Pangbourne, Theale)</u></p> <p>Theale – both the primary (Theale Primary) and the secondary (Theale Green) school sites have significant constraints in terms of size, and resulting from both schools having split sites. There is currently no capacity at either school and any expansion of provision to mitigate the impact from housing development would require significant capital investment and extensive remodelling/re-build.</p> <p>Hungerford – the primary school site has constraints in terms of shape and current location of school accommodation. There is currently no capacity at the school and any expansion of provision to mitigate the impact from housing development would require significant capital investment and extensive re-build/remodelling.</p> <p>Mortimer – the infant school site is significantly constrained in terms of size. There is currently no capacity at the school and any expansion of provision to mitigate the impact from housing development would require significant capital investment and extensive re-build/remodelling. There is currently no capacity at the junior school.</p> <p><u>Developer Contributions</u></p> <p>The Council's adopted Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) 'Delivering Investment from Sustainable Development' expects developers to make a financial contribution towards education provision where new residential development generates additional demand for school places, from early years to secondary, which cannot be adequately met by existing provision. This contribution is used to meet the impact of the development.</p> <p>Where major housing development, as defined by the Delivering Investment from Sustainable Development SPG, generates the need to provide a new school on a suitable local site, or requires the extensive remodelling of a school or the school's provision within an area needs</p>
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	<p>to be re-organise, the details of the contribution to be sought from the developer will be a matter for discussion at the time of a proposal.</p>
<p>ROLE OF THE LDF</p>	<p>South East Plan Policy S3 on Education and Skills recognises the need for local authorities to take account of demographic projections and advises that they should work with partners to ensure adequate provision of school facilities.</p> <p>The Core Strategy will need to ensure that new development within West Berkshire is supported by adequate social infrastructure (which includes education provision). Policy CS6 identifies that the Council will work with infrastructure providers and stakeholders to identify requirements for infrastructure provision.</p> <p>Improvements to education requirements within the district are to be brought forward by a number of spatial and core policies set out in the Core Strategy, which establish what new infrastructure improvements are required to be delivered within specific areas and on the strategic sites. Detailed proposals will come forward through the Site Allocations and Delivery DPD and through the development management process.</p> <p>The LDF must provide the policy basis to enable developer contributions to be negotiated towards improvements to education provision to mitigate the impact of new residential development. The LDF must also ensure that land is reserved for the expansion or provision of new education facilities, where necessary.</p>

Further and Higher Education	
RESPONSIBLE DELIVERY BODIES	<p>West Berkshire Council, Reading University and Thames Valley University, Newbury College, Learning and Skills Council.*</p> <p>*Currently, West Berkshire Council and the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) play a role in the delivery of further education. The Council has a strategic leadership role with the wider agenda of meeting the needs of children and young people, with the LSC working in partnership with the Council. In 2010 the LSC will lose its role, it will then be the sole responsibility of West Berkshire Council to provide funding for 16-18 participation.</p>
STRATEGIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES	<p>5 year Education Asset Management Plan, WBC West Berkshire Council Capital Programme, WBC Special Education Needs Development Plan, WBC Children's and Young People Plan, WBC 2009 District Profile, WBC Quality of Life in Berkshire, WBC Delivering Investment from Sustainable Development (SPG), WBC.</p>
EXISTING PROVISION	<p><u>Further Education</u> 16+ education is provided through the one Further Education college in West Berkshire (Newbury College) and through the sixth form units in all 10 maintained secondary schools and the two maintained special schools:</p> <p>The Denefield (Foundation) School; John O'Gaunt Community Technology College; Kennet School; Little Heath VA School; Park House School and Sports College; St Bartholomew's (Foundation) School; The Willink School; Theale Green Community School; Trinity School and Performing Arts College; The Downs (Foundation) School; The Castle Special School; and Brookfields Special School</p> <p><u>Higher Education</u> There are no higher education establishments within West Berkshire, although Thames Valley University (Reading Campus) and the University of Reading are in close proximity.</p>
PLANNED PROVISION	<p><u>Further Education</u> The expansion of sixth form accommodation at Theale Green Community school and Brookfields special school is proposed within the 2009/10 to 2013/14 WBC Capital Programme.</p> <p><u>Higher education</u> There are no known plans for higher education facilities within West Berkshire District.</p>

<p>INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS TO SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF THE CORE STRATEGY</p>	<p>Existing school infrastructure needs to be sufficient to cope with the proposed increases in population due to the level of housing growth that is required to deliver the Core Strategy. In addition to the above planned proposals, the following requirements have been identified by the Council:</p> <p><u>Newbury / Thatcham</u> There is currently limited capacity in Thatcham and improvements will be required to Kennet School.</p> <p>Newbury Racecourse (1500 houses) – the expansion and remodelling of existing sixth form provision at the secondary school (Park House) will be required.</p> <p>Sandleford (2,000) – significant expansion and remodelling of sixth form provision at the catchment secondary school (Park House) will be required.</p> <p><u>Eastern Urban Area (Tilehurst, Calcot, Purley-on-Thames)</u> There is currently limited capacity in Tilehurst and Purley areas. The expansion and remodelling of existing sixth form provision in the areas should be sufficient to mitigate the impact of the proposed development within the Core Strategy.</p> <p><u>Rural Service Centres (Burghfield Common, Hungerford, Lambourn, Mortimer, Pangbourne, Theale)</u> The secondary school (Theale Green) has sixth form provision but there is no spare capacity. The site has constraints in terms of size and the fact it is a split site. Any expansion of provision to mitigate the impact from housing development would require significant capital investment and extensive remodelling/re-build.</p> <p><u>Higher Education</u> The Council is not aware of any requirements that will be needed within West Berkshire District to accommodate future growth.</p> <p><u>Developer Contributions</u> The Council's adopted Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) 'Delivering Investment from Sustainable Development' expects developers to make a financial contribution towards education provision where new residential development generates additional demand for the sixth form (16-19) age groups, which cannot be adequately met by existing provision. This contribution is used to meet the impact of the development.</p> <p>Where major housing development, as defined by the SPG, generates the need for the extensive remodelling of a school or the school's provision within an area needs to be re-organised, the details of the contribution to be sought from the developer will be a matter for discussion at the time of a proposal.</p>
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ROLE OF THE LDF	<p>South East Plan Policy S3 on Education and Skills recognises the need for local authorities to take account of demographic projections and advises that they should work with its partners to ensure adequate provision of school facilities. Policy RE:4 Human Resource Development identifies that further and higher education establishments need to plan for an increase in the demand for places on courses.</p> <p>The Core Strategy will need to ensure that new development within West Berkshire is supported by adequate social infrastructure (which includes education provision). Policy CS6 identifies that the Council will work with infrastructure providers and stakeholders to identify requirements for infrastructure provision.</p> <p>Improvements to education requirements within the district are to be bought forward by a number of spatial and core policies set out in the Core Strategy, which establish what new infrastructure improvements are required to be delivered within specific areas and on the strategic sites. Detailed proposals will come forward through the Site Allocations and Delivery DPD and through the development management process.</p> <p>The LDF must provide the policy basis to enable developer contributions to be negotiated towards improvements to education provision to mitigate the impact of new residential development. The LDF must also ensure that land is reserved for the expansion or provision of new education facilities, where necessary.</p>
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HEALTH

Health	
RESPONSIBLE DELIVERY BODIES	Royal Berkshire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust Berkshire West Primary Care Trust Southern Central Ambulance Service
STRATEGIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES	2009 District Profile, WBC Quality of Life in Berkshire, WBC Delivering Investment from Sustainable Development SPG, WBC Health and Well Being Strategy and Action Plan 2006 – 2009 (Jan 2007), WBP Strategic Plan 2008-2013, Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust Integrated Business Plan 2007, Berkshire Healthcare NHS Trust (also Annual Plan 2008/09) Primary Care Trust Strategic Plan 2009 -2013 SCAS Business Plan, 2008 – 2011
EXISTING PROVISION	<p><u><i>Acute Care and General Hospitals</i></u> The Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust (RBFT) is the main provider of acute hospital services. A full range of general and acute services are provided at the NHS Foundation Trust (Royal Berkshire Hospital) in Reading, along with a number of more specialised services. Services are also delivered at other sites, including the West Berkshire Community Hospital, Thatcham. Some patients access health services from other hospitals outside West Berkshire, in particular at the Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals, Swindon, Marlborough NHS Trust and Basingstoke and North Hampshire NHS Trust.</p> <p>For the year 2009/10 RBFT met all the key national targets and was rated 'Excellent' for its use of resources by the Healthcare Commission and 'Good' for delivery of its services. The continued high demand for its services has enabled the continuation of planned investments to improve and expand services to patients.</p> <p><u><i>Psychiatric Hospitals</i></u> Prospect Park Hospital at Tilehurst, Reading is the main hospital for people in the west of Berkshire who suffer from mental illness. The hospital provides admission wards, a psychiatric intensive care ward (PICU) a therapeutic day service, a specialist unit for people with learning disabilities, specialist wards for older people and both high dependency and rehabilitation wards. The Hospital also houses an intermediate care ward on behalf of the PCT. In 2008/09 the Berkshire Primary Care NHS Trust advised that the current usage of Prospect Park was within the Trust's target level of occupancy and continues to meet the required targets.</p> <p>The Community Mental Health Team is a specialist, jointly managed team of people assembled from West Berkshire Council and the</p>

	<p>Berkshire Health Care Trust. The team works together to provide services for people who suffer from severe and enduring mental illness or severe emotional distress/disturbance, providing a range of home based and day services.</p> <p><u>Health Centres/Primary Care Trusts</u> NHS Berkshire West is the Primary Care Trust (PCT) that plans and commissions health care to the population of the western part of Berkshire. NHS Berkshire West has an annual budget of £625m and covers a population of over 500,000 including Newbury, Reading and Wokingham. In West Berkshire there are 15 GP surgeries (with the equivalent of 74 whole time equivalent (wte) GPs), 19 NHS dental practices and 1 Dental Access Centre, 20 pharmacies and 12 opticians. As of 1st October 2009 there are 148,388 registered patients in WBC's area. The average list size for a wte GP in West Berkshire is approximately 2000 patients. The UK average is 1838.</p> <p><u>Ambulance service</u> The South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) NHS Trust provides services across Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hampshire and Oxfordshire. In addition to the emergency 999 service SCAS also provides Patient Transport Services. SCAS currently meet the response targets for Berkshire West residents. The performance target is assessed on a Trust wide basis; Directors of Commissioning across South Central have agreed that additional investment should be targeted at areas of non-performance for the benefit of the whole health system.</p> <p>SCAS currently operate their resources in high demand areas to ensure that the service reaches the majority of calls within the government set standards. In addition, SCAS use alternative responses such as community first responders to target the life threatening calls in low demand areas.</p>
<p>PLANNED PROVISION</p>	<p><u>Acute Care and General Hospitals</u> One of the five key strategic objectives of RBFT for the period 2010 - 2015 is to provide more services, in more places, closer to home for more people. A number of strategic goals and targets are set out to deliver this.</p> <p>The Trust advise that aside from the current acquisitions, in Reading and in the East of Berkshire, which will extend the provision of health care services, other major land purchases are unlikely and developments will be on a smaller scale in conjunction with existing and new partners. The main site in Reading will continue to be developed, driven by changes in clinical technology and the expected direction of centralisation of specialised services. The Trust will be reviewing its provision of private patient services, which if it proceeds, will mean significant construction on the RBH site within Reading. There are currently no proposals for the West Berkshire Community Hospital Site in Thatcham that is located within West Berkshire District.</p> <p>The Trust has identified that some smaller scale infrastructure improvements may be required in the future to address a number of existing site management issues at the main Hospital Site in Reading.</p>

	<p>These relate to improved road access to the multi storey car parking, car parking provision, and power supply to the site. These are matters to be addressed in consultation with Reading Borough Council, rather than WBC.</p> <p><u>Health Centres/Primary Care Trusts</u> The PCT has successfully met its target to deliver on the national requirement to have a new GP Led Health Centre open in 2009. This service is sited in Broad Street Mall central Reading, open 8am-8pm 7 days a week and provides a flexible range of bookable appointments, walk-in services and other services for registered and unregistered patients. The centre opened in August 2009.</p> <p>In April 2008 the PCT allocated a total of £300k to improve access to NHS dental services in Berkshire including the provision of improved access in West Berkshire. This provided additional capacity in Berkshire equivalent to a 2 surgery practice.</p> <p>The PCT has also allocated a further £1m to improve access in three further areas of need in Berkshire, including West Berkshire. The planned impact of this investment of £1.3 m will be an additional 56,000 Units of Dental Activity.</p> <p><u>Psychiatric Hospitals</u> The plan for Prospect Park Hospital remains to ensure that the hospital provides the current level of activity and provision. There are plans that within 18 months the rehabilitation wards will close and move to a community setting within Reading. The vacated space will be utilised for the continuing delivery of health care services although a firm plan for the use of space is still to be confirmed.</p> <p><u>Ambulance Service</u> In April 2008 SCAS faced extremely challenging new emergency performance targets. The Trust improved infrastructure in a far-reaching modernisation programme and has recently completed moves to new headquarters in both the north and the south of the South Central area.</p>
<p>INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS TO SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF THE CORE STRATEGY</p>	<p><u>Acute Care and General Hospitals</u> The Trust has advised that the proposed level of growth within the Core Strategy is unlikely to have a significant effect on its ability to continue to deliver adequate acute care and general hospital services since the anticipated year on year increase in population is small in comparison to the total number of people (in excess of over 500, 000) already being served by the facility. The Primary Care Trust is the responsible body for determining what, if any additional care is required to be provided by the Trust. It is the PCT's strategic direction to reduce reliance on acute care by Reshaping Demand for Healthcare (Prevention, Strengthening Primary Care and Admission Avoidance) and Reshaping Supply (Redesigning Care Pathways and Redesigning Delivery Infrastructure).</p> <p>The PCT is in the process of preparing and updating its Estates Strategy which forms part of its "Transforming Community Services"</p>

and has advised that any specific requirements arising from this process can be identified as part of the Site Allocations and Delivery DPD.

