West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document

Interim Environmental Report, November 2013

West Berkshire Local Plan

West Berkshire Council

Contents

List of Maps

List of Figures

List of Tables

i Glossary / Acronyms

AONB – Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

AQMA – Air Quality Management Area

AWE – Atomic Weapons Establishment

BOA – Biodiversity Opportunity Area

C, D & E - Construction, Demolition and Excavation (waste)

DAFOR - Dominant; Abundant, Frequent, Occasional, Rare

DECC - Department of Energy and Climate Change

DPD – Development Plan Document

EA – Environment Agency

EC – European Commission

GwH – Gigawatt Hours

ILW – Intermediate Level Radioactive Waste

IR – Interim Report

IWS - Integrated Waste Strategy

NDA - Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

JSPU – Joint Strategic Planning Unit

JMWCS – Joint Minerals and Waste Core Strategy

LCA - Landa

LLW – Low Level Radioactive Waste

LNR – Local Nature Reserve

NPPF – National Planning policy Framework

ODPM – Office of the Deputy Prime Minister

PPS – Planning Policy Statement

RMLP – Replacement Minerals Development Plan Document

SA – Sustainability Appraisal

SAC – Special Area of Conservation

SEA – Strategic Environmental Assessment

SPA – Special Protection Area

SSSI – Special Site of Scientific Interest

TPO – Tree Preservation Order

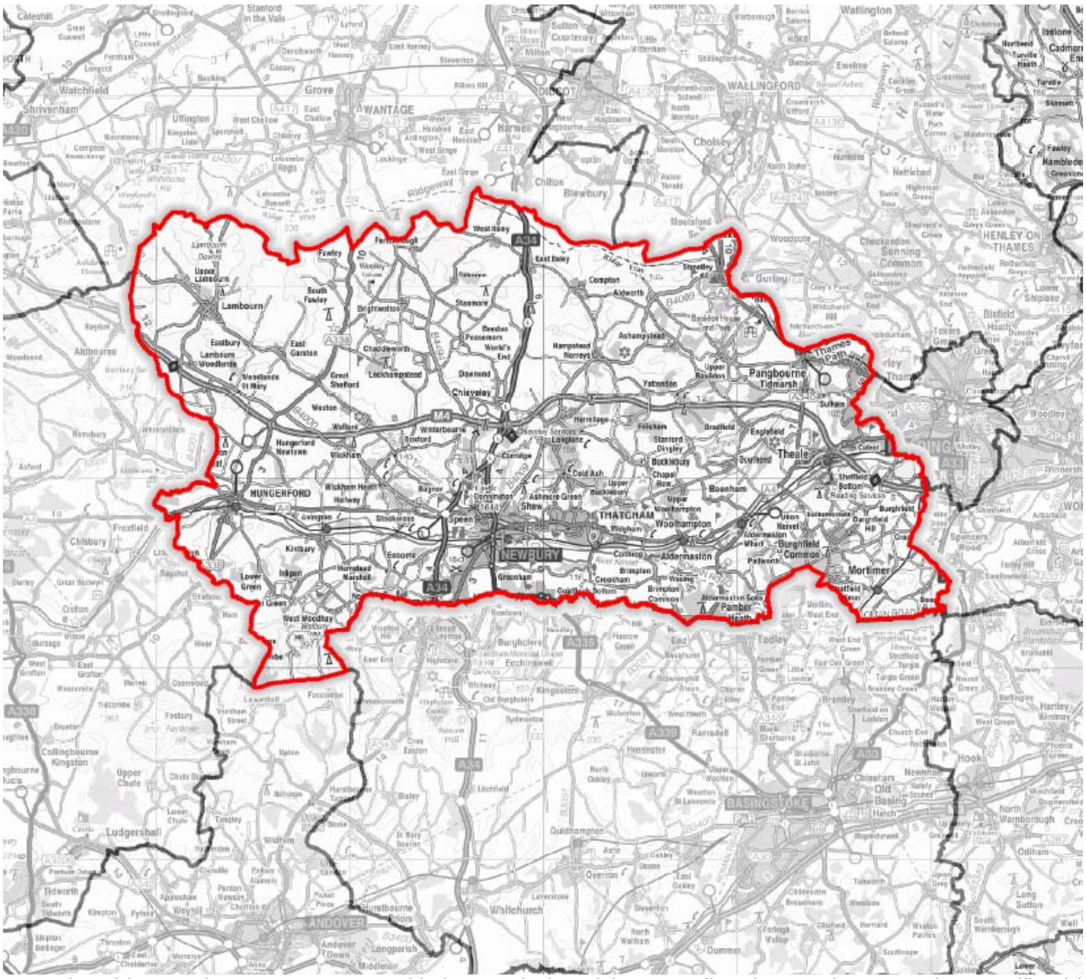
VLLW – Very Low Level Radioactive Waste

WBDC – West Berkshire District Council

WBMWDPD – West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document

WLPB – Waste Development Plan Document for Berkshire

Map 1: West Berkshire Plan Area



1. Introduction

1.1 This Interim Environmental Report (IER) for the Issues and Options forms the second stage of the Sustainability Appraisal process being undertaken in conjunction with the preparation of the West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document (WBMWDPD). This builds on the first stage of the process which was the completion of the Scoping Report and subsequent consultation on that document with Natural England, the Environment Agency, and English Heritage. The responses to the Scoping Report have informed the formulation of the WBMWDPD Issues and Options.

1.2 The IER is not a statutory stage of the SA process. It accompanies the Issues and Options consultation document, providing a high level overview of the main likely impacts (if they can be predicted) of the various 'Options' on the sustainability objectives.

1.3 Article 6(2) of the SEA Directive states:

"The authorities referred to in paragraph 3 and the public referred to in paragraph 4 shall be given an early and effective opportunity within appropriate timeframes to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and the accompanying environmental report before the adoption of the plan or programme or its submission to the legislative procedure."

This process is providing an early opportunity for comment from the public on the first stage of the plan (i.e. Issues and Options consultation document) and the accompanying IER. The IER provides some contextual analysis in terms of sustainability issues.

The IER is not intended to be a full Environmental Report, as is required by the SEA Directive, and may not provide an exhaustive list of all the likely significant secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects in terms of the identified Issues and Options. It should be noted that, to date, there have been no site specific assessments completed, as West Berkshire have not completed a 'call for site nominations' process, specially for minerals and waste sites.

1.4 The purpose of the SA is to promote sustainable development through better integration of sustainability considerations in the preparation and adoption of plans. It is an iterative process that identifies and reports on the likely significant effects of each development plan document and the extent to which implementation of the policies it contains will achieve agreed social, environmental, economic and resource management objectives.

1.5 In the context of West Berkshire the SA will focus on the significant sustainability issues that are likely to result from the WBMWDPD and consider alternatives that take into account the social, environmental and economic objectives, and the geographical scope of the document.

1.6 This IER tests the WBMWDPD objectives against the SA objectives, states the WBMWDPD 'Issues and Options', assesses the potential effects of the WBMWDPD 'Issues and Options' on the SA objectives, evaluates the effects of the WBMWDPD 'Issues and Options' on the SA objectives, and proposes initial measures to monitor the effects of implementing the WBMWDPD.

Background of minerals and waste policy in West Berkshire

1.7 West Berkshire previously worked together with the other unitary authorities that made up the former county of Berkshire on minerals and waste plan making. As such the Replacement Minerals Development Plan Document for Berkshire (RMLP) and Waste Development Plan Document for Berkshire (WLPB) currently form the development plan that guides minerals and waste developments in the former county area and provides the framework for making development management decisions on minerals and waste planning applications. Some of the policies within these plans have been saved to provide the basis for planning decisions until they are replaced. Since the adoption of the Replacement Minerals Development Plan Document for Berkshire and the Waste Development Plan Document for Berkshire the way in which the future is planned for has changed significantly.

1.8 Since 1998 the County of Berkshire has been governed by the six unitary authorities of Bracknell Forest Borough Council, Reading Borough Council, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Slough Borough Council, West Berkshire District Council and Wokingham Borough Council. These six unitary authorities are the Mineral Planning Authorities and Waste Planning Authorities for their respective areas. Following the transferral of the minerals and waste development plan making responsibilities to the Berkshire Unitary Authorities in 1998 from the County, the six authorities continued to work together in respect of Minerals and Waste Planning Policy, with this work being coordinated through the Joint Strategic Planning Unit (JSPU).

1.9 The JSPU led on the production and submission of a Joint Minerals and Waste Core Strategy (JMWCS) that aimed to set out the overarching strategy for minerals and waste planning across Berkshire, which was submitted to the Secretary of State for consideration and examination in February 2009.

1.10 The Joint Minerals and Waste Core Strategy was considered at an Examination in Public in April 2009. During the examination the inspector expressed serious concerns relating to the delivery of the waste strategy and after discussions between all six Berkshire unitary authorities the JMWCS was formally withdrawn. Whilst work continued on the production of a revised JMWCS for Berkshire substantive progress was not made due to the uncertainty regarding the upcoming “localism” agenda being promoted by central government at that time. Therefore in March 2011 all work on the production of a revised JMWCS was suspended.

1.11 The JSPU closed on the 30th September 2011, therefore the work on a JMWCS ceased and no further consultations or publications will be undertaken. The minerals and waste plan-making function has therefore passed to the Berkshire unitary authorities. There have been a number of discussions undertaken between the Berkshire unitary authorities in respect of the future of minerals and waste development plans and, at this stage, it is understood that a number of the authorities remain undecided in respect of the way forward, although discussions of joint working between some authorities are understood to have taken place.

1.12 West Berkshire Council approved the production of a West Berkshire specific Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document in 2012. Since that date much of the effort has been directed towards the collection and collation of the necessary evidence base to support the production of such a plan. This has involved the drafting of a local aggregates assessment for West Berkshire and a local waste assessment for West Berkshire. The WBMWDPD Issues and Options Paper has been informed by responses received from the statutory consultees on the SR.

1.13 A draft vision for the West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document has been developed, although depending on the outcome of the consultation processes this may be updated. The vision, as currently drafted, has been informed by the existing local and national planning policy:

"To facilitate the planned delivery of mineral resources and waste management capacity which meet the requirements for West Berkshire in accordance with national planning policy. In particular to plan for the delivery of mineral resources and waste management capacity in locations which meet the needs of the communities and economy of West Berkshire, in the most sustainable way."

Legal basis of Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment

1.14 The SEA Directive was adopted in June 2001 with a view to increase the level of protection for the environment, integrate environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes, and to promote sustainable development.

1.15 It requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment to be carried out for all plans and programmes which are:

'subject to preparation and/or adoption by an authority at national, regional or local level or which are prepared by an authority for adoption, through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government, and required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions'.

1.16 The SEA should be carried out for plans and programmes which are likely to have significant environmental effects as set out in Article 3(2a) and Annex II. It is stated that:

'An environmental assessment shall be carried out for all plans and programmes which are prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning and which set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annexes I and II, or

which in view of the likely effect on sites, have been determined to require an assessment pursuant to Article 6 or 7 of Directive 92/43/EEC.'

1.17 The few exceptions are detailed in Article 3 (8, 9) of the SEA Directive. The aim of the SEA is to identify potentially significant environmental effects created as a result of the implementation of the plan or programme on issues such as

'biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors'

as specified in Annex 1(f) of the Directive. The Directive was transposed into English legislation by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the 'SEA Regulations'), which came into force on 21 July 2004. Sustainability Appraisals are mandatory for all DPDs in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as amended.

2. Methodology

2.1. The Sustainability Appraisal of the WBMWDPD is an integral part of the plan preparation and has five sequential stages. These main stages and the tasks for each stage are listed in Table 1 below. This IER is the first report associated with the emerging WBMWDPD to focus on SA/SEA Stage B. It covers B1 and B2, while a high level overview of B3 and B4 is provided (see paras 1.2 and 1.3 for more explanation on this). In regard to B6, initial indicators to monitor the significant effects of implementing the DPD are provided. The issues and options which were stated in B2 and then assessed in B3 are not necessarily exactly the same as the final version of the Issues and Options consultation document as this IER was finalised prior to the completion of that document.

2.2. As SA/SEA is an iterative process, elements of Stage B will be undertaken again, in conjunction with the 'Preferred Options' stage of plan preparation as part of the Environmental Report. It is proposed that B5 receives due consideration in these subsequent stages, as mitigation measures and the maximisation of beneficial effects will be more relevant and useful when responses are received to the Issues and Options consultation, and the options have been refined and/or amended. Some of the 'options' are open-ended questions seeking suggestions from the reader for methods of dealing with the various 'issues'. Therefore, at this stage, the natures of these strategies are unknown and therefore it is impossible to carry out an assessment of them through the SA process.

Table 1 – Relationship between Plan making process and SA / SEA stages

Development Plan Document Stage	**SA/SEA Stage**	
Pre-production (In progress)	A	**Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope**
	A1	Identify other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives
	A2	Collect baseline information
	A3	Identify sustainability issues and problems
	A4	Develop the SA framework
	A5	Consult on the scope of the SA
Production	B	**Developing and refining options and assessing effects**
	B1	Test the DPD objectives against the SA framework
	B2	Develop the DPD options
	B3	Predict the effects of the DPD
	B4	Evaluate the effects of the DPD
	B5	Consider mitigation measures and ways to maximise beneficial effects
	B6	Propose measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the DPD
	C	**Preparing the SA Report**
	C1	Prepare the SA Report
	D	**Consulting on the preferred options of the DPD and SA Report**

Development Plan Document Stage	SA/SEA Stage	
	D1	Public participation on the preferred options of the DPD and the SA Report
	D2(i)	Appraise significant changes
Examination, Adoption and Monitoring	D2(ii)	Appraise significant changes resulting from representations
	D3	Make decisions and provide information
	E	**Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the DPD**
	E1	Finalise aims and methods for monitoring
	E2	Respond to adverse effects

Methodology for Stage B1 - Test the DPD objectives against the SA framework

2.3. The objectives of the WBMWDPD are tested against the SA objectives to identify both potential synergies and inconsistencies. This information has aided in the developing of alternatives during the development of the WBMWDPD Issues and Options. The SA objectives have also been tested against each other. See Section 3 for more information on this.

Methodology for Stage B2 - Develop the DPD options

2.4. In order to fulfil the Minerals and Waste objectives, the WBMWDPD Issues and Options have been developed. Issue 27 is an open ended question asking the reader whether there are any other 'issues' that should be considered in the drawing up of the WBMWDPD, however there are at least 2 'options' considered (including the 'business as usual' option) for the rest of the 27 'issues'. The 'business as usual' option' would mean that the current development plan would stay in place, and no updated plan would be produced. The issues and options stated and assessed in this IER are not necessarily exactly the same as the final version of the Issues and Options consultation document. This is due to the IER being finalised prior to the completion of the Issues and Options consultation document so that the Issues and Options consultation document could be informed by the IER.

Methodology for Stage B3 - Predict the effects of the DPD, and Stage B4 - Evaluate the effects of the DPD

2.5. Each 'Option' and an additional 'business as usual' option have been assessed against the SA/SEA Objectives in order to establish a high level overview of the main likely impacts (paras 1.2 and 1.3). This will be an iterative process with the alternatives being revised as part of the SA, and it will be carried out again in the full Environmental Report for the 'Preferred Options' and 'Submission' stages.

2.6. It is not the purpose of the SA to decide the alternative to be chosen for the plan or programme. This is the role of the decision-makers who have to make choices on the plan or programme to be adopted. The SA simply provides information on the relative sustainability performance of reasonable alternatives, and can make the decision-making process more transparent.

2.7. As has been stated the IER is not intended to be the full Environmental Report and is intended to provide a high level overview of the key likely impacts. Prediction of effects involves identifying the changes to the environmental baseline which are predicted to arise from the plan or programme, including alternatives.

2.8. In the full Environmental Report the effects will be considered in terms of their magnitude, their geographical scale, the time period over which they will occur, whether they are permanent or temporary, positive or negative, probable or improbable, frequent or rare, and whether or not there are secondary, cumulative and/or synergistic effects.

2.9. Evaluation involves forming a judgement on whether or not a predicted effect will be environmentally significant. The impacts on the Sustainability Objectives as set out in the IER have been classed as: 'very positive'; 'positive'; 'very negative'; 'negative'; 'uncertain'; and 'no clear link'.

Methodology for Stage B5 - Consider mitigation measures and ways to maximise beneficial effects

2.10. Annex I of the Directive requires the Environmental Report to include measures to prevent, reduce or offset any significant adverse effects on the environment from implementing the plan or programme. This includes the proactive avoidance of adverse effects as well as actions taken after effects are noticed. Mitigation measures should be considered during the preparation of plans and programmes to address effects identified in the SEA.

2.11. With regard to putting forward methods to maximise potential beneficial effects, and mitigate potential negative effects of the various options on the sustainability objectives, this is an area which will receive due consideration later in the process - at the 'Preferred Options' and 'Submission' stages of the SA/SEA as part of the full SA/SEA Environmental Report when it will be more relevant and the impacts can be more accurately predicted. Stage B5 is not covered in this report.

Methodology for Stage B6 - Propose measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the DPD

2.12. The significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans and programmes are monitored to identify any unforeseen adverse effects and to enable appropriate remedial action to be taken where necessary (though the Directive does not create any obligations concerning remediation).

2.13. Indicators have been developed in order to monitor the impacts on the SA Objectives (Section 6). Some of the indicators would be relevant when assessing what sites should be allocated for minerals and waste development in terms of the potential impact on the SA objectives, while some of the indicators would provide a general indication as to what extent the SA objectives are being met.

2.14. As SA is an iterative process, it may be that in the later stages of plan preparation the method of monitoring may be adapted or added to.

Methodology for next stages of the SA

2.15. When consultation has been carried out on the WBMWDPD Issues and Options, the next stage of the plan making process would be to take on board the consultation responses. Using the Issues and Options and associated consultation responses, the SA Report would then be produced (Stage C) in conjunction with the production of a WBMWDPD Preferred Options document, which would then be consulted on (Stages D1, D2(i) and D2(ii)). The submission WBMWDPD document would reflect the consultation on the 'Preferred Options' and any representations received and the Environmental Report would be updated where necessary. The submission WBMWDPD document would be brought to 'Examination' by the Planning Inspectorate (Stage D3). The SA Report would be updated to assess the impacts of any changes which are made throughout the process as a result of representations. Stage E will involve monitoring the significant effects of implementing the WBMWDPD.

3. Stage B1 - Test the DPD objectives against the SA framework

3.1. The approach to minerals and waste planning in the WBMWDPD is going to be based on a set of objectives to give a clear statement of what the plan is seeking to achieve. The following objectives are currently proposed for the WBMWDPD. These are draft and the 'WBMWDPD Issues and Options' consultation is the first time that they have been subject to public consultation. The objectives therefore may be subject to change at later stages in the plan making process. The following draft objectives are suggested:

Table 2

Draft WBMWDPD Objectives
Minerals Objective A - To encourage the most appropriate use of all mineral resources and the re-use of recycled minerals and secondary aggregates, having regard to the need to ensure that there is a sufficient supply, whilst maintaining the long term conservation of primary aggregates;
Minerals Objective B - To attain the principles of sustainable development set out in the NPPF by taking into consideration the demand for all mineral resources and the need to protect and seek to improve the quality of life of residents, the quality and diversity of areas of nature conservation interest, historic and heritage assets, water environment and landscape character;
Minerals Objective C - Where practicable to locate minerals development in appropriate locations in order that the potential negative impact from flooding is minimised;
Minerals Objective D - To maintain a stock of permitted reserves (a landbank) for aggregate minerals, in accordance with current Government advice to ensure an adequate and steady supply of minerals from outside the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Scheduled Monuments, Special Areas of Conservation, Registered Historic Parks and Gardens, Battlefields and Conservation Areas.
Minerals Objective E - To identify Preferred Areas for future mineral extraction which will provide for the continued extraction of minerals, having regard to the need to avoid demonstrable harm to interests of acknowledged importance;
Minerals Objective F - To prevent the unnecessary sterilisation of proven mineral resources by other forms of development and to safeguard existing and planned rail head sites together with existing and planned concrete batching facilities, coated road stone manufacturing facilities and sites that handle, process and distribute recycled and secondary aggregates;
Minerals Objective G - To provide for the recovery and reuse of aggregate from construction and demolition waste in order to reduce the requirement for new primary resources to a minimum; and
Minerals Objective H - To ensure that mineral sites are progressively restored to a high standard, beneficial and viable after-use.
Waste Objective I - To seek to prevent the generation of waste arisings at source, and to support and encourage initiatives designed to achieve this;
Waste Objective J - To increase the overall waste management in West Berkshire in line with the Waste Hierarchy through the provision of capacity for the re-use of waste materials, the preparation for the reuse of materials, the recycling of waste and the recovery of materials that cannot be recycled and to minimise the quantities of residual waste needing final disposal while recognising that this will continue to be required;
Waste Objective K - To provide a flexible approach to the delivery of waste management facilities of appropriate capacity and type to achieve net self-sufficiency within West Berkshire area
Waste Objective L - To enable the delivery of the West Berkshire Waste Management strategy and increase the proportion of waste managed further up the waste hierarchy;

Draft WBMWDPD Objectives
Waste Objective M - To locate waste management facilities so that wherever possible they minimise the distances that waste is transported for management and disposal, and to minimise adverse traffic effects of waste management development;
Waste Objective N - To safeguard existing waste management facilities, which are appropriately located, from competing forms of development that might otherwise constrain their continued operation or lead to their loss;
Waste Objective O - To ensure appropriate protection of the quality of life of those who live and work in West Berkshire from the adverse effects of waste management related development;
Waste Objective P - To ensure appropriate protection of the natural and cultural heritage in West Berkshire from the adverse effects of waste management related development in accordance with the NPPF.
Waste Objective Q - Where practicable to locate waste development in appropriate locations in order that the potential negative impact from flooding is minimised.

3.2. The following SA Objectives have been compiled and these form the basis for the Sustainability Appraisal framework.

Table 3

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the re-use, recovery and recycling of waste.
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development
13) To minimise public nuisance from waste treatment and disposal, and from access to and from facilities.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives
14) To minimise public nuisance from minerals development and associated activities including transportation.
15) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities.

Compatibility of Sustainability Objectives

3.3. A total of 15 sustainability appraisal objectives have been derived for the appraisal of the WBMWDPD (see table 3 above). They are based on policy advice and guidance and related to the assessment of the current state of the plan area.

3.4. A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (ODPM, 2005) states that it would be useful to test the compatibility of SA objectives against one another in order to highlight any areas where potential conflict or tensions may arise. To test the internal compatibility of the sustainability objectives a compatibility assessment of those sustainability objectives has been undertaken.

3.5. In the compatibility matrix (Figure 2) the 15 SA objectives are numbered in sequence along each axis and they represent a balance of economic/material assets; social and; environmental factors.

3.6. In the compatibility matrix (Figure 3) the 15 SA objectives have been tested against the draft WBMWDPD objectives.

3.7. The function of SA/SEA and assessing compatibility is to identify benefits and minimise detrimental impacts. Instances of uncertainty between objectives are explained further. Where it is indicated that the interaction between objectives is ‘neutral’, although they do not conflict, it is considered that they do not impact on each other, or the extent to which they do is negligible.

Figure 1 - Key for Figures 1 and 2

	Compatible
	Incompatible
	Neutral
	Uncertain

Figure 2 - Compatibility of the SA objectives with each other

SA Objective	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1															
2															
3															
4															
5															
6															
7															
8															
9															
10															
11															
12															
13															
14															
15															

3.8. In general terms the SA objectives are very compatible with each other with none of them being classed as 'incompatible'. The majority of interactions between objectives are classed as 'compatible' and 'neutral'. As can be seen from the chart, it is 'uncertain' whether objectives 1 – biodiversity / geodiversity, 2 - water quality, 3 – flooding, 4 – protection of land / soils, 5 - cultural heritage, 6 – landscape / townscape, 7 - air quality, 10 – sustainable transport, 13 – minimising public nuisance from waste activities, and 14 - minimising public nuisance from minerals activities are compatible with objective 15 – supporting economic development. The reason for this is that development, which is positive in economic terms, will not always be positive in terms of environmental impacts. This is something which needs to be judged on a case by case basis, balancing economic, environmental and social factors. In many cases, particularly in relation to minerals and waste development, potential harmful impacts can be picked up at the pre-application stage, and during determination. These harmful effects can then be mitigated so that the economic benefits can be taken full advantage of, while protecting the environment.

3.9. It is also 'uncertain' whether objectives 5 – cultural heritage, and 6 – landscape/townscape are compatible with objective 8 – maximising renewable and low carbon energy sources. The reason for this is that despite these sources of energy being greener and cleaner their fossil fuel counterparts, some types of renewable and low-carbon energy technology can have harmful effects, particularly in terms of landscape and visual impacts. Sites, monuments and buildings (and their settings) which are designated for their cultural heritage value can also be negatively impacted on by renewable energy installations. Examples of such technologies are wind turbines, and large solar farms. Again, where applications are submitted for such development, they need to be judged on a case by case basis balancing economic, environmental and social factors. Potential harmful impacts can be picked up at the pre-application stage, and during determination, and can then be mitigated.

Figure 3 - Compatibility of the WBMWDPD draft objectives and the SA objectives

	WBMWDPD draft objective																
SA Objective	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
1																	
2																	
3																	
4																	
5																	
6																	
7																	
8																	
9																	
10																	
11																	
12																	
13																	
14																	
15																	

3.10. The SA objectives are shown to be generally very compatible with the draft WBMWDPD objectives (see Figure 2) with none of them being classed as 'incompatible'. The majority of interactions between objectives are classed as 'compatible' and 'neutral'.

3.11. Minerals Objective B relates to the principles of sustainable development set out in the NPPF, and striking a balance between the demand for all mineral resources and the need to protect the quality of life of residents, the quality and diversity of areas of nature conservation interest, historic and heritage assets, water environment and landscape character. Waste Objective M is concerned with minimising adverse traffic effects of waste management development. The crux of Waste Objective O is ensuring appropriate protection of residents' quality of life from the adverse effects of waste management development. Waste Objective P is about ensuring the protection of natural and cultural heritage from the adverse effects of waste related development.

3.12. As can be seen from the chart it is 'uncertain' whether Minerals Objective B, and Waste Objectives M, O and P are compatible with SA objective 15 – supporting economic development. The reason for this is that even though minerals and waste development may be positive in terms of the economy there can be resulting harmful environmental effects. Often in individual planning applications these harmful impacts can be addressed and controlled through mitigation. In this way economic benefit can be achieved without compromising environmental or social issues.

3.13. Minerals Objective F is concerned with preventing the unnecessary sterilisation of mineral by other forms of development and safeguarding rail head sites, concrete batching facilities, coated road stone manufacturing facilities and sites that handle, process and distribute recycled and secondary aggregates.

3.14. It is 'uncertain' whether Minerals Objective B is compatible with SA objectives 8 - maximising renewable and low carbon energy sources, and 9 - managing waste in line with the 'waste hierarchy' principle. The reason for this is that where proposals for renewable/low carbon energy facilities come forward in certain locations, they could potentially be refused on the grounds of 'unnecessary sterilisation of mineral' or because a rail head or minerals associated facility may cease to exist as a result. It is possible that these locations would, apart from the conflict with Minerals Objective B,

be suitable locations for renewable/low carbon facilities. This is something that would need to be judged as applications come in.

4 Stage B2 - Develop the DPD options

4.1. In order to fulfil the draft WBMWDPD objectives, the WBMWDPD Issues and Options have been developed. The SA Scoping Report and the consultation responses received have helped to inform the formulation of the 'WBMWDPD Issues and Options'.

4.2. There are 28 issues, 27 of which have at least 2 'options' including the 'business as usual' option associated with them. The 'business as usual' option means that no new plan would be written and the Development Plan would remain in its current form. The 'Issues and options' are listed below.

2.16. The issues and options included in this IER are not necessarily the same as the final version of the Issues and Options consultation document. This is due to the IER being finalised prior to the completion of the Issues and Options consultation document.

Issue 1: End date for the West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document

4.3. The NPPF confirms that Development Plan Documents should be drawn up over an appropriate timescale, preferably a 15 year time horizon[1]. The current timetable for the production of the WBMWDPD is such that it is envisaged that the submission draft of the plan will be submitted in 2015 with the aim to have the examination in public late in 2015 and the plan adopted in 2016. Therefore to ensure that the plan covers a period of at least 15 years from the date of adoption this would suggest that the plan should cover the period to 2031.

4.4. However PPS10 suggests that a waste development plan document should look forward for a period of at least 10 years[2], using the same envisaged adoption date and to ensure that the plan covers a period of at least 10 years from the date of adoption this would suggest that the plan should cover the period to 2026.

4.5. An alternative option would be for the WBMWDPD to have the same end date as the recently adopted West Berkshire Core Strategy which covers the period of 2006 – 2026 to ensure that these local development plan documents run concurrently.

Options

- Option 1: Should the WBMWDPD have an end date of 2031 in accordance with the guidance in the NPPF?
- Option 2: Should the WBMWDPD have an end date of 2026 in accordance with guidance in PPS10?
- Option 3: Should the WBMWDPD have an end date of 2026 to coincide with the end date of the West Berkshire Core Strategy?
- Option 4: Should the WBMWDPD cover a different period?

[1] Paragraph 157 of the National Planning Policy Framework

[2] Paragraph 16 of PPS10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management

Issue 2: Future mix of supply of aggregates in West Berkshire

4.7. West Berkshire has, for many years supplied a considerable volume of primary aggregates from land won sources. Whilst this volume of and won primary aggregates has steadily declined from around 600,000 tonnes per annum in 2000 to a figure nearer to 200,000 tonnes in 2011 West Berkshire has always delivered a significant proportion of the total volume of land won primary aggregates in the former County area.

4.8. Since the year 2000 the percentage of primary aggregates sold from sites within West Berkshire has varied between 35% and 85% of the total volume sold from the former County area but, on average, West Berkshire has produced around 55% of the total volume sold from the former County area. Over this same 10 year period over 5.5 million tonnes of primary aggregates from land won sources have been sold from sites in West Berkshire.

4.9. It is apparent that West Berkshire has, for decades, been an exporter of primary aggregates (primarily sharp sand and gravel) and the minerals extracted from West Berkshire have supported developments outside the authority area. However it is well known that minerals can only be worked where they occur and no individual mineral planning authority can rely solely upon minerals from within their area to meet local demand. As such those authorities that are relatively resource rich have to acknowledge that they need to support those areas that are resource poor to facilitate the continuation of patterns of economic growth in the UK.

4.10. There does however appear to have been a recent shift in the pattern of aggregate production in West Berkshire. Over the past 3-5 years West Berkshire has seen a significant decline in both the level of permitted sand and gravel reserves and level of primary aggregates sales. At the same time the amount of capacity available for construction and demolition waste recycling has dramatically increased. This change in pattern could be as a consequence of the current period of economic decline or it could be due to a change in building techniques and the use of materials, such as wood, that are seen as being more sustainable than concrete products. This change could also mark a shift in the pattern of aggregate production with the historic levels of land won aggregate provision having resulted in a decreased level of resource available, such that there has been a shift of primary aggregate production to sites outside of West Berkshire coupled with a move towards the production of recycled aggregates to meet the local demand.

4.11. The Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document will need to set out the strategy and framework that meets the need for aggregates in West Berkshire[3] over the plan period. The reserves of primary aggregates in West Berkshire are declining and it is possible that the WBMWDPD may need to consider a shift in strategy to meet the need for aggregates over the plan period away from the reliance on land won sources.

Options

- Option 1: Should West Berkshire progress with a strategy that relies primarily on meeting the need for aggregates through the extraction of primary minerals extracted from reserves in West Berkshire recognising the wider role that West Berkshire has in supplying minerals to other areas that have fewer resources?

- Option 2: Should West Berkshire progress with a strategy that relies primarily on meeting the need for aggregates through the extraction of primary minerals extracted

[3] The level of need for aggregates in West Berkshire has been calculated though the production of the local aggregates assessment.

from reserves in West Berkshire but seek to maintain the remaining reserves for the construction and manufacturing industry within West Berkshire?

- Option 3: Should West Berkshire progress with a strategy that relies primarily on meeting the need for aggregates through the maximisation of recycled aggregates to reduce the reliance on land won sources?

- Option 4: Should West Berkshire progress with a strategy that relies upon on meeting the need for aggregates through a mix of land won primary aggregates, imports of aggregates from other authorities and through the use of recycled aggregates?

- Question 5: Do you think there is another strategy that the WBMWDPD could adopt? If so, please explain what you think it should be.

Issue 3: Extraction of sharp sand and gravel from within the AONB

4.13. As referred to in issue one above there has been a marked decline in the level of permitted reserves of aggregates and the volume of minerals produced and sold from quarries within West Berkshire. Approximately 74% of West Berkshire is AONB and this nationally important landscape designation and government guidance is clear that planning authorities should, as far as is practical, provide for the maintenance of non energy minerals from outside areas of outstanding natural beauty[4].

4.14. Sharp sand and gravel is not a particularly rare resource and it is understood that at a national level there are extensive deposits outside such nationally important landscapes. However there are known to be viable deposits located within the AONB, particularly along the corridor between Newbury and Reading. Much of the reserves within this corridor that is outside the AONB have already been extracted along with large areas of the terrace deposits found further to the south.

Options

- Option 1: Should West Berkshire progress with a strategy that seek to meet the need for sharp sand and gravel from sites outside the AONB, recognising that the viable reserves in this area have already been heavily exploited such that more constrained or sensitive sites may have to be worked or that the level of aggregates that can be produced in West Berkshire may have to be limited?

- Option 2: Should West Berkshire progress with a strategy that seeks to meet the need for sharp sand and gravel from sites both outside and within the AONB. If you agree with this strategy do you think that the WBMWDPD should identify a strategic area / areas or sites within the AONB where the extraction of sharp sand and gravel could be permissible?

- Option 3: Do you think there is another strategy that the WBMWDPD could adopt? If so, please explain what you think it should be.

Issue 4: Soft Sand

4.15. Soft sand is distinct from sharp sand as these sands have quite different properties and characteristics from each other and are used for different purposes. Sharp sand is principally used in concreting applications where as soft sand can be used in

[4] National Planning Policy Framework, para 144: Department for Communities and Local Government, March 2012

construction as asphalt, mortar and plaster, or for other uses such as horticulture and sports pitches.

4.16. Soft sand is also often referred to as “building sand”, and sharp sand is referred to as “concreting sand” however these terms can be slightly misleading as not all soft sand deposits, even after processing, would meet the specifications set out in British Standards that relate to it being used for building purposes, similarly not all sharp sand deposits are suitable for concreting purposes.

4.17. There are a number of British Standards, that have been informed by European standards, to ensure consistency across Europe in respect of the use of aggregates for different purposes. One of the key British Standards in respect of soft sand is BS 13139 and this stipulates criteria and limitations which dictate what uses a particular deposit can fulfil.

