

West Berkshire Local Plan Review to 2036

Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment

Scoping Report

February 2018

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Executive Non-Technical Summary

West Berkshire Council adopted its Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD) in July 2012. This, together with the Housing Site Allocations DPD adopted in May 2017 and the remaining saved policies of the West Berkshire Local Plan 1991-2006, currently form the basis of the Local Plan for the District. The Council is now starting work on the review of its Local Plan which will accommodate development up to 2036. The reason for the Review comes from the need to extend the planning period from 2026 to 2036, account for national policy changes, plan for more new housing and employment land and to refresh other policies.

The West Berkshire Local Plan Review to 2036 (hereafter referred to as the Local Plan Review) must be subject to a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, and must be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.

The SA/SEA Stages

SA/SEA Stages	
Stage A	Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding the scope
Stage B	Developing and refining the options
Stage C	Appraising the effects of the plan
Stage D	Consultation
Stage E	Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the plan

This report will cover Stage A of the SA/SEA, known as the scoping stage which is the first stage in the production of a sustainability appraisal. This scoping report relates to the West Berkshire Local Plan Review to 2026. It draws and builds upon previous scoping reports, the latest legislative and policy developments and updated evidence. The Scoping Report contains the following:

- An outline of contents, the methodology and description of the SA/SEA process and the specific SA/SEA tasks undertaken.
- A review of other plans and programmes and their relationship to the West Berkshire Local Plan Review.
- A description of the environmental and sustainability context, or baseline information.
- A summary of key sustainability issues.
- The SA/SEA Framework which sets out the SA/SEA objectives for assessing West Berkshire's Local Plan Review.

Other plans, programmes and objectives

The Council must take account of relationships between the West Berkshire Local Plan Review and other relevant policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives and also take into account environmental protection objectives established at international, European Community and national levels. The SA process requires these relationships to be reviewed as the West Berkshire Local Plan Review is prepared, and also whilst any future DPDs are prepared.

Baseline information

West Berkshire is located in the south east of England, within the county of Berkshire. It is a Unitary Authority and covers an area of 704 square kilometres, extending from Hungerford in the west to Calcot in the east. The area is predominately rural in character, with approximately 74% of the land area making up part of the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Newbury,

Thatcham, Hungerford, Theale, Purley on Thames, Tilehurst, Calcot and Burghfield Common are the largest settlements in the area.

The mid-2016 population estimates produced by the Office for National Statistics estimates the West Berkshire population to be 157,000. Approximately 73% of the population is concentrated in the Kennet Valley at strategic points along the A4 and on the western side of Reading. West Berkshire has by far the most dispersed population of the six unitary authorities in Berkshire.

A significant issue in West Berkshire is the cost of accommodation in the area. Compared to the region, West Berkshire is a relatively expensive place to buy a property. This highlights the increasing need for affordable housing for local people and key workers. The generally high affluence of the region and of West Berkshire masks pockets of deprivation and exclusion. There are communities with individuals and families who experience particular difficulties as a consequence of being poor within a generally wealthy region. West Berkshire has a higher than average proportion of people with higher qualifications however significant numbers of the working population have no qualifications and poor literacy and numeracy skills.

Aside from the nationally important landscape of the North Wessex Downs AONB, the authority area has numerous designated statutory and non-statutory areas which aim to protect and enhance sites of international, national, regional and local nature conservation importance. The historic environment is also of great value to West Berkshire and consists of listed buildings, conservation areas, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens and a Registered Battlefield.

West Berkshire is located in the Thames Valley sub region which is a world class business region and one of Europe's fastest growing economies. West Berkshire has a strong commercial base characterised by new technology industries with a strong service sector and several manufacturing and distribution firms. Unemployment levels in West Berkshire have recovered post-recession and remain significantly lower than the national average.

Increased development and economic activity in West Berkshire and the sub-region are placing mounting pressure on the natural environment and natural resources. Waste minimisation and recycling, water use efficiency and energy efficiency will require particular consideration.

Social, environmental, and economic issues

Specific key issues grouped under 5 thematic topics, relevant to West Berkshire, have been identified through the review of other plans and programmes and used to inform the SA objectives. These key issues include the following:

- An increasingly ageing population placing an increased demand on social care and healthcare services;
- The allocation and phasing of the housing delivery up to 2036, that meets the predicted demand using the new, standardised way of calculating housing demand to reflect current and future housing pressures;
- An identified shortage of affordable and/or suitable homes for local people at different stages of life;
- Allocation of appropriate employment land;
- Maintaining vitality of town and villages centres;
- Addressing skills gaps and adult education needed for people to find and remain in work;
- A heavy reliance on private car use (and corresponding low levels of public transport use) leading to congestion, issues with air quality and excessive demand on the road network at peak times;
- Access to services, care and facilities in rural areas;
- Cumulative impacts of consumption and development on the natural and historic environment;
- Responding to climate change targets including vulnerability to flooding and rising consumption of finite resources, especially water and carbon emitting energy.

SA/SEA objectives

The SA/SEA objectives were developed through a review of other plans and programmes, an analysis of the baseline information and previous consultation with environmental bodies and local stakeholders. The Objectives are presented below:

SEA/SA Objectives	
1	To enable the provision of housing to meet identified need in sustainable locations.
2	To improve health, safety and wellbeing and reduce inequalities.
3	To improve accessibility to community infrastructure.
4	To promote and maximise opportunities for all forms of safer and sustainable travel.
5	To ensure that the character and distinctiveness of the natural, built and historic environment is conserved and where possible, enhanced.
6	To protect and improve air, water and soil quality, and minimise noise levels throughout West Berkshire.
7	To promote and improve the efficiency of land use.
8	To reduce consumption and waste of natural resources and manage their use efficiently.
9	To reduce emissions contributing to climate change and ensure adaptation measures are in place to respond to climate change.
10	To support a strong, diverse and sustainable economic base which meets identified needs.

MAIN REPORT

Introduction

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004¹ requires a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to be carried out for Development Plan Documents (DPDs) which assess the environmental, social and economic effects of plans on West Berkshire District. Both of these requirements can be carried out in one appraisal process. In order to avoid any confusion, the reference to SA throughout this document will refer to both the SA and the SEA.

The SA must promote sustainable development through the better integration of social, environmental and economic considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans in an iterative way. The policy process needs to be open and transparent. As it proceeds, extensive consultation will give local communities and other important stakeholders the opportunity to comment and help shape the SA.

This Scoping Report sets the framework for a SA, by containing all of the basic information needed to carry out the assessment. It therefore includes the sustainability objectives against which the appraisal will be made, baseline information relating to the various aspects of sustainability, other plans and strategies that need to be taken into account and, the major sustainability issues confronting the District now and those predicted over the period to 2036. The Report is in line with the guidance provided by Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)² on how to produce an SA which also covers the requirements of the European Directive on the SEA³.

Background/Plan making context

West Berkshire Council has embarked upon replacing a number of the current documents within the Local Plan, within a comprehensive West Berkshire Local Plan Review which will set out policies and proposals for future development and spatial planning requirements to 2036.

Specifically, it aims to:

- review the existing Core Strategy strategic objectives;
- review the existing spatial strategy for the District;
- review the existing Core Strategy and Housing Site Allocations DPD policies to ensure their continued consistency with national policy;
- introduce additional development management policies in response to the review of the saved development management policies not replaced by the Core Strategy or the Housing Site Allocations DPD; and
- introduce new policies in response to recent changes in national planning policy and guidance.

The current Local Plan is made up of the:-

- [Core Strategy 2006 – 2026](#) (July 2012)
- [West Berkshire District Plan 1991 – 2006](#) (saved policies 2007)
- [Housing Site Allocations Development Planning Document](#) (May 2017)

The Local Plan is part of the statutory planning framework for the District and together with the following documents forms an essential part of the overall Development Plan for West Berkshire:

- [Stratfield Mortimer Neighbourhood Development Plan](#) (NDP) adopted June 2017

¹ Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, House of Commons, May 2004.

² Planning Practice Guidance – Strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal DCLG 2015

³ European Parliament. (2001) “The Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment”, Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament, Luxembourg, 2001.

- [Replacement Minerals Local Plan for Berkshire](#) incorporating alterations adopted in December 1997 and May 2001
- [Waste Local Plan for Berkshire](#) adopted December 1998
- South East Plan - Natural Resource Management Policy 6 - [NRM6 Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area](#)⁴

The timetable for the preparation of the Local Plan Review is set out in the Council's [Local Development Scheme](#). This sets out that the Council is also working on a Minerals and Waste Local Plan which, once adopted, will replace the existing Waste Local Plan and Minerals Local Plan.

Neighbourhood Development Areas have been designated at Tilehurst, Compton and Burghfield and work is underway on the production of Neighbourhood Development Plans. When adopted, future NDPs will also form part of the Development Plan.

In addition to these documents, West Berkshire Council has adopted the following Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) that do not form part of the Development Plan but add detail to the adopted policies:

- Planning Obligations SPD (Dec 2014) Alongside Community Infrastructure Levy (April 2015)
- Delivering Investment from Sustainable Development SPD (June 2013)
- Pirbright Institute Site, Compton SPD (Sept 2013)
- Sandford Park, Newbury SPD (Sept 2013, amended March 2015)
- Quality Design – West Berkshire SPD (June 2006)
- Market Street Planning and Design Brief SPD (June 2005)

Currently, it is producing a Supplementary Planning Document for Sustainable Drainage.

The Local Plan Review will be one of the delivery tools for the Council's wider strategic objectives, particularly by addressing their spatial planning aspects. [The Council Strategy](#) outlines the Council's vision, "Working together to make West Berkshire an even greater place in which to live, work and learn". It has set four strategic aims to support the vision:

- Better educated communities;
- A stronger local economy;
- Protect and support those who need it;
- Maintain a high quality of life within our communities.

Why is a Local Plan Review needed?

Planning policies for West Berkshire need to be prepared in the context of national planning policy and guidance, and with regard to other local plans and strategies produced by the Council and other organisations. National policies on planning matters are contained in the NPPF and the Technical Guidance to the [NPPF](#).

⁴In February 2013 the South East Plan was formally abolished except for Policy NRM6 which relates to new residential development close to the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area.

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2013/427/pdfs/ukxi_20130427_en.pdf

In West Berkshire a small area in the very south east of the District around Beech Hill falls within the 5km boundary of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA. The 5km boundary has been determined by Natural England as a buffer area to regulate development near the SPA. However, it is possible that certain types of development up to 7km from the boundary of the SPA could have an impact on the SPA.

During the course of the Core Strategy being prepared and adopted in 2012 there were a number of significant policy changes triggered by the election of a new Government in 2010. The main change was the replacement of the National Planning Policy Statements and Guidance (PPS/PPGs) with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) alongside the removal of the Regional tier of spatial planning. The NPPF came into effect when the Council's Core Strategy was well advanced. Whilst the Council did not consider these changes undermined the Core Strategy and the Inspector took a realistic approach in finding the DPD "sound", it was recognised that its preparation during this period of policy transition did bring forward some shortcomings not least in a fully compliant assessment of housing needs and supply against the emerging NPPF. The Housing Site Allocations DPD was produced, and adopted in May 2017 to implement the strategic housing requirement of the Core Strategy in a plan-led way, pending the preparation of a comprehensive Local Plan Review, which will also extend the plan period from 2026 to 2036. Meeting the demand for housing, remains a priority and a major challenge for West Berkshire.

In addition, the past and present Governments have made a number of changes to the planning system and published a number of consultations on planning reform, largely predicated on the aim of speeding up delivery of new homes. Principal amongst these are the Housing and Planning Act 2016, the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017, and the Housing White Paper, "Fixing our broken housing market". The latter has spawned a series of consultations where any consequential Government response and changes to the NPPF will have implications for the Local Plan Review, *inter alia*, on key strategic priorities in local plans, housing land supply and timely delivery, easing the release of land for development and sustainable development in relation to climate change, flood risk and noise.

These policy changes, either actual or proposed, have been against the background of a period of economic austerity that has seen greater impetus given by Government to boost local economic recovery in functional economic areas through the advent, *inter alia*, of Local Enterprise Partnerships and funding sources such as Growth and City Deals. Whilst recovery has been slow initially the UK growth rate has increased in recent years and was 2.2% per annum in 2016⁵. However, a recent report by the World Trade Bank⁶ showed that trade growth globally continues to slow with 2016 the weakest trade performance since the recent global crisis. It highlighted 'political uncertainty' as a key factor and the outlook here will remain uncertain and more volatile as the implications of the United Kingdom leaving the European Union unfold. The Government policy stance has altered recently towards more inclusive growth more closely aligning economic and social policy; a slower deficit reduction with some increase in public investment and tackling regional growth disparities.

In conclusion, the continuing changes in policy context and the political and economic uncertainty over 'Brexit', makes it imperative that the Sustainability Appraisal is kept under review and amended as necessary to help make policy in the Local Plan Review as responsive and resilient as possible.

Since 2012, the Council has kept updating its evidence base in response to changing circumstances. For instance, it has published a new Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA), the Economic Development Needs Assessment (EDNA) and in early 2017 following a 'call for sites' it commenced work on the HELAA. In addition the Council has identified essential work that is needed to inform the Local Plan Review such as an updated Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) and a new Landscape Character Assessment. Further detailed consideration is contained in Section 3 and Appendix 2 – Baseline information.

Role of the Scoping Report

Scoping is the first stage (**A**) in the production of a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan Review and involves developing the framework for undertaking the appraisal. Scoping necessitates collection of evidence that should be taken into account in the assessment stage (**B**). It includes the geography and timescale covered, the social, environmental and economic effects, options to be considered, assessment methods to be used, and the structure and content of the resulting environmental reports.

⁵ Office of National Statistics 2017

⁶ Trade Developments in 2016 Policy Uncertainty Weighs on World Trade (World Trade Bank: Feb 2017)

The stages of the SA and its relationship to the West Berkshire Local Plan Review are illustrated in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Stages of the Sustainability Appraisal.

DPD stage	SA/SEA Stage	
Pre-production IN PREPARATION	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.
	D1	Public participation on the preferred options of the DOD and the SA Report.
	D2 (i)	Appraise significant changes.
	D2 (ii)	Appraise significant changes resulting from representations.
Examination	D3	Make decisions and provide information.
Adoption and Monitoring	E	Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the DPD.
	E1	Finalise aims and methods for monitoring.
	E2	Respond to adverse effects.

Scope of report and level of detail

It is important to emphasise that the Local Plan Review will be strategic in nature. Even the allocation of sites should be considered a strategic undertaking, i.e. a process that omits consideration of some detailed issues in the knowledge that these will be addressed further down the line through the planning application process. The strategic nature of the plan is reflected in the scope of this SA Report.

Within this Scoping Report, evidence is considered within 5 thematic topics which together should ensure the full range of sustainability issues is identified. It builds upon a substantial amount of work already undertaken by the Council for the SA relating to the Core Strategy, the Housing Site Allocations DPD which have been formally adopted, and the draft Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

The thematic topics are:

- Communities and Well Being;
- Climate Change and Resource Efficiency;
- Landscape, Townscape and Cultural Heritage;
- Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure;
- Economy and Infrastructure

The above headings, the evidence collected and the issues identified under each will provide the framework for the assessment stage.

In order to establish those sustainability issues which should be a focus of the SA, and those that should not, there is a need to adopt a logical process of evidence consideration and issue identification. Four questions have been selected and applied in order to demonstrate clear

Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency. The report was issued for consultation for a period of five weeks from 21 December 2017 to 25 January 2018. This amended version incorporates responses to comments received. The comments received and responses to those comments are included in Appendix 5.

2. Stage A1 - Identify other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives.

What is the policy context?

Answering this question primarily involves reviewing government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF); however it is also important to 'cast the net wider'. The Council must take account of relationships between the West Berkshire Local Plan Review and other relevant local and neighbouring policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives and also take into account environmental protection objectives established at international, European Community and national levels. All of these may influence the options to be considered in the preparation of the Local Plan Review. By reviewing these relationships, the inconsistencies and constraints can be addressed and mitigation/elimination and potential synergies can be realised. This context review meets the requirement of Annex 1(a) of the SEA Directive that the following is reported as part of the SEA:

"an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes"

"the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme" (Annex I(e))

The SA process requires these relationships to be kept under review as any DPD is prepared, and also whilst future DPDs are prepared. As a result this report builds upon the previous versions of the Scoping Report produced as part of the SA of the Core Strategy, Housing Site Allocations DPD and draft Minerals and Waste Local Plan and consequentially, updated or validated as required.

There are areas in common covered by more than one part of the NPPF and Planning Practice Guidance or Statement. Therefore the SA process does not seek to mention every case where an issue is raised, rather to highlight the major issues of relevance for the Local Plan Review and in particular where these will not be dealt with by other plans, programmes or strategies.

Appendix 1 includes a summary of the key implications of relevance to this SA's objectives from the international, national and local plans, policies, strategies and programmes that set the context for considering our sustainability issues.

This Scoping Report assumes that higher and lower level plans may reliably be in conformity with each other and therefore only the most appropriate level plan need be referred to. For instance, international level plans will have been reviewed and taken into account for the production of National level plans unless they have been produced since the international level plans were compiled in which case those which are relevant to this plan are considered.

Specific key issues, relevant to West Berkshire, have been identified through the review of other plans and programmes and used to inform the SA objectives. These key issues include the following:

- An increasingly ageing population placing an increased demand on social care and healthcare services.
- The allocation and phasing of the housing delivery up to 2036, that meets the predicted demand using the new, standardised way of calculating housing demand to reflect current and future housing pressures
- An identified shortage of affordable and/or suitable homes for local people at different stages of life
- Allocation of the right mix of employment land to meet the needs of business
- Maintaining vitality of town and villages centres
- Addressing gaps in skills and adult education needed to find and remain in work
- A heavy reliance on private car use (and corresponding low levels of public transport use) leading to congestion and excessive demand on the road network at peak times.
- Access to community services, care and facilities in rural areas
- Cumulative impacts of consumption and development on the natural and historic environment

- Responding to climate change impacts including vulnerability to flooding and rising consumption of finite resources, especially water, and carbon emitting energy.

Screening under the Habitats Directive and consideration of equality impacts

Screening of the need for Habitats Appropriate Assessments (AA) will be carried out separately under the Habitat and Species Regulations 2010 for England and Wales implementing Article 6 (3) and (4) of the Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora which require an AA of Development Plans and relates to European sites of nature conservation interest, including Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

A separate Equality Impact Assessment will be carried out to demonstrate that the public sector equality duty has been taken into account in preparing the Local Plan Review.

A separate Health Impact Assessment will be carried out to ensure that the health implications of implementing the Local Plan Review are adequately considered.

Consultation question 1:

Are there other relevant policies, plans, programmes, and sustainable development objectives that will affect or influence the West Berkshire Local Plan Review?

3. Stage A2 – Baseline Information

What is the baseline situation?

This stage in the Scoping Report takes a snap-shot of the current sustainability 'baseline' in the District. Answering this question involves reviewing available data to establish an understanding of the current state of the environment, community and local economy associated with West Berkshire. This section meets the requirements of Annex I (b) and 1(c) of the SEA Directive that the following is reported as part of the SEA:

“the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment...” (Annex 1(b)); and “the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected” (Annex 1(c))

Collation of existing environmental and sustainability data has helped to identify the sustainability issues that are facing West Berkshire, and has set the context for appraising the West Berkshire Local Plan Review. Analysis of the data has drawn out the social, environmental and economic issues and trends of the area that relate to the policy thematic topics and areas to be tackled in the Local Plan Review, although it is recognised that many of these issues are inter-related. This data assists in the formulation of alternative methods for tackling these issues and problems.

What would the situation be without the Plan?

This section also considers how the baseline might be likely to evolve in the future under a business as usual scenario. Knowledge of the likely future trends under a business as usual scenario allows effects to be predicted and evaluated with greater accuracy at the assessment stage. This section meets the requirements of Annex 1(b) of the SEA Directive that the following is reported as part of the SEA:

“... the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme” (Annex 1(b))

A list of the Baseline data can be found in Appendix 2.

Other relevant background documents to the Local Plan Review include the following technical evidence produced in support of the Local Plan:

Berkshire (including South Bucks) Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) - The SHMA considers the objectively assessed need (OAN) for housing. The OAN does not take account of possible constraints to future housing supply including land supply, development constraints and infrastructure. These factors will subsequently be considered by the local authorities as part of the local plan process for individual local authorities before establishing the final housing requirements. The assessment was separated into two Housing Market Areas (HMA) with West Berkshire falling into the Western Berkshire HMA along with Bracknell Forest, Wokingham Borough, Reading Borough.

West of Berkshire Spatial Planning Framework - This framework has been produced by the four Local Planning Authorities of Bracknell Forest, Reading, West Berkshire and Wokingham Councils. It has been agreed by each Council and demonstrates the strategic priorities and projects that the authorities will work on collaboratively. It does not allocate land for any purpose (this will be done through the individual Local Plans). It does however, demonstrate that the Councils will work collectively to try and meet the HMA's needs. The Framework is also endorsed by Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership.

Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) – The SHLAA at 2013 lists and maps sites within West Berkshire that may have potential for housing development. Most of the sites are submissions from landowners and developers for possible future development potential. It is important to note they are not sites allocated for development. The decisions, regarding which sites will actually be allocated and how many homes need to be built, will be made in the Local Plan documents that will be subject to full public consultation before any decision is made. The SHLAA includes estimates of housing potential on individual sites. These are not based on detailed designs so should not be assumed as acceptable for the purposes of development control decisions and should not prejudice

any decision that may be made on the site at a later date. **This document will be superseded by the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA)**(see below).

Western Berkshire Retail and Commercial Assessment 2016 – Covering the period 2016 to 2036 for ‘Western Berkshire’ authorities this study sets out the need for future retail and commercial leisure uses. It is expected that the Western Berkshire authorities will be able to use to inform policy development and land use allocations within the Local Plan Review.

Berkshire Functional Economic Market Area Study (2016) (FEMA) – The FEMA Study establishes the various functional economic market areas that operate across Berkshire and the wider sub-region.

Western Berkshire Functional Economic Market Area (FEMA) Economic Development Needs Assessment (EDNA) - The EDNA considers the objectively assessed economic development needs for the Western Berkshire Core FEMA (which comprises West Berkshire District only) over the period 2013-2036. The study considers future quantitative land and floor space requirements alongside related qualitative factors for individual sectors and employment uses.

Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) – The GTAA sets out the overall pitch or plot requirement for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople across West Berkshire. The GTAA was carried out using a joint methodology agreed with the other local authorities in Berkshire. This assessment is due to be updated for the Local Plan Review.

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) – The SFRA provides an overview of flood risk across West Berkshire and has been used to inform the current Core Strategy and Housing Site Allocations Development Plan Document. It will be updated for the Local Plan Review (see below).

Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) – The LCA is a tool to assess and identify features and elements that contribute to the character of the landscape. LCAs are used to inform planning policies, the allocation of land for development. A new LCA is being commissioned for the Local Plan Review (see below).

Nature Conservation – Information on ecology and biodiversity of international, national and local importance and their priorities for conservation and enhancement.

Historic Environment – Information on the heritage assets in West Berkshire and the management of the historic environment.

The following evidence is being/will be collected as part of the preparation of the Local Plan Review:

Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) - The HELAA will cover the period up to 2036 by identifying potential sites for new homes, employment and other land uses. It will show which sites are being promoted for development at a particular time and will be updated regularly. It is a technical document, not a policy-making document. It will not make recommendations on which sites should be developed but will make a preliminary assessment of their suitability and potential. The HELAA will replace the SHLAA which identified potential sites for new homes as part of the Core Strategy (2006 – 26).

Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) – A new GTAA will be commissioned for the Local Plan Review.

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) – To replace the current SFRA the Council has commissioned a new SFRA, a technical document whose primary purpose is to determine the variation in flood risk across the district of West Berkshire. Robust information on flood risk is essential to inform and support the Council's flood policies in the Local Plan Review.

Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) – A new LCA is being commissioned.

Playing Pitch Strategy - Derived from a review of the supply of ad demand for playing pitches, a Strategy will be produced for both established and future needs of the District.

Infrastructure Development Plan – This will replace the existing IDP and provided an updated assessment of the infrastructure required to support the planned new development across the district.

Duty to Cooperate – Cooperating with neighbouring and relevant authorities will be documented to demonstrate that the duty to cooperate has been achieved in relation to the West Berkshire Local Plan Review in addition to those other authorities' relevant plans.

Where deemed necessary other evidence will be gathered during the course of the Local Plan Review process.

Consultation question 2:

Do you agree that the baseline data collected in Appendix 2 is appropriate to the West Berkshire Local Plan Review?

Consultation question 3:

Do you have, or know of, any additional baseline data which should be added to that already listed?

Consultation question 4:

As far as you are aware, are there any inaccuracies or anomalies in the data presented?

4. Stage A3 – Identify Sustainability Issues and Problems

What are the key issues and problems?

Following from the review of evidence undertaken under the preceding headings, this section describes those sustainability issues that have been shown to be potentially significant, and so should be a particular focus of the assessment stage. The issues of the SA will define the scope of the appraisal to follow. This section meets the requirement of Annex 1(d) of the SEA Directive that the following is reported as part of the SEA:

“any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme...”

From the review of the baseline information gathered (see Appendix 2), the following key issues, set out in Table 2 below, were identified for particular consideration in the SA. Environmental, social and economic evidence has been considered under 5 thematic topics to ensure that the full range of sustainability issues is identified. The thematic topics and their association with the SEA topics (contained in Annex 1 (f) of the Directive) are:

- Communities and Well Being (SEA topics: air, population, human health, material assets);
- Climate Change and Managing Resources (SEA topics: air, water and soil, population and human health, climatic factors, biodiversity, flora and fauna); material assets);
- Landscape, Townscape and Cultural Heritage (SEA topics: cultural heritage and landscape);
- Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure (SEA topics: biodiversity, flora and fauna, cultural heritage and landscape);
- Economy and Infrastructure (SEA topics: population, human health).

Table 2: Sustainability thematic topics and issues

SUSTAINABILITY THEMATIC TOPICS	KEY SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES
<p>Communities and Well Being</p> <p>Community wellbeing is influenced by a number of crosscutting and interlinking factors that are important in ensuring that individuals and areas are able to fully participate in society. This topic focuses on many of these, including community facilities, education, equalities, health, safety, housing and deprivation.</p>	<p>Ageing Population and healthcare: Future demographics indicate that the population of the area as a whole is projected to rise to over 166,000 by 2036. Significantly, the population of over 65s is forecast to grow by over 59% in the period 2016-2036 and the over 85s by 148% over the same period. This is above the national average and will call for a much increased demand for suitable housing, health care services and facilities for the elderly. The increased prevalence of those with long term illnesses and disability (closely linked to an ageing population) living longer along with a desire for independence, will have the similar effect. Equally, the need to take more personal control of health and wellbeing, including obesity, should increase demand for green infrastructure and health facilities. A key challenge has been identified to explore any link between the District Health profiles and air quality.</p>
	<p>Sustainable rural communities/rural isolation/access to services: The most deprived areas in terms of access to services and social care are spread over the more rural areas of the District. For isolated rural communities the need to support home independence will continue, along with increased availability of transport links, access to social care and the use of ICT technologies.</p>
	<p>Education/skills: Demand for childcare places will increase from 2017 and parental choice over settings makes provision complex to predict. Higher primary numbers post-recession are about to hit secondary in 2019, with growth mainly around Newbury and Thatcham. New housing growth here is likely to need additional</p>

	<p>educational infrastructure. Correspondingly, as pupil growth moves out of the primary schools, numbers will decrease affecting rural areas most and raises an additional risk of viability.</p> <p>Levels of educational attainment in West Berkshire are generally higher than national for both school and higher qualifications. However, a significant number of the working population, 17%, have no qualifications, compared to 15% nationally, which can act as a break on the local economy and create pockets of deprivation and exclusion. Inequality in adult educational achievement should combine with opportunities to acquire skills suited to business need. A deficit of literacy and numeracy skills and the gap to more disadvantaged pupils at secondary phase needs to be addressed for reasons of wellbeing, crime and health as well as future employment prospects.</p> <p>Housing: The higher than average annual income, and house prices now amongst the highest in the UK, have particularly affected key occupational workers and potential first time buyers who are unable to get onto the property ladder. The lack of smaller sized as well as affordable dwellings for predicted lower density households is an issue for the future, particularly in relation to rural areas and in retaining younger local people employed in the District. The increasing number and proportion of older persons and those with long term needs places more demand for housing and accommodation that is available and/or adaptable for different stages of life.</p> <p>Air quality: Only two areas are acknowledged as having poor air quality, both associated with sections of road in Newbury and Thatcham. Sites that offer sustainable transport opportunities and choices such as rail, bus and greenways would be preferable to help reduce air quality impacts caused by road congestion. The Local Transport Plan 3 (2011-2026) has a specific policy on Air Quality and sets out a long term ‘mixed’ strategy to provide the District with more sustainable travel choices linked to the Air Quality Action Plan. A key challenge has been identified to explore any link between the District Health profiles and air quality.</p>
	<p>Crime and Safety: Although the level of crime is of importance to the residents of the area, it is antisocial behaviour that is of more concern (even if only perceived) as this has a direct effect on the quality of life and general appearance of the area. The Local Plan Review can have a key role in promoting well managed environments and secure buildings which will influence the levels of crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of both in an ageing District.</p>
<p>Climate Change and Resource Efficiency</p> <p>Climate change is recognised as one of the greatest challenges facing humanity with substantial challenges to national prosperity and social cohesion at the local level. Managing scarce resources wisely to mitigate and adapt to a changing climate is</p>	<p>Climate change: Climate change will be a key issue for the Local Plan Review to address persistently. A changing climate is expected to exaggerate weather events; heavier rain, stronger winds and more summer heat-waves. It will have an impact on the landscape and our lifestyles; the economy and infrastructure; rare wildlife habitats and species may be threatened by loss or change in habitat; farming could suffer from more pests, soil erosion and a decrease in agricultural productivity; more intense rain, rising sea levels and wetter soils will increase flood risk; and water supplies will be affected along with our demands made on them.</p>