Health Centres/Primary Care Trusts

The broad spatial strategy for accommodating new development within WBC's Core Strategy includes two allocated strategic sites, with additional allocations through the subsequent Site Allocations and Delivery DPD. The full implications for the delivery of primary care services, including how they might need to be expanded and/or improved, will therefore be considered further at Site Allocations and Delivery DPD stage. At this Core Strategy stage, the PCT has provided strategic advice on the likelihood of such improvements being required based on the distribution of development within the Core Strategy.

The PCT has advised that the three Newbury Town Centre practices are all short of space with no capacity to improve the premises on their current sites. The PCT is in early discussions with the practices and potential third party developers to consider a solution to accommodate the growth from the proposed developments, including development of the Strategic Site at Newbury Race Course. Options being considered include the possible redevelopment of premises to a location that would be suitable to meet the needs of the existing and future new population.

In respect of development at the Sandford Strategic Site, the PCT has identified the likely need for the possible expansion of the nearby Falkland Practice and will work with that practice to identify necessary improvements.

The PCT advises that practices in the Eastern area have limited capacity to accommodate growth and further consideration will need to be given to how they might expand through redevelopment/ relocation opportunities once firm site allocations are known.

In the Rural Service Centres there will also be a need to confirm the capacity available within local practices and the need for improvements. It is considered likely that enhanced capacity will be required at some practices.

Within the Service Villages, the increased population is likely to be able to be accommodated by the nearest practice, but this will need to be reviewed when specific sites are allocated.

The SPG 'Delivering Investment from Sustainable Development' (updated April 2009 for Health Care Provision) provides guidance on how future provision for primary health care services will be secured and delivered through the planning system when applications for new residential development are received by WBC. Proposals which result in more than 1838 new residents may require a new facility to be provided as part of the development, to be either funded or constructed by the developer. On smaller residential development sites, and where the new development places demands on community facilities, the need for full provision will be replaced by the requirement for contributions. A contribution is likely to be required from new

	<p>developments where the list size of the local GP practice is greater than the UK average of 1838.</p> <p>A number of small developments are likely to have a cumulative impact on the provision of existing medical services. Accordingly, consideration will be given to negotiating appropriate contributions to primary health care facilities from all developments where it is likely to generate the need for such services. Contributions will be placed in a fund controlled by the Council or by the Primary Care Trust and may be 'pooled' to be used to supplement primary health care practices within the locality of new developments. The level of contributions required will be based on the estimated number of patients generated by the development.</p> <p>In summary whilst the PCT is unable to precisely advise on specific improvements to primary health care services that will be required to support the Core Strategy at this stage, it is acknowledged that such improvements are likely to be required throughout West Berkshire. The Delivering Investment from Sustainable Development SPG sets out a clear mechanism by which development contributions can be secured to assist the delivery of such improvements. The Council will continue to work closely with the PCT to identify specific primary care requirements as work on the Site Allocations and Delivery DPD progresses.</p> <p><u>Psychiatric Hospitals</u> The rehabilitation review, continued investment within older people services for home based services and the ability of the Community Mental Health Team to reduce occupancy levels and offer home treatment as an alternative to hospital admissions, will potentially free up additional capacity within the West Berkshire hospital based services to address any future demands arising from the Core Strategy. Investment to address capacity issues may be available through local commissioning arrangements.</p> <p><u>Ambulance Services</u> A core objective of SCAS is to strengthen emergency operations in all respects, including improving the speed of response to meet national targets and improving facilities.</p> <p>SCAS has advised that any increase in population will lead to an increase in calls for the ambulance service. SCAS services are commissioned by the PCT and provisions are in place to respond to circumstances where there is a large increase in 999 calls. If a greater than 10% increase in calls, occurs, SCAS will be required to submit a case to the PCT for an increase in funding to provide additional resources to cope with the rise in demand. There are no specific provisions that need to be delivered through the Core Strategy.</p>
<p>ROLE OF THE LDF</p>	<p>The provision of adequate levels of health care is an essential part of any sustainable community. National planning guidance recommends focusing the provision of new public and community facilities in larger settlements where providers can build upon existing provision and there is greater accessibility to the population. Although WBC does not</p>

	<p>have direct control over the provision of health services delivered in the District, it has a responsibility to set out the policy framework to enable those who provide services to make investment decisions. Policy CS6 identifies that the Council will work with infrastructure providers and stakeholders to identify requirements for infrastructure provision, which includes provision for health.</p> <p>Policy SP1 focuses development on the main urban areas where the extent and capacity of supporting infrastructure, services and facilities is greatest. This policy supported by other spatial policies for the main four geographical areas of the district which identify the necessary requirements to build a network of sustainable future communities and to meet community needs; and by core policies CS3 and CS4 for the strategic site allocations.</p> <p>WBC's The infrastructure schedule will be maintained on the Council's website as a 'live' schedule, updated as further infrastructure requirements or projects are identified, and as work on the Site Allocations and Delivery DPD is taken forward. Any specific land use requirements for health related infrastructure will be updated within the Site Allocations and Delivery DPD and/or through the development management process.</p> <p>The SPG 'Delivering Investment from Sustainable Development' sets out how the Council will deal with planning applications where a contribution towards health care provision will be sought (updated April 2009). The level of contributions will depend upon the scale and type of the development proposed, and the amount, if any, of spare capacity in local GP practices.</p>
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GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Green Infrastructure	
RESPONSIBLE DELIVERY BODIES	<p>Countryside and Environment, Environment Directorate, WBC Cultural Services, Community Services Directorate, WBC</p> <p><i>Voluntary Bodies</i> Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) and the RSPB.</p> <p><i>National</i> Natural England (NE) (e.g. Sites of Special Scientific Interest) Sport England British Waterways South West.</p>
STRATEGIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES	<p>South East Plan (2009) A Breathe of Fresh Air: Sustainable Community Strategy, WBC Delivering Investment from Sustainable Development (SPG), WBC 2009 District Profile, WBC Children's Play Strategy 2006, WBC West Berkshire Council Cultural Plan 2010 - 2015 Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan, WBC A Vision for the Future of our Canals and Rivers, British Waterways Audit of Green Open Space in West Berkshire 2006 (Rachel Sanderson for WBC) Open Space and Leisure Assessment of Need (July 2005), PMP for WBC Berkshire, Buckingham and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) Strategic Plan 2010- 2025 The Living Landscape Project 2008 - 2018, BBOWT and West Berkshire. Kennet and Avon Conservation Management Plan (2000), British Waterways (on behalf of Kennet & Avon Partnership). Waterways for Tomorrow, (June 2000) Defra Inland Waterways, Policy Advice note (July 2009), Town and Country Planning Associate with British Waterways England's Historic Waterways: A Working Heritage (2009) British Waterways with English Heritage Government Strategy for the Inland Waterways of England and Wales – Waterways for Everyone (Draft consultation document) (December 2009), Defra</p>
EXISTING PROVISION	<p>The South East Plan defines Green Infrastructure (GI) as a network of multi-functional green spaces. Key assets include parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural green spaces, green corridors (river and canal banks, cycleways, rights of way), outdoor sports facilities, amenity green spaces, provision for children and teenagers, allotments, community gardens, cemeteries and church yards, accessible countryside and green roofs and walls. The definition set out in the Core Strategy for West Berkshire also includes lakes and other waterways.</p>

	<p>WBC's Countryside & Environment Service department manage and maintain the majority of GI assets. The Countryside Service plays an important role in the creation and well-being of healthy communities, through play, sport, nature conservation and quiet recreation. A key function of the service is the management of the nature conservation and recreational value of important nature conservation sites in the countryside, and access to the countryside through the public rights of way network.</p> <p>Various national bodies are also responsible for managing and maintaining other elements of GI within West Berkshire including Natural England (sites of national importance including SSSIs) and British Waterways as the navigating authority. A large area of West Berkshire lies within the North Wessex Downs AONB, which is managed by a Council of Partners, which includes West Berkshire Council.</p> <p>An audit of Green Open Space undertaken in 2006 records over 4000ha within West Berkshire including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allotments - 30.2ha• Amenity green spaces – 164.6ha• Cemeteries and church yards – 50.2ha• Natural and semi-natural green spaces – 2501.7ha• Outdoor sports facilities – 987.6ha• Parks and Gardens – 257.1ha• Provision for children and teenagers – 9.8ha <p>Some of the key assets that contribute to the GI network include Snelsmore Common Country Park (over 100ha); the recently restored Greenham and Crookham Common (500ha); large areas with public access at Padworth, Bucklebury and Wokefield Commons; an environmental education facility at the Nature Discovery Centre; 1168 kilometres of public rights of way (footpath, bridle way, byway) including two National Trails (The Ridgeway and the Thames Path); and the Kennet and Avon Canal (45 kilometres of canal and associated towing path) and other river corridors.</p> <p>North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NWD AONB) covers 74% of West Berkshire and also offers recreational benefit as an important area of accessible green space. However, the new NWD AONB Management Plan 2009-2014 refers to a study conducted in 2007 on accessible natural greenspace provision in the South East which found that the NWD AONB has the smallest percentage (4%) of accessible natural greenspace of all the South East's protected landscapes.</p> <p>An overall assessment of the need for Open Space and Leisure undertaken for the Council by PMP (2005), concluded that West Berkshire is generally well catered for in quantitative terms, but that the quality and accessibility of open spaces could be improved, in particular the connectivity between green corridors and green spaces.</p>
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<p>PLANNED PROVISION</p>	<p>There are many individual strategies and management plans for the various GI assets and those of significance are highlighted below.</p> <p><i>Rights of Way</i> Under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 WBC have produced a draft “Rights of Way Improvements Plan” which identifies a need to improve surface maintenance, signposting, and vegetation clearance along public rights of way. In addition, improvements are required to preserve and enhance biodiversity and increase the availability of access information. The Plan includes proposed upgrades for paths in the District.</p> <p><i>Towing paths</i> British Waterways have rolling programme of initiatives to improve towing paths to maintain and enhance public access and improve the quality of provision. Plans include widening, resurfacing, improving accessibility and connectivity and signage to cope with additional usage or upgrading paths to cycle network standard.</p> <p><i>North Wessex Downs AONB</i> The Management Plan includes recommended action to increase provision and management of accessible green spaces.</p> <p><i>The Living Landscape Project</i> The Living Landscape Project is a joint partnership between Berkshire, Buckingham and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) and WBC to protect and enhance natural heritage in West Berkshire, including 2,600ha of landscape. Part of the core area is owned and managed by WBC (Greenham & Crookham Commons, Thatcham Reedbeds) and BBOWT (Bowdown Woods). The programme focuses on protecting, conserving and enhance the biodiversity value to the area, improving connections between the network of green spaces and enhancing public access to allow for greater use and enjoyment of the area. An application for Heritage Lottery funding has been submitted by BBOWT for funding to support this project.</p>
<p>INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS TO SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF THE CORE STRATEGY</p>	<p>Policy CC8: Green Infrastructure of the South East Plan states that local authorities and partners will work together to plan, provide and manage multi-functional green space. These networks should be managed and designed to support biodiversity as well as contributing to the social infrastructure of local areas to support future growth.</p> <p>The GI network in West Berkshire is generally well catered for. The key issue is the need for ongoing maintenance of and qualitative improvements to these existing assets as well as the adequate provision of multifunctional open spaces in new developments that link to the existing GI network. The strategic site allocations at Newbury Racecourse and Sandford should provide for an appropriate network of green infrastructure as part of the mix use development. This will include the need to provide for a network of pedestrian and cycle routes that connect to the wider GI network and additional provision of Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPS) and Local Areas for Play</p>

	<p>(LAP), playing fields and amenity open space. At Sandleford, development must be designed with significant GI to respect the sites topography and landscape importance. A masterplan or SPD will be prepared for development at Sandleford which will establish core design principles for GI provision.</p> <p>British Waterways will also continue to seek improvements and upgrades to towing paths and waterways as a consequence of future development where this is likely to increase public usage. A financial contribution towards such improvements is to be secured via a S106 agreement following planning consent for development at the Newbury Racecourse Site.</p> <p>Likewise development within or close to the area designated as part of the Living Landscape Project (south of Thatcham and east of Newbury) may be required to make a similar financial contribution by way of mitigating the impact of development. Developer contributions towards the Project are again to be secured at Newbury Racecourse to mitigate the additional recreational pressure arising from that development.</p> <p>Infrastructure requirements necessary to maintain and provide for improvements to the GI network in many cases will also help to meet other key infrastructure delivery requirements. The delivery schedules for Pedestrian and Cycleway improvements, Sports Centres and Sports Pitches and Parks, Open Space and Play areas should therefore be read alongside the GI delivery schedule.</p>
<p>ROLE OF THE LDF</p>	<p>The Core Strategy recognises the importance of creating a strong network of well-connected and multi-functional green infrastructure to provide an attractive environment, providing benefits for health and opportunities for formal and informal recreation. This priority forms Objective 6 of the Core Strategy. The Core Strategy also seeks to improve the biodiversity value of the GI.</p> <p>A number of policies are contained in the Core Strategy to protect and enhance the district's GI. Relevant policies include SP1: Spatial, Strategy, CS 6: Infrastructure Requirements and Delivery, CS18: Biodiversity and Geodiversity, and CS19: Green Infrastructure. The spatial policies also include specific reference to those GI improvements and enhancements of relevance to local areas.</p> <p>A Green Infrastructure SPD is to be prepared in consultation with partner organisations and the community which will set out the Council's comprehensive approach to protecting and improving the network of GI in West Berkshire. Specific standards for provision within new developments will be identified in the Site Allocations and Delivery DPD and through masterplanning of the Sandleford strategic site.</p> <p>The adopted SPD 'Quality Design' provides a policy framework to improve design quality and the sustainability of development in West Berkshire. The SPD explains the biodiversity and amenity benefits of open space and states that developers should create a positive relationship between green spaces and new developments.</p>