4.18. It is understood that soft sand is not a particularly scarce resource, with sources of existing supply being available in the surrounding counties of Hampshire, Oxfordshire and Wiltshire. The British Geological Survey – South East Regional Assembly: South East Plan – Review of Mineral Supply and Demand Report suggests that in West Berkshire it is estimated that there are circa 1,327,000,000 tonnes of soft sand resource, albeit that 76% of this resource is constrained by environmental designations this still suggests that there remains circa 321 million tonnes of unconstrained resources of soft sand in West Berkshire.

4.19. However the historical pattern of soft sand is such that it has been principally worked from sites located within the North Wessex Downs AONB, which indicates that although there may theoretically be very large volumes of unconstrained soft sand resources in West Berkshire, such deposits may not have been worked for other reasons, such as difficulties over access, viability, quality of the deposit or land ownership.

4.20. Only one new site working soft sand has been permitted in the last decade, Copyhold Farm, and this site was only permitted on the basis that the soft sand worked from this site was of sufficient quality to be used in the nearby tile factory in Beenham and at the time of that application the tile factory was understood to be importing soft sand from as far away as Dorset to meet the needs of the factory. As such it was considered that the applicant had demonstrated an overriding local need for the minerals that would be used locally to fulfil a demand that was being met from a considerable distance away at that time.

4.21. It is also recognised that there are no ready substitutes for soft sand, as other aggregates, including those from marine and recycled sources, are unsuitable for the building uses for which soft sand is largely used.

4.22. The NPPF is clear that great weight should be given to the conservation of landscapes such as the AONB and the NPPF sets out a presumption against major developments in such designated areas.[5] The NPPF also confirms that the maintenance of non energy minerals should be provided for from outside National parks, the Broads and Areas of outstanding natural beauty.

Options

- Option 1: Should West Berkshire progress with a strategy that seek to meet the need for soft sand from sites outside the AONB, recognising that the availability of viable reserves outside the AONB is limited such that the level of soft sand production in West Berkshire may have to be limited?

[5] National Planning Policy Framework, paras 115 and 116: Department for Communities and Local Government, March 2012

- Option 2: Should West Berkshire progress with a strategy that seeks to meet the need for soft sand from within the AONB and if you agree with this strategy should the strategy identify a strategic area / areas or sites within the AONB where mineral extraction will be permissible?

- Option 3: Should West Berkshire progress with a strategy that seek to meet the need for soft sand from sites outside the AONB but recognise that there may be exceptional local circumstances where extraction of soft sand from within the AONB may be acceptable if, for example, it was to meet an overriding specified local need?

- Option 4: Do you think there is another strategy that the WBMWDPD could adopt? If so, please explain what you think it should be?

Issue 5: Safeguarding of minerals

4.23. Minerals are a valuable but limited resource that can only be won where they naturally occur. Safeguarding of viable or potentially viable mineral deposits from sterilisation by surface development, which would preclude their possible extraction at some future date, is an important component of sustainable development. Government advice is that planning authorities should make every effort to safeguard mineral deposits that are or may become of economic importance, against other types of development. The existence of viable or potentially viable mineral deposits can be noted by designating them as Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs). MSAs can also be defined around the margin of active mineral workings. Within such areas, surface development, which would be incompatible with the mineral development will not be permitted during the active life of the quarry.

4.24. In the RMLP the circumstances where development might be permitted over mineral deposits are:

- Where it can be demonstrated that the mineral deposit is of no commercial value, and unlikely to be so in future;
- Where the planning considerations amount to an over-riding case in favour of allowing the development to proceed;
- Where extraction of the mineral would cause such significant environmental impacts that it would be unlikely to ever be permitted.

Options

- Option 1: Should West Berkshire identify mineral safeguarding areas around potentially viable deposits of aggregates and if so should a buffer applied around the deposits?

- Option 2: Should West Berkshire identify mineral safeguarding areas around active mineral workings as well as any preferred areas for mineral extraction identified in the WBMWDPD?

- Option 3: Do you agree with the circumstances when surface development might be allowed over in-situ mineral deposits?

- Option 4: Are there any other considerations that should be taken into account in safeguarding known mineral deposits?

- Option 5: Are there any other mineral deposits, other than aggregate that you think should be safeguarded from other surface development?

Issue 6: Existing industrial users of minerals

4.25. The Beenham tile factory is a strategically important facility for the UK. Whilst the majority of the products produced at this factory inevitably end up being exported out of the district, West Berkshire clearly benefits from the employment opportunities that come with such a manufacturing facility. It is understood that the Beenham tile factory is a regionally significant facility, in that it is the largest concrete tile factory in the Country and it supplies roofing tiles to the construction industry all across the South East and the factory requires circa 100,000 tonnes of aggregates per year to meet the demand for concrete tile production.

4.26. The presence of the Beenham Tile factory and the specialist products that it produces, which serve markets that are substantially wider that those of general aggregate suppliers, is recognised in the RMLP. The RMLP acknowledges the existence of the factory and the significant investment that the applicant has made in the development and maintenance of the factory; the level of employment that it generates; the specialist nature of the products that are produced: and that the need for the maintenance of a supply of minerals that fall within a defined quality control specification is a matter of importance to the factory.

4.27. The NPPF acknowledges the importance of other mineral related industries, such as those which make concrete products (such as the tile factory) and cement batching plants and coated road stone facilities and suggests that such facilities should be safeguarded from other types of developments.

Options

- Option 1: Should the WBMWDPD acknowledge the existence of the Beenham Tile Factory through the provision of an identified landbank of aggregates designated solely for use by the Factory?

- Option 2: Should the WBMWDPD acknowledge the existence of the Beenham Tile Factory through the consideration of the demand for aggregates in West Berkshire?

- Option 3: Should the existence of the Beenham Tile Factory be recognised through a policy approach that supports the use of indigenous primary aggregates within West Berkshire?

- Option 4: Should the tile factory be treated the same as any other end user of aggregates in West Berkshire?

- Option 5: Do you agree that the existing asphalt plant and existing and any subsequently approved cement batching facilities should be safeguarded from other forms of development?

Issue 7: Recycled and secondary aggregates

4.28. Recycled aggregates consist of aggregate materials that are recovered from construction and demolition processes and from excavation waste on construction sites. Secondary aggregates comprise mineral wastes and industrial by-products: including colliery spoil, china clay waste, slate waste; power station ashes, incinerator ashes and similar products. Arisings are obviously concentrated where coal, china clay and slate is quarried or mined, and where large power stations or incinerators are located.

4.29. There are no known sources of secondary aggregates in West Berkshire but there are a number of sites that produce recycled aggregates, ranging from skip waste

facilities that produce limited volumes from the material recovered in skips to very large scale sites dedicated to the production of secondary aggregates, which produce in excess of 200,000 tonnes a year.

4.30. It is national policy to increase the use of recycled and secondary aggregates as substitutes for primary aggregates wherever possible. This will depend on the technical suitability of the recycled and secondary aggregates for the development projects in hand.

4.31. In order to maximise the use of recycled and secondary aggregates, adequate recycling facilities and transportation infrastructure need to be available to enable aggregates to be recovered from construction and demolition waste.

Options

- Option 1: Do you agree that recycled aggregates replace primary aggregates, and if so do you agree that they can only replace crushed hard rock?
- Option 2: Should the WBMWDPD seek to maximise the production of recycled aggregates production?
- Option 3: Do you think sites in the AONB would be an appropriate location for processing recycled and secondary aggregates?
- Option 4: Would it be appropriate to identify Preferred Areas for sites to provide any additional processing capacity that may be required?
- Option 5: Do you agree that existing and planned facilities that handle process and distribute secondary and recycled aggregates should be safeguarded from other types of development?

Issue 8: Movement of aggregates within West Berkshire

4.32. The majority of the sharp sand and gravel deposits that are worked in West Berkshire are concentrated in the Kennet valley in a corridor between Newbury and Reading. This area is also a transport corridor that benefits from being served by the primary road network (the A4), the London to south coast railway line and the Kennet and Avon canal.

4.33. Historically the sites in West Berkshire have relied on road based transport, to move the extracted minerals to the mineral processing plants and / or markets, however if the pattern of mineral extraction within West Berkshire is maintained there is the potential for minerals being extracted to be transported by these 3 modes of transport to the urban areas where the minerals are principally utilised.

4.34. The sand and gravel deposits that exist in West Berkshire are relatively shallow and, as such, the sites tend to only have a limited life and the extraction operations move through the extraction phases at a considerable pace.

4.35. Water and rail borne transportation methods require a significant financial investment to deliver the necessary wharves and sidings. As such it is likely that such facilities could only serve very large deposits to ensure the economic viability of such a modal shift.

4.36. Further work may also have to be carried out to understand the available capacity for further trains to be introduced onto the railway network, and similarly the available capacity on the canal network to accommodate aggregate movements.

Options

- Option 1: Should West Berkshire progress with a strategy that seeks to rely primarily upon rail based transport for the importation, exportation and within District movement of aggregates? Do you agree further work would be required to deliver such a strategy?

- Option 2: Should West Berkshire progress with a strategy that seeks to rely primarily upon road based transport for the importation, exportation and within District movement of aggregates?

- Option 3: Should West Berkshire progress with a strategy that seeks to rely primarily upon water based transport for the importation, exportation and within District movement of aggregates? Do you agree further work would be required to deliver such a strategy?

- Option 4: Should West Berkshire progress with a strategy that seeks to rely on a mix of road, rail and water based transport for the importation, exportation and within District movement of aggregates that is informed by the distances involved and sustainability of the proposed mode?

Issue 9: Importation of Primary aggregates and other materials by Rail

4.37. West Berkshire has no deposits of hard rock, and therefore relies on imported supplies of hard rock aggregates. As a land locked authority there are no wharves in West Berkshire that receive marine aggregates. Therefore such primary aggregates are imported into West Berkshire, primarily by rail. These imports constitute a significant proportion of aggregates used in the District and are a vital component of the aggregate mix used in local construction projects and manufacturing processes.

4.38. Due to the existence of a good rail connection and existing handling facilities these aggregates are predominantly transported by rail. It is understood that most of the imported hard rock comes from the South West Region and limited amounts of marine sand are imported from wharves in London.

4.39. The main option associated with the increasing the importation of Primary aggregates use of rail depots for importation of primary aggregates is whether or not there is a need to increase the capacity of existing depots and a related issue is whether any additional capacity required should be delivered at existing or new depots.

4.40. There is a single railhead depot in West Berkshire, located at Wigmore Lane near Theale, very close to junction 12 of the M4. The railhead site is split into 4 depots two or which involve the importation of aggregates.

4.41. The first of these is a road to rail aggregates depot that is understood to import hard rock from the south west and also limited volumes of marine sand from wharves in London. Within this site are two cement batching plants that use some of the imported materials to manufacture cement.

4.42. The second depot is a coated road stone plant that is understood to import hard rock from the south west for use in asphalt production.

4.43. In addition there is a road to rail cement depot that is understood to import cement from Derbyshire and a depot that imports fuels / oils.

4.44. One key factor to consider is the capacity of these railhead sites to accommodate increased levels of imports and coupled to this is whether there is the capacity on the rail network for more material to be imported to the site via the existing rail network.

Options

- Option 1: Do you think that the present policies for rail depots should be reviewed in order to provide for more capacity for importing minerals from elsewhere?

- Option 2: Should there be a presumption in favour of safeguarded rail depot sites being granted planning permission, subject to meeting defined planning and environmental criteria?

- Option 3: Do you agree that the existing road to rail aggregates depot, the road to rail cement depot and the rail connected coated roadstone plant should be safeguarded from other forms of development?

Issue 10: Windfall sites

4.45. Examples of windfall sources of aggregates are (i) from development sites, usually for large scale projects which require the extraction of considerable volumes of material as part of the site preparation, such as the construction of a reservoir, or a flood relief scheme, and (ii) borrow pits which are temporary mineral workings opened locally to supply material for a specific construction project. By their very nature it is not possible to anticipate the likely volumes or even types of mineral that may be supplied from windfall sites.

4.46. The RMLP includes policies which allow for the supply of aggregates or other minerals from such sources, where the development project itself is justified in its own right, and in the case of borrow pits where it is considered that the borrow pit would cause less environmental disturbance than material won from established quarries, or from a Preferred Area

Options

- Option 1: Do you think that the present policies for windfall mineral sites should be reviewed in order to allow more scope for exploiting windfall opportunities?

- Option 2: Are further safeguards needed to minimise the impacts of the large construction projects (e.g. how the planning system can control how construction, demolition and excavation waste arising from these projects is stored/managed) that are inevitably associated with them?

- Option 3: Do you agree that the WBMWDPD should make an allowance for windfall sites in the calculations for the need for the supply of aggregates within West Berkshire?

Issue 11: Restoration strategy for West Berkshire

4.47. The primary construction aggregate resources in West Berkshire are all sand and gravel which occurs in relatively shallow deposits, meaning that sites are worked over much shorter time spans than hard rock deposits and the process of extraction is less intrusive than other forms of quarrying. This places increased emphasis on restoration issues, such as the phasing of the restoration process and the nature of the after-use. The traditional after-use options are agriculture, forestry or amenity.

Amenity can be widely interpreted to include a range of recreation uses, and/or nature conservation.

4.48. The following factors are considered important for determining the restoration and after-use of a mineral site; agricultural value of the land prior to mineral extraction, underlying geology, hydrology, location in relation to urban areas, access to the road network, local topography and landscape setting. In the main the aggregate mineral deposits in West Berkshire are concentrated along the river valley which means that potential effects on ground and surface water are major considerations in deciding the restoration scheme following mineral extraction. The default outcome of worked out voids in this situation has been the formation of lakes, particularly in the Theale / Burghfield area.

4.49. The question has arisen in the past as to what extent the continuing introduction of lakes into the landscape is acceptable, and whether there is a need to consider carefully what other forms of restoration may be appropriate, and to reflect these in the WBMWDPD accordingly. In doing so it should be borne in mind that the scope for alternative restoration is limited for many sites due to proximity to a river or the nature of the underlying geology. Linked to this is the availability of suitable inert fill where land based restoration options are sought.

4.50. Thus, the consultation document seeks input on whether further lakes are appropriate and requiring mineral operators to develop alternative methods of restoration. Depending on the particular characteristics of the site, restoration options after mineral extraction might include low level agriculture, low level development, eg industrial or other development, inert landfill followed by restoration to agriculture, forestry, open space or playing fields.

4.51. Alternative restoration options can assist in deciding the preferred locations for mineral extraction. Depending on the strength of opinion, it might even come to the point where a site may be deemed unsuitable for mineral extraction because the only restoration option is a lake, which is not considered desirable. The implication of this approach if adopted could be to focus attention for future sources of sand and gravel more onto the plateau deposits of sand and gravel rather than the river deposits. There will also be implications for the approach followed in the Waste Policies

Options

- Option 1: Do you think there is scope for more lakes following mineral extraction, or are there enough already?
- Option 2: Are there other forms of restoration that you would like to see in place in West Berkshire?
- Option 3: Do you consider that there is sufficient infill material available for restoration new extraction sites back to land based uses?
- Option 4: Do you think there is scope to infill some of the lakes created by historic mineral extraction back to land based uses?
- Option 5: Do you think there is another restoration strategy that the WBMWDPD could adopt? If so, please explain what you think it should be.

Issues 12: Chalk and Clay

4.52. There is no National requirement to maintain a landbank for chalk or clay. The RMLP provided a policy approach for proposals for these minerals to be permitted where the

minerals are required to meet a specific local need which cannot be met from elsewhere and which outweighs any other environmental, agricultural, amenity and other planning constraints. In addition detailed information is required to show that the site will be worked and restored in an acceptable manner.

4.53. There are no active sites in West Berkshire that are producing chalk or clay and since the adoption of the RMLP there have been no planning applications for the extraction of chalk or clay within West Berkshire.

Options

- Option 1: Does the WBMWDPD need to include a policy approach to ensure that there are there adequate safeguards to minimise the effects of future extraction of chalk and clay?

- Option 2: Do you think that there is there a need for more certainty about where chalk and clay might be worked in the future?

- Option 3: Do you think that the WBMWDPD should identify strategic areas for the working of chalk and clay?

- Option 4: Do you think that the WBMWDPD should include development management policies that can be used to consider any proposals for the working of chalk and clay deposits over the life of the plan?

Issue 13: Energy minerals – coal gas and shale gas

4.54. There are no known commercial resources of oil and gas in West Berkshire, although viable reserves of oil and gas have been identified and are being worked in some neighbouring counties. The RMLP approach to the possible exploitation of oil and gas resources includes a policy (Policy 17) allowing for the control of exploratory drilling, but requires that any commercial exploitation is fully justified in terms of balancing need against environmental and other considerations, taking account of the specific arrangements for working, restoration, ancillary development and associated activities.

4.55. While a significant coal seam is present in the west of Berkshire, it is deep under ground and not considered to be viable for extraction. The RMLP did not include any policies for coal exploration or extraction. On the basis that the increasing price of energy is making more inaccessible sources viable, an approach similar to that to oil and gas might be adopted.

4.56. It is known that the UK has abundant shale deposits, however shale has not previously been considered a hydrocarbon reservoir rock in the UK and the UK potential is currently un tested and the UK shale gas industry is in its infancy. The British Geological Survey in association with the Department of Energy and Climate Change have recently published a report investigating the volume of potential reserves of shale gas and the likely locations of such reserves in the UK. This report maps the various outcrops of rock formations with the best shale gas potential across the UK and this report suggests that the Lias Subcrop from the Jurassic period is found within West Berkshire. In addition the Department for Local Government and Communities is expected to publish planning guidance in the summer of 2013.

Options

- Option 1: Should the WBMWDPD need to include a policy approach to ensure that there are there adequate safeguards to minimise the effects of possible future extraction of energy minerals?

- Option 2: Do you think that there is a need for more certainty about where energy minerals might be worked in the future?

- Option 3: Do you think that the WBMWDPD should identify strategic areas for the working of energy minerals?

- Option 4: Do you think that the WBMWDPD should include development management policies that can be used to consider any proposals for the working of energy minerals over the life of the development plan document?

Issue 14: Pattern of waste management

4.57. West Berkshire Council is both an importer of waste and an exporter of waste. However it is understood that total volume of waste that is managed in West Berkshire exceeds the total amount of waste that arises within the authority.

4.58. However there are some types of waste management facility that are somewhat lacking within the authority area for example there is no non inert landfill capacity within West Berkshire so all the non inert waste that arises in West Berkshire that is disposed of to land is disposed of outside West Berkshire.

4.59. Similarly West Berkshire has limited waste recovery capacity, such as anaerobic digestion, incineration with energy recovery, gasification, pyrolysis and so on. Therefore all the waste arising within West Berkshire that is subjected to recovery processes is recovered outside West Berkshire.

4.60. Whilst this may appear that West Berkshire it not “doing its bit” it has to be recognised that these two waste management options, recovery and landfill are the bottom two sections of the waste hierarchy. There is a risk that the over provision of waste management capacity at the bottom of the waste hierarchy could result in waste materials being moved down the waste hierarchy.

4.61. There are also issues of the economies of scale involved in many recovery operations, in that a sufficient level of waste arisings are required to achieve the necessary feedstock to make facilities viable. This can mean that some specialist wastes sometimes travel long distances for management at specific facilities. As a relatively rural district West Berkshire only generates a limited volume of waste and therefore it is possible that there is insufficient waste arisings to warrant the development of new large scale waste management facilities that rely solely upon arisings from within West Berkshire or the development of non inert landfill capacity.

Options

- Option 1: Should West Berkshire seek to maintain a pattern of waste management facility types that concentrate on the upper parts of the waste hierarchy such as recycling facilities?

- Option 2: Should West Berkshire plan for a more diverse pattern of waste management facility types that cover all aspects of the waste hierarchy, excluding landfill?

- Option 3: Should West Berkshire plan for a more diverse pattern of waste management facility types that cover all aspects of the waste hierarchy, including landfill?

- Option 4: Do you think there is another strategy that the WBMWDPD could adopt, and if so please explain what you think it should be.

- Respondents are asked to consider commenting on these options in respect of the various waste streams arising in West Berkshire.

Issue 15: Self sufficiency in waste management

4.62. West Berkshire Council is both an importer of waste and an exporter of waste. However it is understood that total volume of waste that is managed in West Berkshire currently exceeds the total amount of waste that arises within the authority.

4.63. West Berkshire Council has, along with many other waste planning authorities in the former south east region, acknowledged that there will always be a degree of cross-boundary movement of waste. In light of this most of the waste planning authorities in the former south east region are intending on developing their waste plans using the principal of net self-sufficiency, which assumes that within each waste Development Plan Document area the planning authority or authorities will plan for the management of an amount of waste which is equivalent to the amount arising in that plan area.

4.64. However in adopting such an approach it is recognised that it may not be possible to meet this requirement in full, particularly for hazardous and other specialist waste streams however if all authorities plan on this basis then no provision would have to be made in their waste Development Plan Documents to meet the needs of any other authorities which are basing their waste policies on achieving the principle of net self-sufficiency.

Options

- Option 1: Should West Berkshire plan for Net Self sufficiency, where we aim to plan for the provision of sufficient waste management capacity (recycling, treatment and recovery facilities) equal to the volume of waste arising in West Berkshire?

- Option 2: Should West Berkshire plan for a level of waste management capacity (recycling, treatment and recovery facilities) greater than the volume of waste arising in West Berkshire?

- Option 3: Should West Berkshire plan for a level of waste management capacity (recycling, treatment and recovery facilities) that is less than the volume of waste arising in West Berkshire?

- Option 4: Do you think there is another strategy that the WBMWDPD could adopt? If so, please explain what you think it should be.

Issue 16: Landfill / Land raising of non inert wastes

4.77. West Berkshire has not had any landfill sites that accept anything other than inert wastes for a number of years. The last landfills that accepted non inert waste were Hermitage Landfill and Beenham Landfill.

4.78. Therefore all residual waste that originates within West Berkshire that is disposed of to land has been disposed of outside of West Berkshire. The reasoning behind this is related to a number of factors, the principal one being the geological make up of West Berkshire. The majority of landfill sites are former mineral extraction sites and due to the geological makeup of West Berkshire these mineral extraction sites are commonly very shallow and also located within areas at risk of flooding.

4.79. The depth of the mineral deposits in West Berkshire means that it is not normally economical to develop an engineered landfill due to the costs involved in developing a non inert landfill site. Therefore if non inert landfill capacity is to be developed in West Berkshire it would be likely to involve an element of land raising, which brings with it a range of other issues related to flooding and landscape impacts.

4.80. In addition it is understood that, generally speaking, there is not a significant demand for new non inert landfill capacity. Surrounding waste planning authorities have confirmed that some local operators (outside West Berkshire) have been seeking permission to close existing operational facilities as there is insufficient waste materials being disposed of to land to warrant the number of sites available.

Options

- Option 1: Should West Berkshire plan to meet the demand for the disposal of waste to land (either landfill or land raise) of waste that is generated in West Berkshire within West Berkshire?

- Option 2: If West Berkshire is not going to plan for the disposal of waste to land do you agree that we should we plan to provide a greater amount of recycling capacity to maximise recycling rates and maximise the value that can be derived from waste materials?

- Option 3: If West Berkshire is not going to plan for the disposal of waste to land do you agree that we should we plan to provide a greater amount of recovery and or treatment capacity to maximise the value that can be derived from waste materials and minimise the volumes of waste originating in West Berkshire that is disposed of to land?

- Option 4: Do you think there is another strategy that the WBMWDPD could adopt? If so please explain what you think it should be.

Issue 17: Location and distribution of waste sites

4.81. At present the majority of the waste management facilities in West Berkshire are concentrated in the south eastern area of the authority, principally in and around Newbury, along the A4 corridor to Theale as well as on the A340 that links the A4 (at Aldermaston Wharf) to Tadley and beyond to Basingstoke. This pattern of facilities has developed due to the historical linkage between minerals extraction and waste development.

4.82. Historically minerals and waste development went hand in hand with the voids created by mineral extraction being infilled with waste. However there is no longer such a strong linkage now that there has been a significant move away from the landfilling of waste and the movement of waste up the waste hierarchy. As such West Berkshire has seen a move away from temporary waste operations on extraction sites to the development of permanent waste management facilities across the district.

4.83. There are a number of strategic areas within West Berkshire where there is a concentration of waste management facilities. The first is the Beenham / Padworth area where the Waste management facility that manages the MSW arising in West Berkshire is located (Padworth) along with a similar suite of facilities that deal primarily with C&I waste (Beenham). Another area with a number of waste management facilities is the Theale / Burghfield area where there are a number of temporary waste facilities together with a significant CDEW facility that produces large quantities of secondary aggregates. The Tadley area, on the West Berkshire/ Hampshire border is home to a number of skip waste facilities that also manage CDEW, there are also a number of waste facilities in the Newbury / Thatcham area. Finally there is a small concentration of specialist waste management facilities in the Lambourne woodlands area.

4.84. This is not to say that there are not other waste management facilities located across West Berkshire however this pattern of existing facilities is such that there is a concentration of facilities in and around the main urban areas and along the A4 / A340 which are part of the strategic road network within West Berkshire.

4.85. PPS10 confirms that the co location of waste sites is acknowledged as often being beneficial as there are often clear linkages between one facility and another, such that there are often benefits to such co-location.

Options

- Option 1: Do you consider that in planning for the waste management requirements of West Berkshire the WBMWDPD should aim towards:
  (i) The expansion of existing permanent facilities and the co-location of new facilities with existing permanent facilities;
  (ii) The concentration of new facilities in the key urban areas and centres of population and growth;
  (iii) A decentralisation approach with facilities distributed across all the urban areas and rural centres within West Berkshire;
  (iv) The concentration of new facilities in areas of waste arisings that have limited existing capacity;
  (v) A hybrid of one of more of the above options.

- Option 2: Do you think there is another strategy that the WBMWDPD could adopt? If so, please explain what you think it should be.

Issue 18: Safeguarding of existing waste sites

4.88. Waste management facilities provide a vital service that all residents and businesses in West Berkshire need. Without the existing, and any planned facilities, the level of demand would have to be met outside the authority area. Whilst it is acknowledged that there will be the cross boundary movement of waste it is considered important that West Berkshire seeks to continue to maintain the existing waste facilities in the authority from other, possibly more lucrative development types that could hinder the ability of West Berkshire to achieve a position of net self sufficiency in waste management capacity.

Options

- Option 1: Should the WBMWDPD safeguard existing permitted permanent waste sites from alternative uses?

- Option 2: Should the WBMWDPD safeguard any proposed preferred areas for waste identified in the plan from alternative uses?

- Option 3: Should the WBMWDPD identify and safeguard existing industrial areas that could provide additional waste management capacity within the existing permitted industrial areas?

- Option 4: Are there any particular types of waste management facility that you consider should have a greater level of protection than others?

Issue 19: New technologies

4.90. There are currently a range of different waste management technologies that are utilised by operators managing the waste arisings. In addition there have been significant advances in the field of waste management in the past few years such that technologies and there is no sign that this trend will change.

4.91. This puts the planning authority in a complicated position in that it is clearly impossible to plan for emerging or unknown waste management technologies. This could be resolved by maintaining as much flexibility as possible within the policies for site identification, the protection of the environment and other factors.

4.92. In addition to seeing the development of new technologies West Berkshire has seen the development of industrial facilities that seek to re-use waste materials, such as furniture repair projects, as well as the development of industries that either prepares collected waste for re-use or the manufacture of processed waste to create new products.

Options

- Option 1: Should the WBMWDPD adopt general policies for site allocations and the control of development that allow a range of technologies to come forward in a given location?

- Option 2: Should the WBMWDPD adopt policies for site allocations and the control of development that specify where particular technologies or types of facility would be acceptable?

- Option 3: Should the WBMWDPD include policies to support the development of the waste re/processing or recyclate industry?

- Option 4: Do you think there is another strategy that the WBMWDPD could adopt? If so, please explain what you think it should be.

Issue 20: Facilities in the AONB

4.93. Approximately 74% of West Berkshire is located within the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). This landscape is identified in the NPPF as having the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty. The NPPF is also clear that great weight should be given to the conservation of landscapes such as the AONB and the NPPF sets out a presumption against major developments in such designated areas.

4.94. However given that a significant proportion of West Berkshire is within the AONB and therefore a proportion of the population live and work in this sensitive area there is

clearly a volume of waste that arises within the AONB that needs to be managed at appropriately waste management facilities.

4.95. At present there are a small number of temporary waste management facilities located in the AONB at sites that have linkages to existing or historic mineral extraction. There are also a small number of specialist waste facilities located at Lambourn Woodlands.

Options

- Option 1: Should small scale waste management facilities, that meet an identified local, need be allowed in the AONB?

- Option 2: Should large scale strategic waste management facilities be allowed in the AONB?

- Option 3: Should all waste management operations, with the possible exception of inert landfilling where necessary to facilitate the restoration of any mineral extraction permitted within the AONB (depending on the outcome of the mineral issues outlined above) be excluded from the AONB?

- Option 4: Do you think there is another strategy that the WBMWDPD could adopt? If so please explain what you think it should be.

Issue 21: Equine waste

4.96. The West Berkshire Core Strategy recognises that equestrian activities and related development, and the racehorse breeding and training industry are characteristic features of West Berkshire, with the North Wessex Downs AONB home to around 10% of Britain's racehorse trainers (a survey for the study included 55 trainers, suggesting about 550 in Britain in total) and the Lambourn area a nationally important centre of activity for the horseracing industry[6].

4.97. Therefore West Berkshire considers that it is pertinent to consider the potential for the need for facilities to manage equine waste arisings in West Berkshire.

4.98. The Surrey Horse Pasture Management Project (Surrey County Council being the first in Britain to set up an advisory service on land management for horse keeper resulting in a ten year pilot project) in its section on Manure storage and disposal advice states "An average horse will produce 20.4 kilos (or 45 pounds) of manure each day, equating to 7.5 tonnes annually This quantity does not include the addition of soiled stable bedding material".

4.99. Whilst the number of horses in West Berkshire is not known work undertaken by the British Horse Industry Confederation[7] and the National Equine Database [8] suggests that the number of horses in West Berkshire could range between 2615 – 7041. Based on the figure of 7.5 tonnes of waste produced by a horse each year and the presence of 7041 horses in West Berkshire then this would result in the creation of almost 53,000 tonnes of horse manure generated in West Berkshire each year.

[6] A study of the key effects of the horseracing industry on the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty', March 2007, prepared by Kirkham Landscape Planning Consultants, the University of Ready, and Smiths Gore

[7] BHIC Briefing – Size and Scope of the Equine Sector;, 1st October 2009, (http://www.bhic.co.uk/downloads/sizescope.pdf

[8] Research article 'Summary of current knowledge of the size and spatial distribution of the horse population within Great Britain', L.A. Boden et. al., 4th April 2012 (http://www.biomedcentral.com/1746-6148/8/43)

4.100. However DEFRA's website[9] indicates that in the UK, horse manure, while subject to certain controls, is not considered waste if all of the following apply:

- "it is used as soil fertiliser,
- that use is part of a lawful practice of spreading on clearly identified parcels of land,
- its storage is limited to the needs of those spreading operations to be carried out on agricultural holdings, whether yours or another's".

4.101. Therefore it is considered likely that only a proportion of the estimated horse manure arising in West Berkshire may be considered as waste.

Options

- Option 1: Do you think that West Berkshire needs more waste management capacity to deal with equine waste?

- Option 2: Do you agree that facilities to manage equine waste should be located near to the waste arisings, accepting that this may mean waste facilities in the AONB?

- Option 3: Do you think that the management of equine waste is:

(i) a strategic matter, or should

(ii) criteria based polices be devised to be used to consider any forthcoming applications?

Issue 22: Sewage Waste

4.105. Sewage sludge is a natural by-product of the wastewater treatment process, and with a general growth in population and housing anticipated it is relevant to consider sewage sludge in this appraisal.

4.106. Thames Water is the private utility company which is responsible for wastewater treatment within the West Berkshire area. However published data is generally for whole of the Thames Water supply area and is generally not disaggregated to specific sites or areas. The Thames Water supply area covers West Berkshire but also completely around West Berkshire to the west, north, east and south, and also many London borough. Therefore it is assumed that sewage sludge management in West Berkshire will be consistent with Thames Water's overall approach.

4.107. Thames Water sewage treatment works now produce more sewage sludge than they did in the past because of improved wastewater treatment standards and an increasing population and Thames Water expects that to continue. In 2009, Thames Water produced 265,682 tonnes of dry solids, with 100 per cent of that put to beneficial use, with none to landfill. Most of that sludge, i.e. 56 per cent, as indicated in the following table, was treated and recycled to agricultural land as biosolids in order to provide soils.

4.108. Sewage sludge also has a high calorific content that is used to generate electricity, via two methods:

- In 'thermal destruction with energy recovery', sewage sludge – the solid content of the sewage – is dried into blocks of 'cake' and burned to generate power.
- Methane derived from sewage sludge is burned to create heat, which in turn generates power. This is known as 'anaerobic digestion followed by CHP (combined heat and power)'.

[9] www.gov.uk/keeping-horses-on-farms

4.109. Thames Water's 25-year Sludge Strategy, published in December 2008, provided the framework for its sludge investment proposals. During the period 2010 – 15, Thames Water is investing in increasing its sludge processing capacity and in new enhanced digestion technology. That technology will maximise energy recovery and lessen the quantity of sludge Thames Water needs to recycle by reducing the amount of solids within it, though where there is suitable land available, recycling to land remains Thames Water's favoured option.

4.110. Hence as Thames Water expects more sewage sludge there may be some sludge management related future development at Thames Water wastewater treatment sites within West Berkshire, and Thames Water plans to invest nearly £4.9bn across its region from 2010 to 2015, though its website which lists key projects does not refer to a specific sludge management project in Berkshire[10] in that period. There is no readily available data with which to estimate the specific quantity of sewage sludge which may arise in West Berkshire or be managed and disposed in West Berkshire, though the from the available information the expectation is that will align with Thames Water's overall approach.

Options

- Option 1: Do you think that West Berkshire needs more waste management capacity to deal with sewerage?

- Option 2: Do you agree that sewerage facilities should be located near to the waste arisings, accepting that this may mean developing new waste facilities or expanding existing facilities in sensitive areas such as the AONB?

- Option 3: Do you think that the management of sewerage is:

  (i) a strategic matter, or should

  (ii) criteria based polices be used to consider any forthcoming applications?

Issue 23: Radioactive Waste arisings

4.111. Located in West Berkshire are the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) sites Aldermaston and Burghfield, which undertake research and development, design, manufacturing, servicing and decommissioning of nuclear warheads. As those are particular sites with potential sources of low level radioactive waste it is relevant to consider them in this appraisal, though wastes from Burghfield are included with those from Aldermaston, from where radioactive waste storage and disposal is co-ordinated.

4.112. The 2010 UK Radioactive Waste Inventory: Main Report produced for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) and the Department of Energy & Climate Change (DECC) includes lists of radioactive waste streams, and for AWE Aldermaston (Burghfield is not listed separately) that report lists Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) as 4,630m3, and Low Level Waste (LLW) as 998m3 at 1st April 2010, though the packaged volumes are 4,730m3 and 41,900m3 respectively.