<p>essential in development planning.</p>	<p>There is a need to reduce impacts on climate change through reduced emission of greenhouse gases, consumption of natural resources, vehicular movements. In addition, more sustainable designs are required to mitigate and adapt to the physical, financial and economic impacts of a potential rise in flooding and overall temperatures.</p> <p>Resource efficiency: Lifestyle and consumption trends in the UK and more widely have generally resulted in increased demands on energy and material resources. While many of the driving factors are outside the influence of the Council, others can be influenced in the direction of sustainability. Waste minimisation and recycling, high standards of water and land use efficiency plus energy efficiency including renewables, will require particular consideration, being areas where planning can have a direct role.</p> <p>Water supply: The supply of water and the necessary infrastructure to meet demand is a key issue for West Berkshire. The Environment Agency suggests that within less than thirty years there will be a major water shortage in the South East unless there is a reduction in the amount of water used or new resources are found and that West Berkshire is within an area with “serious levels of water stress”. There is also a need to protect and enhance surface and groundwater supplies (identified through the groundwater sensitivity and source protections zones) throughout West Berkshire.</p> <p>Water quality: Meeting water quality standards is a challenge for the region and West Berkshire. Together with tightening water quality standards, a growing population and development pressures are placing extra demands on the sewerage treatment infrastructure and the waters receiving effluent. As well as increased sewage pressures, development can pose other risks to water quality, this can could include inappropriate mobilising legacy contamination, waste management or site drainage.</p> <p>Flood risk: The risk of flooding to a large number of homes and businesses (as in 2007 and 2014) and its frequency within West Berkshire is widespread, arising not only from rivers but also from surface water runoff , groundwater flooding and infrastructure failure. Locating developments outside areas of flood risk is essential to avoid a legacy of economic, social and environmental costs as is maintaining existing flood risk management infrastructure and ensuring all development incorporates sustainable drainage systems to minimise surface water flood risk.</p>
<p>Landscape, Townscape and Cultural Heritage</p> <p>An invaluable natural and socio-economic resource, which allows a better understanding of the locality and helps to define the sense of place and local identity.</p>	<p>Landscape: Current driving forces relating to landscape change are agriculture/forestry, recreation and development. Primary development pressures are from changing population and business economies and the need to accommodate housing and modern business premises. Other pressures relate to mineral extraction (although there is some opportunity for sympathetic restoration of wetland landscapes), wind and solar power, and telecommunications and transport infrastructure.</p>

	<p>Historic Character and Features: The conservation of historic, sites and commons, monuments, battlefields, parks, buildings and Conservation Areas has contributed to the historic, cultural, economic heritage of West Berkshire and helped to sustain the distinctive communities in the District. Without sensitive restoration, conservation and enhancement above and below ground, the quality, connectivity and accessibility of these historic assets can easily deteriorate, particularly with respect to those heritage assets at risk. However, conservation and mitigation needs are not necessarily incompatible with building development for local needs, if care is taken over form and design.</p> <p>A further issue is new development in the vicinity of the nuclear installations within the district. The influence of such developments on safety matters will require detailed assessment by the Nuclear Directorate of the Health and Safety Executive.</p> <p>Culture: Cultural distinctiveness and richness is closely associated with the natural and man-made heritage of West Berkshire, integral to the sense of identity for residents but also represents an area where opportunities exist for developing a more attractive visitor experience. Data and information is limited for the District and gaps exist for instance, on the contribution and potential of equestrian sporting prowess for which the area is well known.</p>
<p>Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure</p> <p>As well as being important in its own right, biodiversity provides ecosystem services such as flood defence and clean water; and contributes to wellbeing and sense of place. But it can be sensitive to a number of other factors including air and water quality and disturbance.</p> <p>Green infrastructure is a network of multifunctional green spaces can help to make walking and cycling more attractive; promote mental wellbeing; help to establish local identity and a sense of place; help to reduce air pollution; contain flooding; and reduce temperatures at a time of global warming.</p>	<p>Biodiversity: Population growth requiring more housing and infrastructure and consumption of natural resources, along with changes in agricultural land use (perhaps more acute in the medium term in response to leaving the European Union) and climate change, will continue to place pressure on the wildlife and ecosystems in West Berkshire. Without positive protection, conservation and enhancement, existing species and habitats will decline in quality and extent, and the value of nature for people's appreciation and enjoyment, will be diminished.</p> <p>Green Infrastructure: The delivery of new green infrastructure will depend on meeting the need created as a consequence of new development so that it contributes to effective spatial planning and place shaping by taking account of its relationship to existing and proposed green spaces within the district and their connections to it. Focusing and prioritising GI investment on economic growth points where the majority of people will be located in the future, will maximise the multiple benefits it can provide</p>
<p>Economy and Infrastructure</p> <p>A healthy and prosperous economy is key to a healthy society, for instance, town and country vibrancy, good environments to live and work,</p>	<p>Employment and affordability: The availability of skills suited to the local employment need and the high cost of housing means that some sectors such as agriculture, residential care and elementary occupations may be faced with staff recruitment and retention problems and pockets of relative income deprivation in and around Newbury, Thatcham and the fringe of Reading.</p>

<p>and with careful planning it should also enhance environmental well-being.</p> <p>Local economies are characterised by a range of interlinked factors, including housing and transport, employment, skills and education.</p>	<p>Employment Land: The supply of modern good quality industrial accommodation of the right mix is limited with much of the existing stock needing re-furbishment. In rural areas the demand for rural employment space is limited and will need stimulating to encourage rural and home based businesses.</p>
	<p>Growth: With high employment rates it is likely that the greatest uplift in economic output will be driven through productivity improvements rather than by an increase in the number of people employed</p>
<p>Infrastructure plays a vital role in supporting sustainable development. In economic terms, if efficient and well managed, it connects localities to national and international markets. In social terms it can stimulate labour market flexibility and accessibility to employment opportunities. Environmental impacts can be more efficiently managed by reducing the need to travel affordable public transport as well as the provision of walking and cycling infrastructure and green spaces.</p>	<p>Sustainable transport: The high dependency on private transport combined with forecasted increase in traffic flows and the need to cut emissions and improve air quality are drivers for addressing the key issue is slowing down the rate of increase in traffic and encouraging more sustainable modes of transport and alternatives to travelling. Provision needs to be integrated with other sustainability issues and solutions such as access to services in more remote areas and promoting healthy active living. The capacity of the road network, particularly around Newbury and Thatcham, the A34 and A339 is also a key issue.</p>

Consultation question 5:

Do you agree that these are the key sustainability issues for the West Berkshire Local Plan Review?

Consultation question 6:

Are you aware of any issues which, in your opinion, should be added, or any that should be removed?

5. Stage A4 – Developing the sustainability appraisal framework

Developing an SA framework provides a way in which sustainability effects can be described, analysed and compared and forms a central part of the SA process.

A set of sustainability objectives and their indicators, which may be in the form of targets and are a way in which the achievement of the objectives can be measured, make up the SA framework. These objectives and indicators can also then be used to monitor the implementation of the West Berkshire Local Plan Review.

The objectives have been developed from a review of plans, programmes and policies (Stage A1), a review of the baseline information (Stage A2) and previous consultation on the SA. The SA objectives are distinct from the Local Plan Review objectives however there may be some overlapping between the two sets. Reference to the SEA topics show how the SA objectives have complied with the SEA Directive.

The table below shows the proposed framework for the SA of the West Berkshire Local Plan Review. Note that indicators can and should apply to a number of objectives.

Table 3: Proposed framework for the SA of the West Berkshire Local Plan Review.

Headline SA Objective		Suggested Indicators	SEA Topics
1: To enable provision of housing to meet identified need in sustainable locations	To maximise the provision of affordable housing to meet identified need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No of housing completions Affordable housing completions Housing mix by type and size 	Population
	To enable provision of housing to meet all sectors of the community, including those with specialist requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Households on housing register (WBC Housing Operations) Number of net additional pitches/plots (Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show people) Number of self and custom-build housing completions Number of housing units for older people 	Human Health
2: To improve health, safety and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	To support healthy, active lifestyles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General health summary significantly better than England average (PHE) Years of potential life lost (ONS) Number of people per annum visiting Council owned sports/recreational facilities Results from Active People Surveys (SE) % of adult population who participate in Sport or Physical activity at least twice in the previous 28 days. 	Human Health
	To reduce levels and fear of crime and anti-social behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fear of crime surveys (WBC) Number of violent crime, robberies, vehicle crimes and domestic burglaries per 1000 population 	Population
	To enable the protection and enhancement of high quality multi-functional GI across the District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Availability, use and access to eligible open spaces Meet Accessible Natural Green space Standard (ANGSt) Percentage of the Rights of Way network in a "favourable" condition 	.
3: To improve accessibility to community infrastructure.	To improve access to education, health and other services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of a GP, hospital, primary and secondary school, employment and a major retail centre Percentage of school places within 2 miles (primary) or 3 miles (secondary) in accordance with the council's School Travel Plan. Percentage of schools rated 'Good' or above by Ofsted Proportion of 19 years olds with Level 2 qualifications (5 or more GCSEs Grade A* to C) Percentage of schools under/over capacity 	Population Human health

Headline SA Objective		Suggested Indicators	SEA Topics
	To support the development of access to IT facilities including Broadband particularly in rural locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coverage by Superfast_Broadband % access to WBC digital services and information by smartphone or tablet device (WBC ICT Strategy 2017 – 2020) 	
4: To promote and maximise opportunities for all forms of safe and sustainable travel.	To reduce accidents and improve safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of deaths and serious injuries on the roads (for all ages and children) 	Human health
	To increase opportunities for walking, cycling and use of public transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of children walking or cycling to school Proportion of cars to household ownership Bus passenger numbers (LA subsidised) Percentage of new development within 400 metres of a bus service % growth/reduction in travel by rail Percentage of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of a GP, hospital, primary and secondary school, employment and a major retail centre Length of cycleway Number of monitored cyclists Length of Public Rights of Way 	Air Population
5: Ensure that the character and distinctiveness of the natural, built and historic environment is conserved and where possible, enhanced.	To conserve and, where possible, to enhance the biodiversity and geodiversity of West Berkshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of SSSI and SAC land in a favourable or recovering condition (NE) Loss or damage in ha of SSSIs and SACs (NE), ancient woodlands (FC) Change in areas of biodiversity and geological importance, in priority habitat and number of priority species. (TVERC) Area of statutory LNRs per number of population 	Biodiversity Flora Fauna
	To conserve and enhance the character of the landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of building on greenfield land Percentage of land under agri-environment schemes (NE) 	Landscape Cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological
	To protect, and enhance the built and historic environment including heritage assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number and percentage of listed buildings, registered parks and gardens, scheduled monuments, and registered battlefields, indicated as “at risk” on the Heritage at Risk Register (HE) No. of heritage assets included on the Local List % of Conservation Areas in West Berkshire with an up-to-date character appraisal (and management plan); Number of major development projects that enhance the significance of heritage assets or historic landscape character; Number of major development projects that detract from the significance of heritage assets or historic landscape Number and % of planning applications where archaeological mitigation strategies (preservation by design and/ or archaeological recording) were developed and implemented 	Cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological Landscape
6: To protect and improve air, water and soil quality, and minimise noise levels throughout West Berkshire.	To reduce air pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level and trend of air pollutants NO₂ Level of traffic flows Exceedances in Air Quality Management Areas Local Air Quality Management measures 	Air

Headline SA Objective		Suggested Indicators	SEA Topics
	To manage noise levels in main settlements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of noise complaints per annum received by West Berkshire 	Soil
	To maintain and improve soil quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of “Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land” to development Loss of greenfield land to development Level of potentially contaminated sites remediated and suitable for use 	Human Health
	To maintain and improve water quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of surface waters and groundwater water bodies at ‘Good’ Water Framework Directive status (EA) Measures of chemical and biological water quality of inland watercourses “good” and “fair”(EA) Deterioration in WFD status from 2015 baseline Incidents of major and significant water pollution No of remediated contaminated sites no longer impacting on water quality No of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on water quality grounds The number of planning approvals granted contrary to the statutory water/sewerage undertakers advice (Thames Water Property Services) 	Water Biodiversity
7: To promote and improve the efficiency of land use.	To maximise the use of previously developed land and buildings where appropriate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of major residential developments completed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) less than 30dph; ii) between 30 and 50 dph; iii) above 50 dph Percentage of new or converted dwellings and non-residential developments on previously developed land Area of registered brownfield sites suitable and available for residential development 	Material Assets Soil
8: To reduce consumption and waste of natural resources and manage their use efficiently.	To reduce energy use and promote the development and use of sustainable /renewable energy technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % commercial buildings meeting BREEAM excellent standard Increase in energy storage from renewable technologies Megawatts generated from renewable energy sources 	Climatic factors
	To reduce waste generation and disposal in line with the waste hierarchy and reuse of materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % change in waste generated (From EA and DEFRA) % of household waste and biodegradable waste to landfill % total tonnage of waste that has been recycled, composted, reused and recovered, or used to recover heat power and other sources of energy 	Material Assets
	To reduce water consumption and promote reuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of development incorporating water conservation and/or water efficiency measures New Developments with SUDs installed (EA) 	Water
	To reduce the consumption of minerals and promote reuse of secondary materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual primary aggregate production and annual reuse of secondary materials as in local aggregates assessment/per 1000 head of population 	
9: To reduce emissions contributing to climate change and ensure adaptation measures are in place	To reduce West Berkshire’s contribution to greenhouse gas emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level of car use to work Percentage of development achieving BREEAM Excellent Standards 	Climatic factors
	To sustainably	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No of planning permissions granted contrary to the 	

Headline SA Objective		Suggested Indicators	SEA Topics
to respond to climate change.	manage flood risk to people, property and the environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> advice of the Environment Agency on flood defence grounds Number of major developments with approved sustainable drainage systems Number of flood alleviation schemes developed to protect housing and infrastructure 	
10: To support a strong, diverse and sustainable economic base which meets identified needs.	To encourage a range of employment opportunities that meet the needs of the District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage unemployment rate amongst economically active population Percentage of working age population claiming Job Seekers Allowance Percentage working age population in employment or unemployed Amount and type of non-residential completions Amount of Protected Employment Area land developed 	Population
	To support key sectors and utilise employment land effectively and efficiently	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of land developed for employment by type which is on previously developed land Amount of employment land lost to residential development Gross employment floor space developed 	Human health
	To support the viability and vitality of town and village centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total amount of floor space for town centre uses Completed retail development Percentage increase or decrease in the total number of VAT registered businesses in the area Vacancy rates of units Loss of town centre uses 	

Note:

Guidance on Local Plan Monitoring was used. Consultation and discussions were held with WBC officers in order to agree the final list of indicators. Please note that indicators suffixed by:

- (AMR) are core output indicators to be monitored in West Berkshire's Annual Monitoring Report.
- (ONS) information available from the Office of National Statistics.
- (PHE) Information from Public Health England
- (EA) information available from the Environment Agency.
- (NE) information available from Natural England.
- (FC) information available from Forestry Commission
- (TVERC) information available from Thames Valley Environmental Record Centre

Many of the objectives and indicators are overlapping.

A review of the compatibility between the SA objectives and the Local Plan Review objectives has been carried out (see Appendix 3) and a draft summary can be seen below. The review indicates that generally both sets of objectives are compatible. Potential tensions lie in the following areas:

- Impacts on the historic and natural environment are heavily dependent on the siting and type of development being proposed and their proximity to sensitive sites.
- All future development proposals need to respond to climate change, in particular to potential risks of flooding, the need to minimise resource consumption, by being well located, in ensuring new design is of high quality and efficiency and reduces where possible, vehicular trips.

The table below shows a summary of the compatibility between the SA Objectives and the West Berkshire Local Plan Review objectives.

Table 4: Compatibility Table

		SA Objectives									
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Local Plan Review Objectives	A	+	++	0	++	++	++	+	++	++	0
	B	++	++	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	++
	C	++	++	+	+	+	+	++	++	++	++
	D	++	++	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	++
	E	+	+	++	+	+	0	++	0	0	++
	F	0	++	+	+	++	0	0	0	0	+
	G	0	++	++	0	++	++	+	++	++	+
	H	+	++	++	++	+	++	++	+	++	+
	I	++	++	+	++	0	0	+	0	+	++
	J	++	++	++	+	0	0	+	0	0	++

Key:	
	Strongly supports sustainable objectives
	Supports sustainable objectives
	Neutral
	Works against sustainable objectives
	Works strongly against sustainable objectives

To assist your understanding of this compatibility assessment the West Berkshire Local Plan Review objectives are:

A. Climate Change

To mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change and minimise demand for energy and other resources.

B. Housing

Together with the other Berkshire authorities within the Western Berkshire Housing Market Area, to ensure that the assessed need for market and affordable housing up to 2036 will be met across the District. To provide a mix of house sizes, types and tenures, through a variety of delivery methods and respond to the changing demographic and health profile of the District.

C. Sustainable and Quality Development

To ensure provision of sustainable developments of high quality design, construction and efficiency (including land use) which contribute to an attractive, safe and accessible environment for all.

D. Economy

To facilitate and support a strong, diverse and sustainable economic base across the District, including the provision of employment land which provides for a range of local job opportunities.

E. Town Centres

To enhance the vitality and viability of town, district and local centres in West Berkshire as places for shopping, leisure and community activities.

F. Culture

Together with partners, to develop and promote the cultural distinctiveness and heritage of the area to ensure it makes a significant contribution to the future wellbeing and sustainability of West Berkshire's economy and communities.

G. Heritage

To conserve and enhance the local distinctive character and identity of the built, historic and natural environment in West Berkshire's towns, villages and countryside.

H. Green Infrastructure and Healthy Living

To ensure that West Berkshire contains a strong network of multi-functional green infrastructure which provides health and environmental benefits and enhances the overall quality of life of sustainable communities.

I. Transport

To make provision for transport networks that support sustainable growth in West Berkshire and to promote low emission transport choices.

J. Infrastructure

To ensure that the physical and social infrastructure needs arising from the growth in West Berkshire are provided to support and keep pace with development in accordance with the detail set out in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

Consultation question 7:

Are the objectives suitable in the context of the West Berkshire Local Plan Review?

Consultation question 8:

Are there any other additional objectives that should either be included or are there any that should be removed?

Consultation question 9:

It may be necessary to rank the objectives to assess options. Do you have any comments on those which hold particular importance?

Consultation question 10:

Do the indicators provide a relevant measure for the associated objectives? If not, then please suggest additional indicators.

Approach to site appraisal

The Plan will include sites allocated for specific uses. Each site option will be subject to a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) in order to identify and evaluate its potential impacts. The SA will be used to help decision making on whether a site should be taken forward as an allocation in the Local Plan Review. It will also be used to identify suitable mitigation measures for addressing any adverse effects and these will be reflected in Plan policies where appropriate.

6. Stage A5 – Consultation

The SEA Directive (Article 5.4) requires the Council to seek the views of the three statutory environmental consultation bodies designated in the SEA Regulations (Environment Agency, Natural England, and English Heritage) on the scope and level of detail of the environmental information in the SA. This consultation stage will help to ensure that the SA will be comprehensive and robust in its support of the West Berkshire Local Plan Review.

The three statutory environmental consultation bodies were consulted between December 2017 and January 2018 for 5 weeks on the scope and level of detail of the environmental information in the Scoping Report. Comments received and the Council response are included in Appendix 5.

Next Steps

The framework and evidence base presented in the Scoping Report provides the basis for undertaking the SA of the Plan. Other evidence (e.g. from studies undertaken by the Council) will also be drawn on where appropriate. In order to carry out the appraisal, for each Sustainability theme/topic the following questions will be asked:

- What will be the situation with the plan?
- How can we mitigate/enhance effects?
- How can we best monitor the plan's impacts?

In this way, the Plan will be comprehensively analysed in terms of its effect on different parts of West Berkshire and the full range of sustainability issues.

7. Next stages of the SA

This report has covered SA stages A1 – A5. When Stage A5, consultation on the Scoping Report, has been completed the development of the SA will move on to Stage B, developing and refining options and assessing effects, with Stages C, D and E to follow.

Table 5 – Stages of the Sustainability Appraisal

DPD 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.
	D1	Public participation on the preferred options of the DOD and the SA Report.
	D2 (i)	Appraise significant changes.
Examination	D2 (ii)	Appraise significant changes resulting from representations.
Adoption and Monitoring	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.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Relevant Plans and Programmes

Appendix 2 – Baseline Information

Appendix 3 - Compatibility of the SA Objectives with the West Berkshire Local Plan Review Objectives

Appendix 4 - Glossary

Appendix 1 – List and review of Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies:

International

Plan/programme/strategy	Date	Relevance	Key objectives relevant to Local Plan Review and SA	Implications for the Local Plan	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
Sustainable Development Goals 2030 Agenda (New York) (United Nations)	2015	Context	A series of 17 goals, on matters covering poverty, health and well-being, equality and climate change, with a number of targets sitting behind these goals	Plan policies to support the overall objectives.	This provides a context for discussion of sustainable development at a national and local level, having regard to the topics identified by the goals.
Paris Agreement and UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (United Nations)	2015	Context	Reduce emissions as part of the method for reducing greenhouse gas. Reduce carbon output. Aim to keep global warming to well below 2 degrees centigrade	Plan policies to support the implementation of national action plans to provide secure, affordable and clean energy for people and businesses.	Include sustainability objectives/appraisal questions for the mitigation and adaptation of climate change impacts.
Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 including Aichi Biodiversity Targets (United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity)	2010	Context	Contains 5 strategic goals;- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society • Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use • Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity • Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services. • Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building 	Plan policies to support the integration of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans into national development.	Include sustainability objective / appraisal questions to protect and enhance biodiversity
Declaration of Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Earth Summit)	2002	Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to building a humane, equitable and caring global society aware of the need for human dignity for all. • Renewable energy and energy efficiency. Accelerate shift towards sustainable consumption and production. 	Develop policies that take account of the Declaration.	Include sustainability objective / appraisal questions to enhance the natural environment and promote renewable energy and energy efficiency.
Aarhus Convention (1998)	1998	Context	Established a number of rights of the public with regard to the environment. Local authorities should provide for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The right of everyone to receive environmental information • The right to participate from an early stage in environmental decision making • The right to challenge in a court of law public decisions that have been made without respecting the two rights above or 	Develop policies that take account of the Convention.	Ensure that public are involved and consulted at all relevant stages of SA production.

			environmental law in general.		
UNESCO World Heritage Convention	1972	Context	Aims to promote cooperation among nations to protect heritage around the world that is of such outstanding universal value that its conservation is important for current and future generations	Adopt local plan policy that aims to give the cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of the community and to integrate the protection of that heritage into comprehensive planning programs.	Include sustainability objective/ appraisal questions to protect and enhance the built and natural environment.

European

Plan/programme/strategy	Date	Relevance	Key objectives relevant to Local Plan Review and SA	Implications for the Local Plan	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
EU Seventh Environmental Action Plan (2002-2012)	2011	Context	The EU's objectives in implementing the programme are: (a) to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital; (b) to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green and competitive low-carbon economy; (c) to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing; (d) to maximise the benefits of the Union's environment legislation; (e) to improve the evidence base for environment policy; (f) to secure investment for environment and climate policy and get the prices right; (g) to improve environmental integration and policy coherence; (h) to enhance the sustainability of the Union's cities; (i) to increase the Union's effectiveness in confronting regional and global environmental challenges.	Recognises that land use planning and management decisions in the Member States can have a major influence on the environment, leading to fragmentation of the countryside and pressures in urban areas and the coast. Also includes objectives on stabilising greenhouse gases, halting biodiversity loss, reducing pollution and resource use.	Include sustainability objective / appraisal questions to protect and enhance the natural environment and promote energy efficiency.
European Landscape Convention (Florence)	2002	Context	The convention promotes landscape protection, management and planning.	Develop policies that take account of the Convention.	Include sustainability objective / appraisal questions to protect landscape and archaeological heritage.
European Spatial Development Perspective	1999	Context	Economic and social cohesion across the community. Conservation of natural resources and cultural heritage. Balanced competitiveness between different tiers of government.	Develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.	Include sustainability objective / appraisal questions to conserve natural resources and cultural heritage.
European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta, 1992) Revision of the 1985 Granada Convention	1992	Context	Protection of the archaeological heritage, including any physical evidence of the human past that can be investigated archaeologically both on land and underwater. Creation of archaeological reserves and conservation of excavated sites.	Develop policies that take account of the Convention.	Include sustainability objective / appraisal questions to protect the archaeological heritage.

Plan/programme/strategy	Date	Relevance	Key objectives relevant to Local Plan Review and SA	Implications for the Local Plan	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
The Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada)	1985	Context	Requires the integration of conservation policies into planning systems and other spheres of government influence that promote the conservation and enhancement of architectural heritage	Develop policies that take account of the Convention.	Include sustainability objective / appraisal questions to protect the architectural heritage.
Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern) (EC)	1979	Context	Aims to ensure conservation and protection of wild plant and animal species and their natural habitats (listed in Appendices I and II of the Convention), to increase cooperation between contracting parties, and to regulate the exploitation of those species (including migratory species) listed in Appendix III. To this end the Convention imposes legal obligations on contracting parties, protecting over 500 wild plant species and more than 1,000 wild animal species. Transposed into European law by the Birds Directive and Habitats Directive. Transposed in to UK law by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended).	Ensure policies take account of the protection and enhancement of European designated sites and protected species.	Include sustainability objective / appraisal questions to protect habitats and species of European importance.

EU Directives

Plan/programme/strategy	Date	Relevance	Key objectives relevant to Local Plan Review and SA	Implications for the Local Plan	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
<i>The Industrial Emissions Directive 2010</i> Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control)	2010	Context	Lays down rules on integrated prevention and control of pollution arising from industrial activities. It also lays down rules designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions into air, water and land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole.	Develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).	Include sustainability objective / appraisal question for reducing pollution.
<i>Energy Performance of Buildings Directive 2010 on the energy performance of buildings 2010/31/EU</i>	2010	Context	The Directive aims to promote the energy performance of buildings and building units. It requests that member states adopt either national or regional methodology for calculating energy performance and minimum requirements for energy performance.	Policies and site allocations should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.	Include SA objective relating to the energy performance/efficiency of existing and proposed buildings.
<i>The Birds Directive 2009</i> Directive 2009/147/EC is a codified version of Directive 79/409/EEC as amended	2009	Context	Requires the preservation, maintenance, and re-establishment of biotopes and habitats to include the following measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of protected areas (Special Protected Areas). • Upkeep and management in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats inside and outside the protected zones. • Re-establishment of destroyed biotopes. • Creation of biotopes. 	The south east corner of the District falls within the 5 km consultation zone of the Thames Basin Heath SPA. Policies should make sure that the upkeep of recognised habitats is maintained and not damaged from development. Should also avoid pollution or	Include sustainability objective / appraisal questions for safeguarding European protected bird species.

Plan/programme/strategy	Date	Relevance	Key objectives relevant to Local Plan Review and SA	Implications for the Local Plan	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
				deterioration of habitats or any other disturbances affecting birds.	
<i>Promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources</i> Directive 2009/28/EC (ends 2020) Proposals for revised Directive published 2016 – this revises targets	2008	Context	Establishes an overall policy for the production and promotion of energy from renewable sources in the EU. It requires the EU to fulfil at least 20% of its total energy needs with renewables by 2020 – to be achieved through the attainment of individual national targets, the Renewable Energy Action Plan in the UK.	Develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.	Include sustainability objective / appraisal questions relating to the energy performance/ efficiency of existing and proposed developments.
<i>The Waste Framework Directive 2008</i> Directive 2008/98/EC on waste	2008	Context	Aims to prevent or reduce waste production and its harmfulness and to increase the recovery of waste by means of recycling, re-use or reclamation. Aims to achieve recovery or disposal of waste without endangering human health and without using processes that could harm the environment.	Develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.	Include sustainability objective / appraisal questions that minimise waste production as well as promote recycling.
<i>The Air Quality Directive 2008</i> Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe	2008	Context	Avoid, prevent and reduce harmful effects of ambient noise pollution on human health and the environment.	Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.	Include sustainability objective / appraisal questions to maintain and enhance air quality.
<i>The Floods Directive 2007</i> Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks	2007	Context	Establishes a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks, aiming at the reduction of the adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods.	Develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.	Include sustainability objective / appraisal questions that relate to flood management and reduction of risk.
<i>SEA Directive 2001</i> Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment	2001	Context	Provides for a high level of protection of the environment and contributes to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.	Develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive at the national level.	Requirements of the SEA Directive must be met in Sustainability Appraisals.
<i>The Water Framework Directive 2000</i> Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for community action in the field of water policy	2000	Context	Protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater.	Develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF, to ensure the 'status' of water bodies is not compromised by proposed growth at allocated sites.	Include sustainability objective / appraisal questions to protect and minimise the impact on water quality.

Plan/programme/strategy	Date	Relevance	Key objectives relevant to Local Plan Review and SA	Implications for the Local Plan	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
<i>The Landfill Directive 1999</i> Directive 99/31/EC on the landfill of waste	1999	Context	Prevent or reduce negative effects on the environment from the landfilling of waste by introducing stringent technical requirements for waste and landfills.	Develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.	Include sustainability objective / appraisal questions to increase recycling and reduce the amount of waste.
<i>The Drinking Water Directive 1998</i> Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption	1998	Context	Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean.	Develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.	Include sustainability objective / appraisal questions to protect and enhance water quality.
<i>The Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive 1994</i> Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging	1994	Context	Harmonise the packaging waste system of Member States. Reduce the environmental impact of packaging waste.	Develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.	Include sustainability objective / appraisal questions to minimise the environmental impact of waste.
<i>The Habitats Directive 1992</i> Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora	1992	Context	Promote the maintenance of biodiversity taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements. Conservation of natural habitats and maintain landscape features of importance to wildlife and fauna.	Develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.	Include sustainability objective / appraisal questions to protect and maintain the natural environment and important landscape features.
<i>The Nitrates Directive 1991</i> Directive 91/676/EEC on nitrates from agricultural sources.	1991	Context	Reduce water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and prevent further such pollution.	Develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.	Include sustainability objective / appraisal questions to reduce water pollution.
<i>The Urban Waste Water Directive 1991</i> Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban waste water treatment	1991	Context	Protect the environment from the adverse effects of urban waste water collection, treatment and discharge, and discharge from certain industrial sectors.	Develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.	Include sustainability objective / appraisal questions to reduce water pollution.