	<p>The policies contained within the Core Strategy, coupled with the adopted SPD on 'Quality Design' and the proposed Green Infrastructure SPD and Site Allocations and Delivery DPD, provide an appropriate policy framework to ensure that new development protects, enhances and provides for the development of a strong and high quality GI network within West Berkshire.</p>
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SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Community, Arts, Culture and Leisure	
RESPONSIBLE DELIVERY BODIES	<p>Cultural Services, Community Services Directorate, WBC Voluntary and Community Groups such as music and drama societies, sports clubs, local history groups etc. Town and Parish Councils Commercial Operators Charitable organisations Governing Bodies of both Private and State Maintained education establishments.</p>
STRATEGIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES	<p>A Breath of Fresh Air: Sustainable Community Strategy, WBC Delivering Investment from Sustainable Development (SPG), 2009 District Profile, WBC Community Services Directorate Plan 2007 – 2011, WBC West Berkshire Council Cultural Plan 2010 - 2015 West Berkshire Council Cultural Services Asset Development Plan (<i>Due for completion early Spring 2010</i>)</p>
EXISTING PROVISION	<p>WBC's Cultural Services Unit is part of the Community Services Directorate. The Unit aims to ensure that people in West Berkshire are able to enjoy a high quality of life by having equal access to opportunities to participate in a wide range of cultural activities. The Unit is responsible for the operation and management of a range of cultural facilities contributing to the provision of a diverse programme of cultural activities across the District. The key facilities are summarised below.</p> <p>Theatre/Art Centres</p> <p>There are five theatre/art centre venues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Corn Exchange, Newbury (400 seat arts centre and a 40 seat movie theatre) operated by a charitable trust. WBC is the main funding provider for this facility through a service level agreement that is reviewed every three years. • The New Greenham Arts Centre (artist's studio, facilities for community arts groups and performances). Managed by the Corn Exchange and funded by the Greenham Common Trust. • The Morpheus Theatre in Newbury (120 seat theatre). Part of the Phoenix Day Centre for adults with learning difficulties, incorporating a range of specialist features to meet the needs of this client group. • Watermill Theatre, Bagnor (220 seat theatre). A producing theatre that is designated as a RFO (Regularly Funded Organisation) and receives an annual grant from the Arts Council. It is also in receipt of grant support from WBC for its rural touring programme, supporting professional productions in village halls and other rural venues. • The Arlington Arts Centre (grounds of Mary Hare Grammar School). The only theatre available with specialist provision for deaf people.

	<p>Operated and funded by the Governors of Mary Hare School.</p> <p>The Council's Arts and Leisure Team looks after the contractual arrangements for the operation of the Corn Exchange Arts Centre and works with town and parish councils, regional and national agencies, voluntary organisations and community groups, to ensure the delivery of a range of sports and arts programmes across the district. The Heritage & Tourism team are responsible for the operation and development of a number of Council owned heritage assets including the West Berkshire Museum, Shaw House and the Tourist Information Centre (TIC).</p> <p>Other Leisure Attractions West Berkshire has a range of other leisure attractions including Newbury Racecourse, numerous Golf Courses and other Membership Sports Clubs, Newbury Leisure Park, (Ten Pin Bowling and Indoor Play Centre) and The Vue Cinema, Newbury. Other leisure attractions include the National Trust owned Basildon Park and the privately run Living Rain Forest at Hermitage.</p> <p>Community Centres West Berkshire has a wide variety of community facilities, provided by a range of organisations including Parish/Town Councils, village hall committees (often as registered charities), voluntary groups and churches. Over 300 clubs are based within the district, run on a voluntary basis and operating out of a variety of settings.</p> <p>Youth Provision The West Berkshire Youth Service offers activities for young people aged between 13-19 years old. The service is organised into 3 Area Teams – West, Central and East Area - based in youth centres owned and managed by WBC. There are also youth clubs based in other community venues. The main youth centres are the John O'Gaunt Youth and Community Centre, Hungerford (eastern area), Theale Youth Centre (western area), the Riverside Youth and Community Centre, Newbury and Moorside Youth and Community Centre, Thatcham (central area). The Youth Service run music and gig events at the Moorside Centre in Thatcham. The centre contains a new specialist recording studio, designed by young people with funding secured through the Youth Capital Fund.</p>
<p>PLANNED PROVISION</p>	<p>Building on its experience of a successful Heritage Lottery Fund application for the restoration of Shaw House, WBC intends to seek similar financial support to restore and interpret the Corn Store and Cloth Hall that house the West Berkshire Museum. The restoration project will restore the listed buildings and provide an extension to increase the capacity of the museum and TIC to cater for a wider audience. WBC is also investigating improved facilities for performing and display arts. A public exhibition has drawn attention to proposals for a new arts pavilion in Victoria Park. Funding for such improvements will need to be secured from a variety of sources, including lottery and other grants, s106 contributions, and where a revenue return can be generated, contributions from private sector contractors and investors.</p>

	<p>Community Centres WBC provides ongoing support and advice to a range of organisations responsible for providing and managing community buildings and facilities. This ranges from technical support on facility infrastructure to the development of new activities and pursuits, enabling viable facilities to develop and remain at the heart of community life. WBC has a total of £150,000 (2009/10) as potential support to community facilities. This funding is accessed through individual bids by Councillors to the Council's Capital Programme. Schemes to be funded are primarily smaller scale refurbishment projects, modernising and improving access.</p> <p>Youth Provision The Youth Opportunity & Capital Funds (YOF/YCF) provides £150,000 of funding for young people aged 13 -19 each year. Around £90,000 is available to enhance youth opportunities.</p> <p>The Youth Service are stakeholders in the proposed development of the <i>Pavilion in the Park</i> located in Victoria Park. It is anticipated that music rehearsal, recording and performance space will be provided in the Pavilion. In addition, Summer programmes including Arts & Media projects are planned. There is a further prospect of a new youth and community facility being provided at the Cotswolds Sports Centre in Tilehurst.</p>
<p>INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS TO SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF THE CORE STRATEGY</p>	<p>WBC anticipates a continuing need for additional investment in community infrastructure. Facilities such as community centres, youth facilities and meeting rooms, play a vital part in community life. It is important that adequate facilities are provided to serve existing and new communities and that new social and community facilities are accessible by all.</p> <p>Developer Contributions The SPG 'Delivering Investment from Sustainable Development' sets out WBC's approach to securing developer contributions towards the provision or extension of community facilities including community centres, meeting halls, heritage facilities and youth centres, in connection with new residential development. Major housing developments (approximately 200 dwellings or more) may be expected to make on-site provision for community facilities in the form of community and youth centres, often as part of a neighbourhood centre. Developers may be required to undertake a community needs assessment to assess the scale and nature of facilities required.</p> <p>Any facilities provided should be capable of use as a venue for voluntary groups, the Youth Service and, where necessary, Social Service uses. Where appropriate, these facilities should be capable of dual use as community and youth centres. Community facilities should meet the appropriate registration standards (space requirements and other physical facilities) for playgroups or nursery provision.</p> <p>For smaller developments improvements to existing community facilities will be expected, enabling facilities to serve the needs of the</p>

	<p>additional residents occupying the new development.</p>
<p>ROLE OF THE LDF</p>	<p>The South East Plan (SEP) (2009) recognises that sustainable communities rely on effective delivery of community infrastructure. Policy S5: Cultural and Sporting Activity encourages local authorities to seek to increase participation in sport (as advocated by Sport England), recreation and cultural activity.</p> <p>The delivery of sustainable communities, a key objective of the Core Strategy, will be dependent upon the provision of the necessary supporting social infrastructure to accompany the proposed level of growth within the District.</p> <p>Policy SP1 of the Core Strategy focuses development on the main urban areas where the extent and capacity of supporting infrastructure, services and facilities is greatest. This policy is supported by other Spatial Policies for the main four geographical areas of the district which identify the necessary requirements to build a network of sustainable future communities and to meet community needs; and by Core Policies CS3 and CS4 for the strategic site allocations.</p> <p>The LDF must provide the policy basis to enable developer contributions to be negotiated towards improvements to community facilities to mitigate the impact of new residential development. The LDF must also ensure that land is reserved for the expansion or provision of new community facilities, where necessary. Policy CS6 sets out the policy framework within which the Council will work with infrastructure providers and stakeholders to identify requirements for social infrastructure provision and services for new development. Specific land use requirements will be identified in the Site Allocations and Delivery DPD.</p>

Sports Centres and Sports Pitches	
RESPONSIBLE DELIVERY BODIES	<p>Cultural Services, Community Services Directorate, West Berkshire Council</p> <p>Voluntary and Community Groups such as sports clubs</p> <p>Town and Parish Councils</p> <p>Commercial Operators</p>
STRATEGIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES	<p>A Breath of Fresh Air: Sustainable Community Strategy, WBC</p> <p>Delivering Investment from Sustainable Development (SPG), WBC</p> <p>2009 District Profile, WBC</p> <p>Community Services Directorate Plan 2007 – 2011, WBC</p> <p>West Berkshire Council Cultural Plan 2010 - 2015</p> <p>West Berkshire Council Cultural Services Asset Development Plan <i>(Due for completion early Spring 2010)</i></p>
EXISTING PROVISION	<p>WBC's Arts and Leisure Team is responsible for the contractual arrangements for the Council's Sports and Leisure Centres. The Arts and Leisure Team also works with town and parish councils, regional and national agencies, voluntary organisations and community groups, to ensure the delivery of a range of sports and arts programmes across the district.</p> <p>Sports Centres</p> <p>There are 8 sports centres that are managed on behalf of the Council by Parkwood Leisure. Five of these are Dual Use Facilities, with limited access during the school day but full access in the evenings, at weekends and during school holidays). These facilities are available at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Downland Sports Centre at The Downs School, Compton (fitness gymnasium and sports hall). • Hungerford Leisure Centre at John O'Gaunt School (swimming pool, fitness gymnasium, aerobics studio and sports hall). • Kennet Leisure Centre, at Kennet School, Thatcham (swimming pool, fitness gymnasium, aerobics studios, squash courts, outdoor pitches and function room). • Theale Green Recreation Centre at Theale Green Community School (indoor and outdoor facilities including a sports hall, fitness gymnasium, aerobics studio, and outdoor sports area). • Willink Leisure Centre, within Willink School, Burghfield Common (swimming pool, fitness gymnasium, aerobics studio, sports hall and outdoor sports area). <p>Three are Stand Alone Facilities which have full access at all times and are provided by the following centres:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cotswold Sports Centre, Tilehurst (sports hall, fitness gymnasium, aerobics studio and multi-use outdoor sports facilities). • The Lambourn Centre, Lambourn (sports hall, fitness gymnasium, function room, sauna, youth club, horse riding trainer and a crèche).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Northcroft Leisure Centre (a multi-purpose centre with both indoor and outdoor swimming pools (plus teaching and toddler pools), fitness gymnasium, aerobics studio, racquet courts, sports hall and sauna). <p>WBC also acts as agents for Kintbury Parish Council in supervising a contract with Parkwood Leisure for the operation of the Kintbury Jubilee Leisure Centre (sports hall and fitness gymnasium).</p> <p>Whilst these nine sites provide good geographic coverage across the District, the facilities are of variable quality and some provide more limited accommodation than others. The Eastern Urban Area is least well provided for. Although adjacent to many of the recreation facilities provided by Reading Borough Council, the Cotswold Sports Centre has a very limited range of facilities and is in need of modernisation. The Cultural Services Asset Strategy, to be published in early 2010, will highlight a series of improvement projects designed to rectify any imbalance of provision.</p> <p>Sports Pitches Henwick Worthy Sports Field, Thatcham is the largest facility in West Berkshire offering 3 tennis courts, 2 netball courts, 1 floodlit pitch, 10 football pitches, 1 rugby pitch and 2 cricket wickets. 4 football pitches are located at Holybrook Linear Park, Calcot and 3 at Northcroft Park, Newbury.</p> <p>Other Leisure Facilities There is a good range of commercially provided fitness facilities, including the Nuffield Fitness and Wellbeing Centre (Newbury), LA Fitness (Newbury) and Greenacres Leisure Centre Health and Fitness Club (Newbury), together with hotels offering leisure facilities on a membership basis at the Hilton Hotels (Newbury), the Donnington Valley Hotel (Newbury), the Regency Park Hotel (Thatcham) and the Copthorne Hotel (Pingewood). Community users are also accepted at two private schools with sports and leisure facilities - Downe House School, and Bradfield College.</p>
<p>PLANNED PROVISION</p>	<p>Feasibility studies have been undertaken by WBC for new facilities to replace both the Downlands and Cotswold Sports Centres. In addition, an option analysis has been completed of the long term future of the outdoor swimming pool (Lido) in Newbury as it approaches the point at which it becomes beyond economic repair.</p> <p>These schemes are likely to comprise the following improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement of the Downlands Sports Centre with a modern structure providing improved reception and social space, modern changing rooms offering a high level of customer comfort, an enlarged and well equipped fitness gymnasium and a standard sports hall marked and equipped for multi-sports usage. • Replacement of the Cotswold Sports Centre with a new facility