4.113. The LLW Repository Ltd. Report UK Management of Solid Low Level Radioactive Waste from the Nuclear Industry: Low Level Waste Strategic Review, March 2011, also provides an indication of the source of the LLW waste arisings which may arise from Aldermaston. It refers to the AWE Integrated Waste Strategy (IWS) and states:

[10] http://secure.thameswater.co.uk/dynamic/cps/rde/xchg/corp/hs.xsl/13480.htm

"Figure 4 in Section 4.3 of the AWE's IWS provides an indication of LLW arisings:

- Legacy (Pre 2010) – approx. 200m3
- Operational (2010 – 2038) – approx. 5,500m3
- Decommissioning (2010 -2060) – approx. 8,000m3

(Note: waste volumes are indicative and taken from bar chart)"

4.114. And also that: "Radioactive waste arises from historic and current site operations. Legacy wastes from historic operations are also accumulated onsite. The IWS notes that increased waste volumes are expected during decommissioning".

4.115. The Low Level Waste Strategic Review, March 2011, also provides some details regarding potentially contaminated land arisings, which its Figure 23 'Total Potentially Contaminated Land Arisings from 2010-2120 (M3)' for Aldermaston it indicates is 109,750m3, representing <1% of the total identified throughout the UK, 99% being in the North West. However it also states that for Aldermaston (and another site in the North West) that is based on limited analysis and further investigation work is foreseen during 2010/11 after building decommissioning work at the Aldermaston site. At present though there is no readily available updated data.

4.116. In essence there are two levels of radioactive waste arisings that normally need to be considered in the development of a waste development plan document, these are low level radioactive waste (LLW) and very low level radioactive waste (VLLW). The rationale behind the importance of planning for these arisings primarily surrounds the fact that he volumes of VLLW and LLW arisings are greater that the higher level radioactive waste arisings. In West Berkshire the principal generator of LLW, VLLW and indeed other, higher level radioactive waste, is the Aldermaston Weapons Research Establishment. There are clearly volumes of Intermediate Level Radioactive waste (ILW), Low Level Radioactive waste (LLW) and Very Low Level Radioactive waste (VLLW) arising in West Berkshire, principally at the AWE sites but small volumes are also likely to be generated from other commercial activities.

4.117. However due to the limited volumes of material produced, and the specialist nature of radioactive waste and the need to manage it in accordance with strict protocols, it may not be economically viable to deliver new facilities that manage solely waste arising within West Berkshire.

Options

- Option 1: Should the WBMWDPD plan for the management of VLLW arising within West Berkshire to be managed in West Berkshire?
- Option 2: Should the WBMWDPD plan for the management of LLW arising within West Berkshire to be managed in West Berkshire?
- Option 3: Should the WBMWDPD plan for the management of ILW arising within West Berkshire to be managed in West Berkshire?
- Option 4: Should the WBMWDPD plan for a strategic VLLW facility accepting that this would mean that LLRW could be imported into West Berkshire for management?
- Option 5: Should the WBMWDPD plan for a strategic LLW facility accepting that this would mean that LLRW could be imported into West Berkshire for management?
- Option 6: Should the WBMWDPD plan for a strategic ILW facility accepting that this would mean that LLRW could be imported into West Berkshire for management?
- Option 7: Should criteria based policies be included to allow the consideration of any future applications to manage Radioactive waste?

- Option 8: Is there another strategy that the WBMWDPD could take in respect of managing radioactive waste?

Issue 24: Management of London's Waste

4.120. West Berkshire is known to both import and export large volumes of waste and some of the waste imported and exported travels significant distances. The South East Plan, which was revoked 2013 contained a policy that required the waste planning authorities in the South East to provide landfill capacity to meet the needs of the capital.

4.121. Whilst this policy is no longer extant it is considered prudent to consider whether there has been any significant imports of waste from London into West Berkshire in recent years and whether such a trend can or should continue.

4.122. The waste data interrogator database from the Environment Agency gives an indication of waste flows in and out of West Berkshire and having considered these databases for 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 waste from London is only recorded as being managed in West Berkshire in 2008, equating to about 2.9% of the total amount of waste recorded as being managed in West Berkshire that year.

4.123. West Berkshire currently has no permitted non inert landfill capacity and very small volumes of non inert waste treatment or recovery capacity so it is not overly surprising that the volumes of waste arising in London and managed in West Berkshire are small. There are no rail served sites that could receive waste imported by rail (and the freight capacity on the rail network is understood to be limited).

4.124. However it is understood that a small volume (circa 7000 tonnes per annum) of green waste is currently being imported into West Berkshire for processing (in 2012 – 13).

Options

- Option 1: Should the WBMWDPD plan for any waste from London to be managed at facilities in West Berkshire?

- Option 2: Should the WBMWDPD plan for any waste from London to be disposed of to land in West Berkshire?

Issue 25: Re-working old landfill sites

4.126. West Berkshire has a relatively large number of former landfill sites that have been infilled and restored back to a variety of land uses. However the material that has been deposited in the ground includes valuable materials and the re-working of landfill sites to recover such discarded material has been cited as a potential method to reclaim the value stored in old landfill sites.

4.127. The reworking of former landfill sites can result in the generation of energy (through the recovery of energy from the removed waste) the recovery and sale of excavated materials and the increase of landfill capacity through the creation of new void space by excavating the deposited waste. The potential for the landfill sites in West Berkshire to be re-worked is currently an unknown and considerable work would need to be undertaken to ascertain the "value" of the sites in West Berkshire.

4.128. The WBWMLP is aiming to be a forward thinking as possible and as there is a potential for this type of operation to come forward it is considered prudent to determine whether the WBMWDPD should address this issue in more detail.

Options

- Option 1: Should the WBMWDPD provide a strategic policy position on the re-working of former landfill sites?

- Option 2: Should the WBMWDPD provide development management policies that relate to the potential for applications to come forward for the re-working of former landfill sites?

Issue 26. – Any other issue?

4.129. This report has covered a range of issues related to minerals and waste development in West Berkshire including where new development should be located, how development should be managed, delivered and monitored. This final issue provides an opportunity for any other comments or issues that have not been covered in the report to be raised.

Question

- Are there any other comments or issues that you consider need to be addressed in the WBMWDPD?

Issue 27: Call for Sites

4.132. In preparation for the next stage of the plan-making process, which will include the assessment of sites with potential for new or expanded waste management facilities, West Berkshire Council is inviting site specific proposals to be put forward.

4.133. West Berkshire Council is looking for proposals that are consistent with the spatial vision, strategic objectives and spatial strategy set out in this document.

4.134. In respect of proposals for minerals and waste sites it is expected that sites will be consistent with national guidance contained in the NPPF and PPS10.

5 Stages B3 - Predict the effects of the DPD, and B4 - Evaluate the effects of the DPD

2.17. The issues and options assessed in this IER are not necessarily exactly the same as the final version of the Issues and Options consultation document. This is due to the IER being finalised prior to the completion of the Issues and Options consultation document.

Table 4 – Stages B3 and B4 Key

Symbol	Likely effect on the SA Objective
++	The option is likely to have a very positive impact
+	The option is likely to have a positive impact
0	Neutral / no clear link
?	Uncertain / insufficient information to determine impact
-	The option is likely to have a negative impact
--	The option is likely to have a very negative impact

Table 5

Issue 1: End date for the West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document									
	1: End date of 2031 in accordance with the guidance in the NPPF.		2: End date of 2025 in accordance with guidance in PPS10.		3: End date of 2026 to coincide with the end date of the West Berkshire Core Strategy.		4: A different period / end date.		5. Business as usual	
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	?	Not clear whether this end date would have a positive or negative impact.	?	Not clear whether this end date would have a positive or negative impact.	?	Not clear whether this end date would have a positive or negative impact.	?	Uncertain as end date unspecified	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	?	Not clear whether this end date would have a positive or negative impact.	?	Not clear whether this end date would have a positive or negative impact.	?	Not clear whether this end date would have a positive or negative impact.	?	Uncertain as end date unspecified	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
3) To minimise	?	Not clear whether this end date would	?	Not clear whether this	?	Not clear whether this	?	Uncertain as end date	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and

the risk and impact of flooding		have a positive or negative impact.		end date would have a positive or negative impact.		end date would have a positive or negative impact.		unspecified		site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	?	Not clear whether this end date would have a positive or negative impact.	?	Not clear whether this end date would have a positive or negative impact.	?	Not clear whether this end date would have a positive or negative impact.	?	Uncertain as end date unspecified	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	?	Not clear whether this end date would have a positive or negative impact.	?	Not clear whether this end date would have a positive or negative impact.	?	Not clear whether this end date would have a positive or negative impact.	?	Uncertain as end date unspecified	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	?	Not clear whether this end date would have a positive or negative impact.	?	Not clear whether this end date would have a positive or negative impact.	?	Not clear whether this end date would have a positive or negative impact.	?	Uncertain as end date unspecified	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	?	Not clear whether this end date would have a positive or negative impact.	?	Not clear whether this end date would have a positive or negative impact.	?	Not clear whether this end date would have a positive or negative impact.	?	Uncertain as end date unspecified	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	?	Not clear whether this end date would have a positive or negative impact.	?	Not clear whether this end date would have a positive or negative impact.	?	Not clear whether this end date would have a positive or negative impact.	?	Uncertain as end date unspecified	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the reuse, recovery and recycling of waste.	?	Not clear whether this end date would have a positive or negative impact.	?	Not clear whether this end date would have a positive or negative impact.	?	Not clear whether this end date would have a positive or negative impact.	?	Uncertain as end date unspecified	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.

10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	?	Not clear whether this end date would have a positive or negative impact.	?	Not clear whether this end date would have a positive or negative impact.	?	Not clear whether this end date would have a positive or negative impact.	?	Uncertain as end date unspecified	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	?	Not clear whether this end date would have a positive or negative impact.	?	Not clear whether this end date would have a positive or negative impact.	?	Not clear whether this end date would have a positive or negative impact.	?	Uncertain as end date unspecified	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development	?	Not clear whether this end date would have a positive or negative impact.	?	Not clear whether this end date would have a positive or negative impact.	?	Not clear whether this end date would have a positive or negative impact.	?	Uncertain as end date unspecified	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
13) To minimise public nuisance from waste treatment and disposal, and from access to and from facilities.	?	Not clear whether this end date would have a positive or negative impact.	?	Not clear whether this end date would have a positive or negative impact.	?	Not clear whether this end date would have a positive or negative impact.	?	Uncertain as end date unspecified	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
14) To minimise public nuisance from minerals development and associated activities including transportation.	?	Not clear whether this end date would have a positive or negative impact.	?	Not clear whether this end date would have a positive or negative impact.	?	Not clear whether this end date would have a positive or negative impact.	?	Uncertain as end date unspecified	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
15) To support opportunities for economic	?	Not clear whether this end date would have a positive or negative impact.	?	Not clear whether this end date would have a positive or negative	?	Not clear whether this end date would have a positive or negative	?	Uncertain as end date unspecified	?	Dependant on implementation - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating and therefore do not

development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities.				impact.		impact.				provide the certainty that an up to date development plan would.

Comments:

It is difficult to predict whether the WBMWDPD with particular end-dates (i.e. option 1 - 2031, option 2 - 2025, option 3 - 2026, or option 4 - another end date) would have a positive or negative impact on the sustainability objectives. The view could be taken that it would be beneficial for the objectives to plan as far into the future as possible, however an alternative way of thinking is that a shorter plan period means that where the plan requires updating or amending to reflect changes in legislation, policy or technology for example, this could be done more quickly. Rather than focusing on the plan period, the content of the DPD in terms of actual policy, and background text is likely to be much more relevant in terms of whether or not sustainability objectives are positively impacted upon.

In terms of not producing a new plan, and continuing with the West Berkshire Core Strategy; and the Saved Policies from the WLPB, the RMLP and the Local Plan as the development plan to regulate minerals and waste development. continuing as the development plan to regulate minerals and waste development (option 5), this is likely to have a negative impact on the sustainability objectives. The WLPB and the RMLPB (incorporating the 2001 alterations), were intended to cover the period to 2006. Although some of the policies from the WLPB and the RMLPB were saved in 2007 under a Direction from the Secretary of State, until such time as they could be replaced by new policies, there have been changes in the way minerals and waste development is managed in England in terms of national policy, sustainability issues, and technology since these policies were drawn up. In terms of the sustainability objectives, it is uncertain what impact option 5 would have largely due to the fact that the type of proposals that come forward throughout the time period cannot be predicted, and therefore their impacts cannot be predicted.

With regard to putting forward methods to maximise potential beneficial effects, and mitigate potential negative effects of the various options on the sustainability objectives, this is an area which will receive due consideration later in the process - at the Preferred Options stage of the SA/SEA, and in the full SA/SEA Environmental Report. Additionally, once the WBMWDPD is adopted, the maximisation of benefits and mitigation of negative impacts are areas which can be beneficially influenced through the development management process on a case by case basis.

Table 6

Issue 2: Future mix of supply of aggregates in West Berkshire												
	1: Should West Berkshire progress with a strategy that relies primarily on meeting the need for aggregates through the extraction of primary minerals extracted from reserves in West Berkshire recognising the wider role that West Berkshire has in supplying minerals to other areas that have fewer resources?		2: Should West Berkshire progress with a strategy that relies primarily on meeting the need for aggregates through the extraction of primary minerals extracted from reserves in West Berkshire but seek to maintain the remaining reserves for the construction and manufacturing industry within West Berkshire?		3: Should West Berkshire progress with a strategy that relies primarily on meeting the need for aggregates through the maximisation of recycled aggregates to reduce the reliance on land won sources?		4: Should West Berkshire progress with a strategy that relies upon on meeting the need for aggregates through a mix of land won primary aggregates, imports of aggregates from other authorities and through the use of recycled aggregates?		5: Do you think there is another strategy that the WBMWDPD could adopt, and if so please explain what you think it should be?		6. Business as usual	
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation	+	Less disturbance to biodiversity and geodiversity	+	Likely to be beneficial for biodiversity and geodiversity	?	Likely to be beneficial for biodiversity and geodiversity	?	Unclear, strategy unknown	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation	+	Less disturbance to water quality and resources	+	Less disturbance to water quality and resources	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation	?	Unclear, strategy unknown	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation	?	Unclear, strategy unknown	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils,	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation	+	Less land will be disturbed as result of less extraction	+	Less land will be disturbed as result of less extraction	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation	?	Unclear, strategy unknown	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a

safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land												negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation	?	Unclear, strategy unknown	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation	?	Unclear, strategy unknown	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	-	Increases transportation - related emissions and local air quality issues	+	Less transportation - related emissions and local air quality issues	?	Less transportation of primary mineral, but more transportation of C, D & E raw and crushed material – related emissions and local air quality issues	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation	?	Unclear, strategy unknown	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	-	Increases transportation - related emissions	+	Less transportation - related emissions	?	Less transportation of primary mineral, but more transportation of C, D & E raw and crushed material – related emissions	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation	?	Unclear, strategy unknown	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to	?	Use of primary resources may mean that less C, D & E waste is recycled	0	No clear link	++	More C, D & E waste recycled	+	More C, D & E waste recycled	?	Unclear, strategy unknown	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as

landfill, and to maximise the reuse, recovery and recycling of waste.												the current development plan policies require updating.
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	-	It is likely that minerals and waste will be transported by road in West Berks	+	Minerals only transported locally	?	Less transportation of primary mineral, but more transportation of C, D & E raw and crushed material - likely that minerals and waste will be transported by road in West Berks	+	A combination of primary and recycled aggregate production, as well as hard rock imported by rail will be positive for this objective	?	Unclear, strategy unknown	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	-	Relies primarily on primary resources	+	Only supplying minerals locally so less extraction	++	Reliance on recycled aggregates mean less pressure on primary aggregates	+	A combination of primary and recycled aggregate production, as well as hard rock imported by rail will be positive for this objective	?	Unclear, strategy unknown	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation	+	Only supplying minerals locally so less extraction, meaning less land disturbed	+	Reliance on recycled aggregates mean less extraction, meaning less land disturbed	+	A combination of primary and recycled aggregate production, as well as hard rock imported by rail will limit the amount of primary extraction, limiting land disturbed by mineral extraction.	?	Unclear, strategy unknown	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
13) To minimise public nuisance from waste treatment and disposal, and from access to and from facilities.	?	Potentially less impacts from C, D & E recycling, however may be counter-balanced by more primary mineral extraction	0	No clear link	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation	+	A combination of primary and recycled aggregate production, as well as hard rock imported by rail will limit the amount of recycled aggregate production, limiting the	?	Unclear, strategy unknown	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current

								negative impact from this				development plan policies require updating.
14) To minimise public nuisance from minerals development and associated activities including transportation.	-	Increases transportation - it is likely that minerals will be transported by road in West Berks	+	Only supplying minerals locally so less extraction; minerals only transported locally	?	Potentially less impacts from primary mineral extraction, however may be counter-balanced by more C, D & E recycling	+	A combination of primary and recycled aggregate production, as well as hard rock imported by rail will limit the amount of primary extraction, limiting public nuisance	?	Unclear, strategy unknown	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
15) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities.	?	Potentially more jobs through primary extraction but less through C, D & E recycling	-	Less mineral extraction potentially leads to less employment in that sector	?	Potentially more jobs through C, D & E recycling but less through primary extraction	+	A combination of primary and recycled aggregate production, as well as hard rock imported by rail should be beneficial for the economy and job market	?	Unclear, strategy unknown	?	Dependant on implementation - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating and therefore do not provide the certainty that an up to date development plan would.

Comment

It was uncertain whether a lot of the objectives would be impacted upon either positively or negatively by all 6 of the options, hence the '?' symbols. For example, with regard to enhancing biodiversity and geodiversity, and water quality and resources, it is possible that with a quality working scheme and sympathetic restoration the impacts could be positive in the long term. However, in the short term the impact could be negative, and also if the restoration was not carried out to a suitably high standard, the impact could be detrimental in the long term. Similarly in terms of minimising flooding, the resultant void, or lowering of levels from mineral extraction could provide capacity for floodwater in a flood situation. However, if the restoration of the site involves infilling the void with clay-material there could be a negative impact in this respect. In the same way the other '?' symbols indicate that depending on site specifics, planning conditions, and the individual working/restoration schemes the impact could be either positive or negative.

Option 1, would encourage the extraction of primary minerals, recognising the wider role West Berkshire has to play in supplying other MPA areas. Despite bringing likely economic benefit this option appears to be the least sustainable, receiving 5 '-' symbols. This is primarily due to the resultant nuisance and carbon emissions from the extraction and transportation of the primary mineral.

Option 2 focuses on the provision of aggregate primarily for use within West Berkshire and receives 9 '+' symbols. Under this option less extraction would be taking place so less land would be disturbed therefore impact positively on biodiversity and geodiversity, and water quality and resources, and the protection of quality agricultural land. In terms of amenity impacts and sustainable transport issues this option would have positive impacts. In relation to economic development, this option is likely to have negative impact.

Option 3 relies on encouraging the production of recycled aggregate, thereby reducing the reliance on land-won sources. There are 4 '+', and 2 '++' symbols associated with this option. There are likely to be very positive impacts ('++') on objectives related to sustainable waste management, and the conservation of mineral resources. Under this option less extraction would be taking place so less land would be disturbed therefore impact positively on biodiversity and geodiversity, and water quality and resources, and the protection of quality agricultural land. Although this would reduce the impact of quarry traffic, there may be increased negative impact from transportation of processes and unprocessed C, D & E waste. It was unclear what impacts this option would have in economic terms as jobs may be lost in the primary extraction industry but may be created in the recycled aggregate industry.

Option 2 or 3 are likely to be the most positive in terms of impacts on the sustainable objectives.

Option 4 is a combination of different types of aggregate provision and in regard to the objectives there are 7 '+' symbols and no '-' symbols. It appears that in sustainability terms this option may be less beneficial than options 2 or 3, however for practical reasons it may be that option 4 is preferable.

Option 5 poses the question of whether there is another strategy that could be adopted in respect of aggregate provision. As the strategy is not specified it is 'uncertain' what the impacts on the objectives would be.

In terms of not producing a new plan, and continuing with the West Berkshire Core Strategy; and the Saved Policies from the WLPB, the RMLP and the Local Plan as the development plan to regulate minerals and waste development (option 6), this is likely to have a negative impact on the sustainability objectives. This is because there have been changes in the way minerals and waste development is managed in England in terms of national policy, sustainability issues, and technology since these policies were drawn up. In terms of the sustainability objectives, it is uncertain what impact option 6 would have largely due to the fact that the type of proposals that come forward cannot be predicted, and therefore their impacts cannot be predicted.

With regard to putting forward methods to maximise potential beneficial effects, and mitigate potential negative effects of the various options on the sustainability objectives, this is an area which will receive due consideration later in the process - at the Preferred Options stage of the SA/SEA, and in the full SA/SEA Environmental Report. Additionally, once the WBMWDPD is adopted, the maximisation of benefits and mitigation of negative impacts are areas which can be beneficially influenced through the development management process on a case by case basis.

Table 7

Issue 3: Extraction of sharp sand and gravel from within the AONB								
	1: Should West Berkshire progress with a strategy that seek to meet the need for sharp sand and gravel from sites outside the AONB, recognising that the viable reserves in this area have already been heavily exploited such that more constrained or sensitive sites may have to be worked or that the level of aggregates that can be produced in West Berkshire may have to be limited?		2: Should West Berkshire progress with a strategy that seeks to meet the need for sharp sand and gravel from sites both outside and within the AONB. This assumes that the WBMWDPD would identify a strategic area / areas or sites within the AONB where the extraction of sharp sand and gravel could be permissible?		3: Do you think there is another strategy that the WBMWDPD could adopt, and if so please explain what you think it should be?		4. Business as usual	
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	?	Short term negative impacts, however dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics there could be long term positive impact	?	Short term negative impacts, however dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics there could be long term neutral/positive impact	?	Uncertain, strategy not identified	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation - dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation - dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics	?	Uncertain, strategy not identified	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation - dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation - dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics	?	Uncertain, strategy not identified	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation - dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation - dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics	?	Uncertain, strategy not identified	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological	+	The AONB is a valued aspect of the historical environment and it would be protected	-	The AONB is a valued aspect of the historical environment and it would be exploited for mineral	?	Uncertain, strategy not identified	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.

importance								
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	+	The AONB has valued landscape characteristics and it would be protected	-	The AONB has valued landscape characteristics and it would be detrimentally affected by mineral extraction	?	Uncertain, strategy not identified	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation - dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation - dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics	?	Uncertain, strategy not identified	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on site specifics	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on site specifics	?	Uncertain, strategy not identified	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the reuse, recovery and recycling of waste.	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	?	Uncertain, strategy not identified	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, site specifics, whether there will be infilling as part of the restoration - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation - site specifics	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation - site specifics	?	Uncertain, strategy not identified	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and	?	Uncertain – less extraction in AONB, however allowing extraction from outside AONB may discourage C, D and E recycling	?	Uncertain – potentially more extraction in AONB, and extraction outside AONB would discourage C, D & E recycling	?	Uncertain, strategy not identified	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.

appropriate								
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development	+	Open space in AONB protected	-	Open space in AONB not fully protected	?	Uncertain, strategy not identified	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
13) To minimise public nuisance from waste treatment and disposal, and from access to and from facilities.	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	?	Uncertain, strategy not identified	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
14) To minimise public nuisance from minerals development and associated activities including transportation.	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation - dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation - dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics	?	Uncertain, strategy not identified	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
15) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities.	-	Not allowing extraction in AONB potentially limits job creation	+	Allowing extraction inside and outside AONB maximising job creation potential	?	Uncertain, strategy not identified	?	Dependant on implementation - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating and therefore do not provide the certainty that an up to date development plan would.

Comment:

As can be seen in the matrix above, whether the options would result in a positive or negative impact on the objectives is dependant on implementation. For example, with regard to enhancing biodiversity and geodiversity, and water quality and resources, it is possible that with a quality working scheme and sympathetic restoration the impacts could be positive in the long term. However, in the short term the impact could be negative, and also if the restoration was not carried out to a suitably high standard, the impact could be detrimental in the long term. Similarly in terms of minimising flooding, the resultant void, or lowering of levels from mineral extraction could provide capacity for floodwater in a flood situation. However, if the restoration of the site involves infilling the void with clay-material there could be a negative impact in this respect. In the same way the other '?' symbols indicate that depending on site specifics, planning conditions, and the individual working/restoration schemes the impact could be either positive or negative.

Option 1 would discourage extraction of sharp sand and gravel in the AONB and it has 3 '+' symbols and a '-' symbol associated with it. It would likely be positive for protecting the historic environment, the landscape, and open amenity space. It may however, limit employment potential as there is a limited amount of reserves outside the AONB, and it would limit employment potential in the AONB, so it may therefore be negative in economic terms.

Option 2 would allow the extraction of sharp sand and gravel in the AONB and it has 1 '+' symbol 3 '-' symbols associated with it. Conversely to option 1 it would likely be negative for protecting the historic environment, the landscape, and open amenity space. It may however, maximise employment potential as there are reserves in the AONB, so it may be positive in economic terms.

Option 3 poses the question of whether there is another strategy that could be put forward with regard to extraction of sharp sand and gravel in the AONB. As the strategy is unknown, it is 'uncertain' as to what the impacts on the objectives would be.

Option 4 would see the West Berkshire Core Strategy; and the Saved Policies from the WLPB, the RMLP and the Local Plan as the development plan to regulate minerals and waste development. Policies 10 to 14 of the RMLP relate to minerals proposals outside the Preferred Areas. When the RMLP was adopted, it was considered that the Preferred Areas were capable of supplying the levels of provision set out for the Plan period. Therefore outside the Preferred Areas there is a presumption against planning permission being granted. Policy 11 goes further, specifically stating that there will be the strongest presumption against allowing the extraction of sharp sand and gravel from the North Wessex Downs AONB. Out of the 8 Preferred Areas, 6 have been worked, and the other two are not likely to be worked. Policy 10(i) indicates that an exception to the presumption against extracting sand and gravel outside the Preferred Areas could be if there is a need to disturb particular pieces of land in order to maintain levels of production set out in Policy 3 (2.3 mtpa) or the landbank figure set out in Policy 4 (7 years). Another issue is that mineral production in West Berkshire has significantly decreased since the adoption of the RMLP, and therefore the figure in Policy 3 requires updating. Therefore, in order to adequately protect the AONB and to comply with the NPPF it is considered necessary to update the policies. In terms of the sustainability objectives, it is uncertain what impact option 4 would have largely due to the fact that the type of proposals that come forward cannot be predicted, and therefore their impacts cannot be predicted.

In terms of meeting the sustainability objectives, overall option 1 is considered to be the most beneficial.

With regard to putting forward methods to maximise potential beneficial effects, and mitigate potential negative effects of the various options on the sustainability objectives, this is an area which will receive due consideration later in the process - at the Preferred Options stage of the SA/SEA, and in the full SA/SEA Environmental Report. Additionally, once the WBMWDPD is adopted, the maximisation of benefits and mitigation of negative impacts are areas which can be beneficially influenced through the development management process on a case by case basis.

Table 8

Issue 4: Soft Sand										
	1: Should West Berkshire progress with a strategy that seek to meet the need for soft sand from sites outside the AONB, recognising that the availability of viable reserves outside the AONB is limited such that the level of soft sand production in West Berkshire may have to be limited?		2: Should West Berkshire progress with a strategy that seeks to meet the need for soft sand from within the AONB and if you agree with this strategy should the strategy identify a strategic area / areas or sites within the AONB where mineral extraction will be permissible?		3: Should West Berkshire progress with a strategy that seek to meet the need for soft sand from sites outside the AONB but recognise that there may be exceptional local circumstances where extraction of soft sand from within the AONB may be acceptable if, for example, it was to meet an overriding specified local need?		4: Do you think there is another strategy that the WBMWDPD could adopt, and if so please explain what you think it should be?		5. Business as usual	
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	?	Short term negative impacts, however dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics there could be long term neutral/positive impact	?	Short term negative impacts, however dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics there could be long term neutral/positive impact	?	Short term negative impacts, however dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics there could be long term neutral/positive impact	?	Uncertain, strategy not identified	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation - dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation - dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation - dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics	?	Uncertain, strategy not identified	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation - dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation - dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation - dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics	?	Uncertain, strategy not identified	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation - dependant on	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation - dependant on working/restoration	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation - dependant on	?	Uncertain, strategy not identified	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could

		working/restoration schemes, and site specifics		schemes, and site specifics		working/restoration schemes, and site specifics				potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	++	The AONB is a valued aspect of the historical environment and it would be protected from mineral extraction under this option	-	The AONB is a valued aspect of the historical environment and it would be exploited for mineral under this option	+	The AONB is a valued aspect of the historical environment and it would only be exploited for mineral under limited circumstances	?	Uncertain, strategy not identified	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	++	The AONB has valued landscape characteristics and it would be exploited for mineral to a lesser extent under this option	-	The AONB has valued landscape characteristics and it would be more exploited for mineral under this option	+	The AONB has valued landscape characteristics and it would only be exploited for mineral under limited circumstances	?	Uncertain, strategy not identified	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation - dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation - dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation - dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics	?	Uncertain, strategy not identified	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on site specifics	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation - dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation - dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics	?	Uncertain, strategy not identified	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the reuse, recovery and recycling of waste.	?	Uncertain – less extraction in AONB, however allowing extraction from outside AONB may discourage	?	Uncertain – potentially more extraction in AONB, and extraction outside AONB would discourage C, D & E recycling	?	Uncertain – potentially more extraction in AONB, and extraction outside AONB would discourage C, D & E recycling	?	Uncertain, strategy not identified	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, site specifics, whether there will be infilling

		C, D and E recycling								as part of the restoration - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation - site specifics, transport links	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation - site specifics, transport links	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation - site specifics, transport links	?	Uncertain, strategy not identified	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	?	Uncertain – less extraction in AONB, however allowing extraction from outside AONB may discourage C, D and E recycling	?	Uncertain – potentially more extraction in AONB, and extraction outside AONB would discourage C, D & E recycling	?	Uncertain – potentially more extraction in AONB, and extraction outside AONB would discourage C, D & E recycling	?	Uncertain, strategy not identified	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development	++	Open space in AONB protected	-	Open space in AONB at risk	+	Open space in AONB may be compromised only in limited circumstances	?	Uncertain, strategy not identified	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, site specifics, whether there will be infilling as part of the restoration - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
13) To minimise public nuisance from waste treatment and disposal, and from access to and from facilities.	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	?	Uncertain, strategy not identified	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, site specifics, whether there will be infilling as part of the restoration - could potentially have a negative impact as the current

										development plan policies require updating.
14) To minimise public nuisance from minerals development and associated activities including transportation.	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation - site specifics, transport links, planning conditions	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation - site specifics, transport links, planning conditions	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation - site specifics, transport links, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, strategy not identified	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, site specifics, whether there will be infilling as part of the restoration - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
15) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities.	--	Not allowing extraction in AONB potentially limits job creation	++	Allowing extraction in the AONB maximises job creation potential	+	Allowing extraction in the AONB under limited circumstances will be beneficial in terms of the local economy.	?	Uncertain, strategy not identified	?	Dependant on implementation - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating and therefore do not provide the certainty that an up to date development plan would.

Comment:

As can be seen in the matrix above, whether the options would result in a positive or negative impact on the objectives is dependant on implementation. For example, with regard to enhancing biodiversity and geodiversity, and water quality and resources, it is possible that with a quality working scheme and sympathetic restoration the impacts could be positive in the long term. However, in the short term the impact could be negative, and also if the restoration was not carried out to a suitably high standard, the impact could be detrimental in the long term. Similarly in terms of minimising flooding, the resultant void, or lowering of levels from mineral extraction could provide capacity for floodwater in a flood situation. However, if the restoration of the site involves infilling the void with clay-material there could be a negative impact in this respect. In the same way the other '?' symbols indicate that depending on site specifics, planning conditions, and the individual working/restoration schemes the impact could be either positive or negative.

Option 1 would not allow extraction of soft sand from within the AONB, and it is therefore likely to be very positive for protecting the historic environment, the landscape, and open space amenity. It is likely to limit job creation potential so it is likely to be very negative in economic terms

Option 2 would allow extraction of soft sand from within the AONB, and it is therefore likely to be very negative for protecting the historic environment, the landscape, and open space amenity. It is likely to create jobs so it is likely to be very positive in economic terms.

Option 3 would seek to have the extraction of soft sand from outside the AONB, however if there were exceptional local circumstances the soft sand could be extracted on a small scale. This is considered likely to be positive for the historic environment, the landscape, open space amenity, and in economic terms.

Option 4 asks the question of whether there is another strategy that could be put forward with regard to the extraction of soft sand. As the strategy is unknown, it is 'uncertain' as to what the impacts on the objectives would be.

Option 5 would see the West Berkshire Core Strategy; and the Saved Policies from the WLPB, the RMLP and the Local Plan continuing as the development plan to regulate minerals and waste development. Policy 15 of the RMLP indicates that LPAs can grant permission for extraction of up to 150,000 tpa from within the AONB, provided that Policies 6, 7, 10, 11 and 13 are given due consideration. RMLP 6 and 7 relate to the basic principles for considering planning applications, and the assessment of environmental impacts in relation to sand and gravel sites. Policies 10, 11 and 13 relate to minerals proposals outside the Preferred Areas. RMLP 15 was written prior to AONBs being given the same level of landscape protection status as the National Park designation. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW Act 2000) introduced new measures for the protection of AONBs in line with those provided to National Parks by the Environment Act 1995.

The NPPF would not be supportive of RMLP 15 in the context of granting permission for the extraction of 150,000 tonnes of building sand per year from the AONB. Para 144 states that when determining planning applications LPAs should:

"… as far as is practical, provide for the maintenance of landbanks of nonenergy minerals from outside National Parks, the Broads, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and World Heritage sites, Scheduled Monuments and Conservation Areas;"

This policy conflicts with the NPPF specifically in regard to considering the acceptability of mineral extraction in the AONB. Therefore, in order to adequately protect the AONB and to comply with the NPPF it is considered necessary to update the policies. In terms of the sustainability objectives, it is uncertain what impact option 5 would have largely due to the fact that the type of proposals that come forward cannot be predicted, and therefore their impacts cannot be predicted.

Options 1 or 3 are considered likely to be the most beneficial for the sustainability objectives. Option 1 is very negative in economic terms but very positive in other respects, while option 3 is positive in all these respects. Option 5 appears to conflict with National policy.

With regard to putting forward methods to maximise potential beneficial effects, and mitigate potential negative effects of the various options on the sustainability objectives, this is an area which will receive due consideration later in the process - at the Preferred Options stage of the SA/SEA, and in the full SA/SEA Environmental Report. Additionally, once the WBMWDPD is adopted, the maximisation of benefits and mitigation of negative impacts are areas which can be beneficially influenced through the development management process on a case by case basis.