National

White Papers

White paper	Date	Relevance	Key objectives relevant to Local Plan Review and SA	Implications for the Local Plan	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
Housing White Paper 2017, Fixing our broken housing market	2017	Context	The White Paper sets out ways to address shortfall in affordable homes and boost housing supply. The White Paper focuses on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning for the right homes in the right places – Higher 	Allocate sites that will fulfil the aims of the White Paper, including development on smaller/medium sized sites, brownfield land and sites	Include sustainability objectives/appraisals that relate to providing the right mix of housing and recognise

White paper	Date	Relevance	Key objectives relevant to Local Plan Review and SA	Implications for the Local Plan	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
			<p>densities in appropriate areas, making more land available for housing by maximising the contribution from brownfield and surplus public land, regenerating estates, releasing more small and medium-sized sites, allowing rural communities to grow and making it easier to build new settlements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building homes faster – Improved speed of planning cases, ensuring infrastructure is provided and supporting developers to build out more quickly. • Diversifying the Market – Backing small and medium-sized house builders, custom-build, institutional investors, new contractors, housing associations. • Helping people now – supporting home ownership and providing affordable housing for all types of people, including the most vulnerable 	capable of achieving higher densities.	the sustainability advantages of development on brownfield land.
Natural Environment White Paper, 2011 <i>The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature</i>	2011	Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting and improving our natural environment; • Growing a green economy; and • Reconnecting people and nature. 	Protect the intrinsic value of nature and recognise the multiple benefits it could have for communities.	Include a sustainability objective / appraisal question relating to the enhancement of the natural environment.
Electricity Market Reform White Paper 2011, <i>Planning our Electric Future: A White Paper for Secure, Affordable and Low-Carbon Electricity</i>	2011	Context	This White Paper sets out the Government's commitment to transform the UK's electricity system to ensure that our future electricity supply is secure, low-carbon and affordable.	Develop policies that support renewable energy generation and encourage greater energy efficiency.	Include sustainability objective / appraisal questions to reduce carbon emissions and increase proportion of energy generated from renewable sources.
Water White Paper, 2011 Water for Life	2011	Context	<p>Objectives of the White Paper are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paint a clear vision of the future and create the conditions which enable the water sector and water users to prepare for it; • Deliver benefits across society through an ambitious agenda for improving water quality, working with local communities to make early improvements in the health of our rivers by reducing pollution and tackling unsustainable abstraction; • Keep short and longer term affordability for customers at the centre of decision making in the water sector; • Protect the interests of taxpayers in the policy decisions that we take; • Ensure a stable framework for the water sector which remains attractive to investors; • Stimulate cultural change in the water sector by removing barriers to competition, fostering innovation and efficiency, and encouraging new entrants to the market to help improve the range and quality of services offered to customers and cut business costs; • Work with water companies, regulators and other stakeholders 	Ensure that site allocations and policies will support the wise use of water, and improvement of water quality.	Include sustainability objective / appraisal questions that relate to water quality and quantity.

White paper	Date	Relevance	Key objectives relevant to Local Plan Review and SA	Implications for the Local Plan	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
			<p>to build understanding of the impact personal choices have on the water environment, water resources and costs; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set out roles and responsibilities – including where Government will take a stronger role in strategic direction setting and assessing resilience to future challenges, as well as clear expectations on the regulators. 		
Healthy Lives, Healthy People. Health White Paper	2010	Context	<p>Outlines the ambition for health and wellbeing through life, with power shifted to local communities for them to focus on the needs of the local population. Healthy places to grow up and grow older in will be created by giving local government control of public health resources, with new partnerships created in important areas, such as housing, planning, schools and transport.</p>	<p>The Local Plan should seek to integrate health and well-being into its policies.</p>	<p>Include sustainability objectives and indicators to support healthy active lifestyles.</p>
Heritage Protection for the 21st Century: White Paper (2007)	2007	Context	<p>The proposals in this White Paper reflect the importance of the heritage protection system in preserving our heritage for people to enjoy now and in the future. They are based around three core principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing a unified approach to the historic environment; Maximising opportunities for inclusion and involvement; and Supporting sustainable communities by putting the historic environment at the heart of an effective planning system 	<p>The Local Plan policies will need to ensure that they protect the district's heritage assets.</p>	<p>Include a sustainability objective relating to cultural heritage.</p>

Policies and strategies

Plan/programme/strategy	Date	Relevance	Key objectives relevant to Local Plan Review and SA	Implications for the Local Plan	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
Agenda 2030 - the UK Government's approach to delivering the Global Goals for Sustainable Development - at home and around the world	2017	Context	<p>Goal 1: No Poverty Reforming welfare; Raising household incomes; Disability employment gap; Security in retirement</p> <p>Goal 2: Zero Hunger Sustainable supply of food; Promoting healthy and balanced diets</p> <p>Goal 3: Good Health Safe and high-quality healthcare services; Research and innovation; Mental health; Personal well-being Indicators</p> <p>Goal 4: Quality Education Early years; Schools Post-16 skills Higher education</p> <p>Goal 5: Gender Equality Gender equality in the workplace; Safeguarding security for women and girls</p> <p>Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation Cleaner water</p> <p>Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy Energy innovation support; Energy efficiency; Funding new renewable technology and research</p> <p>Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth</p>	<p>The Local Plan will need to enable people of all abilities equal access to employment opportunities; integrated health and welfare services and promote healthy lifestyles.</p> <p>Facilitate areas of opportunity for improving educational standards across the age range and vantage.</p> <p>Contribute to safeguarding water quality and implementation of River Basin Management Plans.</p>	<p>Ensure the Sustainability Framework has appropriate objectives and selection criteria that take forward sustainable development into policy and decision making.</p>

Plan/programme/strategy	Date	Relevance	Key objectives relevant to Local Plan Review and SA	Implications for the Local Plan	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
			<p>Long-term economic approach; Supporting businesses; Increasing employment</p> <p>Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure Upgrading and expanding the rail network; Investing in England's road network; Increasing the UK's digital infrastructure; New research and innovation body</p> <p>Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities Empowering and legislating against discrimination; Racial inequality; Economic growth and participation by all</p> <p>Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities Public transport; Air quality; Housing</p> <p>Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production Waste reduction; Sustainable management and use of the UK's natural resources</p> <p>Goal 13: Climate Action Climate Change Act; Climate science; Investing in low carbon energy sources; 25 year-plan for the environment; Investing in infrastructure</p> <p>Goal 14: Life Below Water</p> <p>Goal 15: Life on Land Protecting and conserving UK nature</p> <p>Goal 16: Peace and Justice Violence against women and children; Access to the justice system; Accountable and transparent government</p> <p>Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals</p>	<p>Promote energy efficiency in all development.</p> <p>Ensure development and physical and digital infrastructure can enable a strong local economy and employment ambitions.</p> <p>Drive up housing supply, enhance public transport choices and reduce consumption and waste of natural resources by investing in infrastructure.</p> <p>Support low carbon energy solutions in development and resilience of places and nature to climate change.</p>	
Clean Air Zone Framework (principles for local authorities) (DEFRA)	2017	Context	Clean Air Zones aim to address all sources of pollution, including nitrogen ioxide and particulate matter, and reduce public exposure to them using a range of measures tailored to the particular location	Identifies the local authority role in supporting delivery of affordable energy, clean growth and healthier lifestyles as they develop and implement proposals for tackling air quality.	Ensure the Sustainability appraisal objectives and criteria take account of air quality standards.
Fixing the Foundations: Creating a more prosperous nation (Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, HM Treasury)	2015	Context	Sets out a 15-point plan to boost the UK's productivity growth centred on encouraging long term investment and promoting a dynamic economy.	Has implications for the Local Plan with regard to supporting a highly skilled workforce, a modern transport system, a reliable low carbon economy, a world class digital infrastructure, more housing to buy.	Ensure the range of Sustainability Appraisal objectives address the framework for raising productivity.
Towards a one nation economy: A 10 point plan for boosting rural productivity (DEFRA)	2015	Context	<p>Rural areas fully connected to the wider economy</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Extensive, fast and reliable broadband services 2. High quality, widely available mobile communications 3. Modern transport connections <p>A highly skilled rural workforce</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Access to high quality education and training 5. Expanded apprenticeships in rural areas <p>Strong conditions for rural business growth</p>	Ensure policies include consideration of aspects and needs of the community living and working in rural areas in relation to accessibility, affordability and skills for economic growth.	Ensure the range of Sustainability Appraisal objectives bring out the distinctive needs of rural areas in the District.

Plan/programme/strategy	Date	Relevance	Key objectives relevant to Local Plan Review and SA	Implications for the Local Plan	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
			<p>6. Enterprise Zones in rural areas 7. Better regulation and improved planning for rural businesses Easier to live and work in rural areas 8. More housing 9. Increased availability of affordable childcare Greater local control 10. Devolution of power</p>		
Planning Policy for Traveller Sites	2015	Context	Sets out the Government's planning policy for traveller sites to promote and increase site provision and facilities with due regard to local circumstances of the settled community, amenity and environment.	Ensure the local plan has fair, realistic and inclusive policies. The policy may be part of a wider review of the NPPF.	Ensure that Traveller sites and needs are embedded within the SA framework.
National Planning Practice Guidance, (DCLG)	2014 (and revisions 2015-2017)	Context	<p>Provides further guidance to be read alongside the NPPF on a range of topics that link to the promotion of sustainable development including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air quality • Climate change • Conserving and enhancing the historic environment • Flood risk • Health and well being • Housing and economic development • Natural environment • Rural housing • Open space • Transport • Water supply, wastewater and water quality 	The National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) sets out a range of social, economic and environmental considerations for the preparation of the Local Plan. It also includes information on preparation of local plans which can be taken into consideration.	The NPPG sets out a range of social, economic and environmental considerations for the preparation of the Local Plan. It also includes information on undertaking sustainability appraisals which can be taken into consideration.
National Planning Policy for Waste	2014	Context	Sets out detailed waste planning policies to work towards more sustainable and efficient approach to resource use and management. To be read in conjunction with NPPF and the National Waste Management Plan for England.	Need to ensure waste management is considered alongside other spatial planning concerns such as housing, transport and sustaining healthy communities and environment.	Ensure the SA includes consideration of waste management hierarchy in spatial planning objectives.
Community Energy Strategy (DECC)	2014	Context	<p>Sets out plans to promote and facilitate the planning and development of decentralised community energy initiatives in four main types of energy activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generating energy (electricity or heat) • Reducing energy use (saving energy through energy efficiency and behaviour change) • Managing energy (balancing supply and demand) • Purchasing energy (collective purchasing or switching to save money on energy) 	Ensure that site allocations and policies will support community low carbon and renewable energy provision.	Include sustainability objectives / appraisal questions relating to renewable energy.
National Infrastructure Plan (HM Treasury, Infrastructure UK)	2014	Context	The Infrastructure Plan allows for long term public funding certainty for key infrastructure areas such as: roads, rail, flood defences and science. All elements highlighted in the Plan represent firm commitment by government to supply the funding levels stipulated. The Plan also highlights what steps the government will take to	The Local Plan objectives and policies should support the delivery of infrastructure to support new development.	To ensure that infrastructure delivery is embedded within the SA framework.

Plan/programme/ strategy	Date	Relevance	Key objectives relevant to Local Plan Review and SA	Implications for the Local Plan	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
			ensure effective delivery of its key projects.		
Door to Door: A strategy for improving sustainable transport integration (DfT)	2013	Context	<p>The strategy’s vision is for an inclusive, integrated and innovative transport system that works for everyone, and where making door-to-door journeys by sustainable means is an attractive and convenient option. Four key areas to address are highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improving availability of information; • simplifying ticketing; • making connections between different steps in the journey, and different modes of transport, easier; and • providing better interchange facilities 	Enhance public transport provision and encourage active modes of travel such as walking and cycling.	Include a relevant sustainability objective / appraisal question relating to sustainable transport.
The National Adaptation Programme – Making the Country Resilient to a Changing Climate (DEFRA)	2013	Context	<p>The report sets out visions for the following sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Built Environment – “buildings and places and the people who live and work in them are resilient to a changing climate and extreme weather and organisations in the built environment sector have an increased capacity to address the risks and take the opportunities from climate change”. • Infrastructure – “an infrastructure network that is resilient to today’s natural hazards and prepared for the future changing climate”. • Healthy and resilient communities – “a health service, a public health and social care system which are resilient and adapted to a changing climate. Communities and individuals, including the most vulnerable, are better prepared to cope with severe weather events and other impacts of climate change. Emergency services and local resilience capability take account of and are resilient to, a changing climate”. • Agriculture and Forestry – “profitable and productive agriculture and forestry sectors that take the opportunities from climate change are resilient to its threats and contribute to the resilience of the natural environment by helping maintain ecosystem services and protect and enhance biodiversity”. • Natural Environment – “the natural environment, with diverse and healthy ecosystems, is resilient to climate change, able to accommodate change and valued for the adaptation services it provides”. • Business – “UK businesses are resilient to extreme weather and prepared for future risks and opportunities from climate change”. • Local Government – “Local government plays a central in leading and supporting local places to become more resilient to a range of future risk and to be prepared for the opportunities from a changing climate”. 	Policies should take account of the aims of the Programme.	Include sustainability objectives / appraisal questions which seek to promote the implementation of adaptation measures to make the area more resilient to a changing climate.

Plan/programme/strategy	Date	Relevance	Key objectives relevant to Local Plan Review and SA	Implications for the Local Plan	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
The Plan for Growth implementation update (HM Treasury)	2013	Context	<p>The plan for growth, published alongside Budget 2011, and as part of the Autumn Statement 2011, announced a programme of structured reforms to remove barriers to growth for businesses and equip the UK to compete in the global race. These reforms span a range of policies including improving UK infrastructure, cutting red tape, root and branch reform of the planning system and boosting trade and inward investment, to achieve the governments four ambitions for growth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating the most competitive tax system in the G20 • Encouraging investment and exports as a route to a more balanced economy • Making the UK the best place in Europe to start, finance and grow a business • Creating a more educated workforce that is the most flexible in Europe. 	The Local Plan policies will need to reflect the ambitions set out within the Plan.	Include a sustainability objective relating to economic growth.
National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG)	2012	Context	Presumption in favour of sustainable development. Delivering sustainable development by:	Development plan has a statutory status as the starting point for decision making.	Sustainability appraisal should be an integral part of the plan preparation process, and should consider all the likely significant effects on the environment, economic and social factors.
			Building a strong, competitive economy	Set out clear economic visions for that particular area.	Include a sustainability objective / appraisal question relating to strengthening the economy.
			Ensuring vitality of town centres.	Recognise town centres as the heart of their communities.	Include a sustainability objective / appraisal question relating to the vitality of town centres.
			Promoting sustainable transport	To implement sustainable transport modes depending on the nature/location of the site, to reduce the need for major transport infrastructure.	Include a sustainability objective / appraisal question relating to sustainable transport.
			Supporting high quality communications infrastructure	Enhance the provision of local community facilities and services by supporting the expansion of electronic communications networks.	Include a sustainability objective / appraisal question relating to improving communications infrastructure.
			Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes	Identify size, type, tenure and range of housing that is required in particular locations.	Include a sustainability objective / appraisal question relating to housing

Plan/programme/strategy	Date	Relevance	Key objectives relevant to Local Plan Review and SA	Implications for the Local Plan	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
					availability and quality.
			Requiring good design	Establish a strong sense of place to live, work and visit.	Include a sustainability objective / appraisal question relating to good design.
			Promoting healthy communities	Promote safe and accessible environments with a high quality of life and community cohesion.	Include a sustainability objective / appraisal question relating to health and well-being.
			Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding, and coastal change	Use opportunities offered by new development to reduce causes/impacts of flooding.	Include a sustainability objective / appraisal question relating to climate change mitigation and adaption.
			Conserving and enhancing the natural environment	Recognise the wider benefits of biodiversity.	Include a sustainability objective / appraisal question relating to the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment.
UK Bioenergy Strategy (DECC)	2012	Context	<p>The UK Government has a responsibility to ensure that its policies only support bioenergy use in the right circumstances. This strategy is based on four principles which will act as a framework for future government policy on bioenergy. In summary the four principles state that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies that support bioenergy should deliver genuine carbon reductions that help meet UK carbon emissions objectives to 2050 and beyond. • Support for bioenergy should make a cost effective contribution to UK carbon emission objectives in the context of the overall energy goals. • Support for bioenergy should aim to maximise the overall benefits and minimise costs (quantifiable and non-quantifiable) across the economy. <p>At regular time intervals and when policies promote significant additional demand for bioenergy in the UK, beyond that envisaged by current use, policy makers should assess and respond to the impacts of this increased deployment on other areas, such as food security and biodiversity.</p>	The principles of the Bioenergy Strategy 2012 will need to be reflected within the Local Plan policies.	Include a sustainability objective relating to energy efficiency and climate change.

Plan/programme/strategy	Date	Relevance	Key objectives relevant to Local Plan Review and SA	Implications for the Local Plan	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (DEFRA)	2011	Context	The strategy aims to guide conservation efforts in England up to 2020, and move from a net biodiversity loss to gain. The strategy includes 22 priorities which include actions for the following sectors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture; • Forestry; • Planning and Development; • Water Management; • Marine Management; • Fisheries; • Air Pollution; and • Invasive Non-Native Species. 	Develop policies that promote conservation and enhancements of biodiversity.	Include sustainability objective / appraisal question that relates to biodiversity.
Future Water – The Government's water strategy for England (DEFRA)	2011	Context	Future Water sets out how the Government wants the water sector to look by 2030, and some of the steps needed to take to get there. This includes: sustainable delivery of secure water supplies, an improved and protected water environment, fair, affordable and cost-reflective water charges, reduced water sector greenhouse gas emissions and more sustainable and effective management of surface water.	Develop policies that promote and support the sustainable use of water.	Include sustainability objective / appraisal question that relates the wise and efficient use of water.
Lifetime Neighbourhoods (DCLG)	2011	Context	This document is a national strategy for housing in an ageing society. It seeks to support residents to develop lifetime neighbourhoods in terms of resident empowerment, access, services and amenities, built and natural environment, social networks/well-being and housing.	The policies and site allocations will need to reflect the requirements set out within the national strategy.	Include a sustainability objective relating to the creation of sustainable communities.
Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for England (DCLG)	2011	Context	Aims to provide support to deliver new homes and improve social mobility.	Develop policies that encourage development of residential properties.	Include sustainability objective / appraisal question that assesses whether housing need is being met.
Securing the future – delivering UK sustainable development strategy (DEFRA)	2011	Context	The Strategy sets out 5 principles for sustainable development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living within environmental limits; • Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society; • Achieving a sustainable economy; • Promoting good governance ; and • Using sound science responsibly. The strategy sets four priorities for action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable consumption and production; • Climate change and energy; • Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement; • Sustainable communities The strategy commits to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A programme of community engagement; • Forums to help people live sustainable lifestyles; • Open and innovative ways for stakeholders to influence 	The Local Plan should seek to deliver sustainable communities. These are places which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet the diverse needs of existing and future residents • People want to live and work in • Are sensitive to their environment • Contribute to a high quality of life • Are safe and inclusive • Are well planned, built and run; and • Offer equality of opportunity and good services for all. 	To ensure that the requirements of the Strategy are embedded within the SA framework.

Plan/programme/strategy	Date	Relevance	Key objectives relevant to Local Plan Review and SA	Implications for the Local Plan	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
			decision; educating and training		
National Policy Statements for energy infrastructure EN1-6: Overarching Energy Policy Statement (DECC)	2011	Context	This policy document sets out government policy for the delivery of major planning applications for energy development. These will be dealt with by the Planning Inspectorate, rather than local authorities in which the development occurs. The document also specifies the criteria for waste management, traffic and transport, water quality and quantity, noise and vibration, open spaces and green infrastructure, the landscape, visual impact, dust flood risk, historic environment, odour, light, smoke/steam, insects, coastal change, aviation, biodiversity and geodiversity	The Local Plan will need to be consistent with the National Policy Statement.	Include a sustainability objective relating to energy efficiency.
The Carbon Plan: Delivering our Local Carbon Future (DECC)	2011	Context	The Carbon Plan sets out the government's plans for achieving the emissions reductions it committed to in the first four carbon budgets. Emissions in the UK must, by law, be cut by at least 80% of 1990 by 2050. The UK was first to set its ambition in law and the Plan sets out progress to date.	The Local Plan will need to include policies that reflect the targets within the Carbon Plan.	Include a sustainability objective relating to greenhouse gas emissions.
UK Renewable Energy Roadmap (updates setting out progress and changes to the strategy dated 2013 and 2013) (DECC)	2011	Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make the UK more energy secure • Help protect consumers from fossil fuel price fluctuations. • Help drive investment in new jobs and businesses in the renewable energy sector. • Keep the UK on track to meet carbon reduction objectives 	Encourage developments that would support renewable energy provision including electricity, heat and transport.	Include sustainability objectives / appraisal questions relating to renewable energy generation and energy efficiency.
The National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England (Environment Agency)	2011	Context	This Strategy sets out the national framework for managing the risk of flooding and coastal erosion. It sets out the roles for risk management authorities and communities to help them understand their responsibilities. The strategic aims and objectives of the Strategy are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "manage the risk to people and their property; • Facilitate decision-making and action at the appropriate level – individual, community or local authority, river catchment, coastal cell or national; • Achieve environmental, social and economic benefits, consistent with the principles of 	Policies should seek to reduce and manage the risk of all types of flooding.	The SA framework should include sustainability objectives / appraisal questions which seek to reduce the risk and manage flooding sustainably.
Working with the grain of nature – A Biodiversity Strategy for England (DEFRA)	2011	Context	This Strategy seeks to protect and improve the rural, urban, marine and global environment and lead on the integration of these with other policies across Government and internationally	The Local Plan should avoid or mitigate the loss of biodiversity when allocating sites for development.	Include a sustainability objective relating to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity
Air Quality Standards Regulations (DEFRA)	2010	Context	The new regulation transposes the new Air Quality Directive 2008/50/EC and its 4th daughter air quality directive 2004/107/EC. The regulation transposes standards and requirements for a variety of pollutants that are considered harmful	Limit and target values have been set for Arsenic, Benzene, Cadmium, Carbon Monoxide, Lead, Nickel, Nitrogen Dioxide (NO ₂), Ozone,	Include objectives for promoting the reduction of air pollution.

Plan/programme/strategy	Date	Relevance	Key objectives relevant to Local Plan Review and SA	Implications for the Local Plan	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
			to human health and the environment. These standards include limit values, which are legally binding and must not be exceeded. These limit values comprise a concentration value for the pollutant, an averaging period over which it is measured, the date by which the limit values are to be achieved and in some cases an allowable number of exceedances of the value per year. The regulation also includes target values, which are set out in the same manner as limit values, but which are to be attained where possible by taking all measures that do not entail disproportionate costs and therefore are not legally binding.	Particulate Matter (PM10 and PM2.5), Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH) and Sulphur Dioxide.	
Healthy Lives, Healthy People: our Strategy for public health in England (Department of Health)	2010	Context	Protect the population from serious health threats; helping people live longer, healthier and more fulfilling lives; and improving the health of the poorest, fastest. Prioritise public health funding from within the overall NHS budget.	Policies within the Local Plan should reflect the objectives of the strategy where relevant.	Include a sustainability objective / appraisal question relating to health and well-being.
The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (DEFRA)	2010	Context	Identifies protection and improvement of the natural environment as a core objective of the planning system, places a value on nature (through the ecosystem services that it provides) and seeks to conserve and enhance biodiversity on a landscape scale, rather than the protection of individual sites in isolation.		
Water for People and the Environment: Water Resources Strategy for England and Wales (Environment Agency)	2009	Context	The Strategy vision for water resource “is for there to be enough water for people and the environment, meeting legitimate needs”. Its aims include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To manage water resource and protect the water environment from climate change. Restore, protect, improve and value species and habitats that depend on water. To contribute to sustainable development through good water management. People to understand how water and the water environment contribute to their quality of life. 	Policies should reflect the aims of the strategy where relevant.	Include sustainability objectives / appraisal questions that seek to promote water management and efficiency.
The Environment Agency’s approach to groundwater protection (Version 1.1)	2017	Context	Contains position statements which provide information about the Environment Agency’s approach to managing and protecting groundwater. The primary aim of all of the position statements is the prevention of pollution of groundwater and protection of it as a resource. Groundwater protection is long term, so these principles and position statements aim to protect and enhance this valuable resource for future generations. Many of the approaches set out in the position statements are not statutory but may be included in, or referenced by, statutory guidance and legislation.	Policies should reflect the obligations and sensitivities to groundwater impacts from any development under the Local Plan Review	Include sustainability objectives for the protection of natural resources.
Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England (DEFRA)	2009	Context	The vision is “by 2030, all England’s soils will be managed sustainably and degradation threats tackled successfully. This will improve the quality of England’s soils and safeguard their ability to provide essential services for future generations”. The Strategy highlights the areas for priority including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better protection for agricultural soils. 	Ensure that site allocations and policies will help protect and enhance the quality of soils and seek to sustainably manage their quality for future generations.	Include sustainability objectives / appraisal questions that seek to safeguard and enhance the quality of soil.

Plan/programme/strategy	Date	Relevance	Key objectives relevant to Local Plan Review and SA	Implications for the Local Plan	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protecting and enhancing stores of soil carbon. Building the resilience of soils to a changing climate. Preventing soil pollution. Effective soil protection during construction and development. Dealing with our legacy of contaminated land. 		
Building a Greener Future: Policy Statement (DCLG)	2007	Context	This Statement confirms the government's intention to achieve 25% more energy efficient homes by 2010, 44% more efficient homes by 2013 and zero carbon (net carbon emissions should be zero per annum) homes by 2016.	Policies should seek to promote zero carbon residential development.	Include sustainability objectives / appraisal questions relating to renewable energy generation and energy efficiency.
The Air Quality Strategy for England vol. 1	2007	Context	<p>The Air Quality Strategy sets out a way forward for work and planning on air quality issues by setting out the air quality standards and objectives to be achieved. It introduces a new policy framework for tackling fine particles, and identifies potential new national policy measures which modelling indicates could give further health benefits and move closer towards meeting the Strategy's objectives. The objectives of strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further improve air quality in the UK from today and long term. Provide benefits to health, quality of life and the environment. 	The Local Plan policies will need to work towards further improving air quality in the UK.	Include a sustainability objective relating to air quality.
The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (DEFRA)	2007	Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make sure that everyone can enjoy a level of ambient air quality in public spaces, which poses no significant risk to health or quality of life. Render polluting emissions harmless. 	Develop policies that aim to meet the standards.	Include sustainability objective / appraisal questions to protect and improve air quality.
Securing the future – delivering UK sustainable development strategy	2005	Context	<p>The strategy for sustainable development aims to enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising the quality of life of future generations.</p> <p>As a result of the 2004 consultation to develop new UK sustainable development strategy, the following issues have been highlighted as the main priority areas for immediate action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable consumption and production - working towards achieving more with less Climate change and energy - confronting the greatest threat Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement - protecting the natural resources on which we depend From local to global - building sustainable communities - creating places where people want to live and work, now and in the future. <p>In addition to these four priorities, changing behaviour also forms a large part of the Government's thinking on sustainable development. The following principles will be used to achieve the sustainable development purpose, and have been agreed by the UK</p>	Ensure that key principles of the Strategy are considered throughout the preparation of the Local Plan Review. The process of developing local plan policy should consider avoiding likely adverse effects on natural and environmental resources. The Local Plan Review should include objectives regarding climate change, flood risk, biodiversity, the use of previously undeveloped land and access to employment.	Ensure that the SA framework includes objectives and criteria that address climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Plan/programme/ strategy	Date	Relevance	Key objectives relevant to Local Plan Review and SA	Implications for the Local Plan	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
			Government: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living within environmental limits • Ensuring a strong, healthy, and just society • Achieving a sustainable economy • Promoting good governance • Using sound science responsibly 		

National Legislation

Legislation	Date	Relevance	Key objectives relevant to Local Plan and SA	Implications for the Local Plan	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017	2017	Context			
Housing and Planning Act 2016	2016	Context	The Act makes widespread changes to housing policy at the national level. Measures introduced in the Act relate to starter homes, and permitting the sale of higher value local authority homes. Starter homes are the new affordable housing product designed by the government to specifically meet the housing needs of younger generations and to allow them to access home-ownership. The overarching aim of the Act is to promote home ownership and increase levels of house building.	The Local Plan will need to take account of the provisions of the Act in relation to housing provision.	Include a sustainability objective relating to the provision of an appropriate range of housing within the district.
Self and Custom House Building Act	2015	Context	Sets out the requirement for local councils to establish a register for those interested in developing a self or custom built house in the area.	Consideration of requirements to allocate sites for self-built plots	Include SA objective in the Framework that relates to securing a range of housing options – mix and choice.
Health and Social Care Act 2012	2012	Context	The Act transfers responsibility for public health from the NHS to local government (upper tier authorities in the first instance), giving them a duty to improve the health of the people who live in their areas. This will require a more holistic approach to health across all local government functions.	The plan must comply with the relevant requirements of this legislation.	Include SA objective in the Framework that relate to promoting health and wellbeing.
Localism Act 2011	2011	Context	The Localism Act introduces a number of measures to decentralise decision making process to the local level, creating space for Local Authorities to lead and innovate, and giving people the opportunity to take control of decisions that matter to them. The Localism Act includes a number of important packages. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new act makes it easier for local people to take over the amenities they love and keep them part of local life; • The act makes sure that local social enterprises, volunteers and community groups with a bright idea for improving local services get a chance to change how things are done. • The act places significantly more influence in the hands of local people over issues that make a big difference to their lives. • The act provides appropriate support and recognition to communities who welcome new development. 	The Local Plan will need to reflect the principles of Localism as identified in the document, including Neighbourhood Planning.	To ensure the concepts of the Localism Act are embedded within the SA framework.

Legislation	Date	Relevance	Key objectives relevant to Local Plan and SA	Implications for the Local Plan	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The act reduces red tape, making it easier for authorities to get on with the job of working with local people to draw up a vision for their area's future. The act reinforces the democratic nature of the planning system passing power from bodies not directly to the public, to democratically accountable ministers. The act enables Local Authorities to make their own decisions to adapt housing provision to local needs, and make the system fairer and more effective. The act gives Local Authorities more control over the funding of social housing, helping them plan for the long-term. <p>In relation to planning, the Localism Act enables the Government to abolish regional spatial strategies, introduce Neighbourhood Plans and Local Referendums.</p>		
Flood and Water Management Act 2010	2010	Context	The Act aims to reduce the flood risk associated with extreme weather. It provides for better, more comprehensive management of flood risk for people, homes and businesses, helps safeguard community groups from unaffordable rises in surface water drainage charges, and protects water supplies to the consumer.	The Local Plan should protect existing and future development as well as residents from flood risk.	The overview of flood risk management in England which is provided in the Act will need to be reflected in the Framework of the SA.
The Climate Change Act 2008	2008	Context	<p>The Climate Change Act was passed in 2008 and established a framework to develop an economically credible emissions reduction path. It also strengthened the UK's leadership internationally by highlighting the role it would take in contributing to urgent collective action to tackle climate change under the Kyoto Protocol.</p> <p>The Climate Change Act includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2050 target. The act commits the UK to reducing emissions by at least 80% in 2050 from 1990 levels. This target was based on advice from the CCC report: Building a Low- carbon Economy. The 80% target includes GHG emissions from the devolved administrations, which currently accounts for around 20% of the UK's total emissions. Carbon Budgets. The Act requires the Government to set legally binding 'carbon budgets'. A carbon budget is a cap on the amount of greenhouse gases emitted in the UK over a five-year period. The first four carbon budgets have been put into legislation and run up to 2027. 	The Local Plan policies must reflect the objectives of The Climate Change Act, in order to contribute to reducing UK carbon emissions.	Include a sustainability objective relating to climate change.
Energy Act 2004 as partially repealed by Energy Act 2008 and Energy Act 2011	2004-11	Context	<p>The Acts works toward a number of policy objectives including carbon emissions reduction, security of supply, and competitive energy markets. Objectives: Electricity from Renewable Sources: changes to Renewables Obligation (RO), designed to increase renewables generation, as well as the effectiveness of the RO.</p> <p>Feed in tariffs for small scale, low carbon generators of electricity.</p>	Policies and site allocations will have to ensure a positive contribution in meeting the climate change challenge by capitalising on renewable and low carbon energy opportunities and adaptation measures which reduce the threat of	Include a sustainability objective relating to energy efficiency and climate change.