	<p>that includes a sports hall, indoor pool, aerobics / dance studio, fitness gymnasium, reception and social space, swimming pool changing village and separate changing for non-pool sports and, a synthetic turf pitch.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modernisation and increased capacity to all changing rooms (indoor sport and swimming pool) at Northcroft Leisure Centre. Increase capacity of fitness suite to accommodate more CV and Resistance exercise machines. Replacement of outdoor swimming pool with new lido offering increased shallow water, full disabled access, and improved leisure features. • A new £1.6 million Outdoor Activity Centre is being constructed at Pangbourne. This will replace an outdated wooden structure and will enable expansion of the provision of outdoor and water based activities. The new centre will also contain an internal climbing wall providing an additional new resource in the area. <p>These projects may be planned as joint use provision on secondary school sites, with the “Building Schools for the Future” programme potentially providing a contribution to the funding needed. However, the total financial package will inevitably require funding from a variety of sources including lottery and other grants, section 106 contributions, and, where a revenue return can be generated, contributions from private sector contractors and investors.</p>
<p>INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS TO SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF THE CORE STRATEGY</p>	<p>The above schemes are already identified to address existing leisure requirements within the district but the improved facilities will also be of benefit to future residents, assisting in meeting needs arising from the proposed level and distribution of new development. The Council has identified no further specific requirements necessary to enhance built leisure facilities within West Berkshire arising from the Core Strategy. An assessment of open space and leisure needs carried out 2005 concludes that Newbury and the Eastern Area in particular have above average levels of sports facilities and open space when compared to National Standards.</p> <p>In respect of sports pitches, additional provision will be required over the plan period to accompany new development. The Council, in line with PPG17, is currently undertaking an assessment and audit of the District’s open space. For playing pitch provision and specialist activity areas, the minimum standard of provision is currently set at 1.60 ha per thousand population, in line with the NPFA (National Playing Fields Association) recommended levels.</p> <p>Following completion of the assessment and audit, the Council will work with its partners, including parish councils and the community, to address any deficiencies and will prepare a new Green Infrastructure SPD. This SPD together with the Site Allocations and Delivery DPD and the masterplan for the strategic site at Sandleford, will identify required future standards. A financial contribution from developers towards the costs of such provision will be sought.</p>

	<p>At the Newbury Racecourse site, a contribution in the region of £1,400 000 towards off-site improvements to playing fields and further local equipped areas of play (LEAPs) is to be secured via a S106 agreement attached to the planning consent.</p>
<p>ROLE OF THE LDF</p>	<p>South East Plan (SEP) Policy S5: Cultural and Sporting Activity encourages local authorities to seek to increase participation in sport (as advocated by Sport England), recreation and cultural activity. The SEP also recognises that sustainable communities rely on effective delivery of community infrastructure and that alongside the expected growth in the region’s population there will be a need for additional investment in community infrastructure.</p> <p>Policy SP1 of the Core Strategy focuses development on the main urban areas where the extent and capacity of supporting infrastructure, services and facilities is greatest. This policy supported by other Spatial Policies for the main four geographical areas of the district which identify the necessary requirements to build a network of sustainable future communities and to meet community needs; and by Core Policies CS3 and CS4 for the strategic site allocations.</p> <p>The Core Strategy contains Policy CS19 to protect and enhance the District’s green infrastructure, which includes outdoor sports facilities and provision for children and teenagers. The policy requires all new development to make provision for high quality and multifunctional open spaces. This policy will enable developer contributions to be negotiated towards improvements to sports provision to mitigate the impact of new residential development.</p> <p>The LDF must also ensure that land is reserved for the expansion or provision of new sports facilities or pitches, where necessary, through the Site Allocations and Delivery DPD.</p>

Parks, Open Space and Play Areas	
RESPONSIBLE DELIVERY BODIES	<p>Cultural Services, Community Services Directorate, WBC Countryside and Environment, Environment Directorate, WBC Town and Parish Councils</p> <p>A small number of voluntary groups have an involvement in the maintenance of some of the more locally important open space areas in the District.</p>
STRATEGIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES	<p>A Breath of Fresh Air: Sustainable Community Strategy, WBC West Berkshire Council Cultural Plan 2010 - 2015 Delivering Investment from Sustainable Development (SPG), WBC 2009 District Profile, WBC Children's Play Strategy 2006, WBC Audit of Green Open Space in West Berkshire 2006 (Rachel Sanderson), WBC Open Space and Leisure Assessment (PMP Report), July 2005 for WBC Fields in Trust and related Policy Statements on protecting recreational land.</p>
EXISTING PROVISION	<p>Open space includes land available to satisfy the recreation and leisure needs of the community and it can include areas for formal sporting activity, informal recreation and leisure purposes, children's play areas and amenity land.</p> <p>WBC's Countryside and Environment Department manages and maintains the parks, open space and play areas in the District. The Grounds Maintenance Team manages the grounds maintenance contract for parks and green spaces, including outdoor sports pitches and play areas, school sports playing fields and the cutting of highway grass verges. In addition, Town and Parish Councils also have responsibility for the provision and maintenance of parks and play areas in their catchment areas.</p> <p><i>Parks</i></p> <p>There are a number of parks in the West Berkshire District which are the responsibility not only of the Council but also the various local town and parish councils. Important assets include Victoria Park, Northcroft and Goldwell Parks in Newbury, and the Holybrook Linear Park in Calcot. There are numerous other small urban and rural parks and open spaces throughout the District.</p> <p>The Open Space and Leisure Assessment (PMP, July 2005) identifies that the overall public perception is that the District has sufficient parks and gardens with relatively high levels of accessibility.</p> <p><i>Play areas</i></p> <p>There are 83 play facilities with the District (33 owned and managed by</p>

	<p>WBC, 27 by the Parish Councils and 23 by the three Town Councils – Hungerford, Thatcham and Newbury). In total, 9.8ha of provision for children and teenagers is recorded in the Audit of Green Open Space (2005).</p> <p>An extensive capital programme of play area refurbishment has been undertaken since 2000. The oldest play areas have been refurbished under this programme. The most recent Royal Society for Prevention Accidents (RoSPA) inspection noted that the majority of the play areas had a good level of play value with robust equipment and good access for Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) requirements.</p> <p>The 2006 Children’s Play Strategy identifies a number key issues that need to be addressed for the future including improved access to play facilities in rural areas. There is a further need to address the perceived safety of play areas arising from intimidation from older teenagers and an ongoing need for the maintenance and improvement of facilities. The need for improved activities for teenagers is particularly highlighted.</p> <p>The Open Space and Leisure Assessment (PMP, July 2005) identifies that the overall public perception is that the District is not sufficiently catered for in respect of play areas for children and young people. However overall the Assessment concludes that West Berkshire is well catered for in quantitative terms but that the quality and accessibility of open spaces could be improved.</p>
<p>PLANNED PROVISION</p>	<p>£1.1m has been recently received by the WBC under the DCFS Playbuilder Programme which will be allocated over a two year period to improve play facilities for children. This programme is already underway with a number of sites being improved or to be provided between now and April 2011. The Council is aware that more activities for teenagers are needed and, on suitable sites, the provision of equipment for teenagers is encouraged.</p> <p>The Youth Opportunity & Capital Funds (YOF/YCF) provide an additional £150k worth of funding for young people aged 13 -19 years across the district each year. £75k of this is allocated to capital projects identified and applied for by young people. Since the programme’s inception in 2006/07, a number of projects have been supported including the provision of a Youth Shelter in Theale, goal posts at Bradfield, contributions to a youth shelter and skate ramp in Hungerford, and youth play equipment at Chaddleworth and Aldermaston.</p> <p>Youth Service Officers meet with Parish planning representatives at regular Parish Planning Surgeries when projects requested by young people can be discussed and considered for potential YOF / YCF grant eligibility.</p> <p>Developer Contributions The SPG ‘Delivering Investment from Sustainable Development’ sets out WBC’s current approach towards securing developer contributions for open space provision. The SPG provides details on public open</p>

	<p>space standards (3 and 4.3ha per thousand population), which should be applied to new developments. For Equipped Play Areas, the minimum standard of provision is currently set at 0.25ha per thousand population. For public amenity space the requirement is 1.15ha to 2.45ha per thousand population. These standards are in line with the NPFA (National Playing Fields Association) recommended levels.</p>
<p>INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS TO SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF THE CORE STRATEGY</p>	<p>PPG17 indicates that the Government expects all local authorities to carry out an assessment of need and an audit of open space, sports and recreational facilities and to set open space standards at a local level. Local authorities are to ensure that provision is made for local sports and recreational facilities within new development.</p> <p>The South East Plan recognises that new development should be accompanied by the timely delivery of key infrastructure, which includes public open spaces. Policy S1: Supporting Healthy Communities, identifies the role the planning system can play in developing and shaping healthy sustainable communities, which amongst other things should include community access to amenities such as parks, open spaces and physical recreational activity.</p> <p>WBC, in line with PPG17, is undertaking an assessment and audit of the District's open space, which is partially complete. Following completion of the assessment and audit, the Council will review its standards for provision of open space and associated planning policies, and prepare a new SPD on the provision of Green Infrastructure. The Site Allocations and Delivery DPD will highlight specific deficiencies in the District and will identify where improvements or additional capacity may be required to deliver the planned growth set out in the Core Strategy. Specific requirements identified for the strategic site allocation at Newbury Racecourse are set out in the Infrastructure Delivery Schedule. Specific requirements for the strategic site at Sandford will be identified in a Masterplan or SPD to be prepared for the site.</p>
<p>ROLE OF THE LDF</p>	<p>Policy SP1 of the Core Strategy focuses development on the main urban areas where the extent and capacity of supporting infrastructure, services and facilities is greatest. This policy is supported by other Spatial Policies for the main four geographical areas of the district which identify the necessary requirements to build a network of sustainable future communities and to meet community needs; and by Core Policies CS3 and CS4 for the strategic site allocations.</p> <p>The Core Strategy contains Policy CS19 to protect and enhance the District's green infrastructure, which includes parks and gardens, all forms of open space and play areas. The policy requires all new development to make provision for high quality and multifunctional open spaces. This policy will enable developer contributions to be negotiated towards improvements to sports provision to mitigate the impact of new residential development. The Policy will be supported by a new SPD on Green Infrastructure.</p> <p>Land will be reserved for the expansion or provision of parks, open</p>

	space and play areas, where necessary, in the Site Allocations and Delivery DPD.
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Adult Social Care & Supported Accommodation	
RESPONSIBLE DELIVERY BODIES	Cultural Services, Community Services Directorate, WBC Community Care Services , WBC Housing and Performance, Community Services Directorate, WBC
STRATEGIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES	A Breath of Fresh Air: Sustainable Community Strategy, WBC Putting People First in West Berkshire - Adult Social Care Strategy 2008-2011 Delivering Investment from Sustainable Development (SPG), WBC 2009 District Profile, WBC Community Services Directorate Plan 2007 – 2011, WBC Key Facilities Topic Paper (April 2009) to support Core Strategy WBC. South East Plan, May 2009, SEERA Housing Strategy 2005 – 2010, WBC Housing Partnership Action Plan 09/10, West Berkshire Partnership (WBP) Berkshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2007) Sustainable Community Strategy, WBC Housing Needs Survey 2002, WBC West Berkshire Supporting People Strategy 2005 – 2010 and Strategic Review 2008 – 2012, WBC
EXISTING PROVISION	<p>WBC’s Community Care Department leads in the provision of social care services in West Berkshire and works with a range of partners to deliver services and facilities to improve the health and well-being of local people.</p> <p>Adult Social Services The Council provides services to those aged over 18 who have long term care and support needs due to age, physical or sensory disabilities or mental health problems to enable them to live as independently as possible. Facilities include dedicated centres and shared facilities which include the Phoenix Centre (Newbury), Ormonde Resource Service (Newbury), Highview Day Centre (Calcot) and the Gateway Theale Library and Adult Learning Centre (Theale).</p> <p>There are also 6 day care centres dedicated to meet the needs of older people in West Berkshire that are managed by the Council - Highview Day Centre (Calcot), Windmill Court Day Centre (Mortimer), Downland Day Centre (Compton), Hungerford Day Centre, Walnut Close Day Centre (Thatcham) and Shaw Day Centre (Newbury).</p> <p>The Council also owns 4 residential care homes for older people – Notrees in Kintbury with 16 permanent and 2 respite places, Chestnut Walk in Hungerford with 13 permanent places (up to 5 of which are for people with dementia), Willows Edge in Newbury with 35 places and Walnut Close in Thatcham with 12 permanent places and 12 for short term independent living rehabilitation.</p> <p>The Council also works in partnership A2 Housing and Care UK to</p>

support 25 care home beds and 35 nursing beds for older people with dementia at Birchwood, a purpose built home in Newbury.

Supported Accommodation

In April 2003 the introduction of the 'Supporting People' Programme provided all local authorities the opportunity to streamline their approach to commissioning and monitoring of supported living. Based on the amalgamation of nine different funding streams it allowed the creation of a partnership governance approach comprising Housing, Social Services, Health and Probation. WBC has embraced this change, developing it further by creating a Supported Living Commissioning Team, extending the scope beyond housing related support and enabling a more joined-up approach to service development.

Existing provision comprises a mixture of non-profit organisations and private companies who specialise in providing care and support services for people in accommodation based services and floating support services. Current provision includes:

Short Term Services – for up to two years:

- Open access hostel offering 55 single rooms and a rough sleeper unit.
- Resettlement accommodation and a move-on accommodation service offering 27 units.
- Floating support for single homeless and families with support needs - 280 hours.
- Women's Aid Refuge, 16 units.
- Supported accommodation and foyer for young people aged 16-25, this offers 24 units of accommodation.
- Supported Lodgings for vulnerable young people 16 – 18, up to 4 units.
- Teenage parent supported accommodation for young parents.
- Supported accommodation service for people with mental health needs, 13 units, plus a respite unit to support people already living independently in the community to prevent hospital admission following a crisis.

Long Term Services

- Supported accommodation for people with a learning disability, including 20 adult placement units, 2215 hours of floating support and 7 units of low level support.
- Supported accommodation for people with mental health needs
- 389 hours of floating support for older people and people with physical disabilities.
- Support into sheltered accommodation – 1111 units.
- Home from hospital service for older people.