Table 9

Issue 5: Safeguarding of minerals												
	1: Should West Berkshire identify mineral safeguarding areas around potentially viable deposits of aggregates and if so should a buffer applied around the deposits (assumed answer yes)?		2: Should West Berkshire identify mineral safeguarding areas around active mineral workings as well as any preferred areas for mineral extraction identified in the WBMWDPD (assumed answer yes)?		3: Do you agree with the circumstances when surface development might be allowed over in-situ mineral deposits?		4: Are there any other considerations that should be taken into account in safeguarding known mineral deposits?		5: Are there any other mineral deposits, other than aggregate that you think should be safeguarded from other surface development?		6. Business as usual	
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	+	Safeguarding seeks to protect mineral from unnecessary sterilisation through development so this will mean that it is likely that less land is disturbed which would be positive for protecting biodiversity and geodiversity	+	Safeguarding seeks to protect mineral from unnecessary sterilisation through development so this will mean that it is likely that less land is disturbed which would be positive for protecting biodiversity and geodiversity	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	?	Uncertain, unknown considerations	?	Uncertain, unknown considerations	+	Safeguarding seeks to protect mineral from unnecessary sterilisation through development so this will be positive for protecting biodiversity and geodiversity
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	+	Safeguarding seeks to protect mineral from unnecessary sterilisation through development so this will mean that it is likely that less land is disturbed which would be positive for protecting water quality and resources	+	Safeguarding seeks to protect mineral from unnecessary sterilisation through development so this will mean that it is likely that less land is disturbed which would be positive for protecting biodiversity and geodiversity	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	?	Uncertain, unknown considerations	?	Uncertain, unknown considerations	+	Safeguarding seeks to protect mineral from unnecessary sterilisation through development so this will mean that it is likely that less land is disturbed which would be positive for protecting biodiversity and geodiversity
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	?	Uncertain, unknown considerations	?	Uncertain, unknown considerations	0	No clear link
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	+	Safeguarding seeks to protect mineral from unnecessary sterilisation through development, meaning that potentially less land would be disturbed, so this will be positive for protecting quality agricultural land	+	Safeguarding seeks to protect mineral from unnecessary sterilisation through development, meaning that potentially less land would be disturbed, so this will be positive for protecting quality agricultural land	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	?	Uncertain, unknown considerations	?	Uncertain, unknown considerations	+	Safeguarding seeks to protect mineral from unnecessary sterilisation through development, meaning that potentially less land would be disturbed, so this will be positive for

												protecting quality agricultural land
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	+	Safeguarding seeks to protect mineral from unnecessary sterilisation through development meaning that potentially less land would be disturbed, so this will be positive for this objective	+	Safeguarding seeks to protect mineral from unnecessary sterilisation through development meaning that potentially less land would be disturbed, so this will be positive for this objective	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	?	Uncertain, unknown considerations	?	Uncertain, unknown considerations	+	Safeguarding seeks to protect mineral from unnecessary sterilisation through development meaning that potentially less land would be disturbed, so this will be positive for this objective
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	+	Safeguarding seeks to protect mineral from unnecessary sterilisation through development meaning that potentially less land would be disturbed so this will be positive for this objective	+	Safeguarding seeks to protect mineral from unnecessary sterilisation through development meaning that potentially less land would be disturbed so this will be positive for this objective	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	?	Uncertain, unknown considerations	?	Uncertain, unknown considerations	+	Safeguarding seeks to protect mineral from unnecessary sterilisation through development meaning that potentially less land would be disturbed so this will be positive for this objective
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	?	Uncertain, unknown considerations	?	Uncertain, unknown considerations	0	No clear link
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	?	Uncertain, unknown considerations	?	Uncertain, unknown considerations	0	No clear link
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the reuse, recovery and recycling of waste.	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	?	Uncertain, unknown considerations	?	Uncertain, unknown considerations	0	No clear link
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	?	Uncertain, unknown considerations	?	Uncertain, unknown considerations	0	No clear link
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where	++	Safeguarding seeks to protect mineral from unnecessary sterilisation through development so this will be positive for this objective	++	Safeguarding seeks to protect mineral from unnecessary sterilisation through development so this	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	?	Uncertain, unknown considerations	?	Uncertain, unknown considerations	++	Safeguarding seeks to protect mineral from unnecessary sterilisation through

possible and appropriate				will be positive for this objective								development so this will be positive for this objective
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development.	+	Safeguarding seeks to protect mineral from unnecessary sterilisation through development so this will be positive for this objective as development in open space will be discouraged	+	Safeguarding seeks to protect mineral from unnecessary sterilisation through development so this will be positive for this objective as development in open space will be discouraged	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	?	Uncertain, unknown considerations	?	Uncertain, unknown considerations	+	Safeguarding seeks to protect mineral from unnecessary sterilisation through development so this will be positive for this objective as development in open space will be discouraged
13) To minimise public nuisance from waste treatment and disposal, and from access to and from facilities.	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	?	Uncertain, unknown considerations	?	Uncertain, unknown considerations	0	No clear link
14) To minimise public nuisance from minerals development and associated activities including transportation.	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	?	Uncertain, unknown considerations	?	Uncertain, unknown considerations	0	No clear link
15) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities.	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	?	Uncertain, unknown considerations	?	Uncertain, unknown considerations	0	No clear link

Option 1 seeks to safeguard viable deposits, applying a buffer zone around these deposits, while option 2 seeks to safeguard active mineral workings and preferred areas Option 6 would see the West Berkshire Core Strategy; and the Saved Policies from the WLPB, the RMLP and the Local Plan continuing as the development plan to regulate minerals and waste development. The RMLP terms safeguarding as 'husbanding resources', Policy 1 stating that the purpose of this is to prevent their wasteful use or sterilisation. RMLP 2 lists three exceptions where it may be acceptable to sterilise mineral deposits on a site or on land adjacent to that site, namely that the mineral does not (and is not likely to be) of commercial interest; having regard to all planning considerations, there is an overriding case for the development to proceed without prior extraction of minerals, or extraction of the mineral would be subject to such strong environmental (or otherwise) objection that it would never be permitted in any case. RMLP 2A is designed to allow the prior extraction of minerals from a site before more permanent forms of development take place.

Options 1, 2 and 6 all had 1 '++' symbol and 6 '+' symbols associated with them. All three options were considered very positive for conserving mineral resources, and positive for biodiversity and geological diversity, water quality and resources, protection of high quality soils, the historic environment, and landscape. This is due to less land being disturbed by other forms of development as a result of the safeguarding. All these options rank the same in terms of their impacts on the sustainability objectives.

Option 3 poses the question of whether the reader agrees with the current circumstances when surface development might be allowed over in-situ mineral deposits, and it is thought that this consideration in itself has no clear link with these objectives.

Option 4 poses the question of whether there are any other considerations that should be taken into account in safeguarding known mineral deposits. As the considerations aren't specified it is 'uncertain' as to what the impacts on the sustainability objectives would be.

Option 5 poses the question of whether there are any other mineral deposits, other than aggregate that should be safeguarded from other surface development. As the other mineral types aren't specified it is 'uncertain' as to what the impacts on the sustainability objectives would be.

It may be that a number of these objectives can be implemented concurrently to the benefit of sustainability objectives.

With regard to putting forward methods to maximise potential beneficial effects, and mitigate potential negative effects of the various options on the sustainability objectives, this is an area which will receive due consideration later in the process - at the Preferred Options stage of the SA/SEA, and in the full SA/SEA Environmental Report. Additionally, once the WBMWDPD is adopted, the maximisation of benefits and mitigation of negative impacts are areas which

can be beneficially influenced through the development management process on a case by case basis.

Table 10

Issue 6: Existing industrial users of minerals												
	1: Should the WBMWDPD acknowledge the existence of the Beenham Tile Factory through the provision of an identified landbank of aggregates designated solely for use by the Factory (assumes answer is 'yes')?		2: Should the WBMWDPD acknowledge the existence of the Beenham Tile Factory through the consideration of the demand for aggregates in West Berkshire (assumes answer is 'yes')?		3: Should the existence of the Beenham Tile Factory be recognised through a policy approach that supports the use of indigenous primary aggregates within West Berkshire (assumes answer is 'yes')?		4: Should the tile factory be treated the same as any other end user of aggregates in West Berkshire (assumes answer is 'yes')?		5: Do you agree that the existing and any subsequently approved cement batching facilities should be safeguarded from other forms of development (assumes answer is 'yes')?		6. Business as usual	
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions	+	Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning that biodiversity and geodiversity are protected in other areas	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions	+	Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning that water quality/resources is protected in other areas	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions	0	No clear link	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions	+	Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning that high quality agricultural land is protected in other areas	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a

		conditions		conditions								negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions	+	Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning that the historical environment is protected in other areas	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions	+	Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning that the landscape and townscape character are protected in other areas	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions	?	Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, including on air quality (to an extent), however this is changeable depending on weather conditions etc	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the reuse, recovery and recycling of waste.	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link

10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions and transport links	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions and transport links	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions and transport links	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions and transport links	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific planning conditions and transport links	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	?	Provision of landbank would mean that mineral would be extracted and utilised as opposed to being sterilised, however in terms of conserving resources, this may be negative as it may encourage extraction	?	Acknowledging the existence of the Beenham Tile Factory through the consideration of the demand for aggregates would mean that mineral would be extracted and utilised as opposed to being sterilised, however in terms of conserving resources, this may be negative as it may encourage extraction	?	A policy approach that supports the use of indigenous primary aggregates within West Berkshire regarding the Beenham Tile Factory would mean that mineral would be extracted and utilised as opposed to being sterilised, however in terms of conserving resources, this may be negative as it may encourage extraction	?	This policy approach would not involve the provision of a landbank so in terms of conserving resources this may be positive as it could discourage extraction, however the mineral would not be being extracted for use and could potentially be sterilised	0	No clear link	?	In the context of Beenham tile factory, recognising that there is a local need for mineral for the reasons outlined in the RMLP, means that mineral could be extracted and utilised as opposed to being sterilised, however in terms of conserving resources, this may be negative as it may encourage extraction
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development.	-	Provision of landbank would mean that mineral would be extracted, potentially disturbing more land/open space	-	Acknowledging the existence of the Beenham Tile Factory through the consideration of the demand for aggregates would mean that mineral would be extracted potentially disturbing more land/open space	-	A policy approach that supports the use of indigenous primary aggregates within West Berkshire regarding the Beenham Tile Factory would mean that potentially more mineral would be extracted disturbing more land/open space	+	This policy approach would not involve the provision of a landbank so this could discourage extraction, potentially disturbing less land/open space	+	Safeguarding sites may potentially mean less disturbance of land / open space for new facilities in West Berkshire		In the context of Beenham tile factory, recognising that there is a local need for mineral for the reasons outlined in the RMLP means that mineral could be extracted and utilised as opposed to being sterilised, however in terms of conserving resources, this may be negative as it may encourage extraction meaning that mineral would be extracted, potentially disturbing more land/open space
13) To minimise public nuisance	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link

from waste treatment and disposal, and from access to and from facilities.												
14) To minimise public nuisance from minerals development and associated activities including transportation.	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions	+	This policy approach would not involve the provision of a landbank so this could discourage extraction, potentially minimising public nuisance	+	Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning that public nuisance can be minimised in other areas	?	Dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
15) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities.	+	Provision of a landbank would encourage extraction which would be positive for employment	+	Acknowledging the existence of the Beenham Tile Factory through the consideration of the demand for aggregates potentially would encourage extraction which would be positive for employment	+	A policy approach that supports the use of indigenous primary aggregates within West Berkshire regarding the Beenham Tile Factory would mean that potentially more jobs would be created	-	This policy approach would not involve the provision of a landbank so this could discourage extraction, potentially minimising employment potential.	+	Safeguarding of sites will safeguard employment to an extent	+	In the context of the Beenham tile factory, recognising that there is a local need for mineral for the reasons outlined in the RMLP means that mineral could be extracted and utilised as opposed to being sterilised, however in terms of conserving resources, this may be negative as it may encourage extraction meaning that potentially more jobs would be created

Comment:

Option 1 relates to identifying a landbank for the Beenham Tile Factory. It was considered likely that it would positively impact on economic development as it would provide certainty and potential employment, and have a negative impact on maintaining the quality and quantity of open space as it would potentially encourage extraction.

Option 2 would acknowledge the existence of the Beenham Tile Factory in the consideration of the demand for aggregates in West Berkshire. It was also considered likely that it would positively impact on economic development as it would provide certainty and potential employment, and have a negative impact on maintaining the quality and quantity of open space as it would potentially encourage extraction.

Option 3 would recognise the existence of the Beenham Tile Factory through a policy approach supporting indigenous primary aggregate use within West Berkshire. It was also considered likely that it would positively impact on economic development as it would provide certainty and potential employment, and have a negative impact on maintaining the quality and quantity of open space as it would potentially encourage extraction.

Option 4 would mean that the tile factory would be treated the same as any other end user of aggregates in West Berkshire. This is likely to impact positively on maintaining the quality and quantity of public open space amenity, but negatively on economic development as it would not involve the provision of a landbank so this could discourage extraction, potentially minimising employment potential.

Option 5 would see the safeguarding of existing and any subsequently approved cement batching facilities. Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning that other areas are protected. It is considered likely that this option would impact positively on 8 objectives.

Option 6 would see the West Berkshire Core Strategy; and the Saved Policies from the WLPB, the RMLP and the Local Plan continuing as the development plan to regulate minerals and waste development. The RMLP states that it is the responsibility of LPAs to ensure that the market has an adequate supply of minerals, and not to maintain individual operators' supply of raw materials. It is however acknowledged that the circumstances of the Beenham tile factory are different

to that of other general market suppliers for various reasons, and that where permission is being sought for mineral extraction for the purposes of supplying the tile Factory these reasons (outlined in the RMLP) may present an argument in terms of a 'local need'. A landbank dedicated to the Beenham tile factory is not however, currently in place.

Options 1, 2, 3 and 6 appear to be of equal benefit in respect of impacts on the sustainability objectives. Option 4 overall appears to be of equal but different benefit to the objectives in that it may be contrastingly detrimental in economic terms, but then beneficial in respect of maintaining open space. Option 5 is considered likely to impact positively on the sustainability objectives. It may be that a combination of these options can be implemented to the benefit of the sustainability objectives.

With regard to putting forward methods to maximise potential beneficial effects, and mitigate potential negative effects of the various options on the sustainability objectives, this is an area which will receive due consideration later in the process - at the Preferred Options stage of the SA/SEA, and in the full SA/SEA Environmental Report. Additionally, once the WBMWDPD is adopted, the maximisation of benefits and mitigation of negative impacts are areas which can be beneficially influenced through the development management process on a case by case basis.

Table 11

Issue 7: Recycled and secondary aggregates												
	1: Do you agree that recycled aggregates replace primary aggregates, and if so do you agree that they can only replace crushed hard rock?		2: Should the WBMWDPD seek to maximise the production of recycled aggregates production? (It is assumed that the answer to this question is 'yes'.)		3: Do you think sites in the AONB would be appropriate locations for processing recycled and secondary aggregates? (Assumed answer 'yes)		4: Would it be appropriate to identify Preferred Areas for sites to provide any additional processing capacity that may be required? (Assumed answer 'yes')		5: Do you agree that existing and planned facilities that handle process and distribute secondary and recycled aggregates should be safeguarded from other types of development? (Assumed answer is 'yes')		6: Business as usual	
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	+	Positive in that more C, D & E recycling may discourage mineral extraction, leading to less detrimental impact	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation - dependant on site specifics, planning conditions etc	+	Development would be confined to certain areas, protecting biodiversity/geodiversity in other areas	+	Development would be confined to certain areas, protecting biodiversity/geodiversity in other areas. These sites would be safeguarded.	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	+	Positive in that more C, D & E recycling may discourage mineral extraction, leading to less detrimental impact	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation - dependant on site specifics, planning conditions etc	+	Development would be confined to certain suitable areas, protecting water quality and resources	+	Development would be confined to certain suitable areas, protecting water quality and resources. These sites would be safeguarded.	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	?	Dependant on implementation	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation - dependant on site specifics, planning conditions etc	+	Development would be confined to certain suitable areas, minimising risk and impact of flooding	+	Development would be confined to certain suitable areas, minimising risk and impact of flooding. These sites would be safeguarded.	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	+	Positive in that more C, D & E recycling may discourage mineral extraction, leading to less	?	Positive in that more C, D & E recycling may discourage mineral extraction, leading to less disturbance of land. However, use of land for	+	Development would be confined to certain suitable areas, safeguarding the best and most versatile	+	Development would be confined to certain suitable areas, safeguarding the best and most versatile	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative

				disturbance of land		recycling operations may mean that agricultural land is lost		agricultural land		agricultural land. These sites would be safeguarded.		impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	?	Dependant on implementation	-	The AONB is a valued aspect of the historical environment and it is likely to be negatively impacted on by C, D and E recycling operations	+	Development would be confined to certain suitable areas, safeguarding the character of the historical environment	+	Development would be confined to certain suitable areas, safeguarding the character of the historical environment. These sites would be safeguarded.	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	?	Dependant on implementation	-	The AONB has valued landscape characteristics and it is likely to be negatively impacted on by C, D and E recycling operations	+	Development would be confined to certain suitable areas, safeguarding the character of the landscape and townscape	+	Development would be confined to certain suitable areas, safeguarding the character of the landscape and townscape. These sites would be safeguarded.	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	?	Dependant on implementation - site specifics	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation - dependant on working/restoration schemes, and site specifics	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation – site specifics	?	Positive or negative impacts depending on implementation – site specifics	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	?	Dependant on implementation - site specifics	?	Dependant on implementation - site specifics	?	Dependant on implementation - site specifics	?	Dependant on implementation - site specifics	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
9) To ensure the sustainable	0	This consideration in itself	++	Very positive as C,	++	Very positive as C, D & E	++	Very positive as C, D &	++	Very positive as C, D & E	+	The RMLP and

management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the reuse, recovery and recycling of waste.		has no clear link with this objective		D & E recycling encouraged		recycling encouraged		E recycling encouraged through site allocations		recycling encouraged through site allocations. These sites and capacity would be safeguarded		WLPB both encourage recycling
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific issues, proximity to transport links	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific issues, proximity to transport links	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific issues, proximity to transport links	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific issues, proximity to transport links	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific issues, proximity to transport links
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	++	Encouragement of C, D & E recycling may reduce reliance on primary resources	+	Encouragement of C, D & E recycling may reduce reliance on primary resources	++	Encouragement of C, D & E recycling by allocating sites reduces reliance on primary aggregates	++	Encouragement of C, D & E recycling by allocating sites reduces reliance on primary aggregates. These sites and capacity would be safeguarded	+	The RMLP and WLPB both encourage recycling
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development.	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	+	Encouragement of C, D & E recycling may mean greater reliance on primary resources leading to less land / open space being disturbed	-	Open space in AONB not fully protected	+	Development would be confined to certain suitable areas so open space would be protected	+	Development would be confined to certain suitable areas so open space would be protected. These sites and capacity would be safeguarded	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
13) To minimise public nuisance from waste treatment and disposal, and from access to and from facilities.	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific issues – potential negative impacts but can be controlled through conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific issues – potential negative impacts but can be controlled through conditions	+	Development would be confined to certain suitable areas so public nuisance minimised	+	Development would be confined to certain suitable areas so public nuisance minimised. These sites and capacity would be safeguarded	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
14) To minimise public nuisance from minerals development and associated activities including transportation.	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	?	Encouragement of C, D & E recycling may mean greater reliance on primary resources leading to less minerals-related nuisance but potentially more negative impact from recycling	?	Encouragement of C, D & E recycling may mean greater reliance on primary resources leading to less minerals-related nuisance but potentially more negative impact from recycling operations	+	Encouragement of C, D & E recycling by allocating sites reduces reliance on primary aggregates meaning reduced impact from mineral operations	+	Encouragement of C, D & E recycling by allocating sites reduces reliance on primary aggregates meaning reduced impact from mineral operations. These recycling operations would be safeguarded.	?	Encouragement of C, D & E recycling may mean greater reliance on primary resources leading to less minerals-related

				operations								nuisance but potentially more negative impact from recycling operations
15) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities.	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	?	Encouragement of C, D & E recycling may be positive for employment in this sector but negative for mineral extraction.	?	Encouragement of C, D & E recycling may be positive for employment in this sector but negative for mineral extraction.	?	Encouragement of C, D & E recycling may be positive for employment in this sector but negative for mineral extraction	?	Encouragement of C, D & E recycling may be positive for employment in this sector but negative for mineral extraction	?	Encouragement of C, D & E recycling may be positive for employment in this sector but negative for mineral extraction

Comment

Option 1 poses the question of whether the reader agrees that recycled aggregates replace primary aggregates, and if so do they agree that they can only replace crushed hard rock. It was considered that this was a technical question based on the reader's knowledge, and in itself had no clear link with any of the objectives.

Option 2 would seek to maximise the production of recycled aggregates production. This was considered likely to impact positively on 4 objectives and very positively on 2 objectives, these being the sustainable management of waste, and conserving mineral resources/encouraging use of recycled aggregate

Option 3 poses the question of whether the AONB is a suitable place for sites for processing recycled and secondary aggregates. This was considered likely to impact very positively on 1 objective (the sustainable management of waste), positively on 1 objective (conserving mineral resources) and negatively on 3 objectives (historical environment, landscape, open space amenity).

Option 4 proposes identifying preferred areas for recycled and secondary aggregates sites to provide any additional processing capacity. Development would be largely confined to these preferred areas isolating and mitigating harmful impacts, and therefore protecting other areas. It was considered likely that this would impact positively on 9 objectives and very positively on 2 objectives, these being the sustainable management of waste, and conserving mineral resources/encouraging use of recycled aggregate.

Option 5 proposes to safeguard existing and planned facilities that handle process and distribute secondary and recycled aggregates. of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning that other areas are protected. It was considered likely that this would impact positively on 9 objectives and very positively on 2 objectives, these being the sustainable management of waste, and conserving mineral resources/encouraging use of recycled aggregate.

Option 6 would see the West Berkshire Core Strategy; and the Saved Policies from the WLPB, the RMLP and the Local Plan continuing as the development plan to regulate minerals and waste development. RMLP 5 is supportive of the use of secondary and recycled aggregates, stating that aggregate demands in excess of those provided for under RMLP 3 should be met by the use of where possible, secondary and recycled aggregates either produced in or imported into the county. The importance of recycling is stressed throughout the WLPB, and WLPB 26 seeks to avoid recyclable inert waste being disposed of by landfill. It is considered that this option impacts positively on the objective related to the sustainable management of waste, and the conservation of mineral resources/encouragement of use of recycled aggregate. Notwithstanding this, the volume of C, D & E waste being recycled in West Berkshire has increased by a large amount since the WLPB and RMLP were adopted, and recycled aggregate has become recognised as a viable substitute for virgin aggregate in more situations than was previously considered the case. It is uncertain what impact option 6 would have on the majority of the objectives largely due to the fact that the type of proposals that come forward cannot be predicted, and therefore their impacts cannot be predicted.

Options 4 and 5 appear to make the most positive contribution to the objectives, while option 2 would be second in line in terms of positive contributions. Option 3 appears to make the least positive contribution to the sustainability objectives. Option 1 was not considered relevant to the objectives. It is uncertain what impact option 6 would have on the majority of the objectives. It may be that a combination of options 2, 4 and 5 could be implemented to the benefit of the sustainability objectives.

With regard to putting forward methods to maximise potential beneficial effects, and mitigate potential negative effects of the various options on the sustainability objectives, this is an area which will receive due consideration later in the process - at the Preferred Options stage of the SA/SEA, and in the full SA/SEA Environmental Report. Additionally, once the WBMWDPD is adopted, the maximisation of benefits and mitigation of negative impacts are areas which can be beneficially influenced through the development management process on a case by case basis.

Table 12

Issue 8: Movement of aggregates within West Berkshire										
	1: Should West Berkshire progress with a strategy that seeks to rely primarily upon rail based transport for the importation, exportation and within District movement of aggregates? Do you agree further work would be required to deliver such a strategy? (Assumes answer to first question is 'yes' and second question not tested)		2: Should West Berkshire progress with a strategy that seeks to rely primarily upon road based transport for the importation, exportation and within District movement of aggregates? (Assumes answer to first question is 'yes' and second question not tested)		3: Should West Berkshire progress with a strategy that seeks to rely primarily upon water based transport for the importation, exportation and within District movement of aggregates? Do you agree further work would be required to deliver such a strategy? (Assumes answer to first question is 'yes' and second question not tested)		4: Should West Berkshire progress with a strategy that seeks to rely on a mix of road, rail and water based transport for the importation, exportation and within District movement of aggregates that is informed by the distances involved and sustainability of the proposed mode?		5. Business as usual	
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	+	Less carbon emissions will potentially impact positively on some biodiversity	-	More carbon emissions will potentially impact negatively on some biodiversity	++	Less carbon emissions will potentially impact positively on some biodiversity	+	A mix of road, rail and water informed by the distances involved and sustainability of the proposed mode should reduce carbon emissions and impact positively on biodiversity.	?	Dependant on site specifics, transport links - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	?	Potential risk of pollution to watercourses	?	Potential risk of pollution to watercourses	0	No clear link
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	+	Large volumes of traffic and freight vehicles on the road could impact negatively on this objective. Using rail instead of road potentially could have a positive impact in this respect.	-	Large volumes of traffic and freight vehicles on the road could impact negatively on this objective.	+	Large volumes of traffic and freight vehicles on the road could impact negatively on this objective. Using waterways instead of road potentially could have a positive impact in this respect.	+	Large volumes of traffic and freight vehicles on the road could impact negatively on this objective. A mix of different transport	?	Dependant on site specifics, transport links - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies

								methods should have a positive impact in this respect.		require updating.
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	+	Large volumes of traffic and freight vehicles could impact negatively on this objective. Using rail instead of road potentially could have a positive impact in this respect	-	Large volumes of traffic and freight vehicles could impact negatively on this objective.	+	Large volumes of traffic and freight vehicles could impact negatively on this objective. Using waterways instead of road potentially could have a positive impact in this respect.	+	Large volumes of traffic and freight vehicles on the road could impact negatively on this objective. A mix of different transport methods should have a positive impact in this respect.	?	Dependant on site specifics, transport links - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	+	Less carbon emissions will impact positively on air quality	-	More carbon emissions will impact negatively on air quality	++	Less carbon emissions will impact positively on air quality	+	A mix of road, rail and water informed by the distances involved and sustainability of the proposed mode should reduce carbon emissions impacting positively on air quality	?	Dependant on site specifics, transport links - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	+	Transport by rail will use less fuel per tonne of aggregate when compared to road so this will impact positively on this objective.	-	Transport by road will use more fuel than by rail or water per tonne of aggregate so this will impact negatively on this objective.	++	It is assumed that transport by waterway would potentially use less fuel than by rail or road per tonne of aggregate so this will impact positively on this objective.	+	A mix of road, rail and water informed by the distances involved and sustainability of the proposed mode is likely to impact positively on this objective	?	Dependant on site specifics, transport links - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the reuse, recovery and recycling of waste.	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	+	Transport by rail is more sustainable than by road so this is positive for this objective	-	Transport by road is not sustainable in comparison to rail or waterway so this has a negative impact on this objective	++	Transport by waterway is more sustainable than by road and rail so this has a positive impact on this objective	+	A mix of road, rail and water informed by the distances involved and	?	Dependant on site specifics, transport links - could potentially have a negative

								sustainability of the proposed mode is likely to impact positively on this objective		impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development.	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link
13) To minimise public nuisance from waste treatment and disposal, and from access to and from facilities.	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link
14) To minimise public nuisance from minerals development and associated activities including transportation.	+	Rail is likely to cause less of a nuisance than road, therefore this has positive impact on this objective.	-	Road is likely to cause a nuisance so this is negative for this objective	++	Waterway is likely to cause less of a nuisance than road and rail, therefore this is very positive for this objective	+	A mix of road, rail and water informed by the distances involved and sustainability of the proposed mode is likely to impact positively on this objective	?	Dependant on site specifics, transport links - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
15) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities.	+	It is assumed that in terms of job potential, rail is likely to provide more jobs than waterway but not as many as road transport, therefore this could potentially impact positively on this objective	++	It is assumed that in terms of job potential, road transport is likely to provide more jobs than rail and waterway, therefore this could potentially impact very positively on this objective	-	It is assumed that in terms of job potential waterway is likely to provide less jobs than road or rail, therefore this could potentially impact negatively on this objective	+	A mix of road, rail and water informed by the distances involved and sustainability of the proposed mode is likely to impact positively on this objective	?	Dependant on site specifics, transport links - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
Option 1 seeks to rely primarily upon rail based transport for the importation, exportation and within District movement of aggregates. There are 8 '+' symbols associated with this option and it is considered to be more sustainable than road but not as sustainable as by waterway. Option 2 seeks to rely primarily upon road based transport for the importation, exportation and within District movement of aggregates. There is 1 '++' symbol and 7 '-' symbols associated with this option, the very positive contribution being for economic opportunities/job creation as it is considered that transport by road would potentially provide the most jobs. Generally speaking however, it is considered to be the least sustainable option. Option 3 seeks to rely primarily upon water based transport for the importation, exportation and within District movement of aggregates. Water based transport appears to be the most sustainable option making very positive contributions to 5 objectives, positive contributions to 2 objectives, and a negative contribution to 1 objective. The negative contribution was to economic opportunities/job creation as it is considered that transport										

by waterway is likely to provide the least jobs.

Option 4 seeks to rely on a mixture of the rail, road and water based transport methods and it made a positive contribution to 8 objectives. It may be that practically speaking this is the option that will be implemented because of site locations, relevant transport links and the expense/resources required to make the other options viable.

Option 5 would see the West Berkshire Core Strategy; and the Saved Policies from the WLPB, the RMLP and the Local Plan continuing as the development plan to regulate minerals and waste development. RMLP 5 is supportive of the importation of sand and gravel, crushed rock and marine dredged aggregates by rail. RMLP 25 supports the development of new rail terminals, and the improvement of existing rail terminals for the purposes of importing aggregate from outside Berkshire. RMLP 26 safeguarded sites for potential rail depot aggregate use, the only one in West Berkshire being at Padworth which has now been redeveloped for waste uses and the rail siding has been effectively severed, meaning that it is unlikely to be able to be developed for rail depot aggregate purposes. It was 'uncertain' what impact option 5 would have on the majority of the objectives largely due to the fact that the type of proposals that come forward and the prospective locations / transport links cannot be predicted, and therefore their impacts cannot be predicted.

With regard to putting forward methods to maximise potential beneficial effects, and mitigate potential negative effects of the various options on the sustainability objectives, this is an area which will receive due consideration later in the process - at the Preferred Options stage of the SA/SEA, and in the full SA/SEA Environmental Report. Additionally, once the WBMWDPD is adopted, the maximisation of benefits and mitigation of negative impacts are areas which can be beneficially influenced through the development management process on a case by case basis.

Table 13

Issue 9: Importation of Primary aggregates and other materials by rail								
	1: Do you think that the present policies for rail depots should be reviewed in order to provide for more capacity for importing minerals from elsewhere? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		2: Should there be a presumption in favour of safeguarded rail depot sites being granted planning permission, subject to meeting defined planning and environmental criteria? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		3: Do you agree that the existing road to rail aggregates depot, the road to rail cement depot and the rail connected coated roadstone plant should be safeguarded from other forms of development? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		4. Business as usual	
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	+	Increased capacity for rail imported aggregates may mean less reliance on indigenous extracted primary aggregates, meaning less disturbance of land in West Berkshire	+	Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning that biodiversity/geodiversity is protected in other areas	+	Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning that biodiversity/geodiversity is protected in other areas	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	+	Increased capacity for rail imported aggregates may mean less reliance on indigenous extracted primary aggregates, meaning less disturbance of hydrology/hydrogeology in West Berkshire0	+	Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning that water quality/resources is protected in other areas	+	Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning that water quality/resources is protected in other areas	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	?	Dependant on implementation - Increased capacity for rail imported aggregates may mean less reliance on indigenous extracted primary aggregates – mineral sites can accommodate floodwater – consider working/restoration scheme, site specifics	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	+	Increased capacity for rail imported aggregates may mean less reliance on indigenous extracted primary aggregates, meaning less disturbance of agricultural land in West Berkshire	+	Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning that high quality agricultural land is protected in other areas	+	Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning that high quality agricultural land is protected in other areas	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	+	Increased capacity for rail imported aggregates may mean less reliance on indigenous extracted primary aggregates, meaning less disturbance of the historical environment in West Berkshire	+	Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning that the historical environment is protected in other areas	+	Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning that the historical environment is protected in other areas	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.

6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	+	Increased capacity for rail imported aggregates may mean less reliance on indigenous extracted primary aggregates, meaning less disturbance of the landscape and townscape character in West Berkshire	+	Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning that the landscape and townscape character are protected in other areas	+	Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning that the landscape and townscape character are protected in other areas	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	?	The use of rail to import aggregates will generate carbon emissions, however less extraction in West Berkshire will generate less carbon emissions	?	Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, including on air quality (to an extent), however this is changeable depending n weather conditions etc	?	Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, including on air quality (to an extent), however this is changeable depending n weather conditions etc	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	?	Importing aggregate from southwest England and further away, rather than extracting in West Berkshire may not be seen as energy efficient, however rail is considered a sustainable mode of transport	?	Importing aggregate from southwest England and further away, rather than extracting in West Berkshire may not be seen as energy efficient, however rail is considered a sustainable mode of transport	?	Importing aggregate from southwest England and further away, rather than extracting in West Berkshire may not be seen as energy efficient, however rail is considered a sustainable mode of transport	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the reuse, recovery and recycling of waste.	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	++	Rail is considered a sustainable mode of transport.	++	Rail is considered a sustainable mode of transport.	++	Rail is considered a sustainable mode of transport.	?	Uncertain – potentially negative as the current development plan does not specifically safeguard the road to rail aggregates depot, the road to rail cement depot and the rail connected coated roadstone plant
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	++	Increased capacity for rail imported aggregates may mean less reliance on indigenous extracted primary aggregates, potentially meaning mineral resources conserved in West Berkshire	+	Safeguarding sites/capacities may mean less reliance on indigenous extracted primary aggregates, potentially meaning mineral resources conserved in West Berkshire	+	Safeguarding sites/capacities may mean less reliance on indigenous extracted primary aggregates, potentially meaning mineral resources conserved in West Berkshire	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.