Legislation	Date	Relevance	Key objectives relevant to Local Plan and SA	Implications for the Local Plan	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
			Smart meters: the Act mandates a roll-out of smart meters to medium sized businesses over the next five years. Renewable heat incentives: the establishment of a financial support mechanism for those generating heat from renewable sources.	climate change.	
Housing Act 2004	2004	Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect the most vulnerable in society and help create a fairer and better housing market. Strengthen the Government's drive to meet its 2010 decent homes target. 	Develop policies that help to create a fairer and better housing market.	Include sustainability objective / appraisal questions to improve access to good quality and affordable housing.
Water Act 2003 (as amended)	2003	Context	<p>Reform the water industry to make it more innovative and responsive to customers and to increase the resilience of water supplies to natural hazards such as drought and floods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To bring forward measures to address the availability and affordability of insurance for those households at high flood risk and ensure a smooth transition to the free market over the longer term The Water Act 2014 aims to make it easier for business to change their water suppliers. It will also open up the water and sewerage market to new companies. 	Take into account the act to protect and improve the quality of inland waters.	Include sustainability objectives that protect water quality.
Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW)	2000	Context	<p>The purpose of the Act is to create a statutory right of access on foot to certain types of open land, to modernise the public rights of way system, to strengthen nature conservation legislation, and to facilitate better management of areas of outstanding natural beauty. It is divided into separate subsections which include their own objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to the countryside - The Act provides for a new right of access on foot to areas of open land comprising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Mountain (land over 600 metres) o Moorland o Heath o Downland o Registered common land Public rights of way and road traffic – authorities must take into account the needs of less able people when authorising stiles and gates to allow easier access Nature conservation – strengthens legal protection for threatened species and brings up to date the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Areas of outstanding natural beauty – requires local authorities in whose areas AONBs are located to prepare and publish a management plan for the area 	Schedule 9 of the Act, Part 3 of the Natural Environment places a duty on all public bodies to further conservation and enhancement of SSSIs, to reduce effects of pollution on SSSIs and to protect non-statutory nature conservation sites.	Include sustainability objectives and selection criteria for the protection and enhancement of the natural environment.

Legislation	Date	Relevance	Key objectives relevant to Local Plan and SA	Implications for the Local Plan	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
Environment Act (as amended) 1995	1995		The main purpose of the Environment Act is to protect and preserve the environment and guard against pollution to air, land or water. The Act adopts an integrated approach to environmental protection and outlines where authorisation is required from relevant authorities to carry out certain procedures as well as outlining the responsibilities of the relevant authorities.	Policies will be required to safeguard against pollution to air, land or water and to work with relevant authorities.	Include objectives that relate to environmental protection.
The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (as amended)	1994	Context	Usually known as the 'Habitats Regulations' which transcribe into UK law the EC Council Directive on the Conservation of Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora 92/43/EEC. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve fauna and flora and natural habitats of EU importance Establish a network of protected areas to maintain both the distribution and abundance of threatened species and habitats. <p>The latest amendment is Regulation 2017 (SI 2017/012).</p>	Policies will be required for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity of European importance. <p>The regulations require land use plans that are likely to have a significant effect on a European site to make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. The local authority may only give effect to the land use plan after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the European site.</p>	Include objectives that relate to protection of the natural environment.
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act	1990	Context	The Act aims to protect special buildings for conservation. In considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority or, as the case may be, the Secretary of State shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.	Must take into account of special buildings/sites already listed for conservation.	Include objectives for the protection of the historic environment
Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act	2006	Context	Amends the Wildlife & Countryside Act and the CROW Act. It also places a duty on public bodies including Local Planning Authorities, to have regard to conserving biodiversity. Section 41 of the NERC Act lists species and habitats of principal importance that must be taken into account when public bodies are performing any of their functions.	Policies will be required for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity of national importance	Include objectives that relate to protection of the natural environment.
Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended)	1981	Context	The act sets in place protective measures for wildlife, including wild birds and plants. The act requires local authorities to take steps to bring the protection of wildlife to the attention of the public and schoolchildren. The act (though subsequently amended) allows designation of Sites of Scientific Interest (SSSIs) setting their management and protection measures, and also allows the designation of national nature reserves.	Policies will be required for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity of national importance.	Include objectives that relate to protection of the natural environment.
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act	1979	Context	Sets out the rules for scheduled monuments. <p>The Act tries to consolidate and amend the law relating to ancient monuments; to make provision for the investigation, preservation and recording of matters of archaeological or historical interest and</p>	Local plans are required to take archaeological sites into consideration in accordance with the NPPF and the Planning Act 2008.	Include objectives that relate to protection of the historic environment.

Legislation	Date	Relevance	Key objectives relevant to Local Plan and SA	Implications for the Local Plan	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
			(in connection therewith) for the regulation of operations or activities affecting such matters; to provide for the recovery of grants under section 10 of the Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Act 1972 or under section 4 of the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953 in certain circumstances; and to provide for grants by the Secretary of State to the Architectural Heritage Fund.		
Town and country planning legislation			<p>A range of legislation published in 2017 is of relevance to the Local Plan. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 – Act aims to strengthen neighbourhood planning by ensuring that planning decision-makers take account of well-advanced neighbourhood development plans and by giving these plans full legal effect at an earlier stage. • The Town and Country Planning (Brownfield Land Register) Regulations 2017 - The regulations require local authorities to prepare and maintain registers of brownfield land that is suitable for residential development. • The Town and Country Planning (Permission in Principle) Order 2017 the Order provides that sites entered on Part 2 of the new brownfield registers will be granted permission in principle. <p>The regulations and order above aim to improve the quality and consistency of data held by local planning authorities, which will provide certainty for developers and communities, encouraging investment in local areas.</p>	The Local Plan policies should take into account well-advanced neighbourhood plans. The Local Plan should promote and prioritise development of brownfield land.	Include a sustainability objective/appraisal question that recognises the sustainability value of development on brownfield land.

Regional/sub-regional

Plan/Programme/Strategy	Date	Relevance	Key objectives relevant to Local Plan and SA	Implications for the Local Plan	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
Thames River Basin District Flood Risk Management Plan 2015 – 2021 (Environment Agency)	2016	Strategic	<p>That part of the plan relevant to West Berkshire. The primary flood risk in the Kennet and tributaries catchment is from rivers however other sources include surface water and groundwater. The majority of land within the catchment is rural, however, there are also significant urban centres including Newbury, Theale and Reading.</p> <p>The Environment Agency will work with lead local authorities and support communities to prepare for flooding through raising flood awareness, improving resilience and encouraging appropriate redevelopment. There is an aim to safeguard natural floodplains to reduce the consequences of flooding.</p>	Risk of flooding within West Berkshire is widespread and policy will need to ensure that appropriate measures are taken to reduce future flood risk to or by developments. The Council will need a local flood risk management strategy and a current Strategic Flood Risk Assessment agreed with the Environment Agency.	SA objectives will be needed to assess and evaluate risk of flooding on sites and broad locations.

Plan/Programme/Strategy	Date	Relevance	Key objectives relevant to Local Plan and SA	Implications for the Local Plan	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
			<p>Objectives: These objectives are specific to this catchment and complement the objectives set out for the whole river basin district set out in Part A.</p> <p>Social</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce the risk of flooding where possible through the delivery of the 6 year programme • Reduce the impact of flooding through community awareness and flood response. • Improve the flood warning system through improved river gauging. <p>Economic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To have a better understanding of the fluvial flood risk in certain areas in the Kennet and tributaries catchment. • Ensure development and redevelopment in areas at risk of flooding is appropriate, does not increase flood risk and reduces the risk wherever possible. <p>Environmental</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where practicable we will seek to re-establish and enhance natural river corridors through new development in line with the Water Framework Directive. 		
Water Resources Management Plan 2015-2040 (Thames Water)	2014	Strategic	Sets out how Thames Water plan to maintain the balance between supply and demand for water over a 25 year period 2014 to 2040.	The consideration of predicted supply and demand in the Kennet Valley over the period to 2036 and the need to promote water efficiency in policy.	Ensure SA objectives include water efficiency and avoidance of unsustainable locations for supply.
Thames Valley Berkshire: Delivering national growth, locally. Strategic Economic Plan 2015/16-2020/21 (Thames Valley Berkshire LEP)	2014	Strategic	<p>The Vision: The vibrancy of our business community will be Internationally envied. The ambition and creativity of our established businesses will be energised through a strong, knowledge-rich, networks. Our workforce will be the lifeblood of our economy: young people will be inspired and older workers valued. Our infrastructure will match the scale of our ambition and potential. And people will choose Thames Valley Berkshire as the place to live and work</p> <p>Six main objectives follow. 1: Use better those who are already in the workforce 2: Inspire the next generation and build aspirations and ambition 3: Ensure that economic potential is not restricted by labour supply issues In terms of ideas, we will: 4: Ensure that knowledge is effectively commercialised and grown within Thames Valley Berkshire 5: Strengthen networks and invest in the 'soft wiring' to use ideas better 6: Make Thames Valley Berkshire's towns genuine hubs in the ideas economy Four high level Programmes have been developed through which these</p>	<p>Local Plan policies will need to ensure the facilities ad support for a workforce equipped with the necessary skills to service business growth potential.</p> <p>Plans for housing growth must also take account of wider infrastructure and related constraints, not least flood risk and utilities.</p>	Ensure SA objectives include criteria that support a skilled workforce and developments in sustainable locations.

Plan/Programme/Strategy	Date	Relevance	Key objectives relevant to Local Plan and SA	Implications for the Local Plan	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
			objectives will be achieved.		
The Berkshire Biodiversity Strategy 2014 – 2020 (Berkshire Local Nature Partnership)	2014	Strategic	<p>To take a strategic view of the challenges and opportunities for the natural environment across Berkshire.</p> <p>There are 29 Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) in Berkshire - these make up a total area of 48,112 hectares, a large proportion of which is in West Berkshire.</p> <p>BOAs identify where the greatest opportunities for habitat creation and restoration lie, enabling the efficient focusing of resources to where they will have the greatest positive conservation impact.</p> <p>Berkshire biodiversity targets, which have evolved from previous Habitat Action Plans, are set out on the national Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS) website. These Berkshire-wide targets have been allocated to individual BOAs.</p>	The Local Plan Review has the potential to negatively impact on biodiversity. Through effective protection, mitigation and management development can be positive in terms of biodiversity in the long term. This is intrinsically linked to the concept of sustainability. Therefore this document will be utilised in the SA in an informative capacity and in the form of recommendations.	Ensure the SA has objectives and indicators for the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity
South East Plan Policy NRM6 (Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area), Partnership Board	2009	Strategic	<p>The broad goal of the Plan is to ensure that the delivery of current housing allocations complies with the requirements of the Habitat regulations with respect to the Thames Basin Heaths SPA.</p> <p>The delivery plans aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a strategic approach to identifying avoidance measures to prevent in combination/ cumulative impacts on the SPA arising from recreational pressure with new residential development; • Define the nature, scale and general location standards of avoidance measures, to be met for housing development through green infrastructure; • Increase the quality of the local environment through the provision of green infrastructure; semi natural informal greenspace; • Assist local planning authorities in providing greater clarity for developers / public over where and how new housing development may be undertaken; • Streamline determination of planning applications. 	<p>The Local Plan Review needs to consider the Thames Basin Heaths Delivery Plans as this has implications for development within the South East corner of West Berkshire.</p> <p>The Delivery Plan is a key component of a three part approach to mitigating recreational impacts; off site avoidance measures, on site access management and on site habitat management. All three approaches are required in parallel to safeguard the SPA from recreation impacts that may arise from new housing development.</p>	Ensure that the SA objectives include the protection and enhancement of biodiversity
Berkshire Landscape Character Assessment (Berkshire Joint Strategic Planning Unit)	2003	Context	<p>This Character Assessment was undertaken to broaden the understanding of the Berkshire landscape to aid the JSPU in formulating development plan policy and targeting future management initiatives.</p> <p>It is intended to guide and shape the future character of Berkshire</p>	The Local Plan Review has the potential to have long term and permanent visual impacts, impacting on the character of the landscape. This may have implications in the context of sustainability. This Assessment has characterised the landscape of Berkshire of which West Berkshire is part. It will be utilised to inform the SA and in the form of recommendations.	Ensure the SA has objectives that protect and enhance landscape qualities.

Plan/Programme/Strategy	Date	Relevance	Key objectives relevant to Local Plan and SA	Implications for the Local Plan	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
Replacement Minerals Local Plan for Berkshire 1995 (incorporating Alterations adopted 1997 and May 2001) (Joint Strategic Planning Unit)	1997 and 2001	Direct	<p>This is the current Berkshire wide policy document to provide a basis on which to make recommendations and decisions on planning applications to extract minerals in the County.</p> <p>It will be replaced by the Minerals and Waste Local Plan below, upon adoption.</p> <p>The main issues addressed in the plan are:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How much mineral should be dug in Berkshire? • Where should extraction be allowed? • Where should extraction not be allowed? • What should be the objectives for the restoration of future mineral workings? • How can we ensure that mineral working is carried out in the least damaging way? • How can mineral working be used to secure long term environmental and other public benefits? • How much mineral may have to be brought into Berkshire from elsewhere? • Where might depots be located to allow minerals to be brought in by rail? 	<p>This is the current policy used at a local level to make recommendations and decisions on planning applications to extract minerals in West Berkshire. Therefore this document will be useful for the SA in a contextual and informative capacity.</p>	<p>This document will be useful for the SA in a contextual and informative capacity.</p>
Waste Local Plan for Berkshire (including Saved Directions) (Berkshire Unitary Authorities' Joint Strategic Planning Unit)	1998	Context	<p>This is the current Berkshire wide policy document to provide a basis on which to make recommendations and decisions on planning applications for waste development in the County.</p> <p>It will be replaced by the Minerals and Waste Local Plan above, upon adoption.</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide a framework within which the public, businesses and waste industry of Berkshire can contribute towards a sustainable strategy for dealing with waste; • To reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal (by reducing the amount of waste we produce and re-using and recycling as much as possible); and • To ensure that the handling, treatment and disposal of the remaining waste is carried out with the minimum effect upon the environment. 	<p>This is the current policy used at a local level to make recommendations and decisions on planning applications for waste development in West Berkshire.</p>	<p>This document will be useful for the SA in a contextual and informative capacity.</p>
Western Berkshire Strategic Housing Market Area Strategic Planning Framework (Thames Valley	2016		<p>Provides detailed information about existing and future housing needs and demand, including the need for affordable housing and the mix of housing, to meet the needs of the community and forms part of the evidence base for the preparation of the Local Plan Review.</p> <p>Produced by the four Local Planning Authorities of Bracknell Forest,</p>	<p>The Local Plan Review will set new housing targets for the District from 2013 to 2036, having regard to the results of an objective assessment of housing needs set out in the Strategic Housing Market Assessment and will</p>	<p>Ensure SA objectives and indicators include housing need of all types and affordability.</p> <p>461 Ensure that the SA</p>

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LEP, Reading Borough Council, West Berkshire Council, Bracknell Forest Council, Wokingham Borough Council)			<p>Reading, West Berkshire and Wokingham Councils. It has been agreed by each Council and demonstrates the strategic priorities and projects that the authorities will work on collaboratively.</p> <p>To ensure that Local Plans are aligned to bring forward suitable high quality, infrastructure rich strategic sites which may also span boundaries</p>	<p>allocate additional sites as necessary for housing in order to maintain a rolling 5 year supply of housing sites.. For West Berkshire, the study indicates a need for an average of 665 new dwellings a year for the period 2013 - 2036.</p> <p>The main opportunity areas identified are the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major housing and mixed use development at Grazeley/Mortimer; • A focus on town centre/commuter hub development; • Infrastructure investment; and • Sites that span might span or in proximity of authority boundaries. 	<p>objectives are compatible or at least in opposition not in areas of common interest where joint strategic planning and action is necessary, such as in housing and infrastructure.</p>

Neighbouring local authorities

It is assumed that each Local Authority has had regard to their existing Local Plans and Community Strategies in developing their emerging Local Development Documents

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South Oxfordshire Emerging Local Plan 2033 – pre-submission version 11 Oct 2017 (South Oxfordshire District Council)	2017	Strategic	<p>This Local Plan will update the spatial strategy set out in the South Oxfordshire Core Strategy adopted in December 2012, It sets out policies for change and includes a strategy for delivering growth from 2011 to 2033. It identifies appropriate areas and sites for development, such as new homes, offices, shops and community facilities. It sets out how valuable historic and natural environments will be protected and enhanced. The policies in this plan will be used to help make decisions on planning applications in the district. It also identifies circumstances and locations where development will not be appropriate.</p> <p>It will guide development of the district, in strategic terms, over the length of the plan period to 2033. It provides the basis for growth, through setting out the distribution of new housing, employment and retail</p>	<p>In preparing this Local Plan involve neighbouring authorities to ensure our plans are consistent and take account of the impacts of development on and from the surrounding areas.</p>	<p>Ensure that the SA objectives are compatible or at least not in opposition in areas of common interest where joint strategic planning and action is necessary.</p>

Plan/Programme/Strategy	Date	Relevance	Key objectives relevant to Local Plan and SA	Implications for the Local Plan	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
			<p>development and it also provides the framework for protecting the district's important natural and built environment.</p> <p>Vision: South Oxfordshire will remain a beautiful and prosperous place to live. It will be an attractive place for people to work and spend their leisure time.</p> <p>Strategic objectives:- Objective 1 – Settlements Objective 2 - Housing Objective 3 - Economy Objective 4 - Infrastructure Objective 5 - Design Objective 6 - Community Objective 7 - Natural and Built environment Objective 8 - Climate change</p>		
<p>South Oxfordshire Core Strategy (to 2027) (South Oxfordshire District Council)</p>	<p>2012</p>	<p>Strategic</p>	<p>Our vision - to have made a positive contribution to the evolution of South Oxfordshire</p> <p>Objective 1: Settlements Objective 2: Communities and housing Objective 3: Environment and design Objective 4: Employment and education Objective 5: Getting around Objective 6: Leisure, culture and health</p> <p>It sets out the overall amount of development in the district, the broad locations for delivering housing and other development needs such as employment, shopping and transport. The strategy includes the allocation of strategic sites for development and sets out what physical, social and green infrastructure is needed and how and by what means it will be delivered. It covers the period to 2027.</p>	<p>In preparing this Local Plan involve neighbouring authorities to ensure our plans are consistent and take account of the impacts of development on and from the surrounding areas.</p>	<p>Ensure that the SA objectives are compatible or at least not in opposition in areas of common interest where joint strategic planning and action is necessary.</p>
<p>Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 1: Strategic Sites and Policies (Vale of White Horse District Council)</p>	<p>2016</p>	<p>Strategic</p>	<p>The Spatial Vision establishes the direction of travel for future development and investment in the District. It sets out how the Vale should develop and grow until the year 2031. It includes how and where new houses should be built, where new jobs should be placed, and what infrastructure, such as schools and roads, will be needed to support them. Four key thematic areas are identified to take forward the Vision through the Strategic Objectives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building healthy and sustainable communities • Supporting economic prosperity • Supporting sustainable transport and accessibility, and • Protecting the environment and responding to climate change. 	<p>In preparing this Local Plan involve neighbouring authorities to ensure our plans are consistent and take account of the impacts of development on and from the surrounding areas.</p>	<p>Ensure that the SA objectives are compatible or at least not in opposition in areas of common interest where joint strategic planning and action is necessary.</p>
<p>Vale of White</p>	<p>2017</p>	<p>Strategic</p>	<p>Part one deals with the larger 'strategic' sites and policies in the Vale.</p>	<p>In preparing this Local Plan involve</p>	<p>Ensure that the SA objectives</p>

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Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 2: Detailed Policies and Additional Sites – publication consultation (Vale of White Horse District Council)			Part two will set out strategic policies and locations for strategic housing for the agreed quantum of Oxford's unmet housing need to be addressed within the Vale of White Horse District. This document will also contain policies for the part of Didcot Garden Town that lies within the Vale of White Horse District and detailed development management policies to complement the Local Plan Part 1, replacing the saved policies of the Local Plan 2011, and allocating additional development sites for housing and other uses.	neighbouring authorities to ensure our plans are consistent and take account of the impacts of development on and from the surrounding areas.	are compatible or at least not in opposition in areas of common interest where joint strategic planning and action is necessary.
Wiltshire Core Strategy	2015	Strategic	<p>Sets out the spatial vision, objectives and strategy for the spatial development of Wiltshire and strategic policies and proposals to deliver the vision setting out principles of development for the county to 2026, including strategic site allocations.</p> <p>The strategic objectives are: 1: delivering a thriving economy 2: addressing climate change 3: providing everyone with access to a decent, affordable home 4: helping to build resilient communities 5: protecting and enhancing the natural, historic and built environment 6: ensuring that adequate infrastructure is in place to support our communities</p> <p>Currently, Wiltshire Council is reviewing the adopted Local Plan, including the Core Strategy. The purpose of the review is to assess the future levels of need for new homes and employment land over the period 2016-2036 and to provide an appropriate basis for housing, employment land and infrastructure provision over that period.</p>	<p>In preparing this Local Plan involve neighbouring authorities to ensure our plans are consistent and take account of the impacts of development on and from the surrounding areas.</p> <p>The contemporaneous development of new Local Plans will require close liaison, consultation and commentary on each other's plans as detail emerges.</p>	Ensure that the SA objectives are compatible or at least not in opposition in areas of common interest where joint strategic planning and action is necessary
Swindon Borough Council Local Plan 2026 (Swindon Borough Council)	2015	Strategic	<p>The Swindon Borough Local Plan 2026 is the principal planning policy document for Swindon Borough, providing the development strategy to deliver sustainable growth to the year 2026. It sets out how much development the Borough needs and identifies where, when, and how development will take place in Swindon Borough.</p> <p>The key development priorities which guide the Local Plan's Strategic Objectives are set out below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Deliver growth that is balanced and sustainable, and provides the necessary infrastructure, while addressing the impacts of climate change; ➤ Deliver regeneration in a way that meets the needs of Swindon's future, but conserves and enhances the best of the past; and ➤ Recognise the important role of green infrastructure to enhance the quality of life for existing and future residents. 	In preparing this Local Plan involve neighbouring authorities to ensure our plans are consistent and take account of the impacts of development on and from the surrounding areas.	Ensure that the SA objectives are compatible or at least not in opposition in areas of common interest where joint strategic planning and action is necessary.

Plan/Programme/ Strategy	Date	Relevance	Key objectives relevant to Local Plan and SA	Implications for the Local Plan	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
			<p>The Local Plan Strategic Objectives:</p> <p>1: High Quality Sustainable Development - to improve the image of Swindon, enable inclusive communities and address climate change by the provision of high quality, well designed and sustainable development.</p> <p>2: Infrastructure - to meet the infrastructure needs for and arising from the growth of Swindon (including health and community needs) in a timely and co-ordinated manner and being adequately funded.</p> <p>3: Economy - to meet the needs of local businesses and the forecast growth in the local economy, and to enhance Swindon's position as the UK's best business location.</p> <p>4: Housing - to meet the Borough's housing needs by the provision of well-designed sustainable housing, at sustainable locations and at a range of types and densities according to local needs and circumstances, and that promotes the effective use of land.</p> <p>5: Education - to meet the need for education provision arising from the anticipated growth in population and to enable an improvement in skills and qualifications, particularly through the provision and support of tertiary education opportunities.</p> <p>6: Community and Health - to promote healthy lifestyles and to meet the need for community and health facilities arising from growth and demographic change in the Borough.</p> <p>7: Transport - to support Swindon's growth through the provision of a comprehensive and sustainable transport network that is efficient, safe, affordable, accessible and easy to understand, and offers a genuine choice of modes.</p> <p>8: Culture and Leisure - to enable the provision of cultural and leisure facilities commensurate with Swindon's size and growth in population and realise Swindon's potential as a regional leisure destination.</p> <p>9: Green Infrastructure - to provide an attractive and inspirational environment to live, work, learn and play, by the provision of a far-reaching network of connected and multi- functional green spaces linked to the wider countryside.</p> <p>10: Natural, Built & Historic Environment - to ensure that development respects, enhances, and conserves the best of the existing built, historic and natural environment in the Borough.</p>		
Test Valley Borough Revised Local Plan 2011 – 2029 (Test Valley Borough Council)	2016	Strategic	<p>Sets out the vision and broad objectives for the Borough and the policies to deliver them. It identifies the strategic locations for housing and employment based on a settlement hierarchy.</p> <p>15 Objectives have been identified:-</p> <p>1) Providing for the future housing needs, types and tenures within the Borough.</p>	In preparing this Local Plan involve neighbouring authorities to ensure our plans are consistent and take account of the impacts of development on and from the surrounding areas.	Ensure that the SA objectives are compatible or at least not in opposition in areas of common interest where joint strategic planning and action is necessary.

Plan/Programme/ Strategy	Date	Relevance	Key objectives relevant to Local Plan and SA	Implications for the Local Plan	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
			<p>2) Promote appropriate scale of development in settlements in keeping with their size, character and function.</p> <p>3) Create sustainable communities, locating development where daily needs for employment, shopping, leisure, recreation, education, health and other community facilities are accessible by sustainable modes of transport.</p> <p>4) Providing a range of job opportunities.</p> <p>5) Supporting Andover and Romsey town centres and Stockbridge local centre to enable them to remain successful destinations.</p> <p>6) Conserve and enhance the built and historic environment, conserve and enhance the local character, identity and cultural heritage.</p> <p>7) Ensure development takes full account of climate change including implementing water efficiency measures.</p> <p>8) Protect high standards of water and air quality.</p> <p>9) Conserve and enhance the countryside and landscape and improve access to it.</p> <p>10) Conserve and enhance biodiversity.</p> <p>11) Provide for leisure, recreation, culture and tourism needs.</p> <p>12) Creating opportunities for improving the health and wellbeing of communities.</p> <p>13) Encourage use of public transport, cycling and walking networks to help reduce reliance on cars and provide choice.</p> <p>14) Create high quality, low crime environments and spaces.</p> <p>15) Raise skill levels and reduce economic disparities across the Borough.</p>		
<p>Basingstoke and Deane Borough Local Plan 2011 – 2029 (Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council)</p>	<p>2006</p>	<p>Strategic</p>	<p>The Local Plan is the overarching planning document that identifies where development will take place, how new jobs will be supported and how the precious environment of the borough will be protected and enhanced. It also allocates major sites and locations for development to meet the needs of our growing population.</p> <p>The following objectives have been prepared to address their identified issues and to help to deliver the Vision:-</p> <p>a) Maintain and enhance the borough's position as a prosperous economic centre with a diverse economy;</p> <p>b) Reduce the need to travel, providing sustainable and fully accessible transport opportunities;</p> <p>c) Facilitate a well-educated and highly skilled local population and workforce with strong connections to the local business community;</p> <p>d) Strengthen Basingstoke Town Centre's role as a destination of choice, for residents, workers and those living outside the borough;</p> <p>e) Promote a thriving rural economy with a network of vibrant towns and villages which provide homes, services, jobs and infrastructure to respond to the needs and aspirations of local communities.</p>	<p>Collaboration and complementary policy approaches will be essential to address cross boundary issues particularly in relation to housing provision, transport infrastructure, environment and resource efficiency and the North Wessex Downs AONB.</p> <p>AWE Aldermaston and Burghfield are close to the Basingstoke and Deane boundary which will require consultation over developments near licenced nuclear installations.</p>	<p>Seek compatibility or complementarity of SA objectives where cross boundary issues affect both authorities and constituents, to enable policy solutions to be pursued together.</p>

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			<p>g) Ensure that infrastructure is planned for prior to development and delivered alongside development;</p> <p>h) Provide new housing which incorporates a mix of tenure, size and type;</p> <p>i) Promote and support successful regeneration and renewal schemes;</p> <p>j) Promote healthy lifestyles;</p> <p>k) Minimise our contribution to climate change and its effects;</p> <p>l) Ensure high quality and locally distinctive design which responds to local character to create inclusive, well connected and safe neighbourhoods.</p> <p>m) Conserve, manage and monitor the borough’s waterways, reducing the risk of flooding and consequences of pollution.</p> <p>n) Protect and enhance the borough’s biodiversity and the locally distinctive character of our priority habitats and landscapes, such as the North Wessex Downs AONB</p> <p>o) Proactively manage the borough’s rich historic and built environment to protect and enhance its quality and distinctiveness while accommodating change.</p>		
<p>Hart District Council Local Plan (Replacement) 1996-2006 – Saved Policies (Hart District Council)</p>	<p>2002, Saved 2007</p>	<p>Strategic</p>	<p>The District Council aim is to maintain and enhance the District’s quality of life for both present and future inhabitants, by permitting appropriate development and protecting interests of acknowledged importance, including for example ecological diversity, landscape and built heritage, but also meeting genuine local needs for jobs, housing and services.</p> <p>The principal objectives are as follows. To:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Safeguard and enhance the District’s assets and resources; 2. Develop a robust and diverse local economy,; 3. Provide for the needs of local people for housing, shopping, social services and recreation. 4. Control pollution and congestion; 5. Ensure that any required development enhances, and is well integrated into, the environment of the District; 6. Create opportunities and use those that arise to promote, safeguard, and improve urban design standards and the visual quality of built-up areas; 7. Seek to ensure there is equality of opportunity for all sections of the community. 	<p>In preparing this Local Plan involve neighbouring authorities to ensure our plans are consistent and take account of the impacts of development on and from the surrounding areas.</p>	<p>Ensure that the SA objectives are compatible or at least not in opposition in areas of common interest where joint strategic planning and action is necessary.</p>
<p>Hart District Council Draft Local Plan 2011 – 2032 (Hart District Council)</p>	<p>2017 – in preparation</p>	<p>Strategic</p>	<p>Key objectives are</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To plan for sufficient land to be available for 10,185 new homes to be built in the District in the period 2011 – 2032; 2. To deliver sustainable new communities at Murrell Green and Hartland Village; 	<p>In preparing this Local Plan involve neighbouring authorities to ensure our plans are consistent and take account of the impacts of development on and from the surrounding areas.</p>	<p>Ensure that the SA objectives are compatible or at least not in opposition in areas of common interest where joint strategic planning and action is necessary.</p>

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			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. To provide new homes of a mix of sizes and tenures to meet the current and future needs of Hart’s residents; 4. To support the vitality and viability of the District’s town and village centres to serve the needs of residents 5. To support economic growth to meet future needs 6. To ensure that transport, social and physical infrastructure required to support new development is delivered 7. To plan for the provision of sufficient primary and secondary school places to support the need arising from future development; 8. To conserve and enhance the distinctive built and historic environment; 9. To maximise opportunities for sustainable transport infrastructure that supports new development; 10. To protect and enhance the District’s natural environment; 11. To reduce the risk of flooding by directing development away from areas at risk of flooding, 12. To promote healthy and sustainable local communities ; 13. To ensure new development is well designed creating safe, inclusive environments ; 14. To provide measures for adapting to the impacts of climate change and reduce the contribution of new and existing development to the causes of climate change. 		
<p>Wokingham Borough Core Strategy to 2029 (Wokingham District Council)</p>	<p>2010</p>	<p>Direct</p>	<p>The Council has produced the Core Strategy to set out where development will occur within the borough to 2026, taking account of the health, well being and quality of life of our residents. The Core Strategy includes policies about everything from homes, shops, offices and factories to libraries, schools and health & leisure facilities.</p> <p>The approach of the Core Strategy is to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) Deliver sustainable development by providing an acceptable balance of housing and employment including the provision of a full range of services accessible to people; ii) Promote sustainable use and disposal of resources while mitigating and adapting to climate change; iii) Deliver housing in locations that meet the needs of the community; iv) Support a sequential approach to new mixed use development locations based primarily on larger scale (Strategic Development Locations) consisting of accessible, high quality, well designed development. The Strategic Development Locations will be supported by Development Briefs to ensure delivery of the essential community facilities and infrastructure required; v) Deliver affordable housing that meets identified local needs; 	<p>Collaboration and complementary policy approaches will be essential to address cross boundary issues of ad-hoc development particularly in relation to housing provision, major transport infrastructure and environment and resource efficiency to provide for communities and economic growth.</p> <p>Wokingham Borough Council are in the process of updating the Local Plan which will guide development in the Borough for the next 20 years. There is a need to plan for more housing, new employment, schools, roads, parks, shops and community facilities necessary to create places people want to live, work and do business.</p>	<p>Seek compatibility or complementarity of SA objectives where cross boundary issues affect both authorities and constituents, to enable policy solutions to be pursued together.</p>

Plan/Programme/ Strategy	Date	Relevance	Key objectives relevant to Local Plan and SA	Implications for the Local Plan	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
			vi) Promote a transport system that enables access to services by a variety of modes; vii) Protect the character of the borough by maintaining/improving the built/natural environment while mitigating the effect of new development on the environment; viii) Maintain the distinct and separate identity of the borough's settlements; ix) Maintain and enhance all the infrastructure, including roads, railways, schools, healthcare and open space provision through new development, taking account of the health and well being of residents; x) Support the renaissance of Wokingham and other town centres; xi) Limit development in those areas at most risk of flooding and pollution; xii) Protect the most important areas for biodiversity, landscape and heritage from development; xiii) Maintain and enhance the borough's knowledge and skills base; xiv) Ensure good design which is in keeping with the area; and xv) Where national and regional planning policies allow, take account of the public's views following consultation and engagement.	The next stage of the plan, the Preferred Options Consultation, is now likely to take place in summer 2018.	
Reading Borough Core Strategy (Reading Borough Council)	2008; altered 2015	Direct	<p>The document sets out the Council's adopted planning strategy for the Borough and how planning and development will achieve the Reading 2020 Vision for the town. It provides a framework for how Reading can grow in a sustainable way in the future. It also sets out how Reading will accommodate the growth expected of it in the emerging South East Plan and through the council's commitment to New Growth Point status.</p> <p>The following core objectives::</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthen the role of Reading, including the Central Reading Area, as the regional hub for the Thames Valley, providing an accessible focus for the development of employment, housing, services and facilities, meeting the needs of residents, workers, visitors, those who study in Reading Borough, and the wider area, in accordance with the South East Plan; 2. Improve the quality of life for those living, working, studying in and visiting the Borough, creating inclusive, sustainable communities with good access to decent and affordable housing, employment, open space and waterspace, transport, education, services and facilities (such as sustainable water supplies and wastewater treatment, healthcare 	Collaboration and complementary policy approaches will be essential to address cross boundary issues of ad-hoc development particularly in relation to housing provision, major transport infrastructure and environment and resource efficiency to provide for communities and economic growth.	Seek compatibility or complementarity of SA objectives where cross boundary issues affect both authorities and constituents, to enable policy solutions to be pursued together.