Known gaps in provision include:

- Extra care housing required across the district.
- Move-on accommodation for people with mental needs.
- Supported accommodation for people on the autistic spectrum and who have challenging behaviour.
- Supported accommodation for people who have a learning disability

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported accommodation for people with acquired brain injury.
<p>PLANNED PROVISION</p>	<p>WBC is currently implementing ‘Putting People First in West Berkshire - Adult Social Care Strategy 2008-2011’ which heralds very significant changes to almost all aspects of the adult social care business. Service delivery is changing to meet people’s changing expectations, the increase in the number of older people who are living longer with more complex conditions, and the policy of supporting individuals to remain in their own homes as long as possible.</p> <p>The primary housing aims for West Berkshire are set out in the ‘Housing Strategy 2005-2010’ and includes amongst other things, improving housing conditions for vulnerable people across all tenures and ensuring that there is support in place for independent living.</p> <p>The Supported Living Development Programme has been established as part of the Council’s approach to transforming services within adult social care. The focus of this project board is to manage development of supported accommodation in response identified gaps in need. The current work plan includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pelham House – supported accommodation for 16 people with a learning disability. Project comprises 12 self-contained units, 10 X 1 bed and 2 x 3 bed, with communal space for shared activities. • Complex Needs units – this is currently at planning stage but will offer 8 units of self-contained accommodation for people on the autistic spectrum who have challenging behaviour. • Phoenix Court – this is still at the planning stage but current intentions are that it will be a mixed development of general needs housing with up to 12 units of supported accommodation 6 for people with a learning disability and 6 for people with physical disabilities. • Mental health – 8 self-contained flats with support. • Waring Court – 51 units extra care housing for older people with care and support needs. • Priors – in partnership with an RSL develop an existing site to provide up to 50 units of extra care housing for older people. • Virtual Extra – care, in partnership with an RSL converting existing sheltered stock to deliver extra care housing for older people. Target to develop 50 units. <p>Developer Contributions</p> <p>The Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) ‘Delivering Investment from Sustainable Development’ sets out WBC’s current approach to securing developer contributions towards local infrastructure, services and amenities. On-site provision or extension of community facilities including community centres, day centres and other similar social infrastructure, including provision for adult social care, is sought in connection with new residential development. Any new facilities provided should be capable of use as a venue for voluntary groups, and where necessary social service uses.</p>

	<p>The SPG also identifies that developers are expected to consider the inclusion of special needs housing on appropriate sites and this will form part of the 30% affordable housing provision. The provision of such housing will be for people who are living independently and in most cases will not require any special facilities or adaptations. The SPG refers to a greater need for housing with wheelchair access.</p> <p>The Government calculates the amount it believes individual council's require for adult social care based on population figures. It takes two years for changes in population to be reflected in funding supplied by Government. Developer contributions have been introduced to take account of the additional pressures as a direct result of this two year lag in funding.</p> <p>A developer contribution of over £700,000 is to be secured through a S106 agreement to meet the impact of the proposed development at Newbury Racecourse.</p>
<p>INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS TO SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF THE CORE STRATEGY</p>	<p>One of the major drivers within WBC's 'Putting People First' is the move towards personalised services through the introduction of personal budgets where clients are given a sum of money to meet their outcomes. As this project is still in progress, it is difficult to evaluate the impact this will have on traditional services such as day centres and the future demand for these services. Day centre reviews currently underway are considering what changes need to be made to services to meet changing expectations. It is not anticipated that new day centre facilities will be built but there will be an emphasis on reviewing existing provision and service redesign to meet the needs of service users. Future potential requirements will need to be kept under review.</p> <p>Based on current service patterns WBC anticipate that the growth in population will lead to a requirement for more accommodation based care services comprising a mix of residential, nursing and extra care housing. Specialist dementia services will be incorporated as part of this. Further investment in staff resources, such as social workers and home care assistants will also be required.</p>
<p>ROLE OF THE LDF</p>	<p>The South East Plan (SEP) (2009) recognises that sustainable communities rely on effective delivery of community infrastructure and that alongside the expected growth in the region's population there will be a need for additional investment in community infrastructure such as social services facilities (Policy S6 and Paragraph 15.29).</p> <p>The SEP further requires authorities to identify the full range of existing and future housing needs in their areas. Policy H4: 'Type and Size of New Housing' requires consideration to be given to those groups with particular housing needs and an appropriate range and mix of housing opportunities should be provided. SEP Policy CC5: 'Supporting an Ageing Population' requires local authorities to adapt the existing housing stock and make provision in new housing developments for sheltered and extra care housing.</p> <p>The Core Strategy advocates the provision of appropriate services and</p>

	<p>facilities to support local communities through its policy framework. Policy SP1 focuses development on the main urban areas where the extent and capacity of supporting infrastructure, services and facilities is greatest. This policy supported by other Spatial Policies for the main four geographical areas of the district which identify the necessary requirements to build a network of sustainable future communities and to meet community needs; and by Core Policies CS3 and CS4 for the strategic site allocations.</p> <p>Through Policy CS 5: 'Housing Type and Mix' residential development will be expected to meet the needs of all sectors of the community including specific groups such as families with children, the elderly and those households with special needs.</p> <p>Policy CS 6: 'Infrastructure Requirements and Delivery' provides the framework to ensure adequate infrastructure is in place to support new development, including social infrastructure. This policy provides the basis to enable developer contributions to be negotiated towards improvements to adult social care provision, including the provision of supported accommodation and services to assist people to continue living in their own home.</p> <p>Developer contributions will be negotiated on appropriate sites, in accordance with the Council's adopted policies. This will include negotiations relating to the strategic sites and other sites that will be identified through the Site Allocations and Delivery DPD.</p>
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PUBLIC SERVICES

Libraries	
RESPONSIBLE DELIVERY BODIES	Cultural Services, Community Service Directorate, West Berkshire Council
STRATEGIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES	<p>A Breath of Fresh Air: Sustainable Community Strategy, WBC Delivering Investment from Sustainable Development (SPG), WBC 2009 District Profile, WBC Community Services Directorate Plan 2007 – 2011, WBC WBC Cultural Plan 2010 - 2015 WBC Cultural Services Asset Development Plan. (<i>Due for completion early Spring 2010</i>) A strategy for West Berkshire Libraries 2005-2015, Revised April 2007, WBC</p>
EXISTING PROVISION	<p>The Libraries team, part of WBC's Cultural Service Unit, is responsible for the operation of all static and mobile libraries. The services generally include maintaining the facilities, managing stock, offering access to IT facilities, organising events and activities and providing library access to more remote places through the mobile library service.</p> <p>West Berkshire operates libraries in nine communities that provide a geographic spread across the district.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Burghfield Common ○ Lambourn ○ Newbury ○ Thatcham ○ Wash Common Library. ○ Hungerford ○ Mortimer ○ Pangbourne ○ Theale <p>The library service also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Operates two mobile libraries that call at over 220 stops. ○ Manages a housebound service where volunteers visit people who are immobile. ○ Provide outreach programmes in residential homes for the elderly and provide study support for vulnerable young people. <p>Matching static libraries with the LDF settlement hierarchy suggests that a new library may be needed in the eastern area. Whilst all of the rural service centres already have a library located within them, the size and range of services offered at Burghfield and Mortimer is limited.</p> <p>The Library at Thatcham is considered to be too small to adequately serve the needs of the settlement and is poorly located. Alternative options are being considered with a view to identifying a suitable site within the town for a new library.</p>

<p>PLANNED PROVISION</p>	<p>In 2008 the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) launched the Library Service Modernisation Review. The review aimed to define the Government’s vision for the public library service, which could then be delivered at a local authority level, building on the DCMS first ever national strategy for libraries – “Framework for the Future” (2003). This strategy sets out a national development agenda for library services for the next ten years. The four main areas identified for development are: books, reading and learning; digital citizenship; community and civic values; and delivering change. The report also stresses the need to develop IT services.</p> <p>WBC’s strategy for libraries (2005-2015) titled “Beyond Books” (2007) set out an action plan for libraries, identifying that library buildings need to be modernised and new libraries provided where possible as communities change. Other aims include providing joint library provision with local schools and increased access to IT services. By 2010 WBC are aiming to revamp all their libraries. As part of the “Beyond Books” strategy, the new Hungerford library opened in January 2008 and Pangbourne underwent internal refurbishment at a similar time.</p>
<p>INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS TO SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF THE CORE STRATEGY</p>	<p>The service has static library facilities in all of the urban areas and the rural service centres but some may be inadequate to cope with an increased population. A new library may be needed in the eastern area. Whilst all of the rural service centres already have a library located within them, the limited size and range of services offered at Burghfield and Mortimer may also need to be addressed. The service villages are all provided with a mobile library but the delivery model of visits during the day does not suit the working population. The larger service villages may require a different form of provision which enables more of the residents to access it effectively. Models such as the unmanned “Library Links” in Dudley, or long stay mobile provision could be considered. The need for improvements to existing provision in all cases will be dependent upon the level of allocations through the Site Allocations and Delivery DPD.</p> <p>At Thatcham there is already an identified need to replace the current library facilities. Any future development within the town will exacerbate current problems and further support the need case for an alternative site to be found for a new facility.</p> <p>At Newbury, further enhancements are also likely to be required to library facilities to meet the needs of the future population. The current package of infrastructure improvements to be secured through a S106 agreement as part of the development at Newbury Racecourse, includes either the provision of a library facility on site (which will require the prior approval e.g. its size and opening hours) or a library contribution to be paid (c.£300, 000). If a new facility is provided this would possibly be included in one of the new buildings to be provided as part of the development. A final decision on the appropriate provision will be made when a reserve matters application is submitted for approval by the developer.</p>

	<p>The Council's standards for library services within the District, set out in the adopted SPG 'Delivering Investment from Sustainable Development', have recently been superseded following the DCMS publication "Empower, Inform, Enrich – The Modernisation Review of Public Libraries" on 1st December 2009. The content of this consultation document will need to be reviewed by the Council and the SPG will need to be updated accordingly. However as a matter of principle, the Council will seek financial contributions from developers towards improvements to public library facilities. The level of provision required will be based on the estimated increase in library use the development is expected to generate.</p>
<p>ROLE OF THE LDF</p>	<p>The Core Strategy advocates the provision of appropriate services and facilities to support local communities through its policy framework. Although not specifically mentioned, libraries are an important community facility. Relevant policies include Policy SP1 and Policy CS6.</p> <p>Policy SP1 focuses development on the main urban areas where the extent and capacity of supporting infrastructure, services and facilities is greatest. This policy supported by other Spatial Policies for the main four geographical areas of the district which identify the necessary requirements to build a network of sustainable future communities and to meet community needs; and by Core Policies CS3 and CS4 for the strategic site allocations.</p> <p>Policy CS6 of the Core Strategy provides the framework within which necessary improvements to library facilities will be identified and secured by the Council. The Site Allocations and Delivery DPD will need to consider whether land needs to be identified for new or enhanced library facilities.</p>

Places of Worship and Cemeteries	
RESPONSIBLE DELIVERY BODIES	Parish and Town Councils within West Berkshire Faith Organisations
STRATEGIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES	2009 District Profile, WBC South East Counties – Costing the Infrastructure Needs of South East Counties, 2004, Roger Tym and Partners.
EXISTING PROVISION	<p><i>Places of Worship</i> Places of worship to support the variety of practicing faiths in West Berkshire include churches, mosques, temples and synagogues. Places of worship are managed by the individual faith groups and in most instances the buildings are also owned by the respective faith organisations e.g. the Church Commissioners in the case of Church of England Churches. Some faith groups lease or rent rooms in other buildings, including school halls used for evening or weekend worship.</p> <p><i>Cemeteries</i> There are numerous cemeteries throughout West Berkshire that are generally publicly provided and managed by the respective town and parish councils. The main existing provision includes Shaw Cemetery managed by Newbury Town Council, West Berkshire Crematorium, Thatcham managed by Thatcham Town Council and Acorn Ridge Natural Burials in Enborne near Newbury, which is run by private operators.</p>
PLANNED PROVISION	The Council has not been made aware of any significant proposals to increase provision of cemeteries within the District or to provide new places of worship.
INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS TO SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF THE CORE STRATEGY	<p><i>Places of Worship</i> WBC is has not been aware of any requirements the provision of which will need to be assisted by the LDF.</p> <p>The evidence based study for the South East Plan ‘Costing the Infrastructure Needs of the South East Counties’ identifies that it is not usual for either the public sector or developers to provide any funds for the provision of Places of Worship. However, it is not uncommon for community buildings to be made available within large scale residential developments, including their use by faith groups where appropriate.</p> <p><i>Cemeteries</i> The Council will continue to work closely with Town and Parish Councils. Any future requirement for additional land for burial space</p>

	<p>that is identified by Town and/or Parish Councils over the Plan period will need to be brought to the attention of WBC. Consideration will then be given to the role of LDF in assisting its delivery through the Site Allocations and Delivery DPD.</p> <p>The main costs associated with cemeteries are the land and associated infrastructure (road network, footpaths). Crematoria tend to be provided as part of a public/private partnership.</p>
<p>ROLE OF THE LDF</p>	<p>The Infrastructure Delivery Schedule will be regularly updated and reviewed. Any requirements that arise over the Plan period will be met through the preparation of the Site Allocations and Delivery DPD or subsequent reviews of the LDF. Core Policy CS6 sets out the framework within which the Council will seek to work with infrastructure providers to identify and deliver any necessary infrastructure to support the proposed level of growth within the District.</p> <p>The SPG 'Delivering Investment from Sustainable Development' indicates that the provision or extension of places of worship and other similar social infrastructure will be sought in connection with new development. WBC will work with local faith groups and with landowners and prospective developers to facilitate the provision of facilities for faith groups, most likely on a shared basis with other community groups in new residential developments.</p>