12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development.	+	Increased capacity for rail imported aggregates may mean less reliance on indigenous extracted primary aggregates, meaning less disturbance of land / open space in West Berkshire	+	Safeguarding sites/capacities may mean less reliance on indigenous extracted primary aggregates, potentially meaning less disturbance of land / open space in West Berkshire	+	Safeguarding sites/capacities may mean less reliance on indigenous extracted primary aggregates, potentially meaning less disturbance of land / open space in West Berkshire	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
13) To minimise public nuisance from waste treatment and disposal, and from access to and from facilities.	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link
14) To minimise public nuisance from minerals development and associated activities including transportation.	+	Rail is considered to cause less nuisance than road	+	Rail is considered to cause less nuisance than road	+	Rail is considered to cause less nuisance than road	?	Uncertain – potentially negative as the current development plan does not specifically safeguard the road to rail aggregates depot, the road to rail cement depot and the rail connected coated roadstone plant. If these operations ceased it may drive the mineral onto the road as opposed to the railway
15) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities.	?	Increased capacity for rail imported aggregates may mean less reliance on indigenous extracted primary aggregates, potentially meaning less employment in mineral extraction, but more jobs linked with the rail depot in West Berkshire	+	Employment linked with rail depots safeguarded	?	Employment linked with rail depots safeguarded, however if site became vacant other viable operations with employment potential may not receive planning permission hindering economic potential	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.

Comment:

Option 1 would see the present policies for rail depots being reviewed in order to provide for more capacity for importing minerals from elsewhere. This option would likely make positive contributions to 7 objectives and very positive contributions to 2 objectives (safeguarding of primary mineral resources in West Berkshire and the sustainable transport of minerals).

Option 2 relates to a presumption in favour of safeguarded rail depot sites being granted planning permission, subject to meeting defined planning and environmental criteria. Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning the other areas are protected. This option would likely make positive contributions to 9 objectives, and impact very positively on 1 objective (sustainable transport of minerals).

Option 3 is concerned with safeguarding the existing rail depots. Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning the other areas are protected. It is likely to make positive contributions to 8 objectives and a very positive contribution to 1 objective (sustainable transport of minerals).

Option 4 would see the West Berkshire Core Strategy; and the Saved Policies from the WLPB, the RMLP and the Local Plan continuing as the development plan to regulate minerals and waste development. Policy 5 of the RMLP is supportive of the importation of sand and gravel, crushed rock and marine dredged aggregates by rail. RMLP 25 supports the development of new rail terminals, and the improvement of existing rail terminals for the purposes of importing aggregate from outside Berkshire. RMLP 26 safeguarded sites for potential rail depot aggregate use, the only one in West Berkshire being at Padworth which has now been redeveloped for waste uses and the rail siding

has been effectively severed, meaning that it is unlikely to be able to be developed for rail depot aggregate purposes. Under the existing policy ECON 7 from the Local Plan the existing rail head sites at Theale will be safeguarded for rail head use, however this safeguarding is not mineral use specific. Therefore the existing road to rail aggregates depot, the road to rail cement depot, and the rail connected coated roadstone plant are not specifically safeguarded from other forms of development. It was 'uncertain' what impact option 5 would have on the majority of the objectives largely due to the fact that the type of proposals that come forward and the prospective locations / transport links cannot be predicted, and therefore their impacts cannot be predicted.

Options 1, 2 and 3 are considered to be beneficial in terms of the sustainability objectives. It is possible that all three of these options could be implemented concurrently.

With regard to putting forward methods to maximise potential beneficial effects, and mitigate potential negative effects of the various options on the sustainability objectives, this is an area which will receive due consideration later in the process - at the Preferred Options stage of the SA/SEA, and in the full SA/SEA Environmental Report. Additionally, once the WBMWDPD is adopted, the maximisation of benefits and mitigation of negative impacts are areas which can be beneficially influenced through the development management process on a case by case basis.

Table 14

Issue 10: Windfall sites								
	1: Do you think that the present policies for windfall mineral sites should be reviewed in order to allow more scope for exploiting windfall opportunities? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		2: Are further safeguards needed to minimise the impacts of the large construction projects that are inevitably associated with them?		3: Do you agree that the WBMWDPD should make an allowance for windfall sites in the calculations for the need for the supply of aggregates within West Berkshire? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		4. Business as usual	
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	+	Where sites are going to be excavated for development proposals (other than for mineral extraction) and mineral can be extracted as part of this, this will potentially mean biodiversity/geodiversity are protected in other areas which may not need to be disturbed for mineral extraction	?	Uncertain, specific safeguards unknown	+	Where sites are going to be excavated for development proposals (other than for mineral extraction) and mineral can be extracted as part of this, if these tonnages are included in calculations this will potentially mean biodiversity/geodiversity are protected in other areas which may not need to be allocated/disturbed for mineral extraction	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	+	Where sites are going to be excavated for development proposals (other than for mineral extraction) and mineral can be extracted as part of this, this will potentially mean water quality/resources are protected in other areas which may not need to be disturbed for mineral extraction	?	Uncertain, specific safeguards unknown	+	Where sites are going to be excavated for development proposals (other than for mineral extraction) and mineral can be extracted as part of this, if these tonnages are included in calculations this will potentially mean water quality/resources are protected in other areas which may not need to be allocated/disturbed for mineral extraction	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	?	Further exploiting windfall sites may mean less primary mineral extraction – potentially less capability to accommodate flood water	?	Uncertain, specific safeguards unknown	+	Further exploiting windfall sites, and including them in calculations may mean less primary mineral extraction – potentially less capability to accommodate flood water	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	+	Where sites are going to be excavated for development proposals (other than for mineral extraction) and mineral can be extracted as part of this, this will potentially mean that high quality agricultural land is protected in other areas which may not need to be disturbed for mineral extraction	?	Uncertain, specific safeguards unknown	+	Where sites are going to be excavated for development proposals (other than for mineral extraction) and mineral can be extracted as part of this. Allocating less land for extraction based on including windfall site capacities will potentially mean that high quality agricultural land is protected in other areas which may not need to be disturbed for mineral extraction	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	+	Where sites are going to be excavated for development proposals (other than for mineral extraction) and mineral can be extracted as part of this, this will	?	Uncertain, specific safeguards unknown	+	Where sites are going to be excavated for development proposals (other than for mineral extraction) and mineral can be extracted as part of this. Allocating less land for extraction	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.

		potentially mean that the historic environment is protected in other areas which may not need to be disturbed for mineral extraction				based on including windfall site capacities will potentially mean that the historic environment is protected in other areas which may not need to be disturbed for mineral extraction		
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	+	Where sites are going to be excavated for development proposals (other than for mineral extraction) and mineral can be extracted as part of this, this will potentially mean that the landscape and townscape are protected in other areas which may not need to be disturbed for mineral extraction	?	Uncertain, specific safeguards unknown	+	Where sites are going to be excavated for development proposals (other than for mineral extraction) and mineral can be extracted as part of this. Allocating less land for extraction based on including windfall site capacities will potentially mean that the landscape and townscape are protected in other areas which may not need to be disturbed for mineral extraction	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	+	Where sites are going to be excavated for development proposals (other than for mineral extraction) and mineral can be extracted as part of this, this will potentially mean that harmful impacts will not occur in other areas which may not need to be disturbed for mineral extraction. This includes air quality (to an extent), however this is changeable depending on weather conditions etc	?	Uncertain, specific safeguards unknown	+	Where sites are going to be excavated for development proposals (other than for mineral extraction), mineral can be extracted as part of this, and this can be taken into account in calculations. This will potentially mean that harmful impacts will not occur in other areas which may not need to be allocated / disturbed for mineral extraction. This includes air quality (to an extent), however this is changeable depending on weather conditions etc	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	+	Where sites are going to be excavated for development proposals (other than for mineral extraction) and mineral can be extracted as part of this, this is likely to be energy efficient as the ground is being excavated anyway and the energy that would be used to dig up virgin land instead is not used.	?	Uncertain, specific safeguards unknown	+	Where sites are going to be excavated for development proposals (other than for mineral extraction) and mineral can be extracted as part of this, this is likely to be energy efficient as the ground is being excavated anyway and the energy that would be used to dig up virgin land (that may have been allocated) instead is not used.	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the reuse, recovery and recycling of waste.	+	Positive impact – the mineral may have been disposed of as waste rather than put to a sensible use as aggregate	?	Uncertain, specific safeguards unknown	0	No clear link	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	?	Unclear – dependant on site specific arrangements	?	Uncertain, specific safeguards unknown	?	Unclear – dependant on site specific arrangements	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.

11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	+	Where sites are going to be excavated for development proposals (other than for mineral extraction) and mineral can be extracted as part of this, other land may not need to be disturbed for mineral extraction	?	Uncertain, specific safeguards unknown	+	Where sites are going to be excavated for development proposals (other than for mineral extraction) and mineral can be extracted as part of this, other land may not need to be disturbed for mineral extraction. If this capacity can be included in calculations, land may not to be allocated for mineral extraction	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development.	+	Where sites are going to be excavated for development proposals (other than for mineral extraction) and mineral can be extracted as part of this, other land / open space may not need to be disturbed for mineral extraction	?	Uncertain, specific safeguards unknown	+	Where sites are going to be excavated for development proposals (other than for mineral extraction) and mineral can be extracted as part of this, other land / open space may not need to be allocated / disturbed for mineral extraction	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
13) To minimise public nuisance from waste treatment and disposal, and from access to and from facilities.	0	No clear link	?	Uncertain, specific safeguards unknown	0	No clear link	0	No clear link
14) To minimise public nuisance from minerals development and associated activities including transportation.	?	Dependant on site specifics	?	Uncertain, specific safeguards unknown	?	Dependant on site specifics	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
15) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities.	?	Dependant on site specifics	?	Uncertain, specific safeguards unknown	?	Dependant on site specifics	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.

Option 1 would allow for the present policies for windfall mineral sites to be reviewed in order to allow more scope for exploiting windfall opportunities. Where sites are going to be excavated for development proposals (other than for mineral extraction) and mineral can be extracted as part of this, this will potentially feed demand meaning that other areas may not need to be disturbed by mineral extraction and the associated impacts. This option is likely to contribute positively to 10 objectives.

Option 2 raises the issue of whether further safeguards are needed to minimise the impacts of the large construction projects that are inevitably associated with them, however the safeguards/impacts are not specified it was 'uncertain whether this option would impact on the objectives.

Option 3 would mean that the WBMWDPD would make an allowance for windfall sites in the calculations for the need for the supply of aggregates within West Berkshire. Where sites are going to be excavated for development proposals (other than for mineral extraction) and mineral can be extracted as part of this, this will potentially feed demand meaning that other areas may not need to be disturbed by mineral extraction and the associated impacts. It was considered likely that this option would contribute positively to 10 objectives.

Option 4 would see the West Berkshire Core Strategy; and the Saved Policies from the WLPB, the RMLP and the Local Plan continuing as the development plan to regulate minerals and waste development. The RMLP terms safeguarding as 'husbanding resources', Policy 1 stating that the purpose of this is to prevent their wasteful use or sterilisation. RMLP 2 lists three exceptions where it may be acceptable to sterilise mineral deposits on a site or on land adjacent to that site, namely that the mineral does not (and is not likely to be) of commercial interest; having regard to all planning considerations, there is an overriding case for the development to proceed without prior extraction of minerals, or extraction of the mineral would be subject to such strong environmental (or otherwise) objection that it would never be permitted in any case. RMLP 2A specifically relates to the issue of 'windfall sites' and is designed to allow the prior extraction of minerals from a site before more permanent forms of development take place. Currently allowance is not made for windfall sites in the calculations for the need for the supply of aggregates within West Berkshire. It was 'uncertain' what impact option 4 would have on the majority of the objectives largely due to the fact that the type of proposals that come forward and the prospective locations / transport links cannot be predicted, and therefore their impacts cannot be predicted.

Options 1 and 3 are both considered to be sustainable options in terms of windfall opportunities for aggregate supply, however it may be difficult in practical terms to implement option 3 as it is hard to estimate the amount of aggregate that will be generated as a result of large-scale building projects and when this aggregate would become available.

With regard to putting forward methods to maximise potential beneficial effects, and mitigate potential negative effects of the various options on the sustainability objectives, this is an area which will receive due consideration later in the

process - at the Preferred Options stage of the SA/SEA, and in the full SA/SEA Environmental Report. Additionally, once the WBMWDPD is adopted, the maximisation of benefits and mitigation of negative impacts are areas which can be beneficially influenced through the development management process on a case by case basis.

Table 15

Issue 11: Restoration strategy for West Berkshire

	1: Do you think there is scope for more lakes following mineral extraction, or are there enough already?				2: Are there other forms of restoration that you would like to see in place in Berkshire?		3: Do you consider that there is sufficient infill material available for restoration new extraction sites back to land based uses? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		4: Do you think there is scope to infill some of the lakes created by historic mineral extraction back to land based uses? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		5: Do you think there is another restoration strategy that the WBMWDPD could adopt, and if so please explain what you think it should be?		6. Business as usual	
	Scope for more		Enough											
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working scheme	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working scheme	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working scheme	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working scheme	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working scheme	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working scheme	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working scheme	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working scheme	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working scheme	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working scheme	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working scheme	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working scheme	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current

														development plan policies require updating.
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working scheme	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working scheme	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working scheme	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working scheme	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working scheme	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working scheme	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working scheme	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working scheme	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the reuse, recovery and recycling of waste.	0	No clear link	-	Waste would effectively be 'landfilled'	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	-	Waste would be used for infilling so this would be 'inert landfill' effectively	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development

														plan policies require updating.
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working scheme	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working scheme	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working scheme	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	0	No clear link	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	0	No clear link
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development.	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working scheme	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working scheme	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working scheme	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
13) To minimise public nuisance from waste treatment and disposal, and from access to and from facilities.	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working scheme	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working scheme	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working scheme	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
14) To minimise public nuisance from minerals development and associated activities including transportation.	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working scheme	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working scheme	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	0	No clear link	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
15) To support opportunities for	-	Allowing voids to	+	Infilling may	?	Uncertain, unknown	0	This consideration in itself has	+	Infilling may	?	Uncertain,	?	Uncertain,

economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities.		fill with water as opposed to filling them with waste may provide less employment		provide additional employment		strategy		no clear link with this objective		provide additional employment (temporary/short term)		unknown strategy		dependant on site specifics, infilling may provide additional employment (temporary/short term)

Comment:

Option 1 relates to restoration of mineral sites and poses the question of whether there is scope for more lakes in West Berkshire, or are there enough already. For the former it was 'uncertain' what impact it would have on the objectives or there was 'no clear link', with the exception of a potential negative impact on economic development, as allowing voids to fill with water as opposed to filling them with waste may provide less employment. For the latter option it was considered that there would be a negative impact on the sustainable waste management objective and a positive impact on the economic objective as infilling may provide additional employment, while it was uncertain what impact there would be on the other objectives, or there was no clear link.

Option 2 raised the issue of whether other forms of restoration may be suitable, and as this would be based on an unknown strategy it was 'uncertain' as to the impact on the objectives.

Option 3 posed the question of whether there was sufficient infill material to restore mineral sites back to a land-based use> it was considered that this was a technical question based on the reader's knowledge, and had no clear link to the sustainability objectives.

Option 4 put forward the question of whether there was scope to infill some of the lakes created by historic mineral extraction back to land based uses. This was considered likely to impact negatively on the objective for sustainable waste management, and the rest of the impacts on the objectives were dependant on implementation.

Option 5 posed the question of whether there was another restoration strategy that the WBMWDPD could adopt, and as this was an unknown strategy, it was 'uncertain' as to what the impact of this option would be on the objectives.

Option 6 would see the West Berkshire Core Strategy; and the Saved Policies from the WLPB, the RMLP and the Local Plan continuing as the development plan to regulate minerals and waste development. RMLP 18 seeks to ensure that restoration is undertaken without undue delay and that the restored site will harmonise with the surroundings and is compatible with the intended afteruse. RMLP 19 and 20 set out the objectives relating to mineral site restoration, the latter referring to site specific guidance relating to the Preferred Areas set out in Appendix 3. WLPB 20 and 25 limit the disposal of non-inert waste to certain Preferred Areas in the RMLP, and limit the disposal of inert waste to certain other Preferred Areas in the RMLP for the purposes of site restoration. Therefore, under the current development plan the infilling of old mineral sites which have been left to form lakes may not be looked on positively in policy terms. It was 'uncertain' what impact option 6 would have on the majority of the objectives largely due to the fact that the type of proposals that come forward and the prospective locations cannot be predicted, and therefore their impacts cannot be predicted.

Option 1 had two facets in regard to restoration – 'scope for more lakes' and 'enough already'. Both would contribute equally to the objectives, but in different ways. The impact of options 2 and 5 were considered to be 'uncertain' as the reader is being asked to put forward strategies that are unknown. Option 3 was considered to have no clear link to the objectives. Option 4 (scope to infill lakes) was considered likely to impact negatively on the sustainable waste management objective as it would be classed as landfill. Either of the option 1 alternatives would likely be the most positive for the sustainability objectives.

With regard to putting forward methods to maximise potential beneficial effects, and mitigate potential negative effects of the various options on the sustainability objectives, this is an area which will receive due consideration later in the process - at the Preferred Options stage of the SA/SEA, and in the full SA/SEA Environmental Report. Additionally, once the WBMWDPD is adopted, the maximisation of benefits and mitigation of negative impacts are areas which can be beneficially influenced through the development management process on a case by case basis.

Table 16

Issues 12: Chalk and Clay

	1: Does the WBMWDPD need to include a policy approach to ensure that there are adequate safeguards to minimise the effects of future extraction of chalk and clay? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		Question 2: Do you think that there is there a need for more certainty about where chalk and clay might be worked in the future? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		Question 3: Do you think that the WBMWDPD should identify strategic areas for the working of chalk and clay? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		Question 4: Do you think that the WBMWDPD should include development management policies that can be used to consider any proposals for the working of chalk and clay deposits over the life of the plan? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		5. Business as usual	
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	+	Minimising the effects of future extraction of chalk and clay is likely to impact positively on biodiversity and geodiversity	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	+	Identifying strategic areas for the working of chalk and clay is likely to impact positively on biodiversity and geodiversity, as it will limit the detrimental effects to the allocated areas	+	Development management policies that can be used to consider any proposals for the working of chalk and clay deposits over the life of the plan are likely to impact positively on biodiversity and geodiversity	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	+	Minimising the effects of future extraction of chalk and clay is likely to impact positively on water quality and resources	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	+	Identifying strategic areas for the working of chalk and clay is likely to impact positively on water quality and resources, as it will limit the detrimental effects to the allocated areas	+	Development management policies that can be used to consider any proposals for the working of chalk and clay deposits over the life of the plan are likely to impact positively on water quality and resources	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	+	Minimising the effects of future extraction of chalk and clay is likely to impact positively on the risk and impact of flooding	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	+	Identifying strategic areas for the working of chalk and clay is likely to impact positively on the risk and impact of flooding, as it will limit the detrimental effects to the allocated areas	+	Development management policies that can be used to consider any proposals for the working of chalk and clay deposits over the life of the plan are likely to impact positively on the risk and impact of flooding	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	+	Minimising the effects of future extraction of chalk and clay is likely to impact positively on the protection of good quality soils and agricultural land	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	+	Identifying strategic areas for the working of chalk and clay is likely to impact positively on the protection of good quality soils and agricultural land, as it will limit the	+	Development management policies that can be used to consider any proposals for the working of chalk and clay deposits over the life of the plan are	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.

						detrimental effects to the allocated areas		likely to impact positively on the protection of good quality soils and agricultural land		
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	+	Minimising the effects of future extraction of chalk and clay is likely to impact positively on the historic environment	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	+	Identifying strategic areas for the working of chalk and clay is likely to impact positively on the historic environment, as it will limit the detrimental effects to the allocated areas	+	Development management policies that can be used to consider any proposals for the working of chalk and clay deposits over the life of the plan are likely to impact positively on the historic environment	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	+	Minimising the effects of future extraction of chalk and clay is likely to impact positively on landscape and townscape character	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	+	Identifying strategic areas for the working of chalk and clay is likely to impact positively on landscape and townscape character, as it will limit the detrimental effects to the allocated areas	+	Development management policies that can be used to consider any proposals for the working of chalk and clay deposits over the life of the plan are likely to impact positively on landscape and townscape character	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	+	Minimising the effects of future extraction of chalk and clay is likely to impact positively on air quality	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	+	Identifying strategic areas for the working of chalk and clay is likely to impact positively on this objective, as it will limit the detrimental effects to the allocated areas – with regard to air quality this will be dependant on weather	+	Development management policies that can be used to consider any proposals for the working of chalk and clay deposits over the life of the plan are likely to impact positively on this objective, as emissions should be a consideration	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	0	No clear link	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	0	No clear link	+	Development management policies that can be used to consider any proposals for the working of chalk and clay deposits over the life of the plan are likely to impact positively on this objective, as energy efficiency should be a consideration	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the reuse, recovery and recycling of waste.	0	No clear link	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.

10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	0	No clear links	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	+	In allocating sites the issue of sustainable transport should be taken into account	+	Development management policies that can be used to consider any proposals for the working of chalk and clay deposits over the life of the plan are likely to impact positively on this objective, as sustainable transport should be a consideration	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	0	No clear links	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	+	Identifying strategic areas for the working of chalk and clay is likely to impact positively on this objective, as it will limit the working to specific areas	+	Development management policies that can be used to consider any proposals for the working of chalk and clay deposits over the life of the plan are likely to impact positively on this objective, as safeguarding should be a consideration	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development.	+	Minimising the effects of future extraction of chalk and clay is likely to impact positively on this objective	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	+	Identifying strategic areas for the working of chalk and clay is likely to impact positively on this objective, as it will limit the working to specific areas, protecting the open space in the rest of West Berkshire	+	Development management policies that can be used to consider any proposals for the working of chalk and clay deposits over the life of the plan are likely to impact positively on this objective, as maintaining open amenity space should be a consideration	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
13) To minimise public nuisance from waste treatment and disposal, and from access to and from facilities.	0	No clear link	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link
14) To minimise public nuisance from minerals development and associated activities including transportation.	+	Minimising the effects of future extraction of chalk and clay is likely to impact positively on this objective	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	+	Identifying strategic areas for the working of chalk and clay is likely to impact positively on this objective, as it will limit the working and public nuisance to specific areas	+	Development management policies that can be used to consider any proposals for the working of chalk and clay deposits over the life of the plan are likely to impact positively on this objective, as minimising public nuisance should be a	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.

								consideration		
15) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities.	?	Uncertain – additional controls may inhibit economic growth potential	+	This will provide certainty which is positive in economic terms	+	This will provide certainty which is positive in economic terms	+	This will provide certainty which is positive in economic terms	?	Uncertain, dependant on site specifics and applications that come forward

Comment

Option 1 would put forward a policy approach to ensure that there are adequate safeguards to minimise the effects of future extraction of chalk and clay. The effects of the extraction would relate to many of the issues raised by the objectives. This option is therefore likely to have a positive impact on 9 of the objectives

Option 2 posed the question of whether there is a need for more certainty about where chalk and clay might be worked in the future, and it was considered likely to have a positive impact on the objective relating to economic considerations, while for the rest of the objectives there was considered to be 'no clear link' with the option.

Option 3 posed the question of whether the WBMWDPD should identify strategic areas for the working of chalk and clay. Identifying strategic areas for the working of chalk and clay will limit the detrimental effects to the allocated areas. It was considered likely that it would impact positively on 12 objectives.

Option 4 posed the question of whether the WBMWDPD should include development management policies that can be used to consider any proposals for the working of chalk and clay. Development management policies relating to the working of chalk and clay deposits would consider many of the issues addressed by the sustainability objectives and it was therefore considered that this option would have a positive impact on 13 of the objectives.

Option 5 would see the West Berkshire Core Strategy; and the Saved Policies from the WLPB, the RMLP and the Local Plan continuing as the development plan to regulate minerals and waste development. No strategic areas are identified in the current development plan for the working of chalk and clay. Despite the demand for new workings being extremely limited currently, and throughout the previous plan period, applications for the extraction of chalk or clay, if they came forward, would be considered on a case by case basis through criteria based policies, namely RMLP 6, 7 – 14, and 16. It was 'uncertain' what impact option 5 would have on the majority of the objectives largely due to the fact that the type of proposals that come forward and the prospective locations cannot be predicted, and therefore their impacts cannot be predicted.

In order of descending positive impact on the sustainability objectives: option 4, option 3, option 1, option 2

It may be that for practical reasons more than one of these options would be implemented concurrently.

With regard to putting forward methods to maximise potential beneficial effects, and mitigate potential negative effects of the various options on the sustainability objectives, this is an area which will receive due consideration later in the process - at the Preferred Options stage of the SA/SEA, and in the full SA/SEA Environmental Report. Additionally, once the WBMWDPD is adopted, the maximisation of benefits and mitigation of negative impacts are areas which can be beneficially influenced through the development management process on a case by case basis.

Table 17

Issues 13: Energy minerals – coal gas and shale gas

	1: Does the WBMWDPD need to include a policy approach to ensure that there are adequate safeguards to minimise the effects of future extraction of energy minerals? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		Question 2: Do you think that there is there a need for more certainty about where energy minerals might be worked in the future? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		Question 3: Do you think that the WBMWDPD should identify strategic areas for the working of energy minerals? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		Question 4: Do you think that the WBMWDPD should include development management policies that can be used to consider any proposals for the working of energy minerals deposits over the life of the plan? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		5. Business as usual	
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	+	Minimising the effects of future extraction of energy minerals is likely to impact positively on biodiversity and geodiversity	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	+	Identifying strategic areas for the working of energy minerals is likely to impact positively on biodiversity and geodiversity, as it will limit the detrimental effects to the allocated areas	+	Development management policies that can be used to consider any proposals for the working of energy minerals deposits over the life of the plan is likely to impact positively on biodiversity and geodiversity	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	+	Minimising the effects of future extraction of energy minerals is likely to impact positively on water quality and resources	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	+	Identifying strategic areas for the working of energy minerals is likely to impact positively on water quality and resources, as it will limit the detrimental effects to the allocated areas	+	Development management policies that can be used to consider any proposals for the working of energy minerals deposits over the life of the plan is likely to impact positively on water quality and resources	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	+	Minimising the effects of future extraction of energy minerals is likely to impact positively on the risk and impact of flooding	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	+	Identifying strategic areas for the working of energy minerals is likely to impact positively on the risk and impact of flooding, as it will limit the detrimental effects to the allocated areas	+	Development management policies that can be used to consider any proposals for the working of energy minerals deposits over the life of the plan is likely to impact positively on the risk and impact of flooding	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	+	Minimising the effects of future extraction of energy minerals is likely to impact positively on the protection of good quality soils and	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	+	Identifying strategic areas for the working of energy minerals is likely to impact positively on the protection of good quality soils and agricultural land, as it will	+	Development management policies that can be used to consider any proposals for the working of energy minerals deposits over the life of the plan is	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.

		agricultural land				limit the detrimental effects to the allocated areas		likely to impact positively on the protection of good quality soils and agricultural land		
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	+	Minimising the effects of future extraction of energy minerals is likely to impact positively on the historic environment	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	+	Identifying strategic areas for the working of energy minerals is likely to impact positively on the historic environment, as it will limit the detrimental effects to the allocated areas	+	Development management policies that can be used to consider any proposals for the working of energy minerals deposits over the life of the plan is likely to impact positively on the historic environment	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	+	Minimising the effects of future extraction of energy minerals is likely to impact positively on landscape and townscape character	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	+	Identifying strategic areas for the working of energy minerals is likely to impact positively on landscape and townscape character, as it will limit the detrimental effects to the allocated areas	+	Development management policies that can be used to consider any proposals for the working of energy minerals deposits over the life of the plan is likely to impact positively on landscape and townscape character	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	+	Minimising the effects of future extraction of energy minerals is likely to impact positively on air quality	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	+	Identifying strategic areas for the working of energy minerals is likely to impact positively on this objective, as it will limit the detrimental effects to the allocated areas – with regard to air quality this will be dependant on weather	+	Development management policies that can be used to consider any proposals for the working of energy minerals deposits over the life of the plan is likely to impact positively on this objective, as emissions should be a consideration	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	0	No clear link	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	0	No clear link	+	Development management policies that can be used to consider any proposals for the working of energy minerals deposits over the life of the plan is likely to impact positively on this objective, as energy efficiency should be a consideration	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the reuse, recovery and recycling of waste.	0	No clear link	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.

10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	0	No clear links	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	+	In allocating sites the issue of sustainable transport should be taken into account	+	Development management policies that can be used to consider any proposals for the working of energy minerals deposits over the life of the plan is likely to impact positively on this objective, as sustainable transport should be a consideration	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	0	No clear links	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	+	Identifying strategic areas for the working of energy minerals is likely to impact positively on this objective, as it will limit the working to specific areas	+	Development management policies that can be used to consider any proposals for the working of energy minerals deposits over the life of the plan is likely to impact positively on this objective, as safeguarding should be a consideration	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development.	+	Minimising the effects of future extraction of energy minerals is likely to impact positively on this objective	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	+	Identifying strategic areas for the working of energy minerals is likely to impact positively on this objective, as it will limit the working to specific areas, protecting the open space in the rest of West Berkshire	+	Development management policies that can be used to consider any proposals for the working of energy minerals deposits over the life of the plan is likely to impact positively on this objective, as maintaining open amenity space should be a consideration	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
13) To minimise public nuisance from waste treatment and disposal, and from access to and from facilities.	0	No clear link	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link
14) To minimise public nuisance from minerals development and associated activities including transportation.	+	Minimising the effects of future extraction of energy minerals is likely to impact positively on this objective	0	This consideration in itself has no clear link with this objective	+	Identifying strategic areas for the working of energy minerals is likely to impact positively on this objective, as it will limit the working and public nuisance to specific areas	+	Development management policies that can be used to consider any proposals for the working of energy minerals deposits over the life of the plan is likely to impact positively on this objective, as minimising public nuisance should be a	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.

								consideration		
15) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities.	?	Uncertain – additional controls may inhibit economic growth potential	+	This will provide certainty which is positive in economic terms	+	This will provide certainty which is positive in economic terms	+	This will provide certainty which is positive in economic terms	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.

Comment

Option 1 would put forward a policy approach to ensure that there are adequate safeguards to minimise the effects of future extraction of energy minerals. The effects of the extraction would relate to many of the issues raised by the objectives. This option is likely to have a positive impact on 9 of the objectives.

Option 2 posed the question of whether there is a need for more certainty about where energy minerals might be worked in the future, and it was considered likely to have a positive impact on the objective relating to economic considerations, while for the rest of the objectives there was considered to be 'no clear link' with the option.

Option 3 posed the question of whether the WBMWDPD should identify strategic areas for the working of energy minerals. Identifying strategic areas for the working of energy minerals will limit the detrimental effects to the allocated areas. It was considered likely that it would impact positively on 12 objectives.

Option 4 posed the question of whether the WBMWDPD should include development management policies that can be used to consider any proposals for the working of energy minerals. Development management policies relating to the working of chalk and clay deposits would consider many of the issues addressed by the sustainability objectives and it was therefore considered that this option would have a positive impact on 13 of the objectives.

Option 5 would see the West Berkshire Core Strategy; and the Saved Policies from the WLPB, the RMLP and the Local Plan continuing as the development plan to regulate minerals and waste development. No strategic areas are currently designated for the extraction of coal gas and shale gas, and at the time that the RMLP was adopted no viable reserves of gas had been found. RMLP 17 was included in the plan to safeguard the MPA's position should an application be received for preliminary exploration works for oil and gas reserves, or if any exploitable reserves of oil and gas were located. It was 'uncertain' what impact option 5 would have on the majority of the objectives largely due to the fact that the type of proposals that come forward and the prospective locations cannot be predicted, and therefore their impacts cannot be predicted.

In order of descending positive impact on the sustainability objectives: option 4, option 3, option 1, option 2, option 5

It may be that for practical reasons more than one of these options would be implemented concurrently.

With regard to putting forward methods to maximise potential beneficial effects, and mitigate potential negative effects of the various options on the sustainability objectives, this is an area which will receive due consideration later in the process - at the Preferred Options stage of the SA/SEA, and in the full SA/SEA Environmental Report. Additionally, once the WBMWDPD is adopted, the maximisation of benefits and mitigation of negative impacts are areas which can be beneficially influenced through the development management process on a case by case basis.

Table 18

Issue 14: Pattern of waste management

	1: Should West Berkshire seek to maintain a pattern of waste management facility types that concentrate on the upper parts of the waste hierarchy such as recycling facilities? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		2: Should West Berkshire plan for a more diverse pattern of waste management facility types that cover all aspects of the waste hierarchy, excluding landfill? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		3: Should West Berkshire plan for a more diverse pattern of waste management facility types that cover all aspects of the waste hierarchy, including landfill? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		4: Do you think there is another strategy that the WBMWDPD could adopt, and if so please explain what you think it should be?		5. Business as usual	
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics,	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics,	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics,	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.

		working/restoration scheme, planning conditions		working/restoration scheme, planning conditions		working/restoration scheme, planning conditions				
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	This is likely to have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the reuse, recovery and recycling of waste.	++	A strategy that concentrates on the upper parts of the waste hierarchy will be very positive for this objective.	++	A strategy that concentrates on the upper parts of the waste hierarchy, and excludes landfill will be very positive for this objective.	+	A strategy for a diverse pattern of waste management facility types that cover all aspects of the waste hierarchy, including landfill would be positive for this objective (bar the landfill)	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	+	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions, transport links	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions, transport links	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions, transport links	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	++	Recycled aggregate facilities would be encouraged through this approach	++	Recycled aggregate facilities would be encouraged through this approach	+	Recycled aggregate facilities would be encouraged through this approach	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	+	Recycled aggregate facilities would be encouraged through this approach
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development.	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions, transport links	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions, transport links	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions, transport links	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
13) To minimise public nuisance from waste treatment and disposal, and from access to and from facilities.	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions, transport links	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions, transport links	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions, transport links	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
14) To minimise public nuisance from minerals development and associated activities including transportation.	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.

15) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities.	+	Waste facilities would provide employment	+	Waste facilities would provide employment	+	Waste facilities would provide employment	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Whether or not proposals for waste development will come forward cannot be predicted – if they were to this would provide employment. The current development plan is somewhat dated and therefore this does not provide certainty for developers / waste operators which is likely to be negative in economic terms.

Comment

Option 1 would concentrate on the upper parts of the waste hierarchy such as recycling facilities and it was considered that this is likely to have a very positive impact on the objectives relating to sustainable waste management and encouraging the use of recycled aggregate (through encouraging C, D & E waste processing facilities). It is also likely that this option would have a positive impact in terms of economic development as waste facilities would provide employment.

Option 2 would see the implementation of a pattern of waste management facility types that cover all aspects of the waste hierarchy, excluding landfill. It was considered that this is likely to have a very positive impact on the objectives relating to sustainable waste management and encouraging the use of recycled aggregate (through encouraging C, D & E waste processing facilities). It is also likely that this option would have a positive impact in terms of economic development as waste facilities would provide employment.

Option 3 would see the implementation of a pattern of waste management facility types that cover all aspects of the waste hierarchy, including landfill. This option was considered likely to have a positive impact 3 objectives relating to sustainable waste management, conserving mineral resources/encouragement of use of recycled aggregate, and economic development as waste facilities would provide employment

Option 4 poses the question of whether there is another strategy that could be adopted. As the strategy is unknown, the impact on the objectives is 'uncertain'.