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			<p>services, sport and recreation, etc.) to meet identified needs;</p> <p>3. Ensure new development is accessible and sustainable, in accordance with the LDF sustainability appraisal objectives;</p> <p>4. Maintain and enhance the historic, built and natural environment of the Borough through investment and high quality design;</p> <p>5. Improve and develop excellent transport systems to improve accessibility within Reading and for the wider area by sustainable modes of transport;</p> <p>6. Offer outstanding cultural opportunities, which are based on multiculturalism, local heritage and high quality, modern arts and leisure facilities; and</p> <p>7. Ensure that Reading is a multi-cultural city where significant social inclusion exists and where the needs of all its citizens are met by high quality, cost effective services and outstanding levels of community involvement.</p>		
Reading Draft Local Plan (Reading Borough Council)	In preparation	Strategic	<p>These objectives are relatively consistent with the objectives that have previously been in place, notably in the Core Strategy, and give continuity with past and existing strategies.</p> <p>The objectives for the Local Plan are as follows:</p> <p>1. Strengthen the role of Reading, including central Reading, as the hub for the Thames Valley, providing an accessible focus for the development of employment, housing, services and facilities, meeting the needs of residents, workers, visitors, those who study in Reading Borough, and the wider area;</p> <p>2. Make the best use of Reading's limited land to ensure that as many new homes as possible are delivered to meet identified needs, particularly needs for affordable housing;</p> <p>3. Improve the quality of life for those living, working, studying in and visiting the Borough, creating inclusive, sustainable communities with good access to employment, open space and water space, transport, education, services and facilities (such as sustainable water supplies and wastewater treatment, healthcare services, social and community facilities, sport and recreation, etc.) to meet identified needs;</p> <p>4. Form the basis for co-operation with neighbouring authorities to consider the wider West of Berkshire area as a whole;</p> <p>5. Ensure new development and existing areas are accessible and sustainable, in accordance with the sustainability appraisal objectives, including reducing its effects on, and adapting to, climate change;</p> <p>6. Maintain and enhance the historic, built and natural environment of the Borough through investment and high quality design, and capitalise on these assets to contribute to quality of life and economic success;</p> <p>7. Improve and develop excellent transport systems to improve accessibility within Reading and for the wider area by sustainable modes of transport, including walking and cycling;</p> <p>8. Offer outstanding cultural opportunities, which are based on</p>	<p>Address cross boundary issues viz. Grazeley, around the M4, FEMA and economic development, Green Park new railway station and housing there, National Cycle Network Route 422 between Newbury and Windsor, AWE consultation zones, education facilities draw pupils from within Reading, edge of AONB</p> <p>There is therefore a need for policy on the areas to be aligned, and to ensure that provision of infrastructure on both sides of the boundary is viewed in the context of the area as a whole.</p>	<p>Seek compatibility or complementarity of SA objectives where cross boundary issues affect both authorities and constituents, to enable policy solutions to be pursued together.</p>

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			<p>multiculturalism, local heritage and high quality, modern arts, leisure and visitor facilities;</p> <p>9. Ensure that Reading is a healthy, clean, safe and socially-inclusive community where the needs of all its citizens are met by high quality, cost effective services and outstanding levels of community involvement.</p>		
Bracknell Forest Core Strategy (to 2026)	2008	Direct	<p>Policies in the Core Strategy establish the overall strategy for the development and use of land in the Borough up to 2026. This includes setting out the broad locations for future development.</p> <p>The Core Strategy policies are divided for ease into six themes: Sustainable Growth Quality of Life The Environment Somewhere to Live Somewhere to Work and Shop Transport</p> <p>Objectives: To plan for a balance of housing and employment growth To aid delivery of housing in the Borough, which meets the needs of all sectors of the community, including the provision of affordable housing To deliver the regeneration of Bracknell town centre To promote a sequential approach to the location of new development To promote a transport system which enables access to services, by a choice of transport modes To ensure high quality well designed development is delivered in the Borough To support and facilitate essential community facilities and infrastructure in accessible locations To deliver accessible development meeting the needs of the Borough To maintain and improve the built and natural environment, and to avoid or mitigate the effects of new development upon the natural and historic environment To maintain high and stable levels of economic growth To promote the sustainable use and disposal of resources To mitigate against and adapt to climate change</p>	<p>Collaboration and complementary policy approaches will be essential to address cross boundary issues of ad-hoc development particularly in relation to housing provision, major transport infrastructure and environment and resource efficiency to provide for communities and economic growth.</p> <p>Bracknell Forest are working on a Comprehensive Local Plan (see below) which will replace the Core Strategy. The next stage is the production of a preferred options paper for consultation expected in Spring 2018.</p>	<p>Seek compatibility or complementarity of SA objectives where cross boundary issues affect both authorities and constituents, to enable policy solutions to be pursued together.</p>
Bracknell Forest Comprehensive Local Plan	In preparation	Direct	<p>The Comprehensive Local Plan will set the long term spatial vision and development strategy for the borough up to 2036.</p> <p>Once adopted, it will replace many of the saved policies in the Bracknell Forest Borough Local Plan (2002) and the Core Strategy (2008). It will therefore be wide ranging in terms of the issues that it will cover.</p> <p>In summary, the Plan will include a vision, objectives, and strategy for</p>	<p>Collaboration and complementary policy approaches will be essential to address cross boundary issues of ad-hoc development particularly in relation to housing provision, major transport infrastructure and environment and resource efficiency to provide for communities and economic</p>	<p>Seek compatibility or complementarity of SA objectives where cross boundary issues affect both authorities and constituents, to enable policy solutions to be pursued together.</p>

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			<p>the level and distribution of development in the borough up to 2036. This includes housing, economic and retail development, new infrastructure and also policies relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • development within the green belt • development within the countryside • design, including residential extensions and shop fronts • environmental issues such as flood risk and water quality • heritage assets • the natural environment and biodiversity including landscape, green infrastructure and the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area • infrastructure needs including open space, sport and recreation and community facilities • town, district and local centres • development affecting employment sites • housing needs including those for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show people • affordable housing • healthy and inclusive communities • climate change including the delivery of renewable energy and sustainable construction 	<p>growth.</p>	
<p>Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy (Oxfordshire County Council) 2017 Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan 2013 (Hampshire County Council) Joint Minerals and Waste Local Plan - Issues and Options consultation 2017(Hampshire County Council on behalf of Central and Eastern Berkshire) Authorities) Wiltshire and Swindon Minerals Core Strategy 2009 (Wiltshire Council & Swindon Borough Council) Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Core Strategy 2009 (Wiltshire Council & Swindon Borough Council) Central and Eastern Berkshire Minerals and Waste Plan – in preparation (Bracknell Forest Council, Reading Council, Wokingham Borough, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead)</p>					
	<p>Various</p>	<p>Strategic</p>	<p>These policy documents generally set out the vision, objectives, spatial strategy and core policies for meeting minerals and waste development requirements in the relevant authority area.</p> <p>Overall, they provide a policy framework for making decisions on planning applications and will also identify broad (and in some cases specific) locations for new minerals and waste development.</p> <p>Generally, these are the main issues that have come out of neighbouring authorities' <u>minerals</u> development plan documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting locally determined requirements for supply of minerals and make an appropriate contribution to wider needs. • Enable a continued supply of building stone for locally distinctive buildings and structures. • Provide a framework that is clear and flexible 	<p>More or less minerals and waste development in neighbouring authority areas could potentially have an impact on development pressures and the level of extraction in West Berkshire. It is acknowledged that the majority of planning authorities that deal with 'county matters' are attempting to be 'net self-sufficient' in terms of waste and maintain a steady and adequate supply of minerals in line with the NPPF. This may have implications in terms of sustainability.</p>	<p>These documents will be utilised in the SA in an informative capacity and in the form of recommendations.</p> <p>Ensure the SA has objectives and indicators relating to resource use efficiency.</p>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate the economically and environmentally secondary and recycled materials for use in place of primary aggregates. • Consider flood risk • Minimise the distance minerals need to be transported by road and encourage alternatives • Protect important landscapes, and ecological, geological, archaeological and heritage assets from harmful impacts of mineral development and transportation. • Provide benefits to natural environment and local communities through the restoration of mineral workings • Safeguard resources of sand and gravel, crushed rock <p>Safeguard permanent facilities for producing secondary and recycled aggregate and for importing aggregates by rail.</p> <p>Generally, these are the main issues that have come out of neighbouring authorities' <u>waste</u> development plan documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide for waste management capacity that enables the authority area to be net self-sufficient in meeting its own waste needs and makes an appropriate contribution towards wider specialist waste needs; • Support initiatives that help to reduce the amounts of waste produced • Drive waste up the Waste hierarchy • Manage waste as close as possible to where it arises • Generally provide a broad distribution of facilities • Recognise that some types of waste management facility will need to serve a wider area due to economics. • Recognise that waste management is an integral part of community infrastructure • In some cases seeking to reduce the amount of waste coming into the relevant authority area to be landfilled • Avoid the loss of green field land and do not cause unnecessary harm to the natural and built environment. • Promote sustainable waste practice in construction and demolition work including minimising waste, managing waste on site, recycling construction waste as aggregate, • Facilitate the recovery of resources from waste and take advantage of opportunities for the use of combined heat and power. • Achieve satisfactory restoration of landfill sites and other temporary waste management sites when they are no longer required 		

Local

All local documents are treated as directly relevant to the Local Plan Review and sustainability appraisal.

Plan/Programme / Strategy	Date	Key objectives relevant to Local Plan and SA	Implications for the West Berkshire Local Plan Review	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
West Berkshire Council Core Strategy 2006 - 2026	2012	<p>Sets out the long term vision for West Berkshire to 2026 and translates this into spatial terms, setting out proposals for where development will go, and how this development will be built. The Core Strategy aims to make the different settlements within West Berkshire even more attractive places within which to live, work and enjoy leisure time. The Core Strategy sets out the overall framework for the more detailed policies and site specific proposals to be contained in other documents of the Local Plan.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tackling Climate Change - To exceed national targets for carbon dioxide emissions reduction and deliver the District's growth in a way that helps to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change 2. Housing Growth - To deliver at least 10,500 homes across West Berkshire 2006–2026. These homes will be delivered in an effective and timely manner, will maximise the use of suitable Brownfield land and access to facilities and services and will be developed at densities within make the most efficient use of land whilst responding to the existing build environment. 3. Housing Needs - To secure provision of affordable and market housing to meet local needs in both urban and rural areas of the district. To provide homes in a way that promotes sustainable communities, providing a mix of house sizes, types and tenures to meet identified needs, and respond to the changing demographic profile of the District. 4. Economy - To provide for a range of sizes and types of employment land and premises in the right locations to respond to the forecast changes in economic activity, the location of new residential development and the specific needs of the rural economy, including the equestrian and horseracing industries. 5. Infrastructure Requirements – To ensure that infrastructure needs (including community services and facilities) arising from the growth in West Berkshire are provided in a timely and coordinated manner, which keeps pace with development in accordance with the detail set out in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. 6. Green Infrastructure - To ensure that West Berkshire contains a strong network of well-connected and multi-functional green infrastructure which provides an attractive environment to live, work and spend leisure time, providing benefits for health and opportunities for formal and informal recreation. 7. Transport - To put in place a sustainable transport network which supports the growth in West Berkshire, links existing and new development, prioritise walking, cycling and public transport and provides a genuine choice of modes. Traffic management measures will minimise the impact of new development on the existing network. 8. Retail – To achieve growth in retail activity and consequently increase the vitality and vibrancy of town centres in West Berkshire. To meet the range of shopping needs for residents and visitors largely through completion of the Parkway development and through the regeneration of Thatcham town centre. To provide for local shopping need in town, district and local centres to serve the needs of existing and future residents. 9. Heritage - To ensure that development to 2026 is planned, designed and managed in a 	<p>The Core Strategy provides an overall framework for the more detailed policies and site specific proposals to be contained in other documents of the current Local Plan. It is a foundation document for the Local Plan Review and essential for context and continuity of spatial planning into the future.</p>	<p>The current Core Strategy has been and will continue to be used and reviewed to inform the SA process and ensure consistency and continuity where appropriate.</p>

Plan/Programme / Strategy	Date	Key objectives relevant to Local Plan and SA	Implications for the West Berkshire Local Plan Review	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
		<p>way that ensures the protection and enhancement of the local distinctive character and identity of the built, historic and natural environment in West Berkshire's Towns, villages and countryside.</p>		
<p>West Berkshire Housing Site Allocations Development Plan Document (HSADPD)</p>	<p>2017</p>	<p>The allocation of non-strategic housing sites across the District in accordance with the spatial strategy of the Core Strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To implement the remainder of the housing requirement identified in the Core Strategy and boost the supply of housing significantly in the short and medium term. • To allocate sites for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show people, • To update parking standards, • To set out policies to guide housing development in the countryside. 	<p>The HSADPD runs until 2026 and its objectives and targets will be incorporated into the new local plan which will extend the timeframe for housing allocation to 2036.</p>	<p>This document will be utilised in the SA in an informative capacity and in the form of recommendations.</p>
<p>Stratfield Mortimer Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)</p>	<p>2017</p>	<p>Through the plan the community is exercising its right to shape development in their area, where it will go and what it will look like, in accordance with national and local policy.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To provide new residential developments that will retain the existing compact nature of the village and minimise expansion of the existing Settlement Boundary. 110 new homes and policy compliant windfall sites. 2. To provide a mix of types of homes and tenure focussing on starter homes and down-sizing homes in a pattern of housing that maintains the nature of the village and the immediate surrounding area. 3. All new developments will have design solutions that reflect and enhance the rural character of Mortimer in their scale, siting, features, layout, materials, landscaping and design details as expressed by the community. 4. To set out the principles and criteria to be used to prepare the design of The Site [for 110 dwellings] so as to ensure the development conforms to the requirements of this plan and the expressed views of the community with regard to development. 5. To have a thriving parish economy and village centre of local retail outlets, small businesses, services (e.g. pubs, cafes) and social amenities providing local employment opportunities. 6. To provide the infrastructure services and amenities required in a modern rural parish and to ensure that any new development has good and sustainable water and waste water services. 7. To maintain and where possible enhance the quality and diversity of the natural environment of the parish. 8. To maintain and, where possible, improve green spaces and green routes. 9. To develop the heritage of the parish and provide an added amenity for the community. 	<p>The NDP policies and objectives must be taken into account in the formulation of the New Local Plan.</p>	<p>This document will be utilised in the SA in an informative capacity and in the form of recommendations.</p>
<p>West Berkshire Council Local Transport Plan</p>	<p>2011</p>	<p>Sets out the Council's transport policy framework. West Berkshire's vision for transport is "to develop effective transport solutions for all by increasing choice and minimising congestion".</p>	<p>Ensure that the policies reflect the vision and objectives of the Plan. West Berkshire is</p>	<p>Ensure the SA includes objectives and indicators for the promotion of all forms of safe and sustainable</p>

Plan/Programme / Strategy	Date	Key objectives relevant to Local Plan and SA	Implications for the West Berkshire Local Plan Review	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
(2011 – 2026)		<p>This means delivering a transport system which supports the economic vitality of West Berkshire, as well as providing choice and opportunities for residents to be able to access the services they need in a sustainable way where possible that minimises harm to the environment. For transport solutions to be effective, transport networks need to be managed in a way which promotes safety and minimises the existence and impacts of congestion.</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve travel choice and encourage sustainable travel • To support the economy and quality of life by minimising congestion and improving reliability on West Berkshire's transport networks; • To maintain, make best use of and improve West Berkshire's transport networks for all modes of travel; • To improve access to services and facilities; • To improve and promote opportunities for healthy and safe travel; • To minimise energy consumption and the impact of all forms of travel on the environment. 	geographically diverse with a mix of rural and urban areas, each with its own set of issues and opportunities.	travel.
Local Transport Plan for West Berkshire 2011 – 2026 – Active Travel Strategy	2011	<p>This Strategy aims to increase the number of people who take part in Active Travel. Active Travel is the term given to any mode of travel which involves a degree of physical activity. This includes Walking and Cycling, and in West Berkshire Equestrian activities.</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote better public health and well-being by increasing levels of physical activity, particularly among the most inactive people in our society • Increase accessibility and reduce congestion • Improve air quality and reduce carbon emissions. 	The New Local Plan should provide opportunities for walking and cycling paths as well as bridleways which can contribute to the objectives of this Strategy. It should be ensured that the New Local Plan has regard to the vision and objectives of this Strategy.	Ensure the SA includes objectives that promotes health and wellbeing alongside providing opportunities for alternative modes of travel.
Replacement Minerals Local Plan for Berkshire 1995 (Incorporating Alterations adopted 1997 and May 2001)	1995	<p>This is the current Berkshire wide policy document to provide a basis on which to make recommendations and decisions on planning applications to extract minerals in the County.</p> <p>It will be replaced by the Minerals and Waste Local Plan below, upon adoption.</p> <p>The main issues addressed in the plan are:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How much mineral should be dug in Berkshire? • Where extraction should be allowed? • Where extraction should not be allowed? • What should be the objectives for the restoration of future mineral workings? • How can we ensure that mineral working is carried out in the least damaging way? • How can mineral working be used to secure long term environmental and other public benefits? • How much mineral may have to be brought into Berkshire from elsewhere? • Where depots might be located to allow minerals to be brought in by rail? 	This is the current policy used at a local level to make recommendations and decisions on planning applications to extract minerals in West Berkshire.	This document will be useful for the SA in a contextual and informative capacity.
Minerals and		The following draft objectives have been suggested:	Following adoption the policy	Ensure the SA includes objectives

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Waste Local Plan (in preparation)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 land bank) 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; • 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 	<p>can be used at a local level to make recommendations and decisions on planning applications to extract minerals in West Berkshire. Therefore this document will be useful for the SA in a contextual and informative capacity.</p>	<p>to reduce the consumption of waste and manage their use efficiently.</p>

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		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.		
Waste Local Plan for Berkshire 1998	1998	This is the current Berkshire wide policy document to provide a basis on which to make recommendations and decisions on planning applications for waste development in the County. It will be replaced by the Minerals and Waste Local Plan above, upon adoption. Objectives: • To provide a framework within which the public, businesses and waste industry of Berkshire can contribute towards a sustainable strategy for dealing with waste; • To reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal (by reducing the amount of waste we produce and re-using and recycling as much as possible); and • To ensure that the handling, treatment and disposal of the remaining waste is carried out with the minimum effect upon the environment	This is the current policy used at a local level to make recommendations and decisions on planning applications for waste development in West Berkshire. Therefore this document will be useful for the SA in a contextual and informative capacity.	Ensure the SA includes objectives to reduce the consumption of waste and manage their use efficiently.
Waste Management Strategy (recycling) 2002 - 2022	2002	The strategy supports one of West Berkshire Council's Strategic Priorities to Improve Environmental Resource Management by maximising recycling and composting, limiting the amount of waste confined to landfill. In addition it supports the aims of the Community Plan, in particular the need for sustainable development and the protection of the environment. Strategic Waste Management Policies & Objectives are: 1. Waste Education and Awareness to encourage fuller understanding and practices. 2. Stakeholder Consultation to ensure all opinions are fully considered 3. Waste Minimisation and Reuse to reduce consumption and prevent waste production. 4. Recycling and composting promoting new facilities for waste transfer, recycling and compost. 5. Waste Management through more progressive practices. 6. Waste Recovery	The aims and objectives of the Strategy can inform the Sustainability Appraisal process and ensure the New Local Plan policies support development in sustainable locations and protect the environment.	Ensure the SA includes objectives to reduce the consumption of waste and manage their use efficiently.
Contaminated Land Strategy	2014	The purpose of the strategy remain unchanged from previous strategies, that is to • To meet the requirement to produce and revise a written strategy • To demonstrate how the Council will meet the requirements of the Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990	The aims and objectives of the Strategy can inform the Sustainability Appraisal process using register and lists of actual	Ensure the SA includes objectives and selection criteria to avoid contaminated land or mitigate effects to acceptable levels.

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		<p>The overall aims are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify 'sites of potential concern' within West Berkshire; • To determine the risks posed by the sites; • To prioritise these sites for further action. <p>The objectives of the revised strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue with the identification of contaminated land sites in a rational, ordered and efficient manner; • Be proportionate to the seriousness of any actual or potential risk; • Seek to ensure that the most pressing and serious problems are dealt with first; • To ensure that resources are concentrated on investigating in areas where the authority is most likely to identify contaminated land; • To ensure that Council efficiently identifies requirements for the detailed inspection of particular areas of land. 	<p>and potentially contaminated land to ensure the Local Plan Review policies support development in sustainable locations and protect human health and the environment</p>	
Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2013 - 2017	2013	<p>The aim of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) is to explain how West Berkshire Council will engage in the management of flood risk from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses within its administrative area, now and in the future.</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide a clear explanation of the roles and responsibilities of organisations in the management of Flood Risk and how we will work together to manage this risk; • To develop a clear understanding of flood risk within West Berkshire and increase public awareness; • To develop plans to reduce existing flood risk taking account of people, communities and the environment; • To identify measures to reduce flood risk; • To ensure that planning decisions take full account of flood risk; • To ensure that emergency plans are effective and that individuals and communities understand the risks along with their role in an emergency. 	<p>The LFRMS provides details on the management of flood risk and the various action plans that must be considered by the Sustainability Appraisal and in formulating policies for the New Local Plan.</p>	<p>Ensure the SA includes objectives to minimise and manage flood risk.</p>
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2008 (including 2015 update)	2008 & 2015	<p>The SFRA provides a high level overview of flood risk across West Berkshire from local sources of flooding. Including surface water, groundwater, ordinary watercourses and canals. It also considers flooding from main rivers because of the interaction between main rivers and local sources of flooding.</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describes arrangements for partnerships and collaboration for the ongoing assessment of flood risk, data collection and means of public engagement. • Assesses historic flood events within West Berkshire from local sources and the consequences of these events. 	<p>The SRFA provides details on areas susceptible to flooding and the various action plans and schemes that must be considered by the Sustainability Appraisal and in formulating policies for the New Local Plan.</p>	<p>A new SFRA is being produced and its aims and objectives will be used to inform the SA objectives and essentially the SA itself, for the protection of land and property from flood.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assesses the potential harmful consequences of future flood events within West Berkshire. Reviews the Flood Risk Areas and current remedial plans and schemes. 		
West Berkshire Council Strategy 2015 – 19 (incl. refresh) NB Text below needs to be updated	2015	<p>The strategy outlines the Council's vision:</p> <p><i>“Working together to make West Berkshire an even greater place in which to live, work and learn”.</i></p> <p>The strategy sets out four key priority areas which are underpinned by a set of universal principles to guide how the council are responding to the changes in policy, financial and legislative landscape. The four priority area are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better educated communities; A stronger local economy; Protect and support those who need it; Maintain a high quality of life within our communities. 	The Council Strategy sets out the Council's priorities for the next four years. Therefore, from a sustainability perspective it is essential that the New Local Plan concurs with the Council Strategy.	
Economic Development Strategy 2013 - 2018	2013	<p>Its purpose is to provide an overarching vision and framework for supporting and retaining a resilient local economy and to plan economic development work in West Berkshire for the medium term (2013-2018) and beyond.</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with partners to ensure that local skills meet the needs of today's business and work environments. Promote West Berkshire as a desirable location for combining business, leisure, learning and life. Become more business friendly and encourage new investment and business retention across all sectors. Actively support sustainable rejuvenation and regeneration projects in key locations. 	Achieving the economic objectives will require the New Local Plan to have regard to the infrastructure needs of housing, the right mix of sites and premises, a reliable transport network, superfast broadband, utilities, the necessary educational facilities. This will need to be balanced against other sustainability criteria to ensure high quality developments in sustainable locations.	
Statement of Community Involvement (2006)	2006 & 2014	<p>The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) for West Berkshire clearly sets out our policy for involving the community in the preparation and revision of planning policy documents and in the consideration of planning applications within the District.</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build on what has worked successfully in West Berkshire in meeting the needs of local communities, whilst looking forward to new ways of involving local people, particularly those seen as hard to engage. Learn from the experience of others in achieving community involvement, but ensuring that the local circumstances of West Berkshire remain our primary concern. Work with existing groups or partners within the community, particularly the 	The New Local Plan will be prepared in line with the requirements of the SCI. This will help to bring to light relevant sustainability issues.	All aspects of the SA will be subject to consultation and all response will be used to inform and refine the SA. It will be iterative as the Local Plan emerges to ensure continual inclusiveness.

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		voluntary sector, to maximise potential and add value where we can.		
Sustainable Community Strategy – A Breath of Fresh Air 2008 (incorporating re-fresh 2009)	2008/9	<p>Sets out a clear vision and direction for West Berkshire over the 20 years from 2008, which will focus on improving the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the District in partnership with key local stakeholders. ‘A Breath of Fresh Air’ provides an overarching strategy for improving local quality of life in West Berkshire.</p> <p>The Plan is based on five key themes which reflect the principles of protecting what are seen to be strengths of the District whilst recognising that there are areas where improvements are needed. Each of the five following themes have priority outcomes identified for improvement. The themes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosperous • Accessible • Greener • Safer • Stronger 	The New Local Plan which will need to reflect the emerging key themes and their priority outcomes identified within the Community Plan.	This document will be utilised in the SA in an informative capacity and in the form of recommendations.
Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2017 – 2020	2017	<p>To create stronger, resilient communities with the overarching aims of increasing healthy life expectancy and decreasing health inequalities, focussing on vulnerable groups and deprived communities.</p> <p>Four themes underpin the Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Integrate care; 2. Prevention 3. Building Community Resilience 4. Tackling inequalities in health <p>Objectives for 2017 -2020 are:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Give every child the best start in life b) Support mental health and wellbeing throughout life c) Reduce premature mortality by helping people lead healthier lives d) Build thriving and sustainable environment in which communities can flourish e) Help older people maintain a healthy, independent life for as long as possible 	The New Local Plan will need to reflect the priorities of this Strategy	The themes and objectives laid out in this Strategy will inform the Sustainability Appraisal framework to ensure potential development can maximise opportunities for supporting a more resilient community.
School Improvement Strategy 2015 - 2017	2015	<p>Aims to ensure that all schools in West Berkshire are at least ‘good’ and all children make maximum progress, achieving their potential.</p> <p>No stated objectives for development requirements beyond educational standards and teacher retention, for example.</p>	The New Local Plan will need to reflect the priorities of this Strategy	The themes and aims laid out in this Strategy will inform the Sustainability Appraisal framework to ensure potential development can maximise opportunities for supporting educational attainment.
The West Berkshire Safer Communities Partnership Plan	2008	The Partnership Plan sets out the targets of the Safer Communities Partnership, whose role is to work together with the community to help reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. The Partnership’s Vision is ‘working to create a safer West Berkshire’.	The New Local Plan will need to reflect the priorities of this Strategy	Ensure the SA includes objectives to reduce levels of crime and anti-social behaviour.