Emergency Services	
RESPONSIBLE DELIVERY BODIES	Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service Thames Valley Police
STRATEGIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES	Safer Places – The Planning System and Crime Prevention, 2004, DCLG Second Year Strategic Plan 2008 – 2011, Thames Valley Police 5 Year Integrated Risk Management Plan, Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service Corporate Plan 2009/2110, Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2026 ‘A Breath of Fresh Air’, West Berkshire Partnership (WBP)
EXISTING PROVISION	<p><i>Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Services (RBFRS)</i> Within West Berkshire there is one Fire Station available 24 hours per day (Newbury) and 5 units that are Retained Duty (Newbury, Lambourn, Hungerford, Mortimer and Pangbourne). The Retained Duty provision across the whole brigade area is currently undergoing a fundamental review. The outcome may result in changes to the existing location of fire stations and or the way they are crewed.</p> <p><i>Thames Valley Police Authority (TVPA)</i> There are five Police Stations located at Newbury (open every day 0800-2200); Hungerford (open every weekday 0900-1300); Lambourn (open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 0900-1300); Pangbourne (open every weekday 0800-1600 except Friday - closes at 15.30); and Mortimer (open Friday 1000-1400). In addition to these are Theale police office, Thatcham police station and a Roads Policing Unit base at Chieveley Motorway Services, none of which are open to the public.</p>
PLANNED PROVISION	<p><i>Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Services (RBFRS)</i> RBFRS are reviewing the provision of all Retained Duty System resources. Subject to the outcome of the review, alternative crewing arrangements, the closure or relocation of fire stations may prove necessary. The first stage of the review is due to conclude mid 2010. Further information will be available at that time.</p> <p><i>Thames Valley Police Authority (TVPA)</i> Lambourn police office is to be replaced with a smaller facility in 2010. A neighbourhood police office is to be opened in Calcot (West Reading) in 2010.</p>

<p>INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS TO SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF THE CORE STRATEGY</p>	<p><i>Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Services (RBFRS)</i> RBFRS considers that any development in and around West Berkshire will place additional burdens on its service which, subject to size and location, has the potential to become unsustainable. RBFRS has an approved response standard of 8 minutes for the first fire appliance and 10 minutes for the second to respond to house fires, and 11 minutes for attendance at road traffic collisions. The level of growth proposed in the Core Strategy (both housing and an extended road network) is considered by RBFRS to be significant enough to require and justify an increase in the level of service provided in the area.</p> <p>Specific requirements will be discussed further with the RBFRS during the preparation of the Site Allocations and Delivery DPD when the location and size of individual sites are known. Response times will then need to be provided on a case by case basis as developments progress.</p> <p>At this stage, the RBFRS envisage that the overall level of development in Newbury and Thatcham area may necessitate the upgrade of the Newbury Fire Station to two 24 hour crewed appliances. In order to achieve this, RBFRS will require an additional £500,000 per annum to facilitate the crewing requirements. Monies required for this will come from the RBFRS revenue. In addition, there may be a requirement to make physical alterations to Newbury fire station and/or build a new fire station at Thatcham. At this stage the cost of these works is not known. However, based on the cost on a recent new build, the cost is likely to be at least £1.4m (excluding land costs for a new fire station) and approximately £100k for the alterations to the existing fire station.</p> <p>The inclusion of fire prevention and fire safety measures will need to be sought in new buildings.</p> <p><i>Thames Valley Police Authority</i> Thames Valley Police advise that the following improvements are likely to be required to enable an effective local policing service to be provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Newbury – a new drop in facility in the town centre.• Thatcham – need for a replacement building.• Theale – small neighbourhood office needed, either through expansion of the existing accommodation or replacement.• West Reading – additional capacity needed in existing or replacement expanded facilities.• Capacity building – at both Newbury police station and Reading for non neighbourhood LPA and BCU function. <p>At Newbury Racecourse part of the control room facility operated by the Racecourse is to be made available for use by the police whether this is for race day activity or generally, secured via a S106 agreement.</p> <p><i>Developer Contributions</i></p>
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	<p>TVPA has requested that formula based contribution from developers (based on a cost per new dwelling and unit of business floorspace) be sought from new development to enable the police force to continue to deliver an effective service and the additional manpower required. Pooled contributions would be used by the Police Authority to provide additional policing services within the local policing area. This could take a variety of forms ranging from purpose built new facilities, to extensions and adaptation of existing buildings. At present the adopted SPG 'Delivering Investment from Sustainable Development' does not seek such contributions and Committee Approval and amendments to the SPG would be required if such a contribution were to be sought in the future.</p> <p>However, financial contributions are currently sought from developers towards wider crime prevention measures, where development would result in an increased risk to actual or perceived public safety or an increased risk of vandalism or anti-social behaviour. All residential and commercial developments are expected to contribute towards crime prevention initiatives. Such a contribution is also to be secured via S106 agreement at Newbury Racecourse. Financial contributions are also sought to safeguard the provision of adequate fire and rescue infrastructure.</p>
<p>ROLE OF THE LDF</p>	<p>The Core Strategy seeks to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure in line with new development, and to ensure that all new development is designed so as to create safe environments, prevent crime and contribute to community safety. Relevant policies include Policy CS6 and Policy CS15.</p> <p>The SPD on Quality Design is intended to help developers create places of high quality design that are sustainable, secure and accessible to all. Ways of achieving this are set out in the SPD to ensure that all development schemes are to be designed to reduce the potential for criminal activity and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>The need for any specific sites to be allocated or safeguarded will be considered in the Site Allocations and Delivery DPD.</p>

Prisons and Drug Treatment Centres	
RESPONSIBLE DELIVERY BODIES	HM Prison Service. Drug treatment – A partnership approach between the Police, Probation Service, Primary Care Trust, West Berkshire Council (Youth Offending Team, Education and Social Services).
STRATEGIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES	West Berkshire Safer Communities Partnership Plan 2008-2011
EXISTING PROVISION	<p><i>Prisons</i> The nearest Young Persons prison is HM Prison and Youth Offending Institution (YOI) Reading. Since 1992, the prison has operated as a Remand Centre and Young Offenders Institution, holding prisoners between the ages of 18 and 21 years. The operational capacity is 297 (as at 2006). NHS Berkshire West work with the HMP and YOI to provide health care services.</p> <p>The nearest prison estate for adult offenders is HMP Bullingdon, Oxfordshire.</p> <p><i>Drug Treatment</i> The Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) is a multi-agency, strategic partnership in West Berkshire and is made up of representatives from the Police, Probation, Youth Offending Team, Primary Care Trust, Education, Social Services and Housing Providers.</p> <p>Adult Tier Two, Tier Three and Criminal Justice Treatment Substance Misuse Services are provided in West Berkshire by Turning Point. The centre of operations is based near to Newbury Town Centre.</p> <p>The Young People's Drug and Alcohol Service (for young people up to the age of 18) for West Berkshire is provided by The Edge and based in Newbury Town Centre.</p> <p>Both Adult and Young Peoples teams provide services for all residents of West Berkshire District.</p>
PLANNED PROVISION	<p><i>Prisons</i> The provision of prisons and YOI operates at a national level, the National Offender Management Service runs prisons in England and Wales for the Ministry of Justice. In October 2009, a search commenced for a new 1,500 place prison. The search will be focused on London, the North West, North Wales and West Yorkshire.</p> <p><i>Drug Treatment</i> All planned provision will be detailed in the Adult Treatment Plan 2010 – 2011 and The Young Peoples Treatment Plan 2010 – 2011 that will</p>

	<p>be published in March 2010.</p> <p>The West Berkshire Safer Communities Partnership 2008-2011 comprises of a strategy group (West Berkshire Council, Thames Valley Police Local Police Areas, Thames Valley Police Authority, Berkshire West Primary Care Trust, Thames Valley Probation Service, Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service and Sovereign Housing Association) set up to deal with a series of initiatives that were identified during a Strategic Assessment that was conducted in 2007. The initiatives include, amongst other things addressing substance misuse.</p>
<p>INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS TO SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF THE CORE STRATEGY</p>	<p><i>Prisons</i> There are no Prisons within West Berkshire and the Council is not aware of any requirements for new capacity to be bought forward within the District.</p> <p><i>Drug Treatment</i> Continued effective treatment delivery and performance will be regularly monitored. The funding for treatment is provided by the NHS and Home Office which is entirely dependant on preset Key Performance Indicators being met. Any unmet needs can only be catered for by budget monitoring and management, should additional funding not be made available. There are no identified requirements that the LDF can presently assist to deliver.</p>
<p>ROLE OF THE LDF</p>	<p>The South East Plan (SEP) includes prisons as part of the community infrastructure and states that there will be a need for additional investment in such provisions due to the expected growth in the region's population (paragraph 15.29). For the purposes of the SEP, drug treatment centres are also classified as part of the social infrastructure (page 39).</p> <p>The Infrastructure Delivery Schedule will be regularly updated and reviewed and should any requirements arise over the Plan period, these can be met through the preparation of the Site Allocations and Delivery DPD or subsequent reviews of the LDF. Core Policy CS6 sets out the framework within which the Council will seek to work with infrastructure providers to identify and deliver any necessary infrastructure to support the proposed level of growth within the District.</p>

Waste Management	
RESPONSIBLE DELIVERY BODIES	Environment Directorate, West Berkshire Council Veolia Environmental Services
STRATEGIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES	<p>The <i>Municipal Waste Strategy 2002 – 2022</i> sets out the strategic framework for the management of municipal waste arising in the district over the next 20 years. It supports one of West Berkshire Council's Strategic Priorities to Improve Environmental Resource Management by maximising recycling and composting, limiting the amount of waste confined to landfill.</p> <p>The <i>Municipal Waste Management Statement 2004</i> set out how West Berkshire Council will manage West Berkshire's municipal waste over the next 5-10 years.</p> <p>The <i>Regional Spatial Strategy 'The South East Plan'</i> (SEP) (2009) sets out regional planning policies for minerals and waste with an emphasis on resource management, prioritising reduction, re-use and recycling and recovery of value before disposal. The SEP recognises that the new policies will require a significant amount of technology innovation and investment in new infrastructure, the delivery of which is a key objective of the Plan.</p> <p>Current adopted local planning policies for minerals and waste are set out in the Adopted <i>Minerals Plan for Berkshire (2001)</i> and <i>Waste Local Plan for Berkshire (1998)</i>. These are supported by the "Quality Design' SPD and' Securing Investment from Sustainable Development' SPG, which maintain the Council's objective to increase recycling and composting. These plans will in due course be replaced by a <i>joint Minerals and Waste Local Development Framework</i> comprising a Core Strategy and Development Control Policies and Preferred Areas DPD (as set out below).</p>
EXISTING PROVISION	<p>Household refuse is collected weekly and a fortnightly kerbside recycling service collects paper, glass, cans, cardboard, plastics bottles and textiles and kerbside collection of green waste.</p> <p>There are 12 Bring Bank recycling sites in West Berkshire concentrated in the Newbury/Thatcham area and to the east of the District which cater for the collection of glass, cans, paper, textiles, and books.</p> <p>All municipal waste collected in the district that is not recycled or composted is either disposed of to Hermitage Farm Landfill at Sutton Courtenay or at the Energy from Waste Plant at Marchwood in Hampshire.</p> <p>A new, modern Household Waste Recycling Centre has been built at Newtown Road, Newbury (opened October 2008). The Council also</p>

	<p>has an agreement with Reading Borough Council to enable residents to use the Island Road Civic Amenity Site in Reading.</p> <p>A full list of all existing waste management sites in Berkshire is provided in Appendix F to the emerging Joint Minerals and Waste Development Control and Preferred Areas DPD Issues and Options Report, 2007.</p> <p>Due to the expansion of the kerbside recycling collection services and significant increase in materials collected for recycling and composting, additional transfer stations are being utilised across Hampshire and Berkshire due to the shortfall in suitable capacity within the West Berkshire area.</p>
<p>PLANNED PROVISION</p>	<p>A new Minerals and Waste Development Framework comprising a Core Strategy and Development Control and Preferred Area DPD is being prepared jointly on behalf of all six Berkshire Unitary Authorities by the Berkshire Strategic Planning Unit which will plan to meet the waste management needs of Berkshire to 2026. Prior to its withdrawal, the emerging Core Strategy Submission Draft (September 2008) identified a site at Padworth Sidings as one of three Waste Focal Points signifying its status as a site of strategic significance to the delivery of waste management and disposal in West Berkshire and the County.</p> <p>The emerging Joint Development Control Policies and Preferred Areas DPD will in allocate other specific sites to meet the future waste management needs of the County to 2026.</p> <p>In March 2008 the Council signed a 25 year integrated waste management contract with Veolia Environmental Services which covers the Council's waste collection, recycling, disposal and street cleansing services. Part of that contract includes the provision of a new Integrated Waste Management Facility (IWMMF) at Padworth Sidings which will incorporate an in-vessel composting facility, materials recovery facility and waste transfer station, mini household waste recycling centre and depot. With these new facilities operational, West Berkshire will be able to achieve the recycling and landfill diversion targets that have been set Planning consent has been granted for the new IWMMF which is scheduled to be opened at the end of 2011.</p>
<p>INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS TO SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF THE CORE STRATEGY</p>	<p>The future waste management requirements of West Berkshire to 2026 to meet the level of planned housing and economic growth in the area as proposed in the Core Strategy will be planned for in the emerging Joint Minerals and Waste Development Framework, including the safeguarding of sites for future waste management uses.</p> <p>The planned IWMMF at Padworth Sidings will assist the Council to meet the long-term waste management needs of West Berkshire including its long-term objectives to maximise recycling and composting and reduce reliance on landfill.</p>