Option 5 would see the West Berkshire Core Strategy; and the Saved Policies from the WLPB, the RMLP and the Local Plan continuing as the development plan to regulate minerals and waste development. The WLPB contains 'The Berkshire Waste Hierarchy' which lists methods of waste management in order of preference (most desirable at the top): education, minimisation, re-use, recycling, quantity reduction by processing / use for the production of energy, disposal by landfill, and disposal by landraising. Within 'quantity reduction by processing / use for the production by energy' there is a mini waste hierarchy which specifies (most preferential first) – industrial re-processing, composting, anaerobic digestion, waste derived fuel, and waste to energy). This option was considered likely to have a positive impact on the 2 objectives relating to sustainable waste management, and conserving mineral resources/encouragement of use of recycled aggregate.

Options 1, 2 and 5 are likely to have the most positive impact on the sustainability objectives, while option 3 would be the least sustainable of the four largely because it involves landfill. It is uncertain what impacts would result from option 4.

With regard to putting forward methods to maximise potential beneficial effects, and mitigate potential negative effects of the various options on the sustainability objectives, this is an area which will receive due consideration later in the process - at the Preferred Options stage of the SA/SEA, and in the full SA/SEA Environmental Report. Additionally, once the WBMWDPD is adopted, the maximisation of benefits and mitigation of negative impacts are areas which can be beneficially influenced through the development management process on a case by case basis.

Table 19

Issue 15: Self sufficiency in waste management										
	1: Should West Berkshire plan for Net Self sufficiency, where we aim to plan for the provision of sufficient waste management capacity (recycling, treatment and recovery facilities) equal to the volume of waste arising in West Berkshire? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		2: Should West Berkshire plan for a level of waste management capacity (recycling, treatment and recovery facilities) greater than the volume of waste arising in West Berkshire? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		3: Should West Berkshire plan for a level of waste management capacity (recycling, treatment and recovery facilities) that is less than the volume of waste arising in West Berkshire? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		4: Do you think there is another strategy that the WBMWDPD could adopt, and if so please explain what you think it should be?		5. Business as usual	
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	+	Planning for net self-sufficiency is likely to encourage sustainable transport of waste (i.e. shorter localised distances), potentially leading to less carbon	-	Planning for a level of waste management capacity greater than the volume of waste arising in West Berkshire is not likely to	-	Planning for a level of waste management capacity lesser than the volume of waste arising in West Berkshire is not likely to encourage sustainable transport	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	+	Planning for net self-sufficiency is likely to encourage sustainable transport of waste (i.e. shorter localised distances), potentially leading to less carbon emissions, impacting positively on air quality

		emissions, impacting positively on air quality		encourage sustainable transport of waste (i.e. longer distances, from outside unitary area), potentially leading to more carbon emissions, impacting negatively on air quality		of waste (i.e. longer distances, from west Berkshire to other unitary areas), potentially leading to more carbon emissions, impacting negatively on air quality				
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	+	Planning for net self-sufficiency is likely to encourage sustainable transport of waste (i.e. shorter localised distances) – this would be energy efficient in terms of fuel use etc	-	Planning for a level of waste management capacity greater than the volume of waste arising in West Berkshire is not likely to encourage sustainable transport of waste (i.e. longer distances, from outside unitary area) – this potentially would not be very energy efficient	-	Planning for a level of waste management capacity lesser than the volume of waste arising in West Berkshire is not likely to encourage sustainable transport of waste (i.e. longer distances, from west Berkshire to other unitary areas) – this would not be very energy efficient in terms of fuel use etc	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	+	Planning for net self-sufficiency is likely to encourage sustainable transport of waste (i.e. shorter localised distances) – this would be energy efficient in terms of fuel use etc
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the reuse, recovery and recycling of waste.	+	Recycling, treatment and recovery facilities are further up the waste hierarchy than disposal	+	Recycling, treatment and recovery facilities are further up the waste hierarchy than disposal	?	Dependant on what facilities the waste is sent to for management outside the unitary area	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	+	The Berkshire Waste Hierarchy in the WLPB is positive for this objective.
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	?	Dependant on site specifics, transport links	?	Dependant on site specifics, transport links	?	Dependant on site specifics, transport links	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics, transport links
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	0	No clear link
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.

protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development.										
13) To minimise public nuisance from waste treatment and disposal, and from access to and from facilities.	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
14) To minimise public nuisance from minerals development and associated activities including transportation.	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	0	No clear link
15) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities.	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics; more waste development will create more jobs but it is necessary to have adequate types/amounts of waste	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics; more waste development will create more jobs but it is necessary to have adequate types/amounts of waste	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics; more waste development will create more jobs but it is necessary to have adequate types/amounts of waste	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics; more waste development will create more jobs but it is necessary to have adequate types/amounts of waste

Comment:

Option 1 proposes to plan for net self sufficiency, providing sufficient waste management capacity (recycling, treatment and recovery facilities) equal to the volume of waste arising in West Berkshire. This option is considered likely to impact positively on objectives related to air quality, and maximising energy efficiency due to waste being transported shorter localised distances, leading to reduced carbon emissions. It is also likely that there would be a positive impact on the sustainable waste management objective due to the methods of waste management being recycling, treatment and recovery.

Option 2 proposes to plan for a level of waste management capacity (recycling, treatment and recovery facilities) greater than the volume of waste arising in West Berkshire. This option is likely to have a positive impact on the sustainable waste management objective due to the methods of waste management being recycling, treatment and recovery. It is considered likely to impact negatively on objectives related to air quality, and maximising energy efficiency due to the likelihood of waste being transported longer distances, from outside unitary area, leading to increased carbon emissions.

Option 3 proposes to plan for a level of waste management capacity (recycling, treatment and recovery facilities) that is less than the volume of waste arising in West Berkshire. It is considered likely to impact negatively on objectives related to air quality, maximising energy efficiency, and sustainable transport of waste due to the likelihood of waste being transported longer distances, to other council areas, leading to increased carbon emissions. It is uncertain as to whether this option would benefit the objective related to the sustainable management of waste as it would be dependant on what facilities the waste was being exported to in other council areas.

Option 4 puts forward the question of whether there is another strategy that could be adopted regarding waste management capacity, however it is unknown what these strategies would be so their impacts on the objectives are ‘uncertain’.

Option 5 would see the West Berkshire Core Strategy; and the Saved Policies from the WLPB, the RMLP and the Local Plan continuing as the development plan to regulate minerals and waste development. WLPB 4 relates to LPAs making provision for meeting the waste management needs of the area, supporting the concept of net self-sufficiency. This option is considered likely to impact positively on objectives related to air quality, and maximising energy efficiency due to the likelihood of encouraging the transportation of waste over shorter, more localised distances, leading to reduced carbon emissions. It is also likely that there would be a positive impact on the sustainable waste management objective due to the existence of the Berkshire Waste hierarchy in the WLPB, and the WLPB polices that are aligned with it.

Options 1 and 5 appear to be the most beneficial for the sustainability objectives. Options 2 and 3 are both less beneficial in regard to the impacts on the objectives. The impacts of option 4 are ‘uncertain’.

With regard to putting forward methods to maximise potential beneficial effects, and mitigate potential negative effects of the various options on the sustainability objectives, this is an area which will receive due consideration later in the process - at the Preferred Options stage of the SA/SEA, and in the full SA/SEA Environmental Report. Additionally, once the WBMWDPD is adopted, the maximisation of benefits and mitigation of negative impacts are areas which can be beneficially influenced through the development management process on a case by case basis.

Table 20

Issue 16: Landfill / Land raising of non inert wastes										
	1: Should West Berkshire plan to meet the demand for the disposal of waste to land (either landfill or land raise) of waste that is generated in West Berkshire within West Berkshire? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		2: If West Berkshire is not going to plan for the disposal of waste to land do you agree that we should we plan to provide a greater amount of recycling capacity to maximise recycling rates and maximise the value that can be derived from waste materials? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		3: If West Berkshire is not going to plan for the disposal of waste to land do you agree that we should we plan to provide a greater amount of recovery and or treatment capacity to maximise the value that can be derived from waste materials and minimise the volumes of waste originating in West Berkshire that is disposed of to land? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		4: Do you think there is another strategy that the WBMWDPD could adopt, and if so please explain what you think it should be?		5: Business as usual	
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	?	Dependant on implementation –	?	Dependant on implementation –	?	Dependant on implementation – site	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan

		site specifics, planning conditions		site specifics, planning conditions		specifics, planning conditions				policies require updating.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	--	'Disposal' as a method of waste management is the last resort – therefore in terms of energy efficiency this would be very negative	++	Recycling is higher up the waste hierarchy than 'disposal' and 'recovery' – therefore in terms of energy efficiency this would be very positive.	+	'Recovery' is higher up the waste hierarchy than 'disposal' however it is below 'recycling' - therefore in terms of energy efficiency this would be positive.	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	+	'Recycling' and 'recovery' are higher up the Berkshire waste hierarchy than 'disposal' so this could be positive in terms of energy efficiency
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the reuse, recovery and recycling of waste.	--	'Disposal' as a method of waste management is the last resort – therefore in terms of the sustainable management of waste, this would be very negative	++	Recycling is higher up the waste hierarchy than 'disposal' and 'recovery' – therefore in terms of the sustainable management of waste, this would be very positive.	+	'Recovery' is higher up the waste hierarchy than 'disposal' so it is positive in this respect, however it is below 'recycling'	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	+	'Recycling' and 'recovery' are higher up the waste hierarchy than 'disposal' so this could be positive in terms of the sustainable management of waste
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	-	C, D & E waste may be landfilled/raised rather than recycled, and disposal of waste to land may sterilise mineral	+	This would encourage the development of recycling facilities (including C, D & E) and discourage disposal to land	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions – less disposal to land may mean less mineral is sterilised	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development.	-	Disposal to land may have a negative impact on quantity of open space until the site is restored	?	This would discourage disposal to land potentially impacting on quantity of open space, however recycling facilities will take up space as well	?	This would discourage disposal to land potentially impacting on quantity of open space, however recovery facilities will take up space as well	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	This would discourage disposal to land potentially impacting on quantity of open space, however recycling, recovery/treatment facilities will take up space as well potentially creating a negative impact
13) To minimise public nuisance from waste treatment and disposal, and from access to and from facilities.	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
14) To minimise public nuisance from minerals development and associated	0	No clear link	?	Encouragement of recycling facilities	0	No clear link	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Encouragement of recycling facilities (including C, D & E) may mean less demand for primary

activities including transportation				(including C, D & E) may mean less demand for primary aggregates and less negative impact as a result						aggregates and less negative impact as a result
15) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities.	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics; more waste development will create more jobs but it is necessary to have adequate types/amounts of waste	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics; more waste development will create more jobs but it is necessary to have adequate types/amounts of waste	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics; more waste development will create more jobs but it is necessary to have adequate types/amounts of waste	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics; more waste development will create more jobs but it is necessary to have adequate types/amounts of waste

Comment

Option 1 proposes the disposal of waste to land (either landfill or land raising) that is generated in West Berkshire within West Berkshire. It is likely that this option will impact very negatively on the objectives related to energy efficiency and sustainable waste management as 'disposal' as a method of waste management is the last resort. It is also likely that the option will impact negatively on the two objectives related to safeguarding of primary aggregates/recycled aggregate, and maintaining open space amenity. This is because C, D & E waste may be landfilled/raised rather than recycled, and disposal of waste to land may sterilise mineral and until the site is fully restored, the disposal of waste to land may have a negative impact on quantity of open space.

Option 2 asks if the disposal of waste to land is not being planned for, should provision be made for a greater amount of recycling capacity to maximise recycling rates and maximise the value that can be derived from waste materials. It is likely that this option will impact very positively on the objectives related to energy efficiency and sustainable waste management as recycling is higher up the waste hierarchy than 'disposal' and 'recovery'. It is also likely to impact positively on the objectives related to safeguarding of primary aggregates/recycled aggregate. This is because C, D & E waste may be landfilled/raised rather than recycled, and disposal of waste to land may sterilise mineral.

Option 3 asks if the disposal of waste to land is not being planned for, should provision be made for a greater amount of recovery and/or treatment capacity to maximise the value that can be derived from waste materials and minimise the volumes of waste originating in West Berkshire that is disposed of to land. Due to 'recovery' being higher up the waste hierarchy than 'disposal', this is likely to impact positively on the two objectives related to maximising energy efficiency and sustainable waste management.

Option 4 puts forward the question of whether there is another strategy that could be adopted regarding landfill / land raising, however it is unknown what these strategies would be so their impacts on the objectives are 'uncertain'.

Option 5 would see the West Berkshire Core Strategy; and the Saved Policies from the WLPB, the RMLP and the Local Plan continuing as the development plan to regulate minerals and waste development. The WLPB contains 'The Berkshire Waste Hierarchy' which lists methods of waste management in order of preference (most desirable at the top): education, minimisation, re-use, recycling, quantity reduction by processing/use for the production of energy, disposal by landfill, and disposal by landraising. Within 'quantity reduction by processing / use for the production by energy' there is a mini waste hierarchy which specifies (most preferential first) – industrial re-processing, composting, anaerobic digestion, waste derived fuel, and waste to energy). It is likely that this option will impact positively on the objectives related to energy efficiency and sustainable waste management as recycling and recovery/treatment are higher up the waste hierarchy than 'disposal to land'. It was 'uncertain' what impact option 5 would have on the rest of the objectives largely due to the fact that the type of proposals that come forward and the prospective locations cannot be predicted, and therefore their impacts cannot be predicted.

Option 2 is likely to be the most beneficial in respect of the sustainability objectives, with options 3 and 1 being the second and least beneficial in terms of the objectives.

With regard to putting forward methods to maximise potential beneficial effects, and mitigate potential negative effects of the various options on the sustainability objectives, this is an area which will receive due consideration later in the process - at the Preferred Options stage of the SA/SEA, and in the full SA/SEA Environmental Report. Additionally, once the WBMWDPD is adopted, the maximisation of benefits and mitigation of negative impacts are areas which can be beneficially influenced through the development management process on a case by case basis.

Table 21

Issue 17: Location and distribution of waste sites												
	1: Do you consider that in planning for the waste management requirements of West Berkshire the WBMWDPD should aim towards: (i) The expansion of existing permanent facilities and the co-location of new facilities with existing permanent facilities (assumes answer 'yes'); (ii) The concentration of new facilities in the key urban areas and centres of population and growth (assumes answer 'yes'); (iii) A decentralisation approach with facilities distributed across all the urban areas and rural centres within West Berkshire (assumes answer 'yes'); (iv) The concentration of new facilities in areas of waste arisings that have limited existing capacity (assumes answer 'yes'); (v) A hybrid of one of more of the above options (not assessed – uncertain/unknown strategy)?								2: Do you think there is another strategy that the WBMWDPD could adopt, and if so please explain what you think it should be?		3. Business as usual	
	(i)		(ii)		(iii)		(iv)					
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	It is uncertain whether planning applications for waste development will come forward or where the prospective sites would be. However, due to the lack of available Preferred Areas that are potentially suitable for waste development, there is potential for proposals to come forward to meet the waste management capacity in sites which may not be suitable in planning or environmental terms. The impact would be dependant on site specifics, transport links, facility type and specific impacts, and planning conditions. This may be negative for this objective.
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	It is uncertain whether planning applications for waste development will come forward or where the prospective sites would be. However, due to the lack of available Preferred Areas that are potentially suitable for waste development, there is potential for proposals to come forward to meet the waste management capacity in sites which may not be suitable in planning or environmental terms. The impact would be dependant on site specifics, transport links, facility type and specific impacts, and planning conditions. This may be negative for this objective.
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	It is uncertain whether planning applications for waste development will come forward or where the prospective sites would be. However, due to the lack of available Preferred Areas that are potentially suitable for waste development, there is potential for proposals to come forward to meet the waste management capacity in sites which may not be suitable in planning or environmental terms. The impact would be dependant on site specifics, transport links, facility type and specific impacts, and planning conditions. This may be negative for this objective.

4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	It is uncertain whether planning applications for waste development will come forward or where the prospective sites would be. However, due to the lack of available Preferred Areas that are potentially suitable for waste development, there is potential for proposals to come forward to meet the waste management capacity in sites which may not be suitable in planning or environmental terms. The impact would be dependant on site specifics, transport links, facility type and specific impacts, and planning conditions. This may be negative for this objective.
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	It is uncertain whether planning applications for waste development will come forward or where the prospective sites would be. However, due to the lack of available Preferred Areas that are potentially suitable for waste development, there is potential for proposals to come forward to meet the waste management capacity in sites which may not be suitable in planning or environmental terms. The impact would be dependant on site specifics, transport links, facility type and specific impacts, and planning conditions. This may be negative for this objective.
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	It is uncertain whether planning applications for waste development will come forward or where the prospective sites would be. However, due to the lack of available Preferred Areas that are potentially suitable for waste development, there is potential for proposals to come forward to meet the waste management capacity in sites which may not be suitable in planning or environmental terms. The impact would be dependant on site specifics, transport links, facility type and specific impacts, and planning conditions. This may be negative for this objective.
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	?	Expanding existing waste sites or co-location may be positive for this objective if there are economies of scale in terms of transport movements which may reduce carbon emissions – dependant on facility/waste type and operator	+	Sites in key urban areas and centres of population and growth is likely to be energy efficient in terms of making transport movements shorter which may reduce carbon emissions; the amounts being transported are likely to be	-	A decentralised approach is likely to generate a lot of transport movements with smaller loads which may not be energy efficient and may generate more carbon emissions	+	Locating facilities in areas of waste arisings that have limited existing capacity is likely to be energy efficient as it will mean that the waste being generated is travelling a shorter distance for management than it currently is, which may reduce carbon emissions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	It is uncertain whether planning applications for waste development will come forward or where the prospective sites would be. However, due to the lack of available Preferred Areas that are potentially suitable for waste development, there is potential for proposals to come forward to meet the waste management capacity in sites which may not be suitable in planning or environmental terms. The impact would be dependant on site specifics, transport links, facility type and specific impacts, and planning conditions. This may be negative for this objective.

				larger								
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	?	Expanding existing waste sites or co-location may be positive for this objective if there are economies of scale in terms of transport movements – dependant on facility/waste type and operator	+	Sites in key urban areas and centres of population and growth is likely to be energy efficient in terms of making transport movements shorter; the amounts being transported are likely to be larger	-	A decentralised approach is likely to generate a lot of transport movements with smaller loads which may not be energy efficient	+	Locating facilities in areas of waste arisings that have limited existing capacity is likely to be energy efficient as it will mean that the waste being generated is travelling a shorter distance for management than it currently is	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	It is uncertain whether planning applications for waste development will come forward or where the prospective sites would be. However, due to the lack of available Preferred Areas that are potentially suitable for waste development, there is potential for proposals to come forward to meet the waste management capacity in sites which may not be suitable in planning or environmental terms. The impact would be dependant on site specifics, transport links, facility type and specific impacts, and planning conditions. This may be negative for this objective.
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the reuse, recovery and recycling of waste.	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	It is uncertain whether planning applications for waste development will come forward or where the prospective sites would be. However, due to the lack of available Preferred Areas that are potentially suitable for waste development, there is potential for proposals to come forward to meet the waste management capacity in sites which may not be suitable in planning or environmental terms. The impact would be dependant on site specifics, transport links, facility type and specific impacts, and planning conditions. This may be negative for this objective.
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	?	Expanding existing waste sites or co-location may be positive for this objective if there are economies of scale in terms of transport movements – dependant on facility/waste type and operator	+	Sites in key urban areas and centres of population and growth is likely to be energy efficient in terms of making transport movements shorter; the amounts being transported are likely to be larger	-	A decentralised approach is likely to generate a lot of transport movements with smaller loads	+	Locating facilities in areas of waste arisings that have limited existing capacity means that the waste being generated is travelling a shorter distance for management than it currently is	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	It is uncertain whether planning applications for waste development will come forward or where the prospective sites would be. However, due to the lack of available Preferred Areas that are potentially suitable for waste development, there is potential for proposals to come forward to meet the waste management capacity in sites which may not be suitable in planning or environmental terms. The impact would be dependant on site specifics, transport links, facility type and specific impacts, and planning conditions. This may be negative for this objective.
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled	+	Expanding existing waste sites or co-location may be positive for this objective as it may	+	Locating sites in key urban areas and centres of population and growth may be positive for this	+	A decentralised approach is likely to locating waste sites may be positive for this objective as it may encourage	+	Locating facilities in areas of waste arisings that have limited existing capacity may be positive for this objective as it may	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	It is uncertain whether planning applications for waste development will come forward or where the prospective sites would be. However, due to the lack of available Preferred Areas that are potentially suitable for waste development, there is potential for proposals to come forward to meet the waste management capacity in sites which may not be suitable in planning or environmental terms. The

aggregate where possible and appropriate		encourage the development of C, D & E recycling facilities		objective as it may encourage the development of C, D & E recycling facilities		the development of C, D & E recycling facilities		encourage the development of C, D & E recycling facilities				impact would be dependant on site specifics, transport links, facility type and specific impacts, and planning conditions. This may be negative for this objective.
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development.	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	It is uncertain whether planning applications for waste development will come forward or where the prospective sites would be. However, due to the lack of available Preferred Areas that are potentially suitable for waste development, there is potential for proposals to come forward to meet the waste management capacity in sites which may not be suitable in planning or environmental terms. The impact would be dependant on site specifics, transport links, facility type and specific impacts, and planning conditions. This may be negative for this objective.
13) To minimise public nuisance from waste treatment and disposal, and from access to and from facilities.	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	It is uncertain whether planning applications for waste development will come forward or where the prospective sites would be. However, due to the lack of available Preferred Areas that are potentially suitable for waste development, there is potential for proposals to come forward to meet the waste management capacity in sites which may not be suitable in planning or environmental terms. The impact would be dependant on site specifics, transport links, facility type and specific impacts, and planning conditions. This may be negative for this objective.
14) To minimise public nuisance from minerals development and associated activities including transportation.	?	Expanding existing waste sites or co-location may be positive for this objective as it may encourage the development of C, D & E recycling facilities reducing the demand for primary aggregate reducing the impact, however these facilities may generate their own negative	?	Locating sites in key urban areas and centres of population and growth may be positive for this objective as it may encourage the development of C, D & E recycling facilities reducing the demand for primary aggregate reducing the impact, however these facilities may	?	A decentralised approach is likely to be positive for this objective as it may encourage the development of C, D & E recycling facilities reducing the demand for primary aggregate reducing the impact, however these facilities may generate their own negative impacts counteracting this benefit	?	Locating facilities in areas of waste arisings that have limited existing capacity may be positive for this objective as it may encourage the development of C, D & E recycling facilities reducing the demand for primary aggregate reducing the impact, however these facilities may generate their own negative impacts counteracting this benefit	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	It is uncertain whether planning applications for waste development will come forward or where the prospective sites would be. However, due to the lack of available Preferred Areas that are potentially suitable for waste development, there is potential for proposals to come forward to meet the waste management capacity in sites which may not be suitable in planning or environmental terms. The impact would be dependant on site specifics, transport links, facility type and specific impacts, and planning conditions. This may be negative for this objective.

		impacts counteracting this benefit		generate their own negative impacts counteracting this benefit								
15) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities.	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics; more waste development will create more jobs but it is necessary to have adequate types/amounts of waste	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics; more waste development will create more jobs but it is necessary to have adequate types/amounts of waste	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics; more waste development will create more jobs but it is necessary to have adequate types/amounts of waste	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics; more waste development will create more jobs but it is necessary to have adequate types/amounts of waste	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	-	The lack of available Preferred Areas that are potentially suitable for waste development will not provide certainty for waste operators whoch is likely to be negative in economic terms.

Comment

Option 1(i) relates to the expansion of existing waste facilities and co-location of facilities. It is likely to impact positively on the objective relating to the encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate. It was unclear what impact this option would have on the rest of the objectives due to the existing facilities not being specified. The impacts would therefore be dependant on site specifics in terms of the surrounding landscape characteristics, method of operation, transport links and conditional requirements. With regard to objectives related to energy efficiency, minimising public nuisance, and air quality, whether or not transport movements could be shared between facilities/operators would be dependant on facility/waste type and the operators involved.

Option 1(ii) would concentrate new facilities in key urban areas and centres of population and growth, and is likely to impact positively on the objectives related to air quality, maximising energy efficiency, sustainable transport of waste, and encouraging the use of recycled aggregate. This is due the likelihood that sites in key urban areas and centres of population and growth are likely to be energy efficient in terms of making transport movements shorter which may reduce carbon emissions, and the amounts being transported are likely to be larger.

Option 1(iii) would adopt a decentralised approach with facilities distributed across all the urban areas and rural centres. A decentralised approach is likely to result in waste development that will generate a lot of transport movements with smaller loads which may not be energy efficient and may generate more carbon emissions. This is therefore likely to impact negatively on the objectives related to air quality, maximising energy efficiency, sustainable transport of waste. It will however, positively impact on the objective related to the encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate as it will encourage waste development.

Option 1(iv) posed the question of whether an approach that combines i, ii and iii would be suitable. As the approach is unknown it is unclear what the impacts on the objectives would be.

Option 2 posed the question of whether there was another strategy that could be adopted. The strategy is unknown and the impacts are therefore 'uncertain'.

Option 3 would see the West Berkshire Core Strategy; and the Saved Policies from the WLPB, the RMLP and the Local Plan continuing as the development plan to regulate minerals and waste development. Initial site selection of Preferred Areas for waste was based around the concept of sustainability, thus the proximity to waste sources was considered. This meant that the Preferred Areas were therefore located relatively close to communities. One of the key assessment criteria was the adequacy of the transport network, and therefore this has led to the proximity of sites to main trunk roads. Other issues considered were major planning policy constraints, and likely environmental effects. WLPB 16 is supportive of waste management development outside of Preferred Areas in existing waste management sites, some sites subject to temporary permissions, and industrial locations. WLPB 18 is supportive of waste management development involving the processing of sewage sludge outside of Preferred Areas in existing sewage works. So in these respects the current policy position is supportive of co-location of facilities. WLPB 20 is supportive of infilling, outside of the Preferred Areas for engineered landfilling where the primary purpose is to achieve satisfactory restoration of a mineral site.

Notwithstanding the rational selection approach for the Preferred Areas, the fact remains that out of the 10 Preferred Areas, six have already been developed for waste and non-waste uses. Out of the 4 left, 3 of them are industrial sites where a waste use may be acceptable and 1 waste-specific Preferred Area which is currently the subject of an application for a waste use. Due to the low number of sites potentially available for waste uses it was considered likely that option 3 would be negative in economic terms due to a lack of certainty for operators. With regard to the rest of the objectives, it is uncertain what the impact would be largely due to the fact that the type of proposals that come forward cannot be predicted, and therefore their impacts cannot be predicted.

Option 1(ii) appears to be the most beneficial for the sustainability objectives, although it may be that dependant on site specifics, option 1(i) could be equally as beneficial or more so. It may be that a combination of 1(i) and 1(ii) would be a sustainable and practical method of locating waste facilities.

With regard to putting forward methods to maximise potential beneficial effects, and mitigate potential negative effects of the various options on the sustainability objectives, this is an area which will receive due consideration later in the process - at the Preferred Options stage of the SA/SEA, and in the full SA/SEA Environmental Report. Additionally, once the WBMWDPD is adopted, the maximisation of benefits and mitigation of negative impacts are areas which can be beneficially influenced through the development management process on a case by case basis.

Table 22

Issue 18: Safeguarding of existing waste sites

	1: Should the WBMWDPD safeguard existing permitted permanent waste sites from alternative uses? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		2: Should the WBMWDPD safeguard any proposed preferred areas for waste identified in the plan from alternative uses? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		3: Should the WBMWDPD identify and safeguard existing industrial areas that could provide additional waste management capacity within the existing permitted industrial areas? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		4: Are there any particular types of waste management facility that you consider should have a greater level of protection than others?		5. Business as usual	
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	+	Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning that biodiversity and geodiversity are protected in other areas	+	Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning that biodiversity and geodiversity are protected in other areas	+	Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning that biodiversity and geodiversity are protected in other areas	?	Uncertain, unknown facility type	+	Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning that biodiversity and geodiversity are protected in other areas.
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	+	Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning that water quality/resources is protected in other areas	+	Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning that water quality/resources is protected in other areas	+	Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning that water quality/resources is protected in other areas	?	Uncertain, unknown facility type	+	Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning that water quality/resources is protected in other areas
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	?	Uncertain, unknown facility type	0	No clear link
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	+	Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning that high quality agricultural land is protected in other areas	+	Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning that high quality agricultural land is protected in other areas	+	Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning that high quality agricultural land is protected in other areas	?	Uncertain, unknown facility type	+	Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning that high quality agricultural land is protected in other areas
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment,	+	Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning that the	+	Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning	+	Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning that the	?	Uncertain, unknown facility type	+	Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning that the historical environment is protected in other areas

cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance		historical environment is protected in other areas		that the historical environment is protected in other areas		historical environment is protected in other areas				
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	+	Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning that the landscape and townscape character are protected in other areas	+	Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning that the landscape and townscape character are protected in other areas	+	Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning that the landscape and townscape character are protected in other areas	?	Uncertain, unknown facility type	+	Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning that the landscape and townscape character are protected in other areas
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	+	Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, including on air quality (to an extent), however this is changeable depending on weather conditions etc	+	Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, including on air quality (to an extent), however this is changeable depending on weather conditions etc	+	Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, including on air quality (to an extent), however this is changeable depending on weather conditions etc	?	Uncertain, unknown facility type	+	Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, including on air quality (to an extent), however this is changeable depending on weather conditions etc
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, transport links, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, transport links, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, transport links, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown facility type	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, transport links, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the reuse, recovery and recycling of waste.	?	Dependant on site specifics - method of waste management employed/intended on the site	?	Dependant on site specifics - method of waste management employed/intended on the site	?	Dependant on site specifics - method of waste management employed/intended on the site	?	Uncertain, unknown facility type	?	Dependant on site specifics - method of waste management employed/intended on the site - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown facility type	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	+	Safeguarding of sites for C, D & E recycling may mean less demand for primary aggregate	+	Safeguarding of sites for C, D & E recycling may mean less demand for primary aggregate	+	Safeguarding of sites for C, D & E recycling may mean less demand for primary aggregate	?	Uncertain, unknown facility type	+	Safeguarding of sites for C, D & E recycling may mean less demand for primary aggregate

12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development.	+	Safeguarding sites may potentially mean less disturbance of land / open space for new facilities in West Berkshire	+	Safeguarding sites may potentially mean less disturbance of land / open space for new facilities in West Berkshire	+	Safeguarding sites may potentially mean less disturbance of land / open space for new facilities in West Berkshire	?	Uncertain, unknown facility type	+	Safeguarding sites may potentially mean less disturbance of land / open space for new facilities in West Berkshire
13) To minimise public nuisance from waste treatment and disposal, and from access to and from facilities.	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown facility type	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating
14) To minimise public nuisance from minerals development and associated activities including transportation.	?	Safeguarding of sites for C, D & E recycling may mean less demand for primary aggregate, potentially leading to less resulting public nuisance, however C, D & E facilities generate their own negative impacts which may counteract this benefit	?	Safeguarding of sites for C, D & E recycling may mean less demand for primary aggregate, potentially leading to less resulting public nuisance, however C, D & E facilities generate their own negative impacts which may counteract this benefit	?	Safeguarding of sites for C, D & E recycling may mean less demand for primary aggregate, potentially leading to less resulting public nuisance, however C, D & E facilities generate their own negative impacts which may counteract this benefit	?	Uncertain, unknown facility type	?	Safeguarding of sites for C, D & E recycling may mean less demand for primary aggregate, potentially leading to less resulting public nuisance, however C, D & E facilities generate their own negative impacts which may counteract this benefit - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
15) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities.	?	Safeguarding of sites will safeguard employment to an extent in this sector, however if the site becomes vacant and another viable operation with employment potential comes forward, it may not receive planning permission which would be negative in economic terms.	?	Safeguarding of sites will safeguard employment to an extent in this sector, however if the site becomes vacant and another viable operation with employment potential comes forward, it may not receive planning permission which would be negative in economic terms.	?	Safeguarding of sites will safeguard employment to an extent in this sector, however if the site becomes vacant and another viable operation with employment potential comes forward, it may not receive planning permission which would be negative in economic terms.	?	Uncertain, unknown facility type	?	Safeguarding of sites will safeguard employment to an extent in this sector, however if the site becomes vacant and another viable operation with employment potential comes forward, it may not receive planning permission which would be negative in economic terms.
Comment Option 1 seeks to safeguard existing permitted permanent waste sites from alternative uses. Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning that other areas are protected, and therefore in the wider context this is likely to impact positively on 8 objectives. Option 2 seeks to safeguard any proposed preferred areas for waste identified in the plan from alternative uses. Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning that other areas are protected, and therefore in the wider context this is likely to impact positively on 8 objectives.										

Option 3 seeks to identify and safeguard existing industrial areas that could provide additional waste management capacity within the existing permitted industrial areas. Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning that other areas are protected, and therefore in the wider context this is likely to impact positively on 8 objectives.

Option 4 poses the question of whether there are any particular types of waste management facility that should have greater protection than others. As the answer to this question is unknown, the impact on the sustainability objectives is 'uncertain'.

Option 5 would see the West Berkshire Core Strategy; and the Saved Policies from the WLPB, the RMLP and the Local Plan continuing as the development plan to regulate minerals and waste development. WLPB 21 is concerned with safeguarding sites for waste management. It safeguards: existing permanent authorised sites; sites where permission is subsequently granted for permanent facilities; mineral sites where essential infilling is being carried out for restoration purposes; certain inert landfill sites; certain non-inert landfill sites; and the preferred Areas within the WLPB. Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning that other areas are protected, and therefore in the wider context this is likely to impact positively on 8 objectives. It should be noted however that there are a lack of available Preferred Areas that are potentially suitable for waste development.

Options 1, 2, 3 and 5 appear to be equally beneficial in terms of their impacts on the objectives, while it is uncertain what impacts option 4 would have. This said, in regard to option 5, 6 out of the 10 Preferred Areas have been developed for waste and non-waste uses. 3 of the sites left are existing industrial sites where a waste use may be acceptable and 1 is a site specified as suitable for waste development. An application has been submitted and remains to be determined for the waste specific site. A new plan would provide an opportunity for new site allocations. It may be that a combination of the options 1, 2 and 3 could be implemented.

With regard to putting forward methods to maximise potential beneficial effects, and mitigate potential negative effects of the various options on the sustainability objectives, this is an area which will receive due consideration later in the process - at the Preferred Options stage of the SA/SEA, and in the full SA/SEA Environmental Report. Additionally, once the WBMWDPD is adopted, the maximisation of benefits and mitigation of negative impacts are areas which can be beneficially influenced through the development management process on a case by case basis.