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2008-2011		<p>The document includes specific objectives and targets that the Partnership will be concentrating on. The six strategic priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the effectiveness in the way in which anti-social behaviour is dealt with in West Berkshire • Reduce the risk factors for vulnerable young people and families of offending and anti-social behaviour • Reduce re-offending through more effective offender management • Reduce alcohol-related crime and disorder • Reduce incidents of domestic abuse • Respond to local concerns of crime and disorder in West Berkshire. 		
West Berkshire Council's Corporate Equality Policy 2012	2012	<p>West Berkshire Council thinks that everyone deserves to live in a community where people get along with each other, where no-one feels excluded and where everyone has a chance to play a full part in local life.</p> <p>A set of Equality Objectives and Activities set out the areas of the Councils work where it is focussing efforts to achieve equality and value diversity in West Berkshire.</p>	The New Local Plan will need to reflect the priorities and agenda of this Policy.	Ensure the SA includes objectives that enable improvements in health, wellbeing and reducing inequalities.
Housing Strategy 2010-2015	2010	<p>The Housing Strategy has been produced to make sure West Berkshire Council provides the right housing services to meet local needs and priorities.</p> <p>The actions identified in the strategy reflect and contribute towards achieving the housing vision. Priority will be given to activities that contribute to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The prevention of homelessness by early and proactive intervention • Provision of new affordable housing to meet urgent and immediate identified needs • Green and sustainable activities that reduce fuel poverty and minimise domestic CO2 emissions • Meeting the needs of our rural communities • Partnership working to make sure we work efficiently and in a joined-up way with our partners • Performance management to monitor, review and improve our delivery of the action plan. 	The New Local Plan will need to reflect the priorities of this strategy.	Ensure the SA includes objectives to enable the provision of housing for all parts of the community.
Homelessness Strategy 2013-2018	2013	<p>The Homelessness Strategy for West Berkshire lays out a vision for tackling homelessness over the next 3 years, based on a comprehensive review of the current position and an analysis of future trends.</p> <p>There are five main objectives, which are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to prevent homelessness and sustain tenancies 2. Mitigating the negative impacts of the welfare and housing reforms 3. Make the best use of the District's housing stock 4. Improving the life chances of homeless people 5. Proactively work with partners to provide a co-ordinated approach to tackling and preventing homelessness. 	The need to increase the supply of affordable housing has clear linkages with planning policy and implications for the New Local Plan.	Ensure the SA includes objectives that enable provision of housing and improvements in health, wellbeing and reducing inequalities.

Plan/Programme / Strategy	Date	Key objectives relevant to Local Plan and SA	Implications for the West Berkshire Local Plan Review	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
Newbury Vision 2026	2014	<p>This document set out West Berkshire's long-term Vision for Newbury (encompassing a wider area than the immediate town centre) and the role that it has to play in supporting the surrounding villages and rural area for the period up to 2026. The Vision considered the town centre in terms of four major quarters; Urban Village Quarter, Cultural quarter, Primary Retail Quarter & Mixed Use Quarter. The identification of these quarters was against clearly defined individual town centre projects and development opportunities such as the Parkway and Market Street redevelopments.</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Character - to build on Newbury's unique historic character and identity. • Quality of our public spaces - to create a centre with attractive and successful outdoor areas. • Ease of movement - a place that is easy to get to and move around. • Diversity - a place with variety and choice. • Legibility - a place that has a clear image and is easy to understand. • Adaptability - a place that can change easily. • Continuity and enclosure - a place where public and private spaces are clearly distinguished. 	<p>The Newbury Vision can be used to inform the Sustainability Appraisal in order that the New Local Plan considers the Vision and opportunities in the emerging policies through to adoption.</p>	<p>The Newbury Vision can be used in the Sustainability Appraisal in an informative capacity and in the form of recommendations.</p>
Newbury Town Plan 2019 - 2036	In Preparation for mid-2018 publication.	<p>The purpose of the Town Plan is:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To set a direction for Newbury for the next 20 years. • To plan constructively, building on Newbury's strengths. • To influence and inform the West Berkshire Council Local Plan 2019-36. • To replace and update Area Delivery Plan Policy 2 in the present Core Strategy. <p>Six main themes have been identified:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Vibrant Newbury 2. Attract New and Expanding Businesses to Newbury 3. Possible New Markets 4. Encourage the 20-35 Age Group to Remain in Newbury 5. A Sustainable Newbury 6. A 'balanced' Planning Policy 	<p>As the main town in West Berkshire the Town Plan will help inform spatial planning policy for the town and other urban areas.</p>	<p>The Newbury Town Plan themes can be used in the Sustainability Appraisal in an informative capacity and in the form of recommendations.</p>
Kennet and Thames Vision	2006	<p>The 'Vision for Kennet and Thames' sets out West Berkshire Council's long-term Vision for the Kennet and Thames area and the role the Council and Members play in supporting the development of the area and its residents. The 'Kennet and Thames' is the eastern area of the district of West Berkshire. It is primarily the suburban areas although includes some more rural areas on the urban fringe.</p> <p>Three main themes have been identified as the focus for this Vision :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing Community Facilities • Improving Transportation and • Housing and Social Care. 	<p>The Kennet and Thames Vision can be used to inform the Sustainability Appraisal in order that the New Local Plan considers the Vision and opportunities in the emerging policies through to adoption.</p>	<p>The Kennet and Thames Vision themes can be used in the Sustainability Appraisal in an informative capacity and in the form of recommendations.</p>

Plan/Programme / Strategy	Date	Key objectives relevant to Local Plan and SA	Implications for the West Berkshire Local Plan Review	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan	2014-19	<p>The North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan presents an agreed agenda for AONB partners. It sets out the objectives and policies for the 5 years to 2019 applicable to conserve and enhance this nationally important landscape for its communities.</p> <p>The Plan also contains priorities that the North Wessex Downs team intends to lead or carry out with others.</p> <p>The Plan sets out key issues, objectives and policies for:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Land Management 2. Biodiversity 3. Historic Environment 4. Natural Resources 5. Development 6. Communities 7. Leisure and Tourism <p>74% of West Berkshire is located within the AONB.</p>	Ensure that policies have regard to the issues and objectives set out in the Management Plan.	Ensure the SA includes objectives for the protection of the landscape qualities of the AONB.
Berkshire Local Nature Partnership – Guiding Principles for Local Plan Documents		<p>Guiding principles have been produced to encourage cross boundary working in the making of policy and decision making.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consider the value of the natural environment and the range of services and benefits it is providing; 2. Ensure decisions are based on the best available ecological information and data; 3. Protect and enhance existing natural assets; 4. Seek opportunities to improve natural connectivity; 5. Ensure there is adequate access to quality green-space; 6. Identify where nature can be incorporated into other infrastructure designs; 7. Secure adequate long term management of new and existing natural infrastructure 	The guidance can be used to inform the Sustainability Appraisal of the options for the New Local Plan and help policy consistency across Berkshire.	Ensure SA objectives include objectives for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity.
Historic Environment Character Zoning	2008	<p>The West Berkshire Historic Environment Character Zoning (HECZ) project set out to study and map the district according to its man-made character. The aim was to provide a more comprehensive account of the historic environment resource, so that the valuable and non-renewable archaeological and historic features can be better understood and better cared for into the future.</p> <p>The project was carried out because our knowledge of West Berkshire's historic environment was incomplete and in some cases outdated, and that this lack of understanding of the resource posed a threat to its appreciation and sympathetic management. Although the Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) project had provided district-wide information on past and present land use, it was not part of its scope to consider archaeology. The HECZ work addressed this by carrying out a critical</p>	Development planning can have a negative or positive impact on the historic environment. The HECZ will be a valuable resource during preparation of the New Local Plan in terms of minimising the detrimental impacts on the valued historical characteristics of West Berkshire.	Ensure SA objectives include objectives for the protection and preservation of the historic environment.

Plan/Programme / Strategy	Date	Key objectives relevant to Local Plan and SA	Implications for the West Berkshire Local Plan Review	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
		assessment of the Historic Environment Record, examining the archaeological data and analysing it against information on relief, drainage, geology, soils and patterns in HLC. The result of this process was the division of the district into 20 Historic Environment Character Areas (HECAs), which were further subdivided into 91 Historic Environment Character Zones (HECZs).		
Historic Environment Action Plan	2011	<p>A Historic Environment Action Plan (HEAP) has been drawn up for all those interested in the man-made heritage of West Berkshire.</p> <p>The Plan seeks to highlight what is special and important about the local historic environment, to examine what the key challenges are, to explore what opportunities might exist in the coming years and to establish what the priorities for action should be. The HEAP is for all those interested in the historic environment of West Berkshire.</p> <p>The West Berkshire Heritage Forum are working on a refresh of the HEAP 2011.</p>	Development planning can have a negative or positive impact on the historic environment. The HEAP will be a valuable resource during preparation of the New Local Plan in terms of minimising the detrimental impacts on the valued historical characteristics of West Berkshire.	Ensure SA objectives include objectives for the protection and preservation of the historic environment.
Renewable Energy Strategy for West Berkshire	2014	<p>The strategy is set out in order to help shape the future development of renewable energy in West Berkshire and focuses mainly on renewable electricity and heat.</p> <p>Identifies what immediate potential exists to harness local renewable energy resources in WB and so to continue the move towards a more sustainable way of living and working for local people providing greater security of supply, affordability and lower emissions.</p> <p>The key objective of this strategy is to illustrate how West Berkshire can move towards a more sustainable (low carbon) and energy secure future.</p> <p>West Berkshire might expect to be able to achieve a renewable energy target of between 6 and 11% (based on primary energy needs so heat, power and transport) depending upon the level of positive support of new technology introduction.</p>	The policies within the New Local Plan must be sufficiently robust to deliver the necessary change to encourage the greater deployment of renewable energy technology taking account of major challenges such as 74% of West Berkshire being in an AONB. The strategy should be considered alongside other reviews being carried out on waste, carbon, food and travel as part of an overall climate change strategy.	Ensure the SA includes objectives supporting the use of renewable energy and the reduction in consumption.
AWE Radiation Emergency Preparedness & Public Information Regulations		<p>The Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2001 (REPPIR) aims to protect members of the public from a radiation emergency that could arise from work with ionising radiation. The regulations establish a framework of emergency preparedness measures to ensure that members of the public are properly informed and prepared, in advance, about what to do in the unlikely event of a radiation emergency occurring, and provided with information if a radiation emergency actually occurs.</p> <p>REPPIR adopt many of the emergency planning principles of the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 1999 (COMAH) and formalise into regulations previous emergency planning arrangements with local authorities that have been in place around nuclear licensed premises for many years.</p>	In West Berkshire Council area there are two sites which need to comply with the above legislation. These two sites are both run by Atomic Weapons Establishment who have sites, both based in West Berkshire: AWE Aldermaston and AWE Burghfield.	Ensure that the SA has regard to the land use planning consultation zones.

Summary of Key Emerging Local Level Objectives:

Level/Topic	Relevant Objectives (amalgamated from Review of National Policy)
Local	
Landscape, Townscape and Cultural Heritage	Conserve and enhance landscape character and diversity, remoteness, tranquillity, biodiversity, preserve the historic environment including battlefields and sites of historic significance, protect and improve the urban environment, raise the profile of West Berkshire's unique and innovative cultural benefits
	Identify an appropriate balance between recreation and nature conservation and improve access to the countryside
	Ensure appropriate level/distribution of open space and recreational facilities to meet local needs, enhance open space within the defined settlements
	Protect the best and most versatile land, avoid fragmentation, support some farm diversification and agricultural development
Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure	Conserve and enhance wildlife habitats and species.
	Protect, restore and manage grazing heathland- Greenham and Crookham Commons
	Ensure a network of green infrastructure is provided and 'blue' (rivers and watercourses) infrastructure is maintained and enhanced.
Climate Change and Resource efficiency	Sustain natural resources, promote low carbon economy and energy conservation
	Address issues associated with the availability of water resources and recent low flows, promote water conservation
	Increase the amount of waste to be recycled
	Make maximum use of previously developed land
Communities and Well Being	Develop appropriate skills for the future
	Reduce the risk factors for vulnerable young people and families of offending and anti-social behaviour.
	Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.
	To achieve greater social inclusion and to tackle all forms of social exclusion
	Support vibrant communities
	To improve educational standards
	Encourage sustainable travel
	To address the needs of all disadvantaged and excluded groups particularly focusing on older people, put in place preventative measures for vulnerable children and young people
Plan for the delivery of dwellings of a variety of types in a variety of locations to meet identified housing needs. Locate housing to have regard to sustainable development, provide affordable housing to meet local needs, and ensure the creation of quality housing schemes which maintain and enhance the character and appearance of the area in which they are located.	
Economy and Infrastructure	Direct development to most sustainable locations
	Enable some limited development to take place in rural areas
	To improve road safety, accessibility, buses and community safety, in addition to prioritising areas relating to congestion, air quality, safer roads and accessibility

APPENDIX 2 – Baseline information

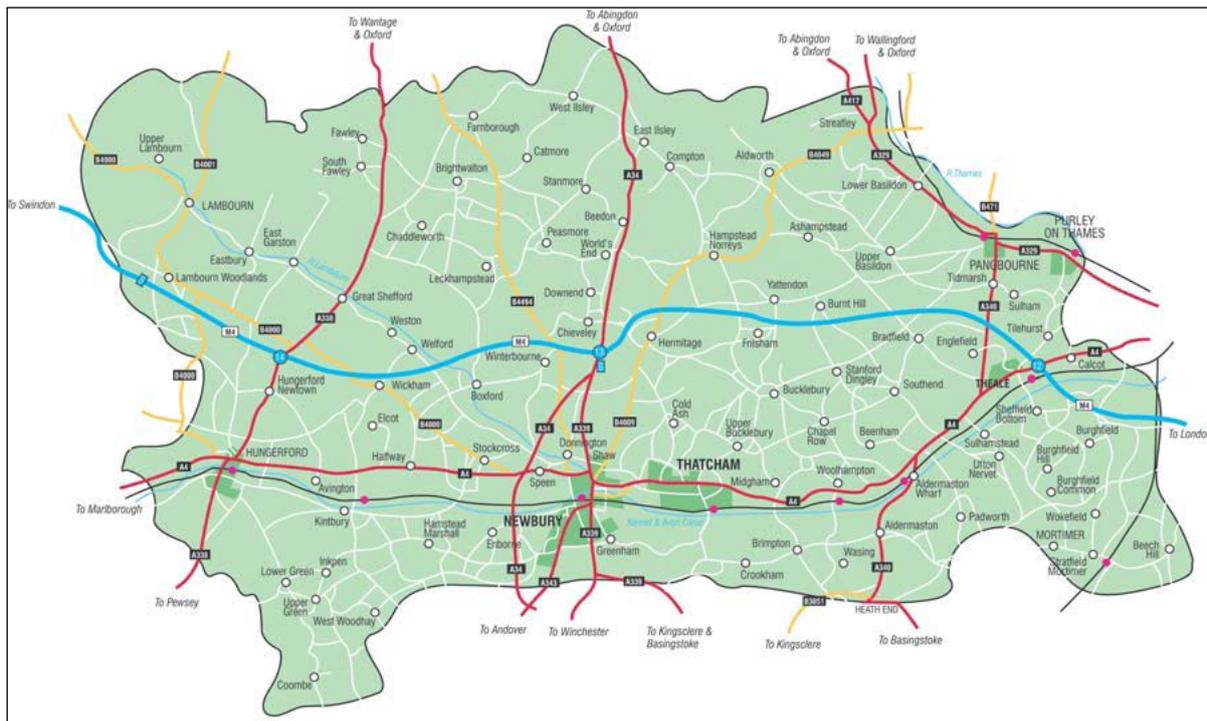
SEA Guidance recognises that data gaps will exist but suggests that where baseline information is unavailable or unsatisfactory, authorities should consider how it will affect their assessments and determine how to improve it for use in the assessment of future plans. The collection and analysis of baseline data is regarded as a continual and evolving process, given that information can change or be updated on a regular basis.

Not all the relevant information was available at the local level and as a result there are some gaps within the data set, but it is considered that the available information provides a sufficiently comprehensive view of sustainability within the plan area.

Context

West Berkshire is located in the South East of England, within the former administrative area of the county of Berkshire. It is a Unitary Authority and covers an area of 704 square kilometres, extending from Hungerford in the west to Calcot in the east. In land use terms the area is predominately rural in character, with approximately 74% of the land area making up part of the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Newbury, Thatcham, Hungerford, Theale, Purley, Tilehurst, Calcot and Burghfield Common are the largest settlements in the area.

Figure 1 - West Berkshire District



Communities and Wellbeing

Population

In 2011 the Census showed West Berkshire with a population of 154,000 with an estimation by ONS mid-year 2016 of nearly 157,000. Approximately 73% of the population is concentrated in the Kennet Valley at strategic points along the A4 (Newbury, Thatcham and Hungerford) and on the western side of Reading. The remaining area comprises smaller settlements sitting within a diverse landscape. West Berkshire has by far the most dispersed population of all the unitary authorities in Berkshire with 255 people per km² (Source: West Berkshire District Facts and Figures 2015) compared to 637 km² for Berkshire as a whole.

The average age (2014) in West Berkshire was 40.4 years, slightly higher than England at 39.7 years of age. 25% of the population is under the age of 20, with a higher prevalence of teenagers. The 20 to 34 years age group makes up 16% of the population; conversely older working age groups (35-64) makes up 42% compared to 39% nationally. 17% of the West Berkshire population is of retirement age (65 years and over) similar to the national average. (Source: West Berkshire District Facts and Figures 2015 based on ONS mid-year estimate 2014). The dependency ratio (dependants/working population) for the District is 64.4% compared to 60.7% for England confirming the already relatively higher level of need for services for older and younger people.

When compared nationally, there is a significantly lower proportion of people in West Berkshire who define themselves as coming from a black or ethnic minority (BME) background (4.5%¹ of West Berkshire residents as a whole, compared to 13% of people in England and Wales). Although this is a relatively small proportion of the total population, this amounts to some 7,000 residents in the District.

In response to the Census 2011, 164 people in West Berkshire self-identify as Gypsy or Traveller. The majority of these people live within two authorised sites; a privately owned site in Aldermaston with 39 pitches, and a site managed by the Council in Burghfield with 15 pitches. Although some Gypsies and Travellers live a nomadic lifestyle, which means they live in different places around the country, others live on the same site for extended periods of time. There is one site at Enborne for Travelling Show people providing 24 plots.

Future trends: In the future, West Berkshire will move towards a larger proportion of older people. The population of the area as a whole is projected to rise by approximately 6% to 166,353 by 2036, but the population of over 65 years is forecast to grow by 69% between 2016 and 2036². In comparison, it is predicted that the population in England will rise by 13% to 2036, but the population of those aged over 65 will rise by the lesser amount of 48%. The number of people aged 85+ is expected to rise by 148%, compared to 133% in England over the same period, which will have accentuate the significance for adult social care provision within the district. As people get older, it becomes harder to remain independent because of increasing risk of ill health, poverty and social isolation. Most people would prefer to remain living in their own homes as long as possible. In many communities facing multiple deprivation, stress, isolation and depression are all very common, and low levels of social integration and loneliness significantly increase mortality. Planning therefore has some influence for enabling good mental health and wellbeing through helping to create access to quality green space, facilitating opportunities for interaction through other community spaces and attractive living environments.

By contrast, the population aged 20 – 34 is projected to decrease by almost 0.6% in the District to 2036 whilst it is due to increase by almost 3% in England.

Health

The health of people in West Berkshire is generally better than the England average³. According to the 2011 Census, 86% of people stated that their health was 'good' - compared with 84% of people in the south east and 81% of people nationally and 1% up on 2001. West Berkshire is one of the 20% least deprived districts/unitary authorities in England, however about 10% (3,000) of children live in low income families. Life expectancy for both men and women is higher than the England average.

Life expectancy is 4.9 years lower for men and 6.6 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of West Berkshire than in the least deprived areas; a significant difference for both sexes.

The rate of alcohol-related harm hospital stays is 460*, better than the average for England. This represents 691 stays per year. The rate of self-harm hospital stays is 215*. This represents 327 stays per year. The rate of smoking related deaths is 239*, better than the average for England. This represents 197 deaths per year. Estimated levels of adult smoking and physical activity are better than

¹ Annual Population Survey, October 2014 to September 2015

² ONS, Subnational Population Projections, 2014

³ Public Health England West Berkshire Health Profile 2017

the England average. Rates of sexually transmitted infections and TB are better than average. Rates of violent crime, long term unemployment, early deaths from cardiovascular diseases and early deaths from cancer are better than average. Levels of teenage pregnancy, GCSE attainment, Breast feeding initiation and smoking at time of delivery are better than the England average.

**rate per 100,000*

Childhood obesity is one of the most serious global public health challenges of the 21st Century (World Health Organisation 2013) and its reduction is a priority in West Berkshire. Obese children and adolescents are at increased risk of health problems, and are also more likely to be obese as adults. Once established obesity is difficult to address, so prevention and early intervention are very important so that obesity does not continue into adulthood. Obesity has been rising rapidly in children in England over the past 20 years. Today nearly a third of children aged 2 to 15 are overweight or obese⁴ and younger generations are becoming obese at earlier ages and staying obese for longer. Obesity is a consequence of poor diet and lack of physical activity. A range of socioeconomic factors contribute to diet and physical activity such as the environment for example road safety, air pollution and the food environment including the quality and availability of fresh fruit and vegetables. Research indicates that increased access to unhealthier food retail outlets is associated with increased weight status in the general population, and increased obesity and unhealthy eating behaviours among children residing in low income areas.⁵ Adults are often able to make choices about the environment they live in and the diet they eat. Conversely, children often do not have the autonomy to make their own choices and may not understand the long term consequences of their behaviour. For this reason it is important that local strategies and plans promote healthier lifestyles and choices to help tackle overweight and obesity. The percentage of children in West Berkshire that are classified as overweight in Reception (aged 4-5 years) is 18.7% and at Year 6 (aged 10-11 years) it is just under 26.6%⁶. In 2015/16 59.2% of adults in West Berkshire were classified as overweight or obese ([Public Health Outcomes Framework](#)). West Berkshire has a lower percentage in both compared to the South East and England average.

There is a strong correlation between deprivation and obesity prevalence nationally. Obesity prevalence of the most deprived 10% of the population is approximately twice that of the least deprived.

Other priorities in West Berkshire include reducing alcohol-related harm, promoting positive mental health & wellbeing, increasing Community Conversations to address local issues, and maximising independence.

The map below uses DCLG's Indices of Multiple Deprivation to show relative levels of deprivation across the district in terms of selected social care factors. These include relative ages of residents, proportion of people with a limiting long term illness, proportion of people whose health is "not good" and numbers of unpaid carers providing 20 hours or more care per week.

⁴ HMG Childhood Obesity – A Plan for Action 2017

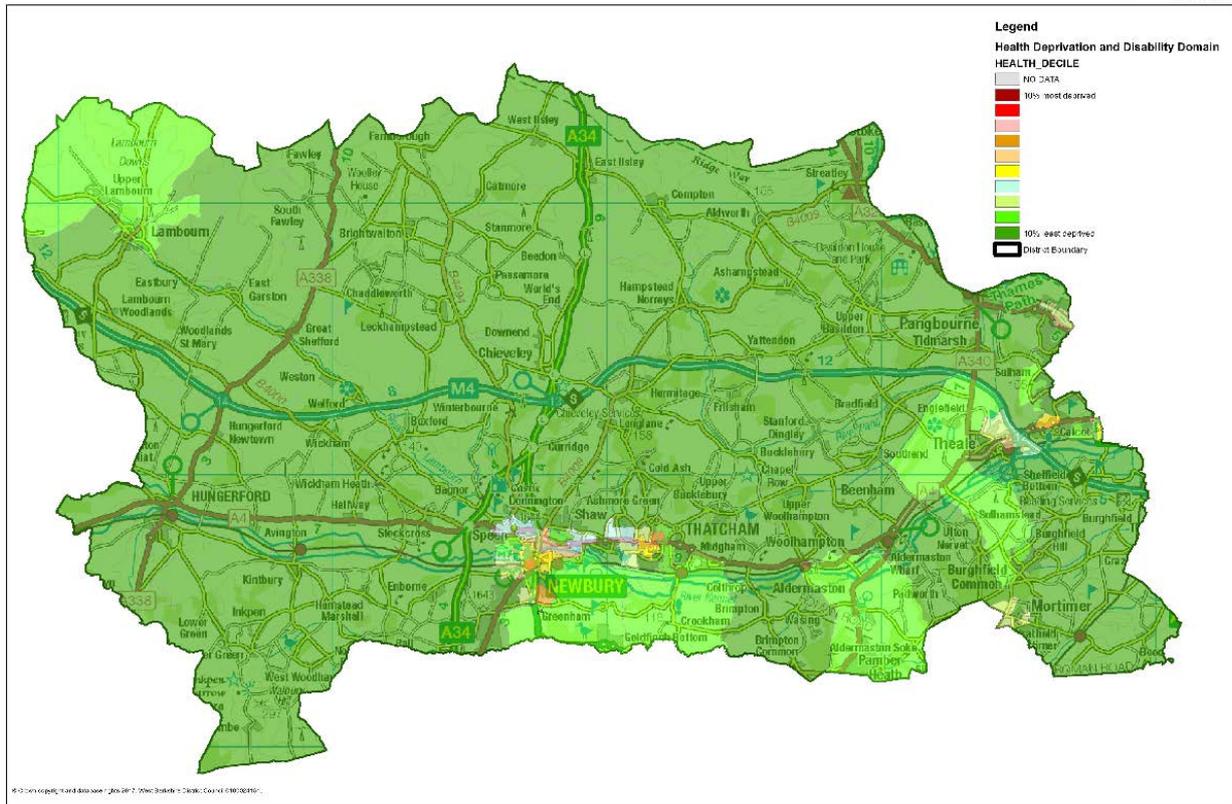
⁵ [Spatial Planning for Health](#). An evidence resource for planning and designing healthier places. Public Health England 2017

⁶ National Child Measurement Programme Local Authority Profile

Figure 2 – Indices of Multiple Deprivation: Health Deprivation and Disability.

Figure 2

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Source: DCLG Indices of Multiple Deprivation, 2015

Wards in the darker colours show the most deprived areas in the District in terms of health deprivation. We can see these are concentrated in some of the more urban areas in Newbury and Thatcham as well as the Reading fringe areas around Calcot and Purley on Thames. There are some more rural areas across the district which are ranked higher for health deprivation, including around Mortimer, Aldermaston and the Lambourn Valley. A lot of the wards on the Reading fringe do not feature significantly.

It is very difficult to provide accurate, definitive figures on the number of people with a disability in the district. There is no universal definition of disability and any information available could have been compiled in very different ways, depending on how it was collated and the definition used. However, data assembled for the Berkshire SHMA from POPPI³ cites 5588 people 65 and over suffering from dementia and 15,482 with mobility problems in 2013.

Whilst there is information on the number of people supported by the council, it is much more difficult to confidently extrapolate this out to the overall prevalence of disabilities across the district. Given this caveat, the numbers of people supported through social care services (SCS) arranged by West Berkshire Council during 2011/12 are shown in the table below, together with comparative numbers from previous years.

Number of people supported through SCS arranged by WBC during 2011/12			
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Adult with a physical/sensory disability	565	546	489
Adults with a learning disability	363	374	375
Adult with mental health problems	639	713	644
Older people	3315	3250	3096
Total	4882	4883	4604

Source: RAP P1 2011/12 (available on NASCIS)

Future trends: Nationally, we are living longer (including those with disabilities) and demand for long-term care needs is increasing: by 2026, it is expected that over 1.7 million more adults to have a need for care and support. Data from POPPI⁷ website assembled for the SHMA for those over 65 with dementia and mobility problems, show both of the illnesses/disabilities are expected to increase significantly in the future, although this would be expected given the increasing population and the expectation of longer life. In particular, there is projected to be a large rise in the number of people with dementia (up 122%) along with a 104% increase in the number with mobility problems, the highest in Berkshire bar Wokingham. Older people living alone is projected⁸ to rise from 9661 people over 65, to 15,306 living alone in 2030. There is likely to be an increased requirement for home adaptations or more specialised accommodation, such as specialist, sheltered or extra care housing and registered care provision, geared to allow as much independence as possible while supporting changing abilities

The Increase in numbers of adults with long term conditions, such as obesity, diabetes and depression are expected to carry on increasing. Overweight and obesity in adults are predicted to reach 70% by 2034⁹.

Children with complex conditions are also living longer and those with learning disabilities have lifelong health and wellbeing needs. The pressure on health, mental health and social care services is growing and there is a need for more carers, better integrated services as well as a necessity for individuals and communities to play a pivotal role in maintaining good health and wellbeing. Locally, this is reflected in West Berkshire by an increase of 18% in the number of new contacts to social care when comparing 2011/12 to 2010/11.

It is acknowledged that people want quality services that meet the full range of individual need, more local care, and the ability to take greater control over their health whilst being supported to remain as independent as possible. Changes in population and communities mean that we are less likely to be part of a close knit family providing support. For isolated rural communities this may mean additional transport links to services and the increased availability and use of broadband and other ICT technologies to provide local access to information about health, social care, housing and other Council services.

Air quality

The Council monitors¹⁰ air quality within West Berkshire. The principal source of air pollution in West Berkshire is exhaust emissions (Nitrogen dioxide NO₂) from road traffic.

Under the Environment Act 1995, Councils are required to review and assess air quality in their area. If any standards are being exceeded or are unlikely to be met by the required date that area should be designated an air quality management area and the Council must draw up and implement an action plan aimed at reducing levels of the pollutant.

National air quality objectives have been designated for priority pollutants - benzene, 1,3-butadiene, carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide, particles (PM₁₀), sulphur dioxide, ozone and PAH. These have been set on the basis of scientific and medical evidence on the health effects of each pollutant, and according to the practicability of meeting standards. In West Berkshire all the air quality objectives are generally being met except for nitrogen dioxide on some busy roads and intersections. As a result of this Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) have been declared in Central Newbury and Thatcham. The associated Air Quality Management Plans (AQMP) have been developed and are being implemented. Overall levels of nitrogen dioxide have been reducing over the last 5 years, which could

⁷ POPPI and demographic projections (linked to 2012 based SNPP) produced for Berkshire SHMA 2013

⁸ POPPI (Projecting Older People Population Information) Website 2013/14

⁹ Public Health England Applying All Our Health

¹⁰ West Berkshire 2016 Air Quality Annual Status Report

be associated with the improvement to emissions from vehicle exhaust as well as implementation of the AQMPs.