ROLE OF THE LDF	<p>The Core Strategy together with the West Berkshire Council's Municipal Waste Management Strategy can facilitate and support national regional and local objectives to increase the rate of recycling and composting. Spatial Policy SP6 for the Kennet Valley identifies the strategic requirement for the delivery of the new IWMF at Padworth Sidings.</p> <p>Policy CS 15 expects all new development to demonstrate sustainable design. The 'Quality Design' SPD (West Berkshire, 2006) supports this policy. Part 4 of the SPD requires all new developments to provide dedicated space for internal and / or external storage bins (external storage areas to be accessible by Local Authority collection lorries if necessary). Gardens should also provide accessible spaces for home composting. The SDP also encourages sustainable construction techniques and the use of renewable and low impact resources within new development. Developers may be required to submit a Site Waste Management Plan alongside planning applications for larger proposals.</p> <p>The 'Securing Investment from Sustainable Development' SPG sets out a framework for securing contributions through planning obligations towards the provision and maintenance of recycling facilities where a need is identified.</p>
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UTILITY SERVICES

Energy Supply (Gas, Electricity and Renewable Energy)	
RESPONSIBLE DELIVERY BODIES	National Grid Southern and Scottish Energy Southern Gas Networks (operated by Scotia Gas Network consortium) Thames Valley Energy
STRATEGIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES	<p>Delivering the South East Plan, a revised South East Implementation Plan, October 2006, SEERA SEE-STATS, South East Renewable Energy Statistics GB Seven year Statement 2009, National Grid Gas Transportation Ten Year Statement, 2008, National Grid The Cost and Funding of Growth in South East England, June 2005, Roger Tym and Partners, Renewable Energy Sustainable Design and Construction Energy Efficiency: A Report For West Berkshire Council, Justification for Enhanced Policies for the West Berkshire Core Strategy, Feb 2009. West Berkshire Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (Draft) 2008</p> <p>National Grid, Southern and Scottish Energy and Southern Gas Networks provide services to other parts of the UK. Annual corporate and performance review plans are publicly available providing details of their corporate strategy and priorities for their particular service plan areas as a whole.</p>
EXISTING PROVISION	<p>National Grid (NG) owns and operates the high-voltage electricity transmission network in West Berkshire. It also owns and operates the high pressure gas transmission system. Southern Electric Power Distribution (SEPD) and Scotia Gas Networks (SGN) own and operate the local electricity and gas distribution networks respectively</p> <p><i>Electricity Network</i> NG's high voltage electricity overhead transmission lines / underground cables within West Berkshire form an essential part of the electricity transmission network in England and Wales, including 4YG line (a 400,000-volt route from Bramley substation near Basingstoke to Didcot substation in South Oxfordshire). All other overhead lines are owned by SEPD.</p> <p><i>Gas Network</i> NG has three gas transmission pipelines located within West Berkshire (Pipelines 1361, 1363 and 2740) as detailed on their web-site.</p> <p>SGN has significant medium pressure and intermediate pressure pipelines in this area that feed the low pressure systems for all major cities, towns and rural areas in the Berkshire area.</p> <p><i>Renewable Energy</i></p>

	<p>An on-line database of operational and planned installations within West Berkshire is maintained by South East Renewable Energy Statistics (an initiative undertaken by Thames Valley Energy (TV Energy) and sub-regional data partners on behalf of the South East England Partnership Board (previously on behalf of GOSE and SEEDA). To date West Berkshire has achieved 0.005% of its indicative 2010 renewable energy target set by TV Energy. The following renewable electricity has been installed within the District:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.022 MW from wind; • 0.066 MW from solar PV; • 0.346 MW from landfill gas; • 0.0021 MW from plant biomass. <p>In December 2008, planning approval was granted for a 3MW biomass power plant near Lambourn.</p>
<p>PLANNED PROVISION</p>	<p><i>Electricity and Gas Network</i> NG has confirmed that it currently has no planned development on the electricity or gas transmission networks within West Berkshire.</p> <p>Both SEPD and SGN have advised that there are numerous projects currently being undertaken to expand the existing electricity and gas network infrastructure with a view to increasing capacity and supplying new potential demands.</p> <p><i>Renewable Energy</i> Policy NRM14 of the South East Plan sets out indicative targets for land based renewable energy to be achieved in Thames Valley and Surrey by 2010 (140MW) and by 2016 (209MW). WBC's indicative renewable energy target set by TV Energy to meet the South East Plan's requirements is to provide for 8.467 MW from renewable energy sources by 2010. As at February 2009 only 0.43 MW has been achieved.</p> <p>WBC and TV Energy identify the potential for significant renewable energy opportunities within West Berkshire including biomass energy, wind power, solar PV and micro hydro.</p>
<p>INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS TO SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF THE CORE STRATEGY</p>	<p>NG has advised that the distribution of new development in West Berkshire, as set out in the Core Strategy, will not have a significant effect on the Grid's infrastructure, both gas and electricity transmission. The network should be able to cope with this additional demand. SEPD and SGN have both advised that connections for new development from existing infrastructure can be provided subject to cost and timescale. Where existing infrastructure is inadequate to support the increased demands from the new development, the costs of any necessary upstream reinforcement required would normally be apportioned between developer and DNO (Distribution Network Operator) in accordance with the current Statement of Charging Methodology agreed with the industry regulator (OFGEM). SEPD advise that maximum timescales in these instances would not normally exceed around 2 years and should not therefore impede delivery of any</p>

	<p>proposed housing development.</p> <p>Where overhead lines cross development sites, these will, with the exception of 400kV tower lines, normally be owned and operated by SEPD. Any anticipated relocation or undergrounding of existing overhead lines will need to be formally agreed with SEPD.</p> <p>In respect of the Strategic Sites, development at Newbury Racecourse will require offsite 11kv infrastructure in the form of 1 or 2 cable circuits from the Riverside Primary S/S to site. This is also likely to initiate 33kv Reinforcement of the Substation. At Sandleford, development will require offsite 11kv infrastructure in the form or 1 or 2 cable circuits from the St Johns Primary Substation to site. At present no additional 33kv reinforcement is considered to be required, however this may be subject to change and is dependant on the Network loads at the time of the development.</p> <p>The proposed level and distribution of development in other larger settlements in the District will also require similar off-site improvements, depending upon site location. Requirements for other proposed sites within the Service Villages will need to be considered on their merits when the Site Allocations and Delivery DPD is prepared.</p> <p><i>Renewable Energy</i></p> <p>There are no specific requirements without which the delivery of the level of proposed development within the Core Strategy would be compromised. However, unless there is a substantial investment in renewable energy over the next year, West Berkshire will miss its 2010 regional target by a wide margin. A strong renewable energy policy would provide the impetus for investment and where implemented appropriately, assist West Berkshire in meeting its obligations.</p> <p>A combined health and power plant (CHP) has been granted consent at Newbury Racecourse.</p>
<p>ROLE OF THE LDF</p>	<p><i>Electricity and Gas</i></p> <p>The LDF contains strategic policies to ensure that development is not permitted unless essential infrastructure can be completed in pace with new development. Policy CS6 'Infrastructure Requirements and Delivery' states the Council's intention to work in partnership with infrastructure providers and stakeholders to identify infrastructure requirements for new development. The physical infrastructure requirements necessary to support the level of proposed growth at Newbury Racecourse and Sandleford is provided for by Policy CS 3 and CS 4 which deal specifically with these two strategic site allocations.</p> <p>The Council intends to maintain an Infrastructure Delivery Plan identifying the key infrastructure projects required to support the delivery of the Core Strategy. The infrastructure schedule will be maintained on the Council's website as a 'live' schedule that will be updated as further infrastructure requirements or projects are identified, and as work on the Site Allocations and Delivery DPD is taken forward.</p>

	<p><i>Renewable Energy</i></p> <p>Policy CS 16 seeks to achieve West Berkshire's sustainable construction and renewable energy generation targets and specifies construction standards that need to be delivered for residential and non-residential development and targets for the reduction of CO² emissions. Policy CS 15 reiterates the expectation for all development proposals to minimise carbon dioxide emissions through sustainable design and construction, energy efficiency and incorporating renewable energy technology.</p> <p>The Core Strategy identifies that further progress needs to be made to meet the South East Plan (SEPs) renewable energy targets that are set out in policy NRM 14. A Renewable Energy SPD will be produced to support the Core Strategy and this will highlight the potential in West Berkshire for commercial scale renewable energy.</p> <p>The policies for the strategic site allocations at Newbury Racecourse and Sandford (Policies CS 3 and CS 4) include the requirement for the generation of on-site renewable energy. As mentioned above, a CHP was granted consent as part of the Newbury Racecourse proposal (2010). For Sandford, an SPD or masterplan will be prepared in order to demonstrate how the housing and associated infrastructure will be delivered. The Spatial Policy for the North Wessex Downs Area (SP 5) encourages small-scale appropriate renewable energy schemes, where local resources will be used and proposals accommodate the local landscape.</p> <p>The adopted West Berkshire Quality Design SPD provides a range of methods, techniques and technologies as examples of solutions to sustainable building design for all developments, which should be incorporated into any new build.</p>
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Water and Waste Water	
RESPONSIBLE DELIVERY BODIES	Thames Water Utilities Ltd. (TWU) Environment Agency
STRATEGIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES	<p>25 Year Strategic Direction Statement 2010 – 2035 ‘Taking care of Water’ (2007) prepared by TWU sets out what the future holds in relation to water services infrastructure and how TWU intends to respond to this.</p> <p>The Water Resources Management Plan (2010-2035) (draft revised) (May 2008) outlines how TWU aims to meet predicted demand for water over the next 25 years.</p> <p>Our Plans for Water 2010 - 2015 (Thames Water) - Thames Water’s 5 year business plan that was submitted to OFWAT in April 2009 setting out future investment priorities and the likely cost.</p> <p>Water Resources Strategy for England and Wales (March 2009) published by the Environment Agency sets out how the Agency believes water resources should be managed over the coming decades so that water can be abstracted and used sustainably.</p>
EXISTING PROVISION	<p><i>Wastewater and Sewerage</i> Thames water are responsible for wastewater and sewerage infrastructure. There are many wastewater treatments works (WwTW) within West Berkshire. Newbury Wastewater/Sewage Treatment works and the treatment works at Reading are the largest facilities, with other larger facilities serving the needs of Hungerford and Silchester.</p> <p>Each WwTW, as a rough guide, should have capacity to treat an additional 10% population equivalent. The WwTW at Reading has over 10% capacity due to the closure of the Reading Courage Brewery. At the Newbury WwTW a growth project is due to be completed that will provide capacity for known growth up to 2016. The other WwTWs in the West Berkshire catchment area tend to be small rural sites with limited additional capacity.</p> <p>The Water Framework Directive (2000) has led to the Environment Agency setting more stringent water quality standards in relation to waste water discharge consents. This has led to the need for upgrades to some WwTW to meet the required discharge standards.</p> <p><i>Water Supply</i> Thames Water supplies West Berkshire with water from the following water sources:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Area 1: Pangbourne, Fobney and Mortimer Area 2: Ufton Nervet and Bradfield</p>

	<p>Area 3: East Woodhay, Bishops Green and Speen Area 4: Hungerford.</p> <p>All are ground water abstractions with the exception of Fobney.</p> <p>There are no known deficiencies in supply to the existing population.</p>
<p>PLANNED PROVISION</p>	<p>Thames Water, along with the other UK water and sewerage companies, is funded in 5 year planning periods known as Asset Management Plans (AMP). The money available to spend on Water Services Infrastructure during an AMP period is determined by the Office of Water Services (Ofwat) in consultation with the Government, the Environment Agency and consumer organisations amongst others. The consultation process is known as the Periodic Review, and the next review, which will determine how much money TWUL have to spend between 2010 and 2015 (AMP 5), started in 2008. TWU submitted its Strategic Business Plan to OFWAT in April 2009. Ofwat gave its Final Determination on 26th November 2009.</p> <p><i>Wastewater</i> There are six wastewater treatment works (WwTW) which will be upgraded between 2010 and 2015 (AMP5) to meet Environment Agency Quality Consent changes. These are Washwater WwTW; East Shefford WwTW; Hampstead Norreys WwTW; Lower Basildon WwTW; Yattendon WwTW; and Wickham WwTW.</p> <p><i>Water Supply</i> Thames Water also has a legal duty to prepare a Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP). This Plan sets out how demand for water is balanced against the available supply over the next 25 years. The draft WRMP covering the 25-year period from 2010 to 2035 was published in May 2008. West Berkshire is within the Kennet Valley Water Resource Zone (WRZ). There is no identified supply deficit for Kennet Valley WRZ to 2034 and no planned water resources schemes for the WRZ.</p> <p>However there are ongoing environmental investigations at a number of sources within the WRZ into the impact of water abstraction on nationally protected habitats (SACs and SSSI). Thames Water is liaising with the Environment Agency regarding the latest view on possible risk of licence reduction which could affect the availability of future supply. Two schemes for license reduction are already confirmed.</p> <p>Following Appropriate Assessment of the impact of abstraction at Speen for the Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain SAC, network modifications will be required to be implemented by 2013/14 but no new resource development is required.</p> <p>Following an Appropriate Assessment into the impact of abstraction from the West Berkshire Groundwater Scheme (WBGWS) on the Thatcham Reedbeds Site of Special Scientific Interest (a component part of the Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain SAC) an augmentation solution is to be implemented for potential use in the event of prolonged</p>