Table 23

Issue 19: New technologies										
	1: Should the WBMWDPD adopting general policies for site allocations and the control of development that allow a range of technologies to come forward in a given location? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		2: Should the WBMWDPD adopting policies for site allocations and the control of development that specify where particular technologies or types of facility would be acceptable? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		3: Should the WBMWDPD include policies to support the development of the waste re/processing or recyclate industry? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		4: Do you think there is another strategy that the WBMWDPD could adopt, and if so please explain what you think it should be?		5. Business as usual	
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	?	Dependant on implementation – impacts of specific technology, site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – impacts of specific technology, site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – impacts of specific technology, site specifics, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics, impacts of specific technology, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	?	Dependant on implementation – impacts of specific technology, site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – impacts of specific technology, site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – impacts of specific technology, site specifics, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics, impacts of specific technology, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	?	Dependant on implementation – impacts of specific technology, site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – impacts of specific technology, site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – impacts of specific technology, site specifics, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics, impacts of specific technology, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	?	Dependant on implementation – impacts of specific technology, site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – impacts of specific technology, site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – impacts of specific technology, site specifics, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics, impacts of specific technology, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	?	Dependant on implementation – impacts of specific technology, site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – impacts of specific technology, site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – impacts of specific technology, site specifics, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics, impacts of specific technology, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	?	Dependant on implementation –	?	Dependant on implementation –	?	Dependant on implementation –	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics, impacts of specific technology, planning conditions -

		impacts of specific technology, site specifics, planning conditions		impacts of specific technology, site specifics, planning conditions		impacts of specific technology, site specifics, planning conditions				could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	?	Dependant on implementation – impacts of specific technology, site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – impacts of specific technology, site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – impacts of specific technology, site specifics, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics, impacts of specific technology, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	?	Dependant on implementation – impacts of specific technology, site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – impacts of specific technology, site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – impacts of specific technology, site specifics, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics, impacts of specific technology, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the reuse, recovery and recycling of waste.	+	New technologies are likely to be sustainable methods of waste management	+	Site allocations are likely to be for more sustainable forms of development	++	Encourages re/processing and recyclate facilities	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics - method of waste management employed/intended on the site - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	+	In allocating sites the issue of sustainable transport will likely have been taken into account	+	In allocating sites the issue of sustainable transport will likely have been taken into account	?	Dependant on implementation – impacts of specific technology, site specifics, transport links, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics, transport links - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	0	No clear link
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development.	?	Dependant on implementation – impacts of specific technology, site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – impacts of specific technology, site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – impacts of specific technology, site specifics, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics, impacts of specific technology, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
13) To minimise public nuisance from waste treatment and disposal, and from access to and from facilities.	?	Dependant on implementation – impacts of specific technology, site specifics, transport links, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – impacts of specific technology, site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – impacts of specific technology, site specifics, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics, impacts of specific technology, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.

14) To minimise public nuisance from minerals development and associated activities including transportation.	?	Dependant on implementation – impacts of specific technology, site specifics, transport links, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – impacts of specific technology, site specifics, transport links, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – impacts of specific technology, site specifics, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on site specifics, impacts of specific technology, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
15) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities.	+	Allocating sites should provide certainty and jobs if development comes forward	+	Allocating sites should provide certainty and jobs if development comes forward	+	Supporting these types of waste industry should provide jobs in that industry	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	The allocation of the Preferred Areas would have provided certainty and jobs were development came forward, however, 6 out of the 10 Preferred Areas have been developed already

Comment

As it is largely unknown what the new technologies would be or where they would be located, it is very difficult to predict the effects on the sustainability objectives. Therefore many of the boxes are market 'uncertain'.

Option 1 would involve adopting general policies for site allocations and the control of development that allow a range of technologies to come forward in a given location. As the new technologies are likely to be types of recycling, recovery or other operations higher up the waste hierarchy than disposal, it is likely that this option will be positive for the objectives related to sustainable waste management. The issue of sustainable transport of waste would be a consideration in the policies and site allocations and this objective is likely to be positively impacted upon. Allocating sites should provide certainty and jobs if development comes forward so this will benefit the economic development objective.

Option 2 would involve adopting policies for site allocations and the control of development that specify where particular technologies or types of facility would be acceptable. As the new technologies are likely to be types of recycling, recovery or other operations higher up the waste hierarchy than disposal, it is likely that this option will be positive for the objectives related to sustainable waste management. The issue of sustainable transport of waste would be a consideration in the policies and site allocations and this objective is likely to be positively impacted upon. Allocating sites should provide certainty and jobs if development comes forward so this will benefit the economic development objective.

Option 3 would involve adopting policies to support the development of the waste re/processing or recyclate industries (i.e. industries that use processed waste materials for specific manufacturing/industrial purposes). This is likely to be very positive for the sustainable waste management objective as it encourages re/processing and recyclate facilities which are higher up the waste hierarchy than disposal. Supporting these types of waste industry should provide jobs in that industry so this will benefit the economic development objective.

Option 4 poses the question of whether the reader has any other ideas in terms of relevant strategies. As the strategies are unknown the impact on the objectives is 'uncertain'.

Option 5 would see the West Berkshire Core Strategy; and the Saved Policies from the WLPB, the RMLP and the Local Plan continuing as the development plan to regulate minerals and waste development. The Preferred Areas are identified in 'Table: Policy WLP 11' of the WLPB. For each Preferred Area, potential uses that are likely to be acceptable in planning terms are specified. Currently industries that use processed waste materials for specific manufacturing/industrial purposes are not specifically recognised or supported. It was 'uncertain' what the impacts would be on the objectives. For certain objectives, for example in relation to the economy, the impacts may have been positive when the plan was adopted, however due to the dwindling number of available Preferred Areas, it is uncertain what the impacts would be in the future.

Overall, options 1, 2 and 3 have similar positive impacts on the sustainability objectives, however the impacts are of a different nature. Option 2 may be difficult to implement due to the types of technology and resultant impacts being unknown, and therefore it would be difficult to allocate suitable sites. Option 3 could potentially be implemented concurrently with one of the other options. Generally speaking option 5 could potentially have a negative impact with regard to the objectives as the current development plan policies require updating.

With regard to putting forward methods to maximise potential beneficial effects, and mitigate potential negative effects of the various options on the sustainability objectives, this is an area which will receive due consideration later in the process - at the Preferred Options stage of the SA/SEA, and in the full SA/SEA Environmental Report. Additionally, once the WBMWDPD is adopted, the maximisation of benefits and mitigation of negative impacts are areas which can be beneficially influenced through the development management process on a case by case basis.

Table 24

Issue 20: Facilities in the AONB										
	1 : Should small scale waste management facilities, that meet an identified local, needs be allowed in the AONB? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		2: Should large scale strategic waste management facilities be allowed in the AONB? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		3: Should all waste management operations, with the possible exception of inert landfilling if necessary to facilitate the restoration of any mineral extraction permitted within the AONB (depending of the outcome of the mineral issues outlined above) be excluded from the AONB? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		4: Do you think there is another strategy that the WBMWDPD could adopt, and if so please explain what you think it should be?		5. Business as usual	
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	?	The AONB is a valued aspect of the historical environment and small scale waste sites may be harmful or not dependant on implementation, site specifics, conditions etc	--	The AONB is a valued aspect of the historical environment and large scale strategic waste sites would likely have a very negative impact on this objective	++	The AONB is a valued aspect of the historical environment and it would be protected from harmful large scale strategic waste facilities	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	+	The AONB is a valued aspect of the historical environment and it is protected from most forms of waste development

6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	?	The AONB has valued landscape characteristics and small scale waste sites may be harmful or not dependant on implementation, site specifics, conditions etc	--	The AONB has valued landscape characteristics and large scale strategic waste sites would likely have a very negative impact on this objective	++	The AONB has valued landscape characteristics and it would be protected from harmful large scale strategic waste facilities	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	+	The AONB has valued landscape characteristics and it is protected from most forms of waste development
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the reuse, recovery and recycling of waste.	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, transport links, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, transport links, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, transport links, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, transport links, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, transport links, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, transport links, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development.	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, transport links, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, transport links, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, working/restoration scheme, transport links, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
13) To minimise public nuisance from waste treatment and disposal, and from access to and from facilities.	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics,	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics,	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics,	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on implementation – site specific working/restoration schemes, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative

		working/restoration scheme, transport links, planning conditions		working/restoration scheme, transport links, planning conditions		working/restoration scheme, transport links, planning conditions				impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
14) To minimise public nuisance from minerals development and associated activities including transportation	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	0	No clear link
15) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities.	+	Small scale waste facilies in the AONB would potentially provide some employment	++	Large scale strategic waste facilities would potentially create a lot of employment opportunities	-	Excluding waste operations from the AONB potentially restricts development, restricting job creation	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	-	Excluding waste operations from the AONB potentially restricts development, restricting job creation

Comment:

Option 1 proposes small scale waste management facilities that meet an identified local need being allowed in the AONB. This is likely to be positive in terms of creating employment potential while how the rest of the objectives would be affected would be dependant on implementation.

Option 2 proposes large scale strategic waste management facilities being allowed in the AONB. This is likely to be very positive in terms of job creation, and very negative for the objectives relating to the historic environment and the landscape due to large scale was facilities being potentially intrusive in the AONB in terms of landscape and landscape character impact.

Option 3 proposes that all waste management operations (with the exception of inert waste infilling for mineral site restoration purposes) are excluded from the AONB. This is likely to be very positive for the objectives relating to the historic environment and the landscape due to large scale waste facilities (which are potentially intrusive in the AONB in terms of landscape and landscape character impact) being located somewhere more suitable. Excluding waste operations from the AONB potentially restricts development however, which would restrict job creation, negatively impacting on the economic development objective.

Option 4 poses the question of whether the reader has any idea in terms of another strategy that could be implemented. The strategy is unknown, and so the impact on the objectives is ‘uncertain’.

Option 5 would see the West Berkshire Core Strategy; and the Saved Policies from the WLPB, the RMLP and the Local Plan continuing as the development plan to regulate minerals and waste development. WLPB 29 states that there will be a strong presumption against waste management development either within or adversely affecting, inter alia, the North Wessex Dows AONB, except for in the following circumstances: the landfilling of waste for mineral site restoration; temporary waste recycling / transfer facilities on landfill sites; the treatment of sewage and other wastes; and the treatment of farm and stable waste (complying with all other relevant WLPB policies). This option is likely to be positive for the objectives relating to the historic environment and the landscape due to waste facilities (which are potentially intrusive in the AONB in terms of landscape / landscape character impact) being located somewhere more suitable. Excluding waste operations from the AONB potentially restricts development however, which would restrict job creation, negatively impacting on the economic development objective.

Option 3 appears to be the most beneficial for the objectives with option 2 being the most negative for the objectives. Depending on site specifics, working/restoration scheme, transport links, planning conditions option 2 could have a positive or negative impact on many of the objectives. Regarding option 4, the impact on the objectives is ‘uncertain’.

With regard to putting forward methods to maximise potential beneficial effects, and mitigate potential negative effects of the various options on the sustainability objectives, this is an area which will receive due consideration later in the process - at the Preferred Options stage of the SA/SEA, and in the full SA/SEA Environmental Report. Additionally, once the WBMWDPD is adopted, the maximisation of benefits and mitigation of negative impacts are areas which can be beneficially influenced through the development management process on a case by case basis.

Table 25

Issue 21: Equine waste

	1: Do you think that West Berkshire needs more waste management capacity to deal with Equine waste? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		2: Do you agree that facilities to manage equine waste should be located near to the waste arisings, accepting that this may mean waste facilities in the AONB? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		3: Do you think that the management of equine waste is a strategic matter or should criteria based polices be used to consider any forthcoming applications?				4. Business as usual	
					(i) Strategic		(ii) Criteria-based			
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	+	A strategic policy position on equine waste is likely to have a positive impact on biodiversity/geodiversity as these issues would be considered from a strategic perspective	+	Criteria based policies that relate to the potential for applications to come forward for equine waste facilities are likely to have a positive impact on biodiversity/geodiversity as these issues would be considered in the development management process	?	Criteria based policies are currently in place in the WLPB, however the impact on the objective would be dependant on implementation, site specifics, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	+	A strategic policy position on equine waste is likely to have a positive impact on water quality and resources as these issues would be considered from a strategic perspective	+	Criteria based policies that relate to the potential for applications to come forward for equine waste facilities are likely to have a positive impact on water quality and resources as these issues would be considered in the development management process	?	Criteria based policies are currently in place in the WLPB, however the impact on the objective would be dependant on implementation, site specifics, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	+	A strategic policy position on equine waste is likely to have a positive impact on flood risk and impact as these issues would be considered from a strategic perspective	+	Criteria based policies that relate to the potential for applications to come forward for equine waste facilities are likely to have a positive impact on flood risk and impact as these issues would be considered in the development management process	?	Criteria based policies are currently in place in the WLPB, however the impact on the objective would be dependant on implementation, site specifics, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	+	A strategic policy position on equine waste is likely to have a positive impact on high quality agricultural land as these issues would be considered from a strategic perspective	+	Criteria based policies that relate to the potential for applications to come forward for equine waste facilities are likely to have a positive impact on high quality agricultural land as these issues would be considered in the development management process	?	Criteria based policies are currently in place in the WLPB, however the impact on the objective would be dependant on implementation, site specifics, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment,	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	-	The AONB is valued in terms of the historic environment and these facilities may have a detrimental	+	A strategic policy position on equine waste is likely to have a positive impact on the historical environment	+	Criteria based policies that relate to the potential for applications to come forward for equine waste facilities are likely to have a positive impact on the historical environment as	?	Criteria based policies are currently in place in the WLPB, however the impact on the objective would be dependant on implementation, site specifics, planning conditions - could potentially have a

cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance				impact on it		as these issues would be considered from a strategic perspective		these issues would be considered in the development management process		negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	-	The AONB is valued in terms of its landscape and these facilities may have a detrimental impact on it	+	A strategic policy position on equine waste is likely to have a positive impact on landscape and townscape character as these issues would be considered from a strategic perspective	+	Criteria based policies that relate to the potential for applications to come forward for equine waste facilities are likely to have a positive impact on landscape and townscape character as these issues would be considered in the development management process	?	Criteria based policies are currently in place in the WLPB, however the impact on the objective would be dependant on implementation, site specifics, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	+	A strategic policy position on equine waste is likely to have a positive impact on air quality as this issue would be considered from a strategic perspective	+	Criteria based policies that relate to the potential for applications to come forward for equine waste facilities are likely to have a positive impact on air quality as this issue would be considered in the development management process	?	Criteria based policies are currently in place in the WLPB, however the impact on the objective would be dependant on implementation, site specifics, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	+	Locating facilities close to the arisings will be positive in terms of energy efficiency	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Criteria based policies are currently in place in the WLPB, however the impact on the objective would be dependant on implementation, site specifics, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the reuse, recovery and recycling of waste.	+	Equine waste is likely to be either applied directly to the land for agricultural purposes, or managed through a recovery process and this is considered to contribute positively to this objective	+	Equine waste is likely to be either applied directly to the land for agricultural purposes, or managed through a recovery process and this is considered to contribute positively to this objective	+	Equine waste is likely to be either applied directly to the land for agricultural purposes, or managed through a recovery process so this is likely to contribute positively to this objective	+	Equine waste is likely to be either applied directly to the land for agricultural purposes, or managed through a recovery process so this is likely to contribute positively to this objective	+	Equine waste is likely to be either applied directly to the land for agricultural purposes, or managed through a recovery process so this is likely to contribute positively to this objective
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, availability of rail links	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, availability of rail links	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, availability of rail links	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, availability of rail links	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, availability of rail links
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link
12) To protect human health and well	0	Dependant on	-	The AONB is valued	+	A strategic policy	+	Criteria based policies that relate to	?	Dependant on implementation – site

being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development.		implementation – site specifics, planning conditions		for its landscape and open space and this may impact negatively on this objective		position on equine waste is likely to have a positive impact in terms of maintaining open space as this issue would be considered from a strategic perspective		the potential for applications to come forward for equine waste facilities are likely to have a positive impact in terms of maintaining open space as this issue would be considered from a strategic perspective		specifics, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
13) To minimise public nuisance from waste treatment and disposal, and from access to and from facilities.	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	+	A strategic policy position on equine waste is likely to have a positive impact in terms of minimising public nuisance as this issue would be considered from a strategic perspective	+	Criteria based policies that relate to the potential for applications to come forward for equine waste facilities are likely to have a positive impact in terms of minimising public nuisance as this issue would be considered from a strategic perspective	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
14) To minimise public nuisance from minerals development and associated activities including transportation.	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link
15) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities.	+	Equine waste management facilities would generate a small number of jobs	+	Equine waste management facilities would generate a small number of jobs	+	Equine waste management facilities would generate a small number of jobs and a strategic approach would provide certainty for developers which is positive in economic terms	+	Equine waste management facilities would provide a small number of jobs. A criteria-based approach would provide some certainty for developers which would be positive in economic terms.	?	Equine waste management facilities would provide a small number of jobs. A criteria-based approach should provide some certainty for developers which would be positive in economic terms. However, as the development plan is quite dated this may not provide sufficient certainty

Comment

Option 1 proposes to provide more waste management capacity to deal with equine waste. It is likely that equine waste management facilities would generate a small number of jobs so this would be positive for the economic development objective, and it was 'uncertain' how the rest of the objectives would be impacted upon as it would come down to site-specifics, or there was 'no clear link'.

Option 2 proposes to provide equine waste facilities near to the waste arisings, accepting that this may mean in the AONB. Equine waste is likely to be either applied directly to the land for agricultural purposes, or managed through a recovery process and locating facilities close to the arisings will be positive in terms of energy efficiency. The facilities would also generate some employment. Therefore there is likely to be a positive impact on 3 objectives relating to energy efficiency, sustainable waste management, and economic development. There is however, likely to be a negative impact on objectives relating to the historic environment, the landscape and maintaining open space amenity. This is due to potential negative impacts of facilities in the AONB.

Option 3(i) proposes that equine waste should be managed as a strategic waste matter. As the majority of the issues raised through the sustainability objectives would be considered as a matter of course through a strategic approach to equine waste management, it is likely that this option would impact positively on 11 objectives.

Option 3(ii) proposes that criteria based policies be used to consider any forthcoming applications that are submitted for equine waste management facilities. As the majority of the issues raised through the sustainability objectives would be considered as a matter of course through a criteria based policy approach to equine waste management, it is likely that this option would impact positively on 11 objectives.

Option 4 would see the West Berkshire Core Strategy; and the Saved Policies from the WLPB, the RMLP and the Local Plan continuing as the development plan to regulate minerals and waste development. WLPB 19 refers to 'farm and stable waste' stating that outside the Preferred Areas, LPAs will support, in principle, facilities to manage such waste subject to: proposals being located within or adjacent to existing groups of farm buildings; the proposals being appropriate in scale, form, character and siting to its location; and the overcoming/accommodating of all constraints deriving from considerations set out in all policies within the WLPB. WLPB 29 states that there will be a strong presumption against waste management development either within or adversely affecting, inter alia, the North Wessex Dows AONB, except for in certain circumstances, one of them being for the treatment of farm and stable waste (complying with all other relevant WLPB policies). There is likely to be a positive impact on the objectives relating to sustainable waste management as equine waste is likely to be either applied directly to the land

for agricultural purposes, or managed through a recovery process, while it was uncertain how the other objectives would be impacted upon, or there was 'no clear link'.

It may be that one or more of options 1, 2, 3(i) or 3(ii) could be implemented concurrently.

With regard to putting forward methods to maximise potential beneficial effects, and mitigate potential negative effects of the various options on the sustainability objectives, this is an area which will receive due consideration later in the process - at the Preferred Options stage of the SA/SEA, and in the full SA/SEA Environmental Report. Additionally, once the WBMWDPD is adopted, the maximisation of benefits and mitigation of negative impacts are areas which can be beneficially influenced through the development management process on a case by case basis.

Table 26

Issue 22: Sewage Waste

	1: Do you think that West Berkshire needs more waste management capacity to deal with sewerage? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		2: Do you agree that facilities to sewerage should be located near to the waste arisings, accepting that this may mean developing new waste facilities or expanding existing facilities or locating facilities in sensitive areas such at the AONB? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		3: Do you think that the management of sewerage is a strategic matter or should criteria based policies be used to consider any forthcoming applications?				4. Business as usual	
					(i) Strategic		(ii) Criteria-based			
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	+	A strategic policy position on sewage waste is likely to have a positive impact on biodiversity/geodiversity as these issues would be considered from a strategic perspective	+	Criteria based policies that relate to the potential for applications to come forward for sewage waste facilities are likely to have a positive impact on biodiversity/geodiversity as these issues would be considered in the development management process	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	+	A strategic policy position on sewage waste is likely to have a positive impact on water quality and resources as these issues would be considered from a strategic perspective	+	Criteria based policies that relate to the potential for applications to come forward for sewage waste facilities are likely to have a positive impact on water quality and resources as these issues would be considered in the development	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.

								management process		
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	+	A strategic policy position on sewage waste is likely to have a positive impact on flood risk and impact as these issues would be considered from a strategic perspective	+	Criteria based policies that relate to the potential for applications to come forward for sewage waste facilities are likely to have a positive impact on flood risk and impact as these issues would be considered in the development management process	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	+	A strategic policy position on sewage waste is likely to have a positive impact on high quality agricultural land as these issues would be considered from a strategic perspective	+	Criteria based policies that relate to the potential for applications to come forward for sewage waste facilities are likely to have a positive impact on high quality agricultural land as these issues would be considered in the development management process	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	-	The AONB is a valued aspect of the historical environment and it may be negatively impacted on	+	A strategic policy position on sewage waste is likely to have a positive impact on the historical environment as these issues would be considered from a strategic perspective	+	Criteria based policies that relate to the potential for applications to come forward for sewage waste facilities are likely to have a positive impact on the historical environment as these issues would be considered in the development management process	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	-	The AONB has valued landscape characteristics and it may be negatively impacted on	+	A strategic policy position on sewage waste is likely to have a positive impact on landscape and townscape character as these issues would be considered from a strategic perspective	+	Criteria based policies that relate to the potential for applications to come forward for sewage waste facilities are likely to have a positive impact on landscape and townscape character as these issues would be	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.

								considered in the development management process		
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	+	A strategic policy position on sewage waste is likely to have a positive impact on air quality as this issue would be considered from a strategic perspective	+	Criteria based policies that relate to the potential for applications to come forward for sewage waste facilities are likely to have a positive impact on air quality as this issue would be considered in the development management process	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	0	No clear link	+	Facilities being near arisings is energy efficient	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the reuse, recovery and recycling of waste.	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	+	Sewage waste is likely to be either applied directly to the land for agricultural purposes, or managed through a recovery process so this is likely to contribute positively to this objective	+	Sewage waste is likely to be either applied directly to the land for agricultural purposes, or managed through a recovery process so this is likely to contribute positively to this objective	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, availability of rail links	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, availability of rail links	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development.	-	The development could potentially take place on land/open space which could impact negatively on this objective	-	The development could potentially take place on land/open space which could impact negatively on this objective	+	A strategic policy position on sewage waste is likely to have a positive impact in terms of maintaining open space as this issue would be considered from a strategic	+	Criteria based policies that relate to the potential for applications to come forward for sewage waste facilities are likely to have a positive impact in terms of maintaining open	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.

						perspective		space as this issue would be considered from a strategic perspective		
13) To minimise public nuisance from waste treatment and disposal, and from access to and from facilities.	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	+	A strategic policy position on sewage waste is likely to have a positive impact in terms of minimising public nuisance as this issue would be considered from a strategic perspective	+	Criteria based policies that relate to the potential for applications to come forward for sewage waste facilities are likely to have a positive impact in terms of minimising public nuisance as this issue would be considered from a strategic perspective	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
14) To minimise public nuisance from minerals development and associated activities including transportation	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link
15) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities.	+	More sewerage waste management capacity would potentially generate more employment	+	More sewerage waste management capacity would potentially generate more employment	+	Sewage waste management facilities would generate a small number of jobs and a strategic approach would provide certainty for developers which is positive in economic terms	+	Sewage waste management facilities would provide a small number of jobs. A criteria-based approach would provide some certainty for developers which would be positive in economic terms.	?	More sewerage waste management capacity would potentially generate more employment however it would only come forward if it was required

Comment

Option 1 asks whether the reader considers that West Berkshire needs more waste management capacity to deal with sewerage. It is likely that this would impact positively on economic development as more sewerage waste management capacity would potentially generate more employment, however it is likely to impact negatively on open space amenity as this development could potentially take place on land which is currently open space.

Option 2 proposes locating sewerage near to the waste arisings, accepting that this may mean developing new waste facilities, expanding existing facilities, or locating facilities in sensitive areas such as the AONB. It is likely that this option would impact positively on the objective related to energy efficiency as the distance that the waste would be travelling would be minimised. It is also likely that the facilities would generate a small amount of employment so this would be positive in economic terms. Due to the likelihood that development would be required to take place in the AONB, there would potentially be a negative impact in regard to the historical environment, landscape and open space amenity all three of which the AONB is valued for.

Option 3(i) proposes that sewage waste should be managed as a strategic waste matter. As the majority of the issues raised through the sustainability objectives would be considered as a matter of course through a strategic approach to sewage waste management, it is likely that this option would impact positively on 11 objectives.

Option 3(ii) proposes that criteria based policies be used to consider any forthcoming applications that are submitted for sewage waste management facilities. As the majority of the issues raised through the sustainability objectives would be considered as a matter of course through a criteria based policy approach to sewage waste management, it is likely that this option would impact positively on 11 objectives.

Option 4 would see the West Berkshire Core Strategy; and the Saved Policies from the WLPB, the RMLP and the Local Plan continuing as the development plan to regulate minerals and waste development. There are no policies that specifically refer to sewerage infrastructure. Development of this nature would be assessed against the general policies for waste development, and all other relevant policies. It was 'uncertain' what impact option 4 would have on the objectives largely due to the fact that the type of proposals that come forward and the prospective locations cannot be predicted, and therefore their impacts cannot be predicted.

It may be that one or more of options 1, 2, 3(i) or 3(ii) could be implemented concurrently. Options 3(i) and (ii) are clearly beneficial in respect of their impacts on the objectives, positively impacting on 11 of them. On the face of it

option 2 appears to negatively impact on the objectives more than option 1, however this is primarily because it stated that waste development was likely to occur in the AONB, while option 1 did not specify where the development could be, therefore it was uncertain how the objectives would be impacted upon.

With regard to putting forward methods to maximise potential beneficial effects, and mitigate potential negative effects of the various options on the sustainability objectives, this is an area which will receive due consideration later in the process - at the Preferred Options stage of the SA/SEA, and in the full SA/SEA Environmental Report. Additionally, once the WBMWDPD is adopted, the maximisation of benefits and mitigation of negative impacts are areas which can be beneficially influenced through the development management process on a case by case basis.

Table 27

Issue 23: Radioactive Waste arisings

	1: Should the WBMWDPD plan for the management of VLLW arising within West Berkshire to be managed in West Berkshire? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		2: Should the WBMWDPD plan for the management of LLW arising within West Berkshire to be managed in West Berkshire? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		3: Should the WBMWDPD plan for the management of ILW arising within West Berkshire to be managed in West Berkshire? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		4: Should the WBMWDPD plan for a strategic VLLW facility accepting that this would mean that LLRW could be imported into West Berkshire for management? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		5: Should the WBMWDPD plan for a strategic LLW facility accepting that this would mean that LLRW could be imported into West Berkshire for management? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		6: Should the WBMWDPD plan for a strategic ILW facility accepting that this would mean that LLRW could be imported into West Berkshire for management? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		7: Should criteria based policies be included to allow the consideration of any future applications to manage Radioactive waste? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		8: Is there another strategy that the WBMWDPD could take in respect of managing radioactive waste?		9. Business as usual	
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	+	Criteria based policies that relate to the potential for applications to come forward for radioactive waste facilities are likely to have a positive impact in terms of protecting biodiversity/geodiversity as these issues would have to be considered in the development management process	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	+	Criteria based policies that relate to the potential for applications to come forward for radioactive waste facilities are likely to have a positive impact in terms of protecting water quality and resources as these issues would have to be considered in the development management process	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
3) To minimise the risk and impact of	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics,	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics,	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics,	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics,	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics,	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics,	+	Criteria based policies that relate to the potential for	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics,

flooding		planning conditions etc		planning conditions etc		planning conditions etc		planning conditions etc		planning conditions etc		planning conditions etc		applications to come forward for radioactive waste facilities are likely to have a positive impact in terms of minimising the risk and impact of flooding as these issues would have to be considered in the development management process				planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	+	Criteria based policies that relate to the potential for applications to come forward for radioactive waste facilities are likely to have a positive impact in terms of protecting high quality agricultural land as these issues would have to be considered in the development management process	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	+	Criteria based policies that relate to the potential for applications to come forward for radioactive waste facilities are likely to have a positive impact in terms of protecting the historical environment as these issues would have to be considered in the development management process	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	+	Criteria based policies that relate to the potential for applications to come forward for radioactive waste facilities are likely to have a positive impact on landscape and townscape	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative

													character as these issues would have to be considered in the development management process				impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	+	Criteria based policies that relate to the potential for applications to come forward for radioactive waste facilities are likely to have a positive impact on protecting air quality as these issues would have to be considered in the development management process	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	-	Importing radioactive waste to the unitary area could be looked on as not being energy efficient	-	Importing radioactive waste to the unitary area could be looked on as not being energy efficient	-	Importing radioactive waste to the unitary area could be looked on as not being energy efficient	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the reuse, recovery and recycling of waste.	?	Dependant on implementation – facility type / management of facility	?	Dependant on implementation – facility type / management of facility	?	Dependant on implementation – facility type / management of facility	?	Dependant on implementation – facility type / management of facility	?	Dependant on implementation – facility type / management of facility	?	Dependant on implementation – facility type / management of facility	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, distance the waste is intended to travel, planning conditions	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.

10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions etc	+	Criteria based policies that relate to the potential for applications to come forward for radioactive waste facilities are likely to have a positive impact in terms of sustainable transport as this issue would have to be considered in the development management process	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development.	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions etc	+	Criteria based policies that relate to the potential for applications to come forward for radioactive waste facilities are likely to have a positive impact in terms of protecting open amenity space as this issue would have to be considered in the development management process	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
13) To minimise public nuisance from waste treatment and	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links,	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links,	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links,	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links,	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links,	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links,	+	Criteria based policies that relate to the potential for applications to come	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning

disposal, and from access to and from facilities.		planning conditions etc		planning conditions etc		planning conditions etc		planning conditions etc		planning conditions etc		planning conditions etc		forward for radioactive waste facilities are likely to have a positive impact in terms of minimising public nuisance as this issue would have to be considered in the development management process				conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
14) To minimise public nuisance from minerals development and associated activities including transportation.	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
15) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities.	+	Radioactive waste facilities would provide employment	+	Radioactive waste facilities would provide employment	+	Radioactive waste facilities would provide employment	+	Radioactive waste facilities would provide employment	+	Radioactive waste facilities would provide employment	+	Radioactive waste facilities would provide employment	+	Radioactive waste facilities would provide employment, and criteria based policies would provide developers with some certainty which is positive in economic terms.	?	Uncertain, unknown strategy	?	Radioactive waste facilities would provide employment, however proposals would have to come forward, and as there are no policies specifically referring to this type of development this will not provide certainty for developers which may be negative.
Comment: Option 1 proposes for the WBMWDPD to plan for the management of VLLW arising within West Berkshire to be managed in West Berkshire. It is likely to impact positively on the objective related to economic development as it would potentially provide some employment. It is uncertain how this option would impact on 12 of the objectives, as this would be dependant on implementation in terms of site specifics, transport links, and planning conditions. There appeared to be no clear link with 2 of the objectives.																	

Option 2 proposes for the WBMWDPD to plan for the management of LLW arising within West Berkshire to be managed in West Berkshire. It is likely to impact positively on the objective related to economic development as it would potentially provide some employment. It is uncertain how this option would impact on 12 of the objectives, as this would be dependant on implementation in terms of site specifics, transport links, and planning conditions. There appeared to be no clear link with 2 of the objectives.

Option 3 proposes for the WBMWDPD to plan for the management of ILW arising within West Berkshire to be managed in West Berkshire. It is likely to impact positively on the objective related to economic development as it would potentially provide some employment. It is uncertain how this option would impact on 12 of the objectives, as this would be dependant on implementation in terms of site specifics, transport links, and planning conditions. There appeared to be no clear link with 2 of the objectives.

Option 4 proposes for the WBMWDPD to plan for a strategic VLLW facility accepting that this would mean that LLRW could be imported into West Berkshire for management. It is likely to impact positively on the objective related to economic development as it would potentially provide some employment. Importing waste to the unitary area may not be seen as energy efficient so this is likely to have a negative impact on this objective. It is uncertain how this option would impact on 11 of the objectives, as this would be dependant on implementation in terms of site specifics, transport links, and planning conditions. There appeared to be no clear link with 2 of the objectives.

Option 5 WBMWDPD plan for a strategic LLW facility accepting that this would mean that LLRW could be imported into West Berkshire for management. It is likely to impact positively on the objective related to economic development as it would potentially provide some employment. Importing waste to the unitary area may not be seen as energy efficient so this is likely to have a negative impact on this objective. It is uncertain how this option would impact on 11 of the objectives, as this would be dependant on implementation in terms of site specifics, transport links, and planning conditions. There appeared to be no clear link with 2 of the objectives.

Option 6 WBMWDPD plan for a strategic ILW facility accepting that this would mean that LLRW could be imported into West Berkshire for management. It is likely to impact positively on the objective related to economic development as it would potentially provide some employment. Importing waste to the unitary area may not be seen as energy efficient so this is likely to have a negative impact on this objective. It is uncertain how this option would impact on 11 of the objectives, as this would be dependant on implementation in terms of site specifics, transport links, and planning conditions. There appeared to be no clear link with 2 of the objectives.

Option 7 proposes that criteria based policies be included to allow the consideration of any future applications to manage radioactive waste. The majority of the issues covered by the objectives would be considerations in the development management process, therefore criteria based policies are likely to impact positively on 11 of the objectives.

Option 8 poses the question of whether there is another strategy that the reader could put forward in respect of managing radioactive waste. As the strategy is unknown, the impact on the objectives is uncertain.

Option 9 would see the West Berkshire Core Strategy; and the Saved Policies from the WLPB, the RMLP and the Local Plan continuing as the development plan to regulate minerals and waste development. There are no policies that specifically refer to radioactive waste management facilities within the aforementioned policy documents. It was ‘uncertain’ what impact option 9 would have on the objectives largely due to the fact that the type of proposals that come forward and the prospective locations cannot be predicted, and therefore their impacts cannot be predicted.

With regard to putting forward methods to maximise potential beneficial effects, and mitigate potential negative effects of the various options on the sustainability objectives, this is an area which will receive due consideration later in the process - at the Preferred Options stage of the SA/SEA, and in the full SA/SEA Environmental Report. Additionally, once the WBMWDPD is adopted, the maximisation of benefits and mitigation of negative impacts are areas which can be beneficially influenced through the development management process on a case by case basis.