Future trends: Air quality continues to be monitored across the district, and delivery of the AQMAs continues along with air quality assessments and mitigations appropriate to some development control applications. Land-use planning has an essential role in improving local air quality. Spatial planning can provide for more sustainable transport links between the home, workplace, educational, retail and leisure facilities, and identify appropriate locations for potentially polluting industrial development. The Local Transport Plan 3 (2011-2026) has a specific policy on Air Quality and sets out a long term 'mixed' strategy to provide the District with more sustainable travel choices linked to the Air Quality Action Plan. A key challenge has been identified to explore any link between the District Health profiles and air quality.

Education

Over 29,000 school pupils in 82 schools and Pupil Referral Units are educated in West Berkshire (Source: SFR8 – 2017_LA_Tables) with nearly 90% in state funded schools within which 38% of pupils are in secondary education and 46% in primary education. West Berkshire aspires to having every school classified as good or outstanding and for every child to fulfil their potential, particularly disadvantaged children.

Attainment

In 2015, 82% of 11 year olds in West Berkshire achieved Level 4 standard in all subjects exceeding the national average of 80%. Results show continued high attainment in reading and writing scores but more improvement is needed in mathematics. The educational attainment gap for disadvantaged 11 year olds at Level 4 standards in all subjects narrowed from 29% in 2012 to nearly 19% in 2015 (15% nationally). [Source: Council Strategy 2015]

62% of 16 year olds get 5 or more GCSEs graded A* to C, well above 57% nationally for state funded schools, and is within the top 25% in national rankings. The educational attainment gap in the secondary phase for disadvantaged pupils widened slightly for those gaining 5 or more GCSEs graded A* to C from 33% in 2014 to 35% in 2015 and is more than the gap nationally 28%. It continues to be an area upon which schools and Council are focussed on improvement. [Source: Council Strategy 2015]

West Berkshire has a higher than average proportion of people with higher qualifications (HND, degree or higher); 32% of people of working age. Despite the district's relatively good performance in education, significant numbers of the working population have no qualifications, now at 17% (though on a downwards trajectory since 2001), and poor literacy and numeracy skills. This has important social implications since there are significant links between basic numeracy / literacy and levels of crime and health. Low levels of skills also potentially acts as a break on the economy with local employers unable to find people with the necessary skills from the local labour pool. Skills and labour gaps exist in certain key areas, particularly in the public sector, the construction industry and tourism¹¹.

Numbers and provision

In line with district wide birth data, numbers of pupils are dropping in rural areas but less so in our urban areas. These dropping numbers are countered by the changes in Early Years provision. All children aged 3 & 4 (3-5) are entitled to 15 hours of funded (free) early years provision a week, for (a set numbers of) 38 weeks per year. Children of this age whose working parents are eligible, which the majority are in West Berkshire, are also entitled to a further 15 hours. Children aged 2, whose parents are on certain benefits, are also entitled to 15 hours of provision, (but in more limited circumstances).

¹¹ West Berkshire District Profile 2015, West Berkshire Council

There is a variety of provision across the district but this tends to be more limited in rural areas. Parental choice is a significant factor in suitability and availability of provision. Unlike school places, which tend to serve a catchment area, settings can draw from a wide area. Parents often choose provision that is suitable for reasons other than their home address, proximity to work or relatives can be beneficial. In general there are sufficient places across the district, for current demand, however there are areas where demand exceeds places.

Nationally the birth rate has increased over the last decade, from a relatively depressed period in the 1990's. The district has seen the impact of the increase in birth rate since 2011, slightly behind the national picture. Primary reception numbers have risen from 1696 in October 2010 to 1937 in October 2015. The numbers remain high, with 1937 on roll in October 2016 and 1895 in October 2017.

Nationally birth rates are settling, and some LAs have reported numbers are dropping. However, LAs in the south-east have reported that the decline has not been as significant as expected and that new housing/inward migration have stabilised numbers. Across the district we are tending to see rural areas dropping back, but sustained numbers in our more urban areas. This is very localised, however, with Newbury remaining buoyant and Thatcham less so.

The growth in primary has been steady and continuous, whilst secondary numbers have remained relatively static.

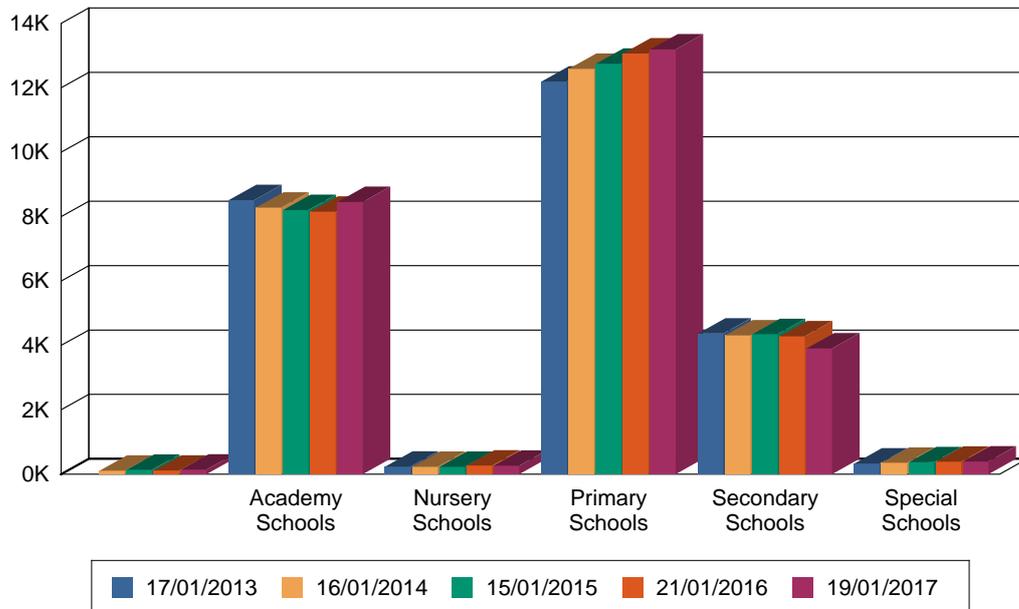


Table 1 - Five Year Analysis document, Education

Growth in primary has been seen mainly in the urban areas of the district and in Newbury in particular. Newbury is likely to continue to be full at Reception until September 2019. From this point numbers will start to slowly drop across the next 5 years. This is likely to be off-set by the amount of new housing coming forward in Newbury, which is likely to create localised demand up to and in excess of our existing capacity.

In addition to filling up our existing schools and sites, we have added 2 additional forms of entry in Newbury and will be opening a further 1 form of entry (FE) at High Wood Copse in 2019. There are also five temporary bulge classes, providing a further 135 places in Newbury primary schools. In Thatcham, 1 FE has been added as well as a bulge class of 10 places.

Of the population of West Berkshire schools, 1% require specialist educational provision. This provision is organised across the district rather than in local areas due to the complexity and variety of these needs. As the school population rises, so too does the demand for specialist provision. The

profile is likely to follow the growth we have seen in other phases of education, with growth moving through primary to secondary.

Future trends: With the rollout of the extended funded entitlement which started in September 2017, it is anticipated that the demand for quality childcare places will increase. The Council will be working with all providers, including schools, to increase the number of places in the area. The challenge includes mapping and understanding supply and demand at ward level. The picture of demand is complex, and is not necessarily linked to where families live.

The higher primary numbers will start to affect secondary schools from September 2019. It is expected that growth will be mainly focussed around Newbury and Thatcham, although numbers in the East of the district will also increase. The Council anticipate that the district will need to add additional forms of entry over the next seven years. Growth is particularly focussed in north Newbury and Thatcham, however numbers will increase across the whole district. As growth moves out of the primary sector, decreasing numbers will have an impact. As previously stated this will be very localised, and new housing will likely offset this decrease. The rural areas are likely to be more affected than the urban areas, where numbers are expected to be more stable. This is coupled with changes to school funding. Schools that have smaller class sizes will be most affected by these changes and viability is likely to be a risk. This could affect the availability of local school places to mitigate the impact of development in rural communities.

Secondary numbers are likely to remain high in the medium term, particularly in Newbury and Thatcham. As this area is also the focus of new housing growth in the district, sufficiency of places is likely to remain an issue. New housing growth is therefore likely to need to deliver additional infrastructure.

As with mainstream provision, specialist places will need to keep pace with demand and the change from primary to secondary phase. Specialist provision will also need to be suitable for changing needs.

In response to improving the basic skills of adults, the Council is continuing to steer provision to certain groups of the population, achieved through a combination of adult funding arrangements, fee concessions for students aged 60+, encouragement, funding and professional support for the development of provision targeted at addressing learning needs of prioritised groups and curriculum planning.

Housing

According to the 2011 Census, 70% of all housing in West Berkshire is owner-occupied - compared to 64% nationally. A very small proportion (1%) is being purchased under a shared ownership scheme whilst the remainder of households are in rented accommodation. About half of all rented accommodation is rented from a Registered Social Landlord (i.e. a housing association).

The number of households in the District in 2014 was 64,000¹² (72,000 projected for 2036)). In 1991 the number stood at 52,000, representing a 23% increase over the 23 years. This is comparable to neighbouring Berkshire authorities but higher than England which increased by only 18% over the same period.

The average size of households in West Berkshire was 2.40 people in 2014. This is a bit below the average in Berkshire of 2.48 although is slightly higher than the national average of 2.35. Both nationally and within the district, overall household size has been declining since the 1950s and is projected to continue down as far as 2039. This is due to more single person households and an increase in household formation rate eg higher rate of separation and divorce. An easily overlooked consequence of this relatively rapid decline is, of course, that more dwellings are needed to accommodate the same population.

A significant issue in West Berkshire is the cost of accommodation. A combination of deteriorating affordability of market homes, restricted access to mortgage products and a lack of social housing

¹² 2014-based household projections to 2039 for England

supply over the 2001-11 decade has played a large part in fewer households being able to buy a home and also increased pressures on the existing affordable housing stock. This has also contributed in the strong growth in the private rented sector as households are being forced to rent longer or cannot secure alternative accommodation¹³. House prices have risen by 171% between 2000 and 2017 and West Berkshire remains one of the more expensive places to buy a house outside London. Prices fell as a result of the economic downturn, but they have made a stronger recovery along with the rest of the south east, than the national average. In January 2017 the average house price in West Berkshire was £340,550; £108,707 more than the national average. See Table 1 below. A single income household would need to earn considerably above the average wage to receive a 90% mortgage on an average flat, assuming sufficient savings for a deposit. The Berkshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA), 2016 confirms that in 2013, the price-earnings ratio remain high post-recession, particularly with regard to affordability at entry level at over 9 times lower quartile earnings and even over 8 times median earnings. This highlights the increasing need for affordable housing for local people and key workers within the district, especially amongst younger households. Based on evidence in the SHMA, the focus of new market housing provision should be on two and three bedroom properties, with a higher percentage of affordable provision for one and two bedroom properties.

Table 1 below shows the average annual house prices (all tenures) 2000-2017 (Source: Land Registry)

January	Average House Price (£)		
	West Berkshire	South East	England
2000	125,731	107,729	75219
2001	145,568	121,077	84245
2002	160,884	137,742	96215
2003	185,607	169,516	121610
2004	194,114	181,152	139719
2005	208,678	194,518	158572
2006	208,589	196,165	166544
2007	226,503	212,640	181824
2008	243,352	227,610	191750
2009	215,479	190,898	162673
2010	216,919	206,868	174458
2011	226,876	206,051	174442
2012	221,685	206,037	174179
2013	233,906	211,054	176816
2014	268099	240961	188265
2015	294768	264848	202856
2016	329344	293678	220361
2017	340550	313384	231843

¹³ Berkshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment, February 2016

From the 2011 Census, Older Person Households account for 19.7% of all households which along with Wokingham is the highest in the Western Berkshire Housing Market Area but slightly lower than the South East and England. 76.9% is owner occupied with 17.6% in social rented accommodation, similar to other local authorities in the SHMA bar Wokingham which has 85.9% owner occupation. The current supply of specialist housing for older people is 179 for every 1000 people over 75 years of age, higher than all other the other local authorities in the Berkshire SHMA (Source: Housing Learning and Improvement Network) but this needs to be seen in the context of an overall increase in ageing population. The proportion of people with long term health problem or disability (LTHPD) is closely related to the numbers of older people. In West Berkshire the some 20% of households contain someone with a LTHPD, similar to other authorities in the SHMA but lower than the regional and national figures.

Future trends: The past trend of increasing household formation and decreasing household size is predicted to continue until 2036 and beyond. Household growth to a figure of 72,000, being 12.5% up on 2014¹⁴ but conversely and markedly national increases are higher at 21% over the same period and similarly all neighbouring Berkshire authorities are over 20%. Average household size in 2039 is projected to be 2.25 compared to 2.21 nationally and a reduction from 2.45 in 2014. This trend is likely to perpetuate the upward pressure on house prices. The SHMA concludes the West Berkshire needs to increase all house building to 665 homes per year up to 2036 with the number of affordable homes increasing to 189 per year over the period. The average size of new housing overall is going to reduce affecting the relative proportion of homes needed to be built towards one and two bedroom properties.

As it stands a single income household would need to earn considerably above the average wage to receive a 90% mortgage on an average flat, which would therefore be out of reach of many wage earners without some form of assistance. This has a major impact on the ability to find and retain younger staff in general and key workers in particular such as care workers in the community where service need is projected to grow.

A general shortage of affordable housing is a particular problem, especially in rural areas which are popular and attractive places to live. Demand for new houses is high with local people competing with new residents such as commuters, people with second homes and the retired. Equally, the rising number of the older persons will increase demand for market and affordable housing including specialist housing with sheltered or suitable care in the home and for registered care housing which the SHMA projects to roughly double by the year 2036, to 2132 dwellings and 599 bed spaces respectively. The SHMA has estimated that the number of people with long term health problem or disability will increase 51% between 2013 and 2036. Together, this can create unbalanced communities, drive up house prices and deny local people the chance of securing a suitable home of their own.

The SHMA was commissioned to provide an assessment of the future needs for both market and affordable housing, together with the housing needs of different groups within the population. The Local Plan Review will need to meet the variety of assessed need within the housing market area over the next 20 years.

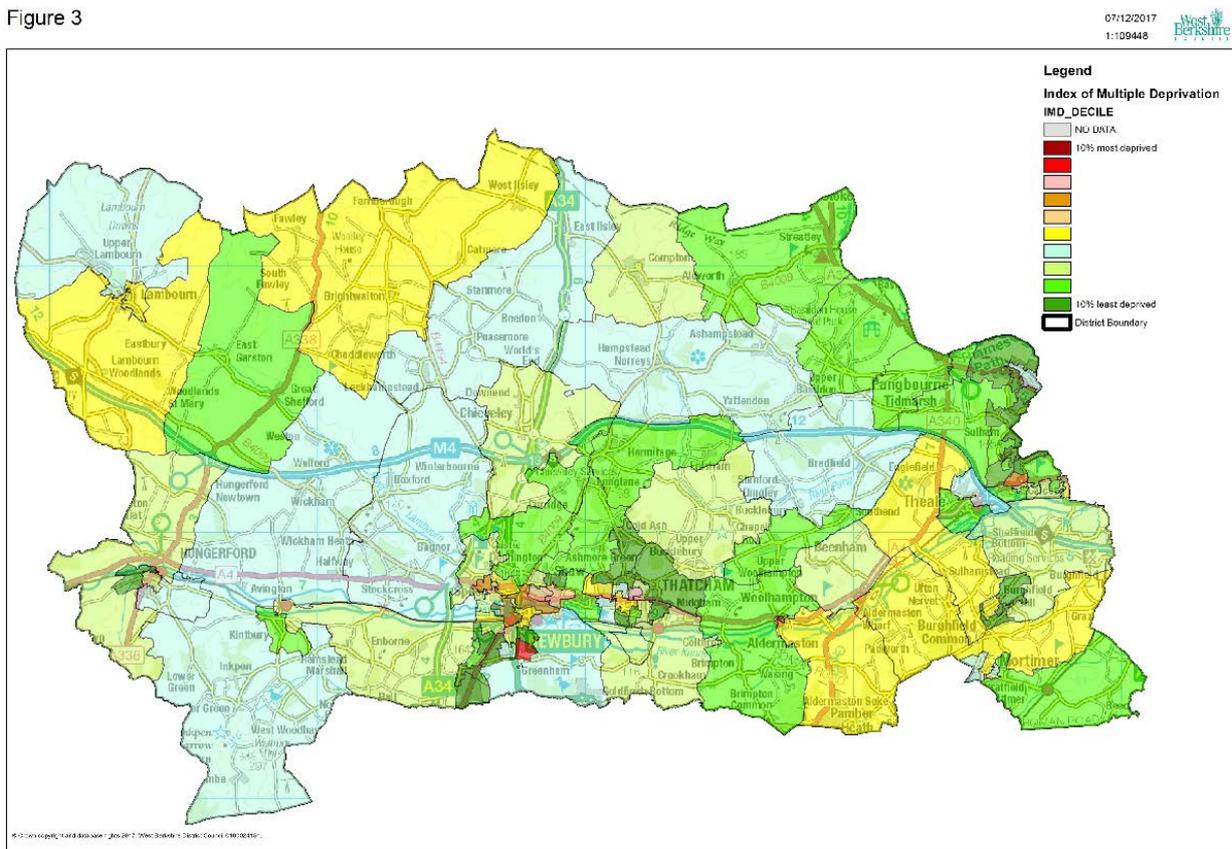
Deprivation

Overall, the district of West Berkshire ranks 291 out of 326 (2015) local authority areas, making it the 35th least deprived district in England. West Berkshire has a total of 97 Super Output Areas (SOAs) and the ten most deprived are shown in table 2 below. The table also shows the overall ranking out of all SOAs in the country. None of the West Berkshire SOAs fall within the top 10% most deprived in the country. The England ranking is 1 to 32,844 with 1 being the most deprived and 32,844 being the least deprived.

¹⁴ 2014-based household projections to 2039 for England

Figure 3 – Index of Multiple Deprivation

Figure 3



Source: DCLG Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2015

Table 2 – Top ten most deprived SOAs in West Berkshire¹⁵ (2015)

Rank in West Berkshire	SOA	Ward that SOA is in	Rank of IMD in England
1	E01016295	Greenham	6258
2	E01016336	Thatcham North	7708
3	E01016673	Calcot	9971
4	E01016347	Speen	11894
5	E01016346	Victoria	12435
6	E01016325	Victoria (east)	12615
7	E01016280	Calcot	14579
8	E01016279	Clay Hill	14698
9	E01016312	Clay Hill	14939
10	E01016340	Lambourn Valley	16528

Greenham and Thatcham North are in the ninth and eighth decile of deprivation respectively. In terms of 'Barriers to Housing and Services' (one of the IMD indices), a large proportion of the District is classified as being deprived; mainly due to the rurality of the area. Communities that are highlighted as being most deprived will have limited access to services and affordable housing. The generally high affluence of the region and of West Berkshire masks pockets of deprivation and exclusion. In particular, within the Newbury area, some more urban areas near the Reading fringe, areas in Thatcham and in the rural west of the district around Hungerford and Lambourn. There are communities with individuals and families who experience particular difficulties as a consequence of being poor within a generally wealthy region.

¹⁵ Indices of Deprivation 2015, DCLG

Future trends: The main deprivation issue facing the area is that of barriers to housing and services. The need for affordable housing is likely to increase over the coming years. Sufficient and affordable housing in rural areas is also likely to remain a major concern, often resulting in young adults unable to buy or rent accommodation locally. The correlation between deprivation and poor health and wellbeing is also an issue.

Crime and Community Safety

Overall, West Berkshire is a safe place to live and the 'all crime' rates are lower than average for comparable areas and within the Thames Valley force area for the year ending March 2017 and over the last 3 years. Thames Valley Police crime data¹⁶ for West Berkshire derived from the ONS, has showed a downward trend in all crime from 2009/10 though this has levelled out and then risen (7.8%) over the years March 2014 – March 2017 but still remains low compared with ten years ago.

A complex and varied picture underlies the All Crime rate. A reduction of burglaries in the same period contrasts to an increase in robbery of personal and business property and theft from vehicles and person. The level of crime across West Berkshire is unequal but measureable. The key inequalities are within areas of deprivation, rural or urban, and continue to be higher in the more urban densely populated areas of Newbury, Thatcham and bordering Reading. Key inequalities exist in some of the rural areas of the district which are ranked higher in terms of crime; these include Theale, Bucklebury, the Leckhampstead and Peasemore area, Speen, the Lambourn Valley and Burghfield. Crime in the district occurs mostly in the evenings and especially overnight.

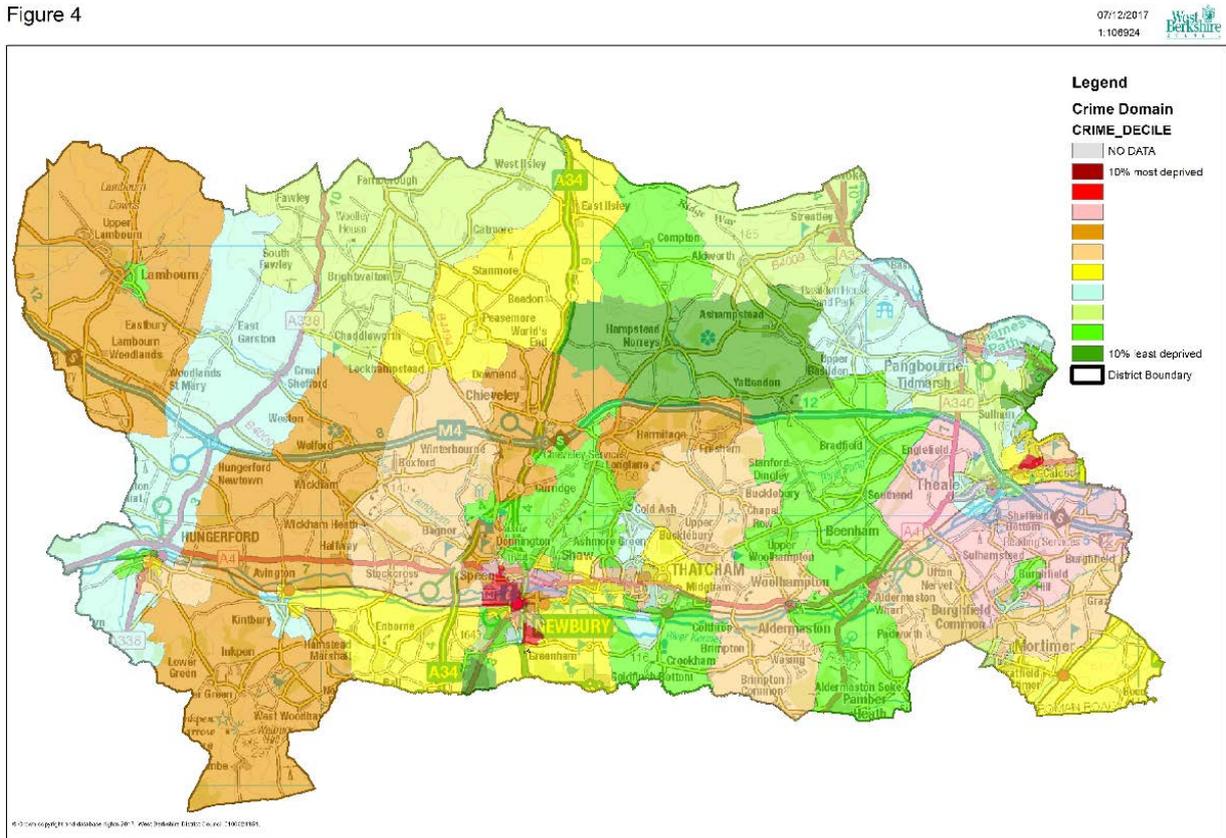
Most offenders are young and between the ages of 14 and 24, however younger people (aged 16 to 50) make up the majority of victims, with the risk of experiencing crime decreasing as age increased.

The map below shows crime across the district according to DCLG's Indices of Multiple Deprivation. This measures the incidence of crime for the four major crime themes (burglary, theft, criminal damage and violence) and represents the occurrence of personal and material victimisation.

Figure 4 – Indices of Multiple Deprivation data showing crime and disorder.

¹⁶ Thames Valley Crime Recording Systems

Figure 4



Source: DCLG, Indices of Multiple Deprivation, 2015

One of the main areas for offending is Newbury town centre with the peak time for offending being between 9 pm and midnight on a Friday and 9 pm – 3 am on a Saturday and Sunday, which shows a direct link to the night time economy. The 3 motorway service areas in West Berkshire are hotspots for thefts from family vehicles and lorry loads. Both Membury and Moto Service Stations are also significant hotspots for making off without payment/bilking offences.

The results of the West Berkshire Council Community Safety survey 2008 showed that the majority of people, 87%, feel safe outside during the day in their local area. This changes after dark where almost a third of residents did not feel safe. The most commonly perceived anti-social behaviour problems in West Berkshire are speeding vehicles, teenagers hanging around and inconsiderate parking. Despite a relatively low crime rate in the district, perceptions and fear of crime does not appear to diverge significantly from the national picture. The 2007/8 West Berkshire Council Annual Satisfaction Survey shows crime is of universal concern irrespective of where people live. No more recent information is available.

Future trends: Although the level of crime is of importance to the residents of the area, it is antisocial behaviour that is of more concern as this has a direct effect on the quality of life and general appearance of the area. A large number of the complaints received relate to anti-social behaviour attributed to young people and in some cases this is more to do with lack of tolerance by older residents. However, since the district is in line to see an increase in the older population, this is likely to lead to less tolerance towards the behaviour of young people.

Community sport and leisure facilities

The National Planning Policy Framework¹⁷ (NPPF) is clear about the role that sport and leisure activities can play in delivering sustainable communities by promoting health and well being and improving people's quality of life.

West Berkshire Council has 7 leisure centres at Cotswold (Tilehurst), Hungerford, Lambourn, Willink (Burghfield Common), Downland (Compton), Kennet (Thatcham) and Northcroft (Newbury) and provides sports pitches in 4 locations: Henwick Worthy, Thatcham; Holybrook Linear Park, Calcot; Northcroft Park, Newbury and Moorside Centre, Thatcham. The District has clubs accredited under the Sport England Clubmark or the National Governing Bodies equivalent programme. In addition, sports clubs are registered with the County Sports Partnership for Berkshire.

The West Berkshire Open Space and Leisure Assessment of Need 2005 concluded the provision of sports halls and swimming pools exceeds demand based on the demand and supply modelling carried out as part of the study. The assessment is dated now and does not give indication of likely future condition of recreational facilities nor future demands. A new Playing Pitch Strategy has been commissioned.

However, Sport England's Active People Survey gives some indication of existing sport and activity participation in West Berkshire. Those over 16 participating in sport at moderate intensity for 30 minutes once a week increased from 39.7% in 2005/6 to 41.2% in 2013/14 and at three times a week from 25.9% to 28.1% over the same period. The number of adults (16+) who have not participated in any sport in the last 28 days has decreased from 48.6% to 43.2%.

Future trends: The marginally improving trend in participation is similar or slightly better than neighbouring authorities and nationally. However, the latent demand of adults who would like to do more sport over the next 12 months in West Berkshire has increased from 51.6% to 61.3% which is higher than most neighbouring authorities and nationally, and when combined with generally low rates of participation, it does indicate the need to ensure an adequate supply of sport and leisure facilities for the future.

Landscape, Townscape and Cultural Heritage

Landscape

West Berkshire has a varied natural landscape. The District can be divided into five national Countryside Character Areas based on differing but distinct landscape character and underlying geological diversity. These are Thames Basin Heaths (in the south), Hampshire Downs, Berkshire and Marlborough Downs (in the north), Chilterns (in the north-east) and Thames Valley (in the south-east)¹⁸.

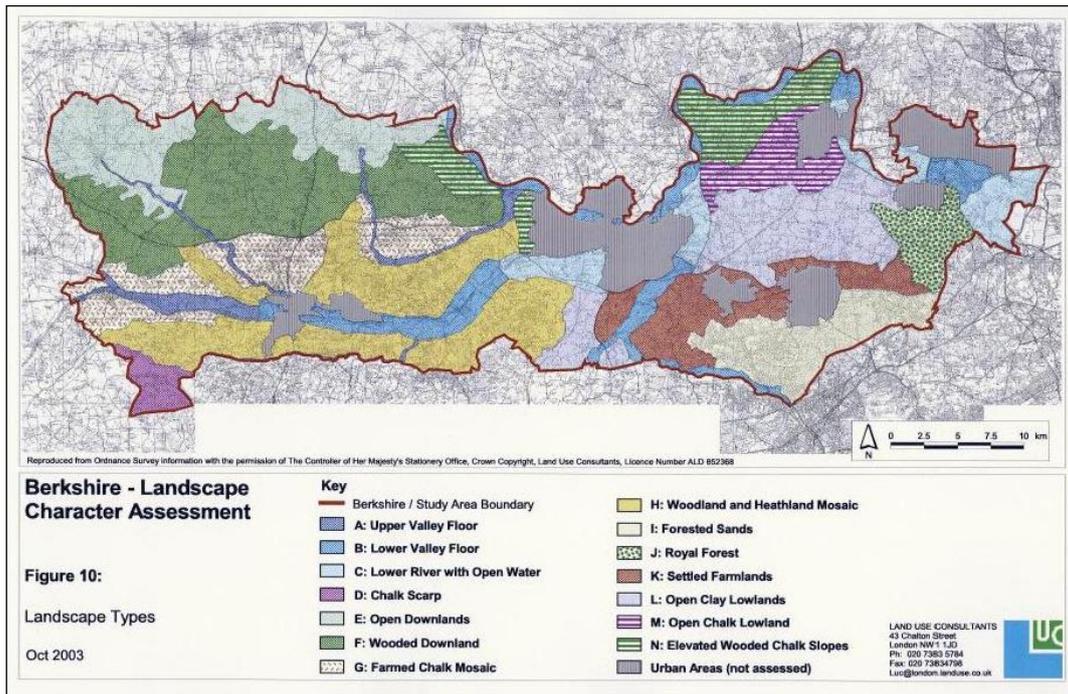
The Berkshire Landscape Character Assessment¹⁹ (2003) identifies 14 landscape types which are subdivided into potential character areas.

¹⁷ NPPF, paragraph 70 and 73

¹⁸ The Character of England Landscape, Wildlife and Cultural Features Map, Natural England, 2005

¹⁹ Berkshire Landscape Character Assessment, Joint Strategic Planning Unit, 2003.