	<p>use of the WBGWS during a drought. This solution will be implemented by 2012/13.</p>
<p>INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS TO SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF THE CORE STRATEGY</p>	<p><i>Wastewater</i> Thames Water will work closely with landowners and the developers in relation to future sewerage and WwTW infrastructure. Existing facilities in some locations have limited additional capacity to cater for proposed housing growth. Thames Water will seek funding from developers for impact studies where these are necessary to gauge what upgrades to infrastructure are required. It is considered that subject to any necessary consents, and funding being secured either through the Thames Water Business Plan process or where appropriate, from the developer, necessary improvements will be implemented during the plan period. Phasing conditions may be required, to ensure that upgrades are implemented prior to new development, depending on their scale, location and nature.</p> <p>Thames Water is working closely with the developer of Newbury Racecourse to ensure that the wastewater can be accommodated by the network. The first phase (435 dwellings) will drain to the existing network. Subsequent phases will require an upgrade to the main terminal pumping station in Newbury. It is likely that this upgrade will need to be submitted to OFWAT in TWU's final business plan for investment in AMP6 (2015-2020).</p> <p>Thames Water has advised that wastewater capacity does not exist to serve the proposed development at Sandford. A developer funded study will be required to determine what upgrades are necessary.</p> <p><i>Water Supply</i> There is no identified supply deficit for the Kennet Valley Water Resource Zone during the period to 2034 and it is therefore anticipated that the level of planned development within West Berkshire to 2026 can be accommodated without the need for further water resources schemes to be implemented. There may be a need for additional water supply infrastructure, in the form of pumping stations, supply pipe work etc, and Thames Water will work closely with landowners and developers in relation to site specific requirements.</p> <p>There are uncertainties over the availability of future water resources, arising from climate change and the implementation of environmental legislation including the Habitats Regulations and the Water Framework Directive. Additional network modifications and other environmental mitigation may be required to be implemented during the plan period.</p> <p>It is considered that subject to any necessary consents, and funding being secured either through the Thames Water Business Plan process or where appropriate, from the developer, necessary improvements will be implemented during the plan period. Phasing conditions may be required, to ensure that upgrades are implemented prior to new</p>

	development, depending on their scale, location and nature.
<p>ROLE OF THE LDF</p>	<p>The LDF contains strategic policies to ensure that development is not permitted unless essential infrastructure can be completed in pace with new development. Policy CS6 'Infrastructure Requirements and Delivery' states the Council's intention to work in partnership with infrastructure providers and stakeholders to identify infrastructure requirements for new development. The physical infrastructure requirements necessary to support the level of proposed growth at Newbury Racecourse and Sandford is provided for by Policy CS 3 and CS 4 which deal specifically with these two strategic site allocations.</p> <p>The Council intends to maintain an infrastructure delivery plan identifying the key water and waste water infrastructure projects required to support the delivery of the Core Strategy. The infrastructure schedule will be maintained on the Council's website as a 'live' schedule that will be updated as further infrastructure requirements or projects are identified, and as work on the Site Allocations and Delivery DPD is taken forward. Any specific land use requirements for water and wastewater infrastructure will be updated within the Site Allocations and Delivery DPD. The implementation of the infrastructure delivery plan will be assessed through monitoring progress on infrastructure projects.</p> <p>Policy CS 15 expects all new development to demonstrate sustainable design. Policy CS 15 is supported by a SPD Quality Design – West Berkshire (2006). Part 4 of the SPD sets out guidance on sustainable water collection and storage. It encourages development to include water conservation measures; rainwater harvesting and grey water re-use to help reduce mains water consumption. Such measures will conserve water resources and assist towards securing an adequate future water supply for West Berkshire over the Plan period.</p>

Telecommunications	
RESPONSIBLE DELIVERY BODIES	British Telecommunications PLC British Telecommunications PLC, Open Reach as the infrastructure management subsidiary
STRATEGIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES	Digital Britain Bill and Final Report (June 2009), Government Department for Culture, Media and Sport and Business, Innovation and Skills Rural Strategy for West Berkshire (3 rd Draft, 2008), WBC Sustainable Community Strategy 'A Breath of Fresh Air', WBC
EXISTING PROVISION	<p>Openreach was created in 2005 to provide a regulatory framework for BT and manages the UK's telecommunications infrastructure. The division allows for all operators to have equal access to BT's own local network. Openreach installs, services, supports and maintains the wiring, fibres and connections to the selected communication providers' network.</p> <p>BT Openreach have advised WBC that the Copper Access Infrastructure is the only network that reaches 100% of the UK population enabling telephone services and broadband access for the majority of residents and businesses within West Berkshire. Whilst some progress has been made in extending broadband facilities to rural communities in West Berkshire, through for example the Rural Hotspots programme, some parts of the district still have significant broadband access issues and/or only receive slow broadband services.</p> <p>BT Openreach are currently undertaking an extensive programme to roll out the fibre optic broadband network across the UK. This service operates on a demand basis, where individual customers pay for the privilege of receiving access to a more speedy broadband service. Once instructed, Openreach pick up the fibre optic cabling from a node and extend the cabling to individual houses. This is currently not widely available within West Berkshire.</p>
PLANNED PROVISION	<p>The Government's aims for ensuring the UK is at the leading edge of global digital technology is set out in the Digital Britain Bill (November 2009). The Digital Britain Final Report (2009) includes actions to strengthen and modernise the communications infrastructure and includes the aim of delivering the Universal Service Broadband Commitment so that everyone has access to broadband technology by 2012. The report identifies that this can be delivered by upgrades to the existing copper and wireless networks.</p> <p>West Berkshire Council's Sustainable Community Strategy recognises that increasing the take up and effective use of broadband is a regional and County issue. The vision set out in the Rural Strategy for West Berkshire (3rd Draft, 2008) seeks to ensure that all local communities</p>

	<p>have fast broadband access to enable the continued growth of ICT and internet based businesses. This will also support the home-based business sector, which is expanding.</p> <p>In terms of future infrastructure provision for internet access, Openreach are responsible for providing duct networks and are currently only required to run a copper wire through the duct network to provide a network of standard broadband access for customers. New technologies are available such as fibre optic cabling, which provides higher speed network access.</p> <p>The duct network provides the permanent infrastructure to enable a network of cables to be installed, thus allowing for fibre optic cabling, and other emerging technologies to run alongside the copper wiring in the future.</p>
<p>INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS TO SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF THE CORE STRATEGY</p>	<p>BT Openreach have advised that the Copper Access Infrastructure is the most mature telecommunications network in the UK and as such, large scale infrastructure improvements are rarely required. BT Openreach has a legal obligation to provide a telephone service and telephone line to all new development. Telecommunication infrastructure is delivered in step with new development following consultation with developers. The copper network is widely deployed and in most places can meet customers' needs with only minor rearrangement or deployment of plant. In the future, the fibre-optic networks provide the opportunity to allow for improved internet access for those people in rural areas.</p> <p>BT Openreach will provide the necessary primary infrastructure for broadband access for new larger scale development through installing a duct network and laying copper wiring. As Government guidance progresses, they may be requirements for more advanced technologies to be installed as a standard procedure, this can be achieved by laying cabling alongside the existing duct network. There is currently no legal obligation to provide fibre-optic cabling to new development. Where such requests are made, the cost of providing the fibre-optic networks will be passed on to the developer and ultimately the end user.</p> <p>Although other service providers can lease and use the network provided by BT Openreach, only cabling supplied by BT Openreach can be installed in the BT Openreach duct networks; a no duct sharing agreement prevails.</p> <p>There are no specific telecommunication infrastructure requirements identified by Openreach, the provision of which will need to be assisted by the LDF in order to deliver the Core Strategy.</p>
<p>ROLE OF THE LDF</p>	<p>The Infrastructure Delivery Schedule will be regularly updated and reviewed and should any requirements arise over the Plan period these can be met through the preparation of the Site Allocations and Delivery DPD or subsequent reviews of the LDF. Core Policy CS6 sets out the framework within which the Council will seek to work with infrastructure</p>

	providers to identify and deliver any necessary infrastructure to support the proposed level of growth within the District.
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Flood Defences	
RESPONSIBLE DELIVERY BODIES	The Environment Agency (EA) has permissive powers to maintain watercourses and flood defences. West Berkshire Council is responsible for managing flood risk from Ordinary Watercourses.
STRATEGIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES	<p>The EA has carried out “A National Assessment of Flood Risk” (2009), setting out the risk of fluvial and coastal flooding and the EA’s response to it. “Investing in the Future: Flood and Coastal Risk Management in England” (2009) sets out the EA’s long-term investment strategy to meet the challenge over the next 25 years.</p> <p>The EA takes a strategic approach to flood risk management, assessing and managing it on a ‘whole catchment’ basis. The Thames Catchment Flood Management Plan (CFMP) seeks a sustainable planning-led solution to flood risk management within the Thames Region. The EA is also preparing the Thames River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) which will implement the requirements of the Water Framework Directive, including actions relating to the use of Sustainable Drainage to manage surface water.</p> <p>The Flood and Water Management Bill (currently before Parliament) introduces amended and additional responsibilities for flood risk, affecting the EA and local authorities.</p> <p>West Berkshire Council has carried out a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) (May 2008) to determine the variation in flood risk across the District, informing flooding policies in the Core Strategy and subsequent DPDs.</p>
EXISTING PROVISION	<p>Flood risk arising from rivers, surface water, sewers and groundwater affects large parts of West Berkshire, particularly in the towns of Hungerford, Newbury and Thatcham.</p> <p>The rivers posing a potential risk of fluvial flooding to properties include the Kennet, the Enbourne, the Pang, the Lambourn and the Thames on the north eastern boundary of West Berkshire. The tributaries of these rivers also pose a potential flood risk. Minor watercourses include the Rivers Shalbourne and Dun and Sulham Brook.</p> <p>Some parts of West Berkshire have a localised flood risk related to drainage problems. Other areas are at particular risk of groundwater and/or surface water flooding. Thatcham’s greatest flood risk is from surface water flooding, whilst a number of smaller settlements in the Berkshire Downs are affected by groundwater or groundwater influenced flooding.</p> <p>The Kennet and Avon Canal also runs through West Berkshire, with a potential risk of overtopping during particularly wet weather.</p>

	<p>The EA has statutory responsibility for flood management and defence in England, responsible for forecasting and mapping flood risk, providing warnings, building and keeping defences in good order and taking part in emergency planning and response.</p> <p>Existing flood defences in West Berkshire include formal flood defences built specifically for that purpose (e.g. the flood defence providing protection to properties at Stratford Mortimer from flooding from Foundry Brook). There are also a number of de facto flood defences (structures not specifically built to retain floodwater) providing a degree of protection against the River Kennet. In addition, the railway line at Purley-on-Thames provides some protection against flooding from the River Thames to properties to the south of the line.</p> <p>Other recently constructed and/or improved flood defence schemes implemented by the EA include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refurbishment of Bone Mill sluices, Newbury • The extension to existing flood defences at Stratfield Mortimer • Maintenance of the Winterborne stream • Works in Pangbourne on the Pang and Sulham Brook • Improvements to the surface water drainage system at Thatcham • Improvements at Aldermaston to increase capacity in heavy rainfall periods. <p>All new and/or improved flood defences planned and implemented by the EA are solely for the purpose of protecting existing communities and not to facilitate new development. The risk of flooding to new development is most effectively addressed by guiding development away from areas at risk in accordance with PPS25 and the Sequential and Exception Tests.</p>
<p>PLANNED PROVISION</p>	<p>A number of flood defence schemes are being investigated by the EA, including the Newbury Alleviation Scheme, Bucklebury Alleviation Scheme and a pre-feasibility study of options for Purley on Thames, all of which will require planning permission.</p> <p>In addition a grant of £80,000 has been awarded to West Berkshire Council carry out a Surface Water Management Plan for Thatcham.</p>
<p>INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS TO SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF THE CORE STRATEGY</p>	<p>The Council's Level One SFRA delineates the District into zones of 'low', 'medium' and high' probability of fluvial flooding in accordance with PPS25 (Appendix D). The SFRA has also identified 'Critical Drainage Areas' within West Berkshire considered to be particularly at risk from groundwater and/or surface water flooding. This information has been used by the Council to inform the application of the Sequential Test and to promote a spatial distribution of development that, wherever possible, steers development away from areas likely to be at highest risk of flooding.</p> <p>Two strategic site allocations are set out in the Core Strategy at Newbury Racecourse and Sandford. Both of these sites are outside</p>

	<p>of the areas identified as being at risk of flooding. Consultation between the developers, Council and EA are continuing to ensure that surface water management solutions for the developments are sustainable, robust, and will not exacerbate flooding on site or in the surrounding area. The preferred drainage solution and any other necessary flood prevention measures will be determined in detail at the planning application stage and any necessary works will be funded by the developer and secured by appropriate planning conditions and/or obligations.</p> <p>The allocation of other development sites necessary to deliver the level and distribution of development in the Core Strategy will be carried out as part of the Site Allocations and Delivery DPD. The SFRA will be used to advise the sequential approach when considering where land should be allocated to minimise potential flood risk to new homes and businesses. At that stage it may be necessary to develop a Level 2 SFRA to consider the risk of flooding in greater detail.</p> <p>For all development proposals, whether allocated sites or ‘windfalls’, flood risk will be considered as an integral part of the planning process. Further detailed site specific FRAs may be required to be submitted with planning applications to assist the Council with determining planning applications. Any necessary flood prevention measures or works will be secured through planning consents and will be implemented and funded by the developer.</p>
<p>ROLE OF THE LDF</p>	<p>The Core Strategy ensures that flood risk associated with new development is considered both when land is allocated for new development and in development control decisions taken on individual planning applications, in accordance with PPS25 and Policy NRM4 of the South East Plan.</p> <p>Core Strategy Policy CS17: ‘Flooding’ sets out the criteria against which development will be considered in respect of flood risk. The Policy steers development away from areas affected by flooding and permits development only where provision is made for the long-term maintenance and management of any flood protection, where it is required. In accordance with national guidance (PPS25), the policy identifies when a site-specific flood risk assessment will be required to be submitted with new development proposals.</p>