Table 28

Issue 24: Management of London's Waste						
	1: Should the WBMWDPD plan for any waste from London to be managed at facilities in West Berkshire? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		2: Should the WBMWDPD plan for any waste from London to be disposed of to land in West Berkshire? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		3. Business as usual	
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Waste from London could be transported into West Berkshire for management whether it is planned for or not. However, if it was, the impact would be dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Waste from London could be transported into West Berkshire for management whether it is planned for or not. However, if it was the impact would be dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Waste from London could be transported into West Berkshire for management whether it is planned for or not. However, if it was the impact would be dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Waste from London could be transported into West Berkshire for management whether it is planned for or not. However, if it was the impact would be dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Waste from London could be transported into West Berkshire for management whether it is planned for or not. However, if it was the impact would be dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Waste from London could be transported into West Berkshire for management whether it is

						planned for or not. However, if it was the impact would be dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	-	Waste from London would require transportation to West Berkshire resulting in carbon emissions, which would impact negatively on air quality	-	Waste from London would require transportation to West Berkshire resulting in carbon emissions, which would impact negatively on air quality	?	Waste from London could be transported into West Berkshire for management whether it is planned for or not. However, if it was the impact would be dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	-	Waste from London would require transportation to West Berkshire resulting in carbon emissions, and this may not be considered energy efficient	-	Waste from London would require transportation to West Berkshire resulting in carbon emissions, and this may not be considered energy efficient	?	Waste from London could be transported into West Berkshire for management whether it is planned for or not. However, if it was the impact would be dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the reuse, recovery and recycling of waste.	?	Dependant on the method of management that the imported waste would be subject to, however in terms of minimising transport distances, this would impact negatively on this objective.	--	Disposal of waste to land would impact negatively on this objective	?	Waste from London could be transported into West Berkshire for management whether it is planned for or not. However, if it was the impact would be dependant on implementation – method of waste management, site specifics, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	-	Waste from London would require transportation to West Berkshire, and this is likely to come in via road resulting in carbon emissions, and this may not be considered to be sustainable transport	-	Waste from London would require transportation to West Berkshire , and this is likely to come in via road resulting in carbon emissions, and this may not be considered to be sustainable transport	?	Waste from London could be transported into West Berkshire for management whether it is planned for or not. However, if it was the impact would be dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning conditions etc	?	Waste from London could be transported into West Berkshire for management whether it is planned for or not. However, if it was the impact would be dependant on implementation – site specifics, planning

minerals and waste development.						conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
13) To minimise public nuisance from waste treatment and disposal, and from access to and from facilities.	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions etc	?	Dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions etc	?	Waste from London could be transported into West Berkshire for management whether it is planned for or not. However, if it was the impact would be dependant on implementation – site specifics, transport links, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies require updating.
14) To minimise public nuisance from minerals development and associated activities including transportation.	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link
15) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities.	+	More waste to be managed will potentially create more employment opportunities	+	More waste to be disposed of will potentially create more employment opportunities	?	Waste from London could be transported into West Berkshire for management whether it is planned for or not. If it was it could potentially provide employment.

Option 1 poses the question of whether the WBMWDPD should plan for any waste from London to be managed at facilities in West Berkshire. If this was to occur, it is likely to impact positively on economic development as it would potentially create jobs, however waste from London would require transportation to West Berkshire and this is likely to come in via road resulting in carbon emissions impacting negatively on air quality, energy efficiency, and sustainable transport.

Option 2 poses the question of whether the WBMWDPD should plan for any waste from London to be disposed of to land in West Berkshire. If this was to occur, it is likely to impact on economic development as it would potentially create jobs, however waste from London would require transportation to West Berkshire and this is likely to come in via road resulting in carbon emissions impacting negatively on air quality, energy efficiency, and sustainable transport.
This option is likely to impact very negatively on the objective promoting the sustainable management of waste as disposal of waste to land is the last option in terms of the waste hierarchy.

Option 3 would see the West Berkshire Core Strategy; and the Saved Policies from the WLPB, the RMLP and the Local Plan continuing as the development plan to regulate minerals and waste development. There are currently no policies that specifically refer to the management of London's waste. Waste from London could be transported into West Berkshire for management whether it is planned for or not. If it was, the impact would be dependant on implementation i.e. site specifics, transport links, and planning conditions. It was uncertain what the impact would be on the majority of the objectives largely due to the fact that the type of proposals that come forward cannot be predicted, and therefore their impacts cannot be predicted.

Option 1 appears likely to impact on the objectives less negatively than option 2, however this is primarily because the method of waste management was specified as being 'disposal to land' in option 2, while option 1 does not specify, therefore it is 'uncertain' how it would impact in terms of the sustainable waste management objective. It was generally uncertain what impact option 3 would have on the objectives.

With regard to putting forward methods to maximise potential beneficial effects, and mitigate potential negative effects of the various options on the sustainability objectives, this is an area which will receive due consideration later in the process - at the Preferred Options stage of the SA/SEA, and in the full SA/SEA Environmental Report. Additionally, once the WBMWDPD is adopted, the maximisation of benefits and mitigation of negative impacts are areas which can be beneficially influenced through the development management process on a case by case basis.

Table 29

Issue 25: Re-working old landfill sites						
	1: Should the WBMWDPD provide a strategic policy position on the re-working of former landfill sites? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		2: Should the WBMWDPD provide development management policies that relate to the potential for applications to come forward for the re-working of former landfill sites? (Assumes answer is 'yes')		3. Business as usual	
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	+	A strategic policy position on the re-working of former landfill sites is likely to have a positive impact on biodiversity/geodiversity as these issues would be considered from a strategic perspective	+	Development management policies that relate to the potential for applications to come forward for the re-working of former landfill sites are likely to have a positive impact on biodiversity/geodiversity	?	It could be the case (or not) that planning applications come forward for the extraction of materials from previous landfill sites. If proposals for this were to come forward, the impact would be dependant on site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies do not specifically cater for this type of operation.
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	+	A strategic policy position on the re-working of former landfill sites is likely to have a positive impact on water quality and resources as these issues would be considered from a strategic perspective	+	Development management policies that relate to the potential for applications to come forward for the re-working of former landfill sites are likely to have a positive impact on water quality and resources	?	It could be the case (or not) that planning applications come forward for the extraction of materials from previous landfill sites. If proposals for this were to come forward, the impact would be dependant on site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies do not specifically cater for this type of operation.
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	+	A strategic policy position on the re-working of former landfill sites is likely to have a positive impact on the risk and impact of flooding as these issues would be considered from a strategic perspective	+	Development management policies that relate to the potential for applications to come forward for the re-working of former landfill sites are likely to have a positive impact on the risk and impact of flooding	?	It could be the case (or not) that planning applications come forward for the extraction of materials from previous landfill sites. If proposals for this were to come forward, the impact would be dependant on site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies do not specifically cater for this type of operation.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	+	A strategic policy position on the re-working of former landfill sites is likely to have a positive impact on the best and most versatile agricultural land as these issues would be considered from a strategic perspective	+	Development management policies that relate to the potential for applications to come forward for the re-working of former landfill sites are likely to have a positive impact on the best and most versatile agricultural land	?	It could be the case (or not) that planning applications come forward for the extraction of materials from previous landfill sites. If proposals for this were to come forward, the impact would be dependant on site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies do not specifically cater for this type of operation.
5) To conserve and enhance the	+	A strategic policy position on the re-working of former landfill sites is likely to have a positive impact on the	+	Development management policies that relate to the potential for applications to come forward for the re-	?	It could be the case (or not) that planning applications come forward for the extraction

character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance		historical environment as these issues would be considered from a strategic perspective		working of former landfill sites are likely to have a positive impact on the historical environment		of materials from previous landfill sites. If proposals for this were to come forward, the impact would be dependant on site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies do not specifically cater for this type of operation.
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	+	A strategic policy position on the re-working of former landfill sites is likely to have a positive impact on landscape and townscape character as these issues would be considered from a strategic perspective	+	Development management policies that relate to the potential for applications to come forward for the re-working of former landfill sites are likely to have a positive impact on landscape and townscape character	?	It could be the case (or not) that planning applications come forward for the extraction of materials from previous landfill sites. If proposals for this were to come forward, the impact would be dependant on site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies do not specifically cater for this type of operation.
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	+	A strategic policy position on the re-working of former landfill sites is likely to have a positive impact on this objective, as air quality would need to be considered in the development management process	+	Development management policies on the re-working of former landfill sites are likely to have a positive impact on this objective, as air quality would need t be considered in the development management process	?	It could be the case (or not) that planning applications come forward for the extraction of materials from previous landfill sites. If proposals for this were to come forward, the impact would be dependant on site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies do not specifically cater for this type of operation.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	?	Unclear, insufficient information	?	Unclear, insufficient information	?	It could be the case (or not) that planning applications come forward for the extraction of materials from previous landfill sites. If proposals for this were to come forward, the impact would be dependant on site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies do not specifically cater for this type of operation.
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the reuse, recovery and recycling of waste.	++	This would provide a strategic policy position on the extraction of waste material from landfill sites for the purposes of reuse, recovery or recycling.	++	Development management policies on the re-working of former landfill sites are likely to have a positive impact on this objective, as this would involve the extraction of waste material from landfill sites for the purposes of reuse, recovery or recycling.	?	It could be the case (or not) that planning applications come forward for the extraction of materials from previous landfill sites. If proposals for this were to come forward, the impact would be dependant on site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies do not specifically cater for this type of operation.
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	+	A strategic policy position on the re-working of former landfill sites is likely to have a positive impact on this objective, as sustainable transport would need to be	+	Development management policies that relate to the potential for applications to come forward for the re-working of former landfill sites are likely to have a positive	?	It could be the case (or not) that planning applications come forward for the extraction of materials from previous landfill sites. If

		considered in the development management process		impact on this objective as sustainable transport would need to be considered in the development management process		proposals for this were to come forward, the impact would be dependant on site specifics, transport links, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies do not specifically cater for this type of operation.
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	+	A strategic policy position on the re-working of former landfill sites is likely to have a positive impact on this objective, as it is likely that some recycled aggregate would be extracted from old landfill sites	+	Development management policies that relate to the potential for applications to come forward for the re-working of former landfill sites are likely to have a positive impact on this objective, as it is likely that some recycled aggregate would be extracted from old landfill sites	?	It could be the case (or not) that planning applications come forward for the extraction of materials from previous landfill sites. If proposals for this were to come forward, the impact would be dependant on site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies do not specifically cater for this type of operation.
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development.	+	A strategic policy position on the re-working of former landfill sites is likely to have a positive impact on this objective, as the protection of human health and open space amenity would be considered.	+	Development management policies that relate to the potential for applications to come forward for the re-working of former landfill sites are likely to have a positive impact on this objective, as the protection of human health and open space amenity would be considered.	?	It could be the case (or not) that planning applications come forward for the extraction of materials from previous landfill sites. If proposals for this were to come forward, the impact would be dependant on site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies do not specifically cater for this type of operation.
13) To minimise public nuisance from waste treatment and disposal, and from access to and from facilities.	+	A strategic policy position on the re-working of former landfill sites is likely to have a positive impact on this objective, as public nuisance would be a consideration	+	Development management policies that relate to the potential for applications to come forward for the re-working of former landfill sites are likely to have a positive impact on this objective, as public nuisance would be a consideration	?	It could be the case (or not) that planning applications come forward for the extraction of materials from previous landfill sites. If proposals for this were to come forward, the impact would be dependant on site specifics, working/restoration scheme, planning conditions - could potentially have a negative impact as the current development plan policies do not specifically cater for this type of operation.
14) To minimise public nuisance from minerals development and associated activities including transportation.	0	No clear link	0	No clear link	0	No clear link
15) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities.	+	The provision of a strategic policy position provides certainty which is positive in economic terms, and could generate employment	+	The provision of development management policies will provide certainty which is positive in economic terms, and could generate employment	?	It could be the case (or not) that planning applications come forward for the extraction of materials from previous landfill sites. If proposals for this were to come forward, the general policies from the Core Strategy and the Saved minerals and waste specific policies would be relied upon for assessment. There are no policies that specifically refer to the working of old landfill sites, and this may be seen as not providing certainty for mineral / waste operators which may be negative in

						economic terms.

Comment

Option 1 poses the question of whether the WBMWDPD should provide a strategic policy position on the re-working of former landfill sites. Many of the issues addressed by the objectives would be considered in allocating strategic sites for the re-working of former landfill sites, and therefore it is likely to have a very positive impact on the sustainable waste management objective, and a positive impact on 12 of the other objectives.

Option 2 poses the question of whether the WBMWDPD should provide development management policies that relate to the potential for applications to come forward for the re-working of former landfill sites. Many of the issues addressed by the objectives would be considered in the development management process for the re-working of former landfill sites, and therefore it is likely to have a very positive impact on the sustainable waste management objective, and a positive impact on 12 of the other objectives.

Option 3 would see the West Berkshire Core Strategy; and the Saved Policies from the WLPB, the RMLP and the Local Plan continuing as the development plan to regulate minerals and waste development. There are no policies that specifically refer to the working of old landfill sites, therefore the general policies from the Core Strategy and the Saved minerals and waste specific policies would be relied upon for assessing any applications that come forward for this type of operation. It was uncertain what the impact would be on the majority of the objectives largely due to the fact that the type of proposals that come forward cannot be predicted, and therefore their impacts cannot be predicted.

Options 1 and 2 appear to be equally beneficial in terms of the sustainability objectives, while largely speaking it is uncertain what the impacts would be as a result of option 3. For practical reasons it may be that a criteria based policy approach is easier to implement than allocating strategic sites. This is due to a combination of factors, namely uncertainty over what has been landfilled in certain sites, and the expense of the investigatory works for the operators.

With regard to putting forward methods to maximise potential beneficial effects, and mitigate potential negative effects of the various options on the sustainability objectives, this is an area which will receive due consideration later in the process - at the Preferred Options stage of the SA/SEA, and in the full SA/SEA Environmental Report. Additionally, once the WBMWDPD is adopted, the maximisation of benefits and mitigation of negative impacts are areas which can be beneficially influenced through the development management process on a case by case basis.

Table 30

Issue 26. – Any other issue?		
	Are there any other comments or issues that you consider need to be addressed in the WBMWDPD.	
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	?	Uncertain, unknown comments / issues
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	?	Uncertain, unknown comments / issues
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	?	Uncertain, unknown comments / issues
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	?	Uncertain, unknown comments / issues
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	?	Uncertain, unknown comments / issues
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	?	Uncertain, unknown comments / issues
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	?	Uncertain, unknown comments / issues
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	?	Uncertain, unknown comments / issues
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the reuse, recovery and recycling of waste.	?	Uncertain, unknown comments / issues
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	?	Uncertain, unknown comments / issues

11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	?	Uncertain, unknown comments / issues
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development.	?	Uncertain, unknown comments / issues
13) To minimise public nuisance from waste treatment and disposal, and from access to and from facilities.	?	Uncertain, unknown comments / issues
14) To minimise public nuisance from minerals development and associated activities including transportation.	?	Uncertain, unknown comments / issues
15) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities.	?	Uncertain, unknown comments / issues
Comment: This is an open ended question asking whether there are any other comments or issues that require consideration in the WBMWDPD. As the comments or questions are unknown, it is uncertain want the impacts on the objectives would be. With regard to putting forward methods to maximise potential beneficial effects, and mitigate potential negative effects of the various options on the sustainability objectives, this is an area which will receive due consideration later in the process - at the Preferred Options stage of the SA/SEA, and in the full SA/SEA Environmental Report. Additionally, once the WBMWDPD is adopted, the maximisation of benefits and mitigation of negative impacts are areas which can be beneficially influenced through the development management process on a case by case basis.		

Table 31

Issue 27: Call for Sites

	1: Call for sites		2. Business as usual	
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	+	The call for sites will ultimately lead to site allocations. Site allocations mean that development that potentially results in detrimental impacts can be appropriately located, protecting biodiversity / geodiversity in other locations	?	At present 12 of the 18 Preferred Areas in West Berkshire allocated for minerals and waste development functions have been developed. It could be the case (or not) that planning applications come forward for minerals and waste development in order to meet the demand for aggregates and waste management capacity in West Berkshire. As there is a lack of suitable sites allocated, there is potential for proposals to come forward in locations which are not acceptable in planning or environmental terms. If proposals were to come forward, the impact would be dependant on implementation (i.e. site specifics, facility type, planning conditions). This could potentially have a negative impact.
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	+	The call for sites will ultimately lead to site allocations. Site allocations mean that development that potentially results in detrimental impacts can be appropriately located, protecting water resources/quality in other locations	?	At present 12 of the 18 Preferred Areas in West Berkshire allocated for minerals and waste development functions have been developed. It could be the case (or not) that planning applications come forward for minerals and waste development in order to meet the demand for aggregates and waste management capacity in West Berkshire. As there is a lack of suitable sites allocated, there is potential for proposals to come forward in locations which are not acceptable in planning or environmental terms. If proposals were to come forward, the impact would be dependant on implementation (i.e. site specifics, facility type, planning conditions). This could potentially have a negative impact.
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	?	The call for sites will ultimately lead to site allocations. Dependant on implementation, site specifics	?	At present 12 of the 18 Preferred Areas in West Berkshire allocated for minerals and waste development functions have been developed. It could be the case (or not) that planning applications come forward for minerals and waste development in order to meet the demand for aggregates and waste management capacity in West Berkshire. As there is a lack of suitable sites allocated, there is potential for proposals to come forward in locations which are not acceptable in planning or environmental terms. If proposals were to come forward, the impact would be dependant on implementation (i.e. site specifics, facility type, planning conditions). This could potentially have a negative impact.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	+	The call for sites will ultimately lead to site allocations. Site allocations mean that development that potentially results in detrimental impacts can be appropriately located, protecting good quality agricultural land in other locations	?	At present 12 of the 18 Preferred Areas in West Berkshire allocated for minerals and waste development functions have been developed. It could be the case (or not) that planning applications come forward for minerals and waste development in order to meet the demand for aggregates and waste management capacity in West Berkshire. As there is a lack of suitable sites allocated, there is potential for proposals to come forward in locations which are not acceptable in planning or environmental terms. If proposals were to come forward, the impact would be dependant on implementation (i.e. site specifics, facility type, planning conditions). This could potentially have a negative impact.
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	+	The call for sites will ultimately lead to site allocations. Site allocations mean that development that potentially results in detrimental impacts can be appropriately located, protecting the historic environment in other locations	?	At present 12 of the 18 Preferred Areas in West Berkshire allocated for minerals and waste development functions have been developed. It could be the case (or not) that planning applications come forward for minerals and waste development in order to meet the demand for aggregates and waste management capacity in West Berkshire. As there is a lack of suitable sites allocated, there is potential for proposals to come forward in locations which are not acceptable in planning or environmental terms. If proposals were to come forward, the impact would be dependant on implementation (i.e. site specifics, facility type, planning conditions). This could potentially have a negative impact.
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	+	The call for sites will ultimately lead to site allocations. Site allocations mean that development that potentially results in detrimental impacts can be appropriately located, protecting the landscape and townscape character in other locations	?	At present 12 of the 18 Preferred Areas in West Berkshire allocated for minerals and waste development functions have been developed. It could be the case (or not) that planning applications come forward for minerals and waste development in order to meet the demand for aggregates and waste management capacity in West Berkshire. As there is a lack of suitable sites allocated, there is potential for proposals to come forward in locations which are not acceptable in planning or environmental terms. If proposals were to come forward, the impact would be dependant on implementation (i.e. site specifics, facility type, planning conditions). This could potentially have a negative impact.
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	+	The call for sites will ultimately lead to site allocations. Site allocations mean that development that potentially results in detrimental impacts can be appropriately located. This includes air quality (to an extent) which will therefore be protected in other locations (although this is changeable dependant on weather etc.)	?	At present 12 of the 18 Preferred Areas in West Berkshire allocated for minerals and waste development functions have been developed. It could be the case (or not) that planning applications come forward for minerals and waste development in order to meet the demand for aggregates and waste management capacity in West Berkshire. As there is a lack of suitable sites allocated, there is potential for proposals to come forward in locations which are not acceptable in planning or environmental terms. If proposals were to come forward, the impact would be dependant on implementation (i.e. site specifics, facility type, planning conditions). This could potentially have a negative impact.

8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	?	The call for sites will ultimately lead to site allocations. Dependant on implementation, site specifics	?	At present 12 of the 18 of the Preferred Areas in West Berkshire allocated for minerals and waste development functions have been developed. It could be the case (or not) that planning applications come forward for minerals and waste development in order to meet the demand for aggregates and waste management capacity in West Berkshire. As there is a lack of suitable sites allocated, there is potential for proposals to come forward in locations which are not acceptable in planning or environmental terms. If proposals were to come forward, the impact would be dependant on implementation (i.e. site specifics, facility type, planning conditions). This could potentially have a negative impact.
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the reuse, recovery and recycling of waste.	+	The call for sites will ultimately lead to site allocations. Site allocations should ensure that appropriate, sustainable forms of waste development are located in West Berkshire	?	At present 12 of the 18 Preferred Areas in West Berkshire allocated for minerals and waste development functions have been developed. It could be the case (or not) that planning applications come forward for minerals and waste development in order to meet the demand for aggregates and waste management capacity in West Berkshire. As there is a lack of suitable sites allocated, there is potential for proposals to come forward in locations which are not acceptable in planning or environmental terms. If proposals were to come forward, the impact would be dependant on implementation (i.e. site specifics, facility type, planning conditions). This could potentially have a negative impact.
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	+	The call for sites will ultimately lead to site allocations. Site allocations should ensure that transport considerations are taken into account at the plan making stage	?	At present 12 of the 18 Preferred Areas in West Berkshire allocated for minerals and waste development functions have been developed. It could be the case (or not) that planning applications come forward for minerals and waste development in order to meet the demand for aggregates and waste management capacity in West Berkshire. As there is a lack of suitable sites allocated, there is potential for proposals to come forward in locations which are not acceptable in planning or environmental terms. If proposals were to come forward, the impact would be dependant on implementation (i.e. site specifics, facility type, planning conditions). This could potentially have a negative impact.
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	+	The call for sites will ultimately lead to site allocations. Recycled aggregate production can be encouraged where appropriate site allocations are carried out	?	At present 12 of the 18 Preferred Areas in West Berkshire allocated for minerals and waste development functions have been developed. It could be the case (or not) that planning applications come forward for minerals and waste development in order to meet the demand for aggregates and waste management capacity in West Berkshire. As there is a lack of suitable sites allocated, there is potential for proposals to come forward in locations which are not acceptable in planning or environmental terms. If proposals were to come forward, the impact would be dependant on implementation (i.e. site specifics, facility type, planning conditions). This could potentially have a negative impact.
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development.	+	The call for sites will ultimately lead to site allocations. Site allocations mean that development that potentially results in detrimental impacts can be appropriately located, protecting the open space in other locations	?	At present 12 of the 18 Preferred Areas in West Berkshire allocated for minerals and waste development functions have been developed. It could be the case (or not) that planning applications come forward for minerals and waste development in order to meet the demand for aggregates and waste management capacity in West Berkshire. As there is a lack of suitable sites allocated, there is potential for proposals to come forward in locations which are not acceptable in planning or environmental terms. If proposals were to come forward, the impact would be dependant on implementation (i.e. site specifics, facility type, planning conditions). This could potentially have a negative impact.
13) To minimise public nuisance from waste treatment and disposal, and from access to and from facilities.	+	The call for sites will ultimately lead to site allocations. Site allocations mean that development that potentially results in detrimental impacts can be appropriately located, minimising public nuisance in other locations	?	At present 12 of the 18 Preferred Areas in West Berkshire allocated for minerals and waste development functions have been developed. It could be the case (or not) that planning applications come forward for minerals and waste development in order to meet the demand for aggregates and waste management capacity in West Berkshire. As there is a lack of suitable sites allocated, there is potential for proposals to come forward in locations which are not acceptable in planning or environmental terms. If proposals were to come forward, the impact would be dependant on implementation (i.e. site specifics, facility type, planning conditions). This could potentially have a negative impact.
14) To minimise public nuisance from minerals development and associated activities including transportation.	+	The call for sites will ultimately lead to site allocations. Site allocations mean that development that potentially results in detrimental impacts can be appropriately located, minimising public nuisance in other locations	?	At present 12 of the 18 Preferred Areas in West Berkshire allocated for minerals and waste development functions have been developed. It could be the case (or not) that planning applications come forward for minerals and waste development in order to meet the demand for aggregates and waste management capacity in West Berkshire. As there is a lack of suitable sites allocated, there is potential for proposals to come forward in locations which are not acceptable in planning or environmental terms. If proposals were to come forward, the impact would be dependant on implementation (i.e. site specifics, facility type, planning conditions). This could potentially have a negative impact.
15) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities.	+	The call for sites will ultimately lead to site allocations. Site allocations provide certainty for developers which is positive in economic terms.	-	Currently due to 12 of the 18 Preferred Areas in West Berkshire allocated for minerals and waste development functions having been developed, there is little certainty for developers and this is negative in economic terms.
Comment Option 1 relates to a 'call for sites' in the sense of people with a legal interest in pieces of land coming forward with potential sites for minerals and waste development. The call for sites will ultimately lead to site allocations. Site				

allocations mean that development that potentially results in detrimental impacts can be appropriately located, therefore protecting other areas from these detrimental impacts. It is therefore likely to impact positively on 13 of the objectives.

Although not specified in the consultation document the “no change option” or “Option 2” would see the West Berkshire Core Strategy; and the Saved Policies from the WLPB, the RMLP and the Local Plan continuing as the development plan to regulate minerals and waste development. At present 12 of the 18 Preferred Areas in West Berkshire allocated for minerals and waste development functions have been developed. It could be the case (or not) that planning applications come forward for minerals and waste development in order to meet the demand for aggregates and waste management capacity in West Berkshire. As there is a lack of suitable sites allocated, there is potential for proposals to come forward in locations which are not acceptable in planning or environmental terms. If proposals were to come forward, the impact would be dependant on implementation (i.e. site specifics, facility type, planning conditions). This could potentially have a negative impact. It is likely that this option would impact negatively on the economic development objective as no certainty is being provided for mineral and waste operators. With regard to the rest of the objectives, it is uncertain what the impact would be largely due to the fact that the type of proposals that come forward cannot be predicted, and therefore their impacts cannot be predicted.

Option 1 appears to be the most beneficial for the sustainability objectives.

With regard to putting forward methods to maximise potential beneficial effects, and mitigate potential negative effects of the various options on the sustainability objectives, this is an area which will receive due consideration later in the process - at the Preferred Options stage of the SA/SEA, and in the full SA/SEA Environmental Report. Additionally, once the WBMWDPD is adopted, the maximisation of benefits and mitigation of negative impacts are areas which can be beneficially influenced through the development management process on a case by case basis.

6 Stage B6 - Propose measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the DPD

6.1. The sustainability appraisal framework consists of a set of sustainability objectives and indicators derived in stage A3. The sustainability objectives and indicators have been amended/informed by the consultation responses to the Scoping Report. Some of the indicators would be relevant when assessing what sites should be allocated for minerals and waste development in terms of the potential impact on the SA objectives, while some of the indicators would provide a general indication of to what extent the SA objectives are being met.

Table 32 - West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document Sustainability Objectives

Objective	Potential Indicators	Topic area
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	**Distance from identified sites to the nearest:** **-SSSIs** **-Ancient and/or Species Rich Hedgerows** **-Ancient Woodland** **-SPAs (none in West Berkshire however Thames Basin Heath SPA is 5km from south-west border** **-SACs** **-cSACs** **-LNRs** **-WHSs;** **Condition of the nearest sensitive receptors (where viable);** **Monitoring of Berkshire BOAs in West Berkshire as part of Berkshire Biodiveristy Strategy** **Status / condition of priority species and habitats (Berkshire Biodiversity Strategy)** **Condition of SSSIs;** **Changes in woodland and farmland bird species;** **Site visit surveys on typical abundance and frequency of habitats (DAFOR scale);** **Ecological potential site assessments;** **Mitigation measures related to West Berkshire rivers that have defined ecological potential.**	**Biodiversity and Geodiversity; Minerals; Waste**

2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	**Ecological status of rivers/canal/lakes;** **Chemical status of rivers/canal/lakes;** **The Water Framework Directive (WFD) aims for 'good ecological and chemical status' for all ground and surface waters in the EU by 2015. The status of surface waters are assessed according to criteria prescribed in the WFD.** **Resource availability status for units of groundwater in Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy Areas;** **Resource availability status at low flows for units of surface water and / or surface water combined with groundwater, in Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy Areas;**	**Water (Water Quality); Biodiversity; Minerals; Waste**
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	**Proximity and suitability of development to floodplains;** **SFRA identified sites/areas which will result in least detrimental impact from flooding;** **Incidences of flood warnings in site area;** **Distance to 'Areas susceptible to surface water flooding' – EA Maps;** **On site and nearby topography via ordnance survey mapping;** **Incorporation of Sustainable drainage systems.** **Survey of vegetation on site to assess capability of plant-life to mitigate flooding**	**Water (Flooding); Minerals; Waste**
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	**Location and extent of agricultural land grades 1, 2 and 3a;** **Location and extent of contaminated land;** **Location and extent of development on previously developed land;** **Standard of restoration schemes back to agriculture**	**Soils; Minerals; Waste**

5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	**The number of designated heritage assets** **The number and percentage of designated heritage assets at risk from minerals or waste development** **The number of applications for minerals or waste development approved contrary to the advice of the Council's conservation or archaeological advisor, or statutory consultee (i.e. English Heritage)** **Site allocation proximity to, and (potential) impact on the significance of any:** **- Scheduled Monuments** **- Listed Buildings** **- Conservation Areas** **- Historic Parks or Gardens** **- Historic Battlefields** **- Sites identified in the Historic Environment Record** **Archaeological assessment reports associated with minerals planning applications / site allocations**	**Cultural heritage (including Architectural and Archaeological Heritage); Minerals; Waste**
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	**Height of proposed new or existing development;** **Allocations/developments permitted contrary or in line with 'Landscape character guidelines' in Berkshire LCA (2003) or landscape advice** **Number and extent of field boundaries affected or return to historic field patterns;** **Extent of Landscape Character Areas affected;** **Assessment of on site and nearby topography via ordnance survey mapping;** **Extent of current hedgerows, trees, woodlands, landform and built development (based on Berkshire Landscape Character Assessments);** **Number of TPOs that would be affected.** **Number of minerals and waste developments on greenfield, brownfield land** **Developments within, or adversely affecting, North Wessex Down AONB**	**Landscape and townscape; Minerals; Waste**

7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	**Location and extent of AQMAs in relation to infrastructure requirements and likely routes to / from sites;** **Proposed mode of travel;** **Findings from air dispersion modelling if undertaken (e.g. effects on SSSIs);** **Location and extent of potentially significant junctions in relation to infrastructure requirements and likely routes;** **Location of rail links to proposal;** **Complete annual air quality survey (WBDC)**	**Air; Human health; Minerals; Waste**
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	**Consideration of typical energy production (GwH) or heat production from various waste facilities allocated or permitted (i.e. PV, wind turbines etc);** **Amount of new renewable energy capacity being provided each year (TV Energy Installations database).**	**Renewable and low-carbon energy; Air; Climatic factors; Landscape**
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the re-use, recovery and recycling of waste.	**Tonnage / % of waste recycled;** **Tonnage / % of waste composted;** **Tonnage / % of waste recovered;** **Tonnage / % of waste to be landfilled;** **Allocations or permissions granted for various types of waste development (tonnage capacity)**	**Waste; Human health; Landscape; Renewable and low-carbon energy; Climatic factors; Other social considerations**
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	**Number of developments where a green travel plan is submitted as a condition of development;** **Method of transportation proposed;** **Proximity to waste arisings / market for mineral;** **Proximity to strategic transport network**	**Waste; Minerals; Health; Air; Climatic factors; Transport**

11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	**Site waste management plans submitted as part of development proposals** **Monitoring development within identified safeguarding areas (contrary to / in accordance with)** **Monitor development permitted against Mineral Planning Authority objection.** **Tonnage capacity of sites to manage recycled aggregate**	**Minerals; Waste**
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development	**Monitor compliance with dust control conditions;** **Monitor compliance with noise control conditions;** **Monitor compliance with emissions to air;** **Check location and extent of public rights of way and public open space contrary to / in accordance with consultee comments;** **Enhancement of public access to nature (either as linear routes or open space) as part of minerals/waste site working and restoration schemes** **Distance between proposal and sensitive uses**	**Minerals; Waste; Population; Health; Landscape, Biodiversity; Other social considerations**
13) To minimise public nuisance from waste treatment and disposal, and from access to and from facilities.	**Monitor complaints regarding odour (WBDC/EA);** **Monitor complaints regarding dust (WBDC/EA);** **Monitor complaints regarding noise (WBDC/EA);** **Monitor complaints regarding light pollution (WBDC)** **Monitor complaints regarding traffic issues: times, days, frequency, size of vehicles, speed (WBDC)** **Check conditions on planning permissions regarding hours of operation, emission/release parameters, and transport agreements etc;** **Define/monitor location of Strategic Lorry Routes.**	**Waste; Minerals; Population; Health; Landscape; Biodiversity; Air; Light; Noise; Other social considerations; Transport**

14) To minimise public nuisance from minerals development and associated activities including transportation.	**Monitor complaints regarding odour (WBDC/EA);** **Monitor complaints regarding dust (WBDC/EA);** **Monitor complaints regarding noise (WBDC/EA);** **Monitor complaints regarding light pollution (WBDC)** **Monitor complaints regarding traffic issues: times, days, frequency, size of vehicles, speed (WBDC)** **Monitor conditions on planning permissions regarding location of site, hours of operation, emission/release parameters, transport agreements, depth of working etc;** **Define location of strategic lorry routes.**	**Waste; Minerals; Population; Health; Landscape; Biodiversity; Air; Light; Noise; Other social considerations; Transport**
15) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities.	**Where assessments are carried out - Employment land availability in West Berkshire;** **Typical amount of job creation (jobs per ha) within different use classes.** **Whether jobs are permanent / temporary (i.e. for construction / operational period)**	**Waste; Minerals; Population; Other economic considerations**

7 The next stages of SA

7.1. When consultation has been carried out on the WBMWDPD Issues and Options, the next stage of the plan making process is to take on board the consultation responses. Using the Issues and Options and associated consultation responses, the Environmental Report will be produced (Stage C) in conjunction with the production of the WBMWDPD Preferred Options document, and this will then be consulted on (Stages D1, D2(i) and D2(ii)).

7.2. The submission WBMWDPD document will be drawn up next, reflecting the consultation on the 'Preferred Options' and any representations received, and the Environmental Report would be updated where necessary.. The submission WBMWDPD document will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for 'Examination' (Stage D3). The Environmental Report will be updated to assess the impacts of any changes which are made throughout the process as a result of representations.

7.3. Stage E will involve monitoring the significant effects of implementing the WBMWDPD using methods established through the SA process. Should adverse effects arise as a result of the implementation of the WBMWDPD, these will be mitigated where possible.

If you require this information in an alternative format or translation, please call 01635 42400 and ask for the Minerals and Waste Planning Policy Team.

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