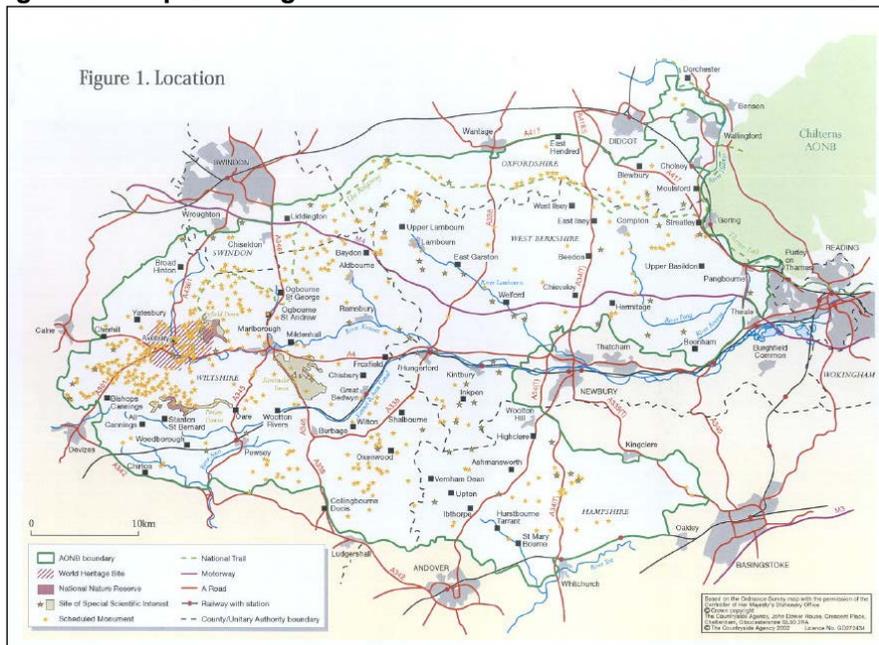
Figure 5 – Berkshire Landscape Character Assessment



Source: Berkshire Landscape Character Assessment, 2003

74% of West Berkshire lies within the **North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty** which is a landscape of national importance. Within the AONB the diversity and mix of landscapes include²⁰: Chalk Upland; Chalk Dipslopes and Lowland and Chalk with Tertiary or Gravel Deposits; Western Wooded Chalkland; Lambourn Valley; Pang Valley; Kennet Valley; Thames Valley; Wooded Lowland Farming; Gravel Plateau Woodlands with Pastures and Heaths; Plateau-edge Transitional Matrix; London Clay with Gravel Ridges; Small scale Wooded Valley Farmland; Large scale Valley Farmland; Parkland.

Figure 6 – Map showing the location of the North Wessex Downs AONB



Source: North Wessex Downs AONB

²⁰ North Wessex Downs AONB Integrated Landscape Character Assessment, 2002

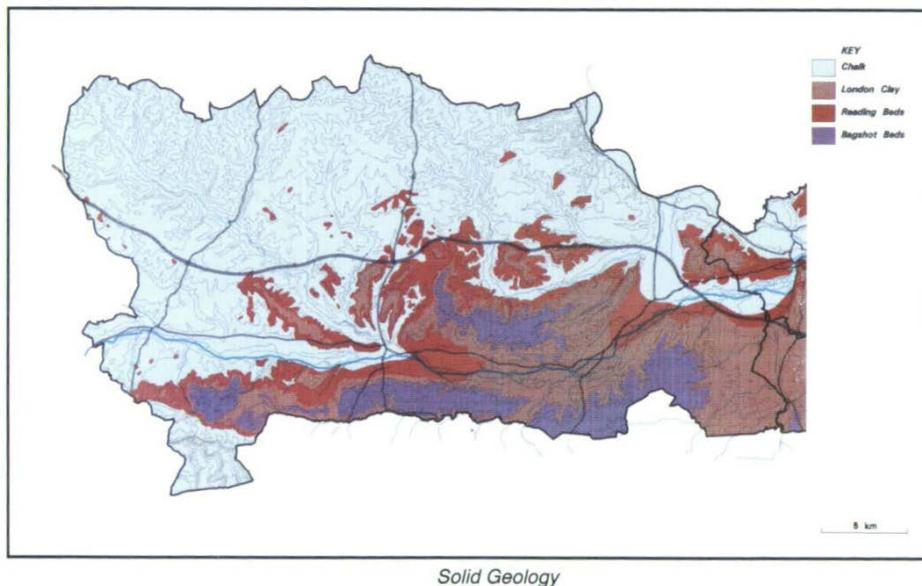
Future trends: Development is one of the most powerful forces for change to the landscape character of the District. The need to accommodate new housing and economic development along with its associated infrastructure is a perpetual challenge, particularly in the North Wessex Downs AONB. In an area such as West Berkshire there will inevitably be a demand for housing in rural areas which can be a very visible force for change. Recognising differences in landscape character at a range of scales is essential to ensure that land management changes and decisions about new development proposals take every practical opportunity to respect and enhance the sense of place of different areas. The promotion of good design and sense of place can help ensure that change is positive and does not result in an alteration of settlement character and identity due to the gradual erosion of local distinctiveness as traditional features are replaced with standard building materials and design.

Geology

The main elements of West Berkshire's underlying geology are Chalk, London Clay, Reading and Bagshot Beds. In many areas alluvial deposits and plateau gravels are superimposed upon this geology. Chalk underlays much of the area covered by the AONB, while the Bagshot Beds are found to the south of the District stretching from the west to the east. The London Clay and Reading Beds are located in areas between the Chalk and the Bagshot Beds.

Rushall Farm Pit is currently the only Regionally Important Geological/ Geomorphological Site (RIGS) in West Berkshire, although seven of the District's SSSIs have been identified for their geological value.

Figure 7 – Solid geology of West Berkshire.



Source: Newbury District Wide Landscape Assessment, Landscape Design Associates, 1993

Historic environment

The West Berkshire Historic Environment Record (HER) is a dynamic information service which acts as an index to all known physical remains of past human activity in the district²¹. The HER contains details of all West Berkshire's nationally and locally designated sites as well as buildings, structures, places and findspots that are not designated but still tell the story of our past. In 2018 there are over

²¹ <http://info.westberks.gov.uk/her>

11,000 such monuments on the HER. It is a public record which is used to understand and manage the historic environment resource of West Berkshire.

Historic England maintains the list²² of the area's nationally protected sites:

Listed Buildings: The District has nearly 1900 listed buildings, 42 of which are listed at Grade I, 109 at Grade II*, and the rest at Grade II. Examples include the Norman church of Avington, Elizabethan Shaw House, the Georgian mansion of Basildon Park, many timber-framed agricultural barns, Mortimer Station, and the 1950s St Johns Church in Newbury.

Scheduled Monuments: 90 sites are identified as Scheduled Monuments across West Berkshire. These include a wide range of types and chronological periods, including the Neolithic Long Barrow at Combe Gibbet, the many barrows of the Lambourn Seven Barrows Bronze Age cemetery, Iron Age hillforts such as Grimsbury Castle, the medieval site of Donnington Castle with its Civil War earthworks and the Cold War Cruise Missile storage facilities (GAMA Site) at Greenham Common.

Registered Parks and Gardens: There are 12 Registered Parks and Gardens that lie completely within West Berkshire. Examples include Folly Farm in Sulhamstead, Aldermaston Court and Purley Hall.

Registered Battlefields: There is one Registered Battlefield, the site of the First Battle of Newbury 1643.

West Berkshire Council is responsible for further designations:

Conservation Areas: There are currently 53 Conservation Areas²³, generally within historic cores of towns and villages but also along the Kennet and Avon Canal east and west of Newbury. Two Conservation Area Appraisals have been completed. None have Management Plans although two are in preparation at Shaw House and Church Conservation Area.

Locally Listed Assets: West Berkshire Council maintains a local list²⁴ of heritage assets, considered to have special local architectural, archaeological or historic interest. Since the list was established in 2012, there have been 24 buildings and structures adopted, including pubs, almshouses and milestones.

The 2017 Historic England Heritage at Risk Register includes four Listed Buildings, four Scheduled Monuments and three Registered Parks and Gardens at risk in West Berkshire. These are listed in the table below:

Table 3 - Heritage at Risk in West Berkshire²⁵

Site / Building at risk	Designation	Vulnerability
Chapel of St Leonard, East of Manor Farmhouse, Brimpton Road, Brimpton	Scheduled Monument and Listed Building grade II*	Vacant building
Pair of gate piers 204 meters east of entrance to Home Farm, Park Lane, Hampstead Marshall	Listed Building grade I, RPG grade II	Eroding of brick work – slow decay, no solution agreed
Three pairs of gate piers and walls around gardens and terrace at Home Far, Park Lane Hampstead Marshall	Listed Building grade I, RPG grade II	Weed growth and erosion – slow decay, no solution agreed
East Ilsley Down round barrows, East Ilsley	Scheduled Monument	Arable ploughing
Long barrow on Sheeo Down, 1km north of East Ilsley	Scheduled Monument	Arable ploughing
Pair of gate piers and approx 2m of wall to east and west of piers on edge of	Listed Building grade II*	Slow decay, no solution agreed

²² <https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/>

²³ <http://info.westberks.gov.uk/conservationareas>

²⁴ <http://info.westberks.gov.uk/localist>

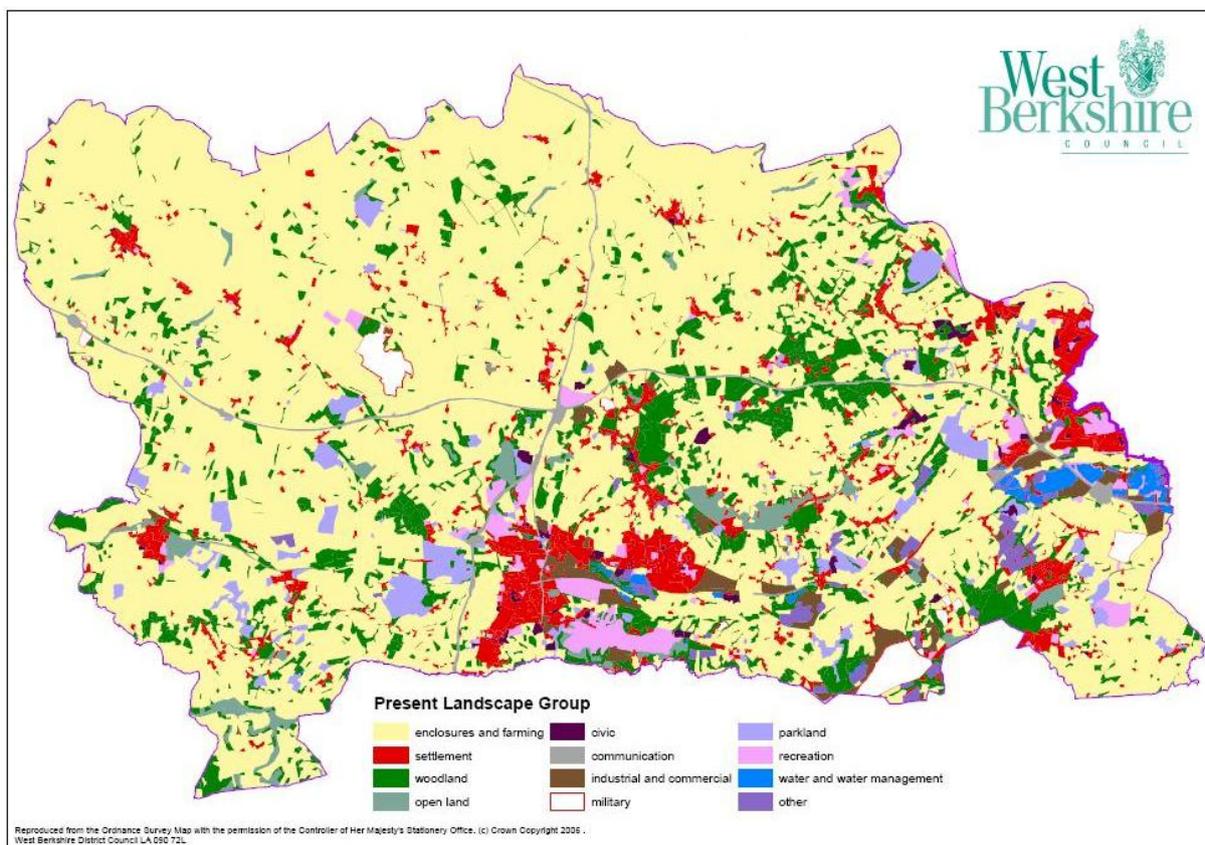
²⁵ <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/heritage-at-risk/search-register/>

Site / Building at risk	Designation	Vulnerability
park Lane 162m west of entrance to churchyard, Park lane, Hamstead Marshall		
Two bowl barrows 500m NE of Stancombe Farm, Lambourn	Scheduled Monument	Animal burrowing - extensive
Membury Camp, Lambourn	Scheduled Monument	Woodland management
Aldermaston Court, Aldermaston	Registered park and garden grade II, 12 LBs, part in CA	Perceived lack of beneficial use and resources
Sandleford Priory, Greenham	Registered Park and Garden grade II, 2 LBs	Development
Shaw House, Newbury	Registered park and garden grade II, 6LBs, 2 CAs	Additional funding required to restore all the garden areas

Surveys of Grade II listed secular buildings have not been done nor to establish if any Conservation Areas are risk

Mapping of current and past land use was undertaken between 2004-2007 for all of West Berkshire as well as for the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty through the Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) Project.

Figure 8 – Present land use according to the Historic Landscape Characterisation Study for West Berkshire²⁶.

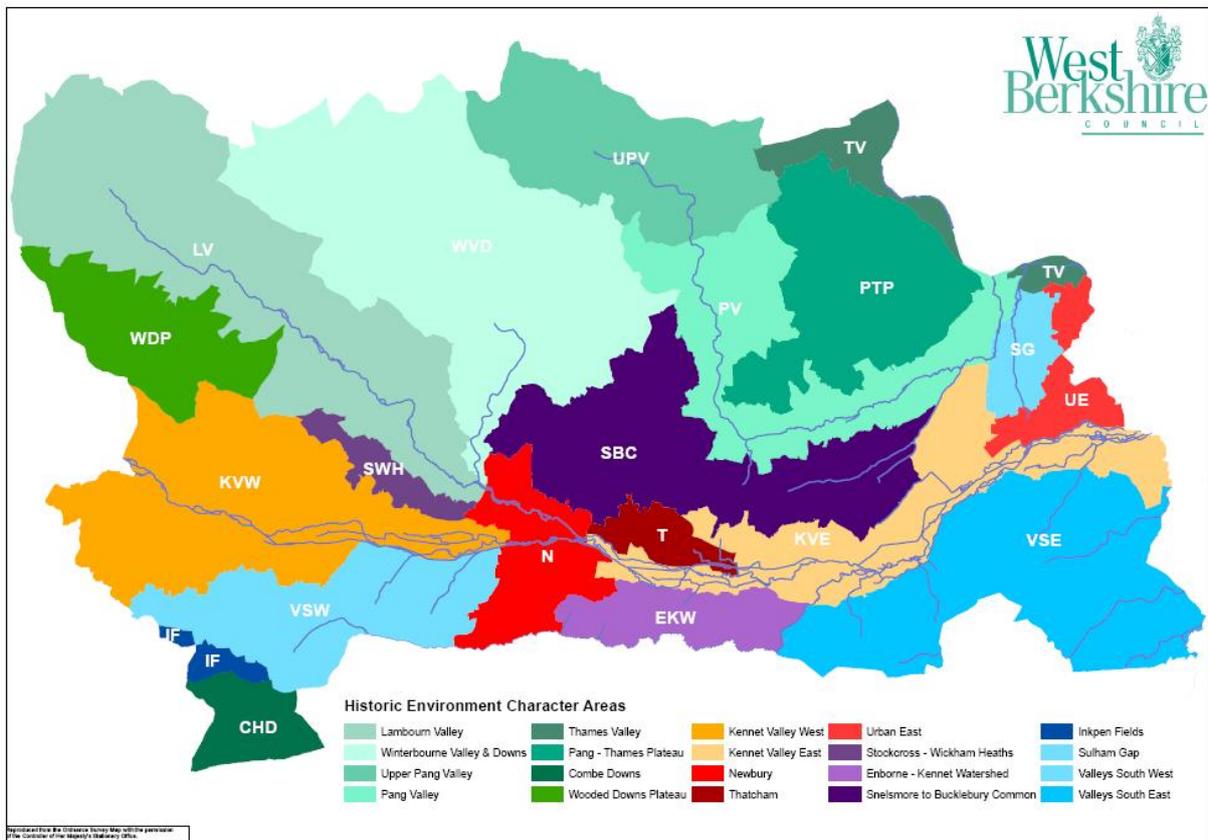


Building on the HLC work, the **Historic Environment Character Zoning (HECZ)** project for West Berkshire was then undertaken in order to provide an integrated spatial account of the historic

²⁶ Historic Landscape Characterisation Project, West Berkshire Council, 2007

environment resource in the district. It involved the mapping and analysis of a range of datasets including the Historic Environment Record (HER), Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC), buildings, settlement form and a range of geographic data (geology, landform, drainage, etc). The result of this process was the classification and division of the district according to the dominant historic processes that have influenced and shaped our current landscape. This gives a spatial recognition of the variety of historic landscapes and archaeological features that either inform or survive within different areas across the district. The dominant characteristics, as recognised through the HLC project, are grouped up to form Historic Environment Character Areas (HECAs). These are then further subdivided, using data from the HER, into Historic Environment Character Zones (HECZs). For each HECA and nested HECZ a written description has been prepared that summarises the main influences and features. Using the information obtained through the project each HECZ also has a Historic Environment Action Plan (HEAP), highlighting the major threats or opportunities to the historic environment and giving priorities for future research activity.

Figure 9 – Historic Landscape Character Areas for West Berkshire²⁷.



Future trends: Development is again one of the most powerful forces for change to the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment of the District and so having an understanding of the way in which the historic environment has influenced settlement patterns and the sense of place of particular areas is important in accommodating future development. In the future, successful conservation and enhancement will only be achieved through partnership and cooperation. Promoting a multi agency approach to the management of the historic environment will also increase public participation, understanding and enjoyment.

²⁷ Historic Environment Character Zoning Project, West Berkshire Council, 2007

Common land

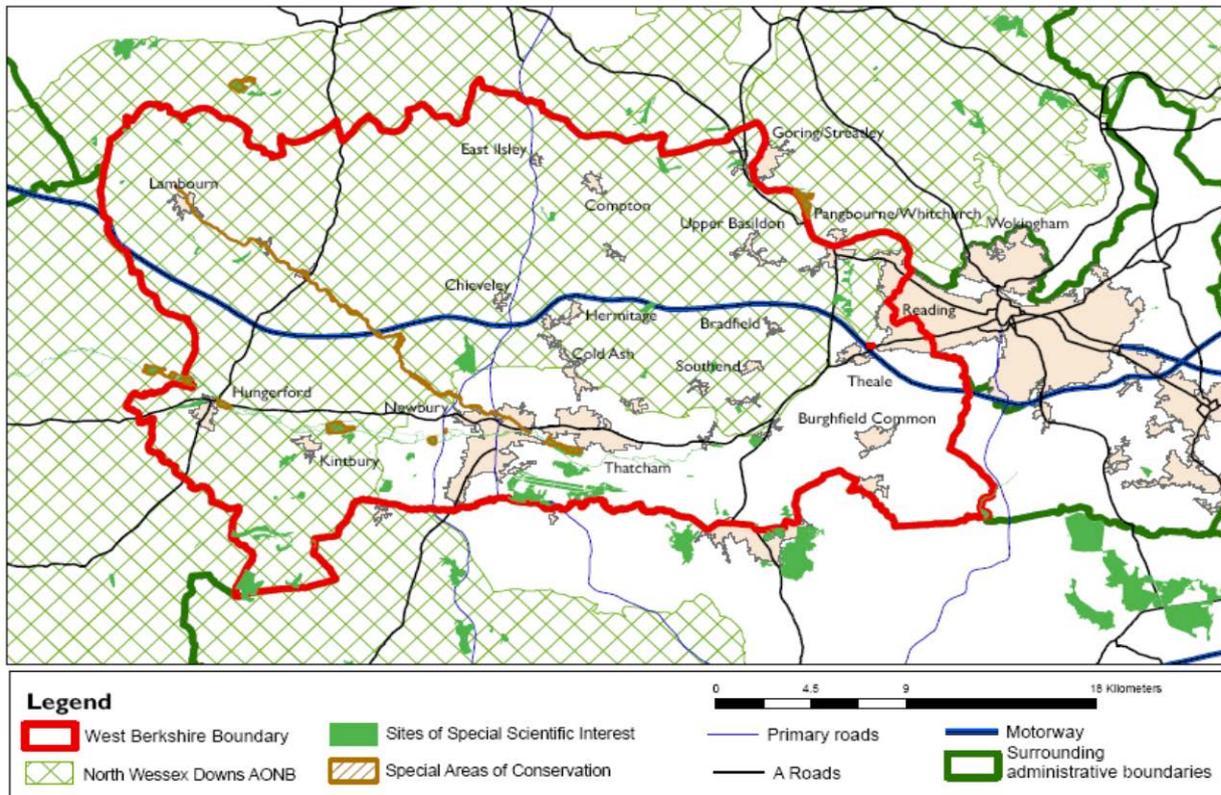
West Berkshire has 54 pieces of land registered as commons throughout the area including town commons still under traditional grazing, such as Hungerford Common and Greenham Common. Land registered as town or village green number 31 across the district. Many are under pressure from recreational use.

Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure

Biodiversity

West Berkshire has many different natural habitats, 21 of which are identified as Priority Habitats for conservation (c.8400 ha) ²⁸. The District has a number of designated sites of international, national, regional and local conservation importance.

Figure 10: Location of SSSIs and SACs in relation to West Berkshire and the North Wessex downs AONB.



Special Areas of Conservation (SAC): Three SACs (which are all sensitive to surface and groundwater quality and quantity) in West Berkshire are of international importance and cover six of the District’s Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). See below.

²⁸ Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC), 2017

Table 4 – West Berkshire SACs

Area	Quality and importance	Vulnerability
River Lambourn	One of the best chalk streams in the UK and a priority Biodiversity Action Plan habitat that includes Ramunculion Fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion (Aquatic Vegetation) and the European Bullhead. The river is a site that supports significant presence of the Brook Lamprey.	Area of high water quality and habitat quality. Localised higher water nutrient levels (in particular phosphorous concentrations) and siltation associated with sewage treatment works.
Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain	One of the UK's more extensive known populations of Desmoulin's Whorl snail	Require open, unshaded conditions, with an adequate supply of high quality water and water levels. Majority of population are not considered to be under threat.
Kennet Valley Alderwoods	Alluvial Forests of Ash and Alder	Dependent on maintenance of constantly high ground water levels. The site is subject to low levels of intervention and natural processes are allowed to prevail, therefore, there are no known threats to groundwater levels.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI): West Berkshire currently has 50 SSSIs (1,406.31 ha²⁹) which are of national importance for the species of animal or plantlife that they support or for their geology. The table below lists the habitat designations in West Berkshire. Six fall within SACs.

Table 5 – West Berkshire Habitats

Habitat designated	Number of sites
Alder Woodlands	1
Ancient Woodland	10
Ancient Woodland and Heath land	1
Ancient Woodland and Wet Grassland	1
Chalk Grassland	10
Chalk Grassland and Ancient Woodland	1
Chalk Grassland and Lichens	1
Chalk Stream	7
Heathland	1
Lake and Wetland	1
Meadow	2
Neutral Grassland	3
Neutral to Acidic Grassland	1
Ponds and Marsh	1
Pools and Wet Woodland	1
Reed Beds	2
Wet Grassland	2
Wet Grassland and Chalk Stream	1
Wet Grassland and Reed bed	1
Wet Heath and Ancient Woodland	1
Wet Marsh	1

Approximately 56% of the SSSI area is considered to be in a favourable state, with 32% unfavourable but recovering and 11% unfavourable and not changing. River Kennet and River Lambourn SSSIs are

²⁹ Natural England, 2017

in an unfavourable no change state with Woolhampton Reed Bed and Boxford Chalk Pit (<1%) being unfavourable declining.

- **Special Protection Areas (SPA):** There are no SPAs in West Berkshire, however the south eastern corner of the District (around the village of Beech Hill) falls within the 5km zone of the Thames Basin Heath SPA.
- **Local Nature Reserves (LNR):** There are three sites within the District.
 - Thatcham Reed Beds,
 - Hose Hill Lake,
 - Burghfield and Padworth Common.
- **Local Wildlife Sites (LWS):** There are 508³⁰ sites (c.7600 ha) designated for their county level importance and covering 11% of West Berkshire, many of which are ancient semi-natural woodland. The Berkshire Local Nature Partnership has identified 17 Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOA) in the Berkshire Biodiversity Strategy 2014 - 2020.
- **Other sites:** West Berkshire has a rich range of habitats including hedgerows, veteran trees and wildlife corridors as well as conservation verges which are managed differently to normal verges and are sympathetic to the wildlife that flourishes on them. In addition, smaller extant features, which form a mosaic of fragmented sites throughout the area, are important when considered as a whole and connections to and between such sites are also of great value.
- **Protected and other species:** The water vole is Britain's fastest declining mammal. The Thames region is one of the country's strongholds for the animal and even here the decline has been dramatic. Most wildlife species require a number of elements such as ground condition, vegetation and appropriate management in order to complete their life cycle. Farmland still supports large numbers of birds, but great changes have occurred to the management of farmland over the past 30 years and a downward trend can be seen. In Berkshire as a whole, 788 out of 943 priority species for conservation nationally in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan, are present and requiring positive action.

The Air Pollution Information System database website contains detailed information on site relevant critical loads and graphical trends in relation to Nitrogen and Acid deposition; Ammonia, Nitrogen Oxides and Sulphur Dioxide concentrations.

Future trends: Population growth requiring more housing and infrastructure and consumption of natural resources, along with changes in agricultural land use and climate change will continue to place pressure on the wildlife and ecosystems in West Berkshire. Without positive protection, conservation and enhancement, existing species and habitats will decline in quality and extent, and the value of nature for people's appreciation and enjoyment, will be diminished.

Green Infrastructure

Green infrastructure is a network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities across the District. Examples of GI assets can include:

- Natural and semi-natural rural and urban green spaces – including woodland and scrub, grassland (e.g. downland and meadow), heath, wetlands, open and running water, brownfield sites and bare rock habitats (e.g. quarries),
- Parks and gardens – urban and country parks, formal gardens, and institutional grounds (e.g. schools and hospitals),
- Amenity green space – informal recreation spaces, play areas, outdoor sports facilities, housing greenspaces, community gardens, roof gardens, village greens, commons, living roofs and walls, hedges, civic spaces, and highway trees and verges,

³⁰ Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC), 2017

- Allotments, orchards, and farmland,
- Cemeteries and churchyards,
- Green (and 'blue') corridors - rivers and canals (including their banks), road verges and rail embankments, cycling routes and rights of way,
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Local Wildlife Sites and Local Geological Sites and Nature Reserves,
- Local Green Space designations,
- Archaeological and historic sites,
- Functional green space such as sustainable drainage schemes (SuDS) and flood storage areas.

West Berkshire manages around 740 miles of Public Rights of Way made up of Public Footpaths (61%), Public Bridleways (17%), Restricted Byways (8%) and Byways Open to all Traffic (14%). In addition, 13 miles of permissive access have been provided by landowners under Countryside or Environmental Stewardship agreements. The Ridgeway and Thames Path National Trails also pass through the District. 'Open access land' under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 covers 1.7% of West Berkshire (1207 hectares). The Council's Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2010-2020 completed an assessment of need from the public and identified a number of priorities including, a better maintained access network for passage and interpretation for information and encouraging more responsible behaviour, and to enhance biodiversity and historic character. New access should be provided to improve links between population centres and facilities including schools and for those of restricted mobility, as well as improved equestrian access away from roads.

The Kennet & Avon Canal provides approximately 28 miles of navigable waterway used increasingly for motorised and non-motorised vessels and craft with many occupied as houseboats, though the exact number is not known. The Kennet & Avon Canal towpath also provides both residents and visitors with significant leisure walking and cycling opportunities.

West Berkshire has two Green Flag Award winning parks, Northcroft and Goldwell Parks in Newbury and Holybrook Linear Park in Calcot with a number of other parks managed locally by town or parish councils.

The importance for mental health and wellbeing of access to quality green space was highlighted by the Marmot Review³¹ and was reinforced in the 2011 UK National Ecosystem Assessment.³² There is significant and growing evidence on the physical and mental health benefits of green spaces. Research shows that access to green space is associated with better health outcomes (eg lower body mass index, improved mental health, improved longevity in older people) and income-related inequality in health is less pronounced where people have access to green space. Access to green space is not equal across the population of England. People living in the most deprived areas are less likely to live in the greenest areas, and therefore, will have less opportunity to gain the health benefits. It can also bring other benefits such as greater community cohesion and less social isolation.³³

Future trends: The emphasis for the delivery of new green infrastructure will be on meeting the need created as a consequence of new development. Key opportunities for improving Green Infrastructure (GI) in West Berkshire include:-

- Adopting Sustainable Drainage systems to alleviate flooding
- Creating green spaces and planting within development to provide shade, cooling and wind interception and an insulation role in winter.
- Forming buffers and wildlife corridors for key habitats and species.
- Providing good quality, accessible green space and infrastructure within development to improve health and wellbeing, create an attractive place to live and work.
- Maximising the number of functions and benefits delivered by each GI asset.
- Interconnecting GI assets to form a strong GI network of green spaces and corridors which deliver the range of GI functions.

³¹ [The Marmot Review: implications for Spatial Planning](#). The Marmot Review Team (2011).

³² [Plugging health into planning](#): evidence and practice. Local Government Group

³³ Local action on health inequalities: Improving access to green spaces. Health Equity Evidence Review 8: September 2014

- Focusing and prioritising GI investment on economic growth points where the majority of people will be located in the future to deliver multiple GI benefits.

Climate Change and Resource Efficiency

Climatic factors

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) requires the calculation of averages for consecutive periods of 30 years, with the latest covering the 1961-1990 period. However, many WMO members, including the UK, update their averages at the completion of each decade. Thirty years was chosen as a period long enough to eliminate year-to-year variations. These averages help to describe the climate and are used as a base to which current conditions can be compared.

Changing weather patterns may be seen as direct indicators of climate change. The Met Office's average figures for the South East of England (South East and Central South) for 1971-2000 indicate that **minimum daily temperatures** ranged from 1.2 °C in February to a minimum of 11.9 °C in July, while **maximum temperatures** ranged from 7.2 °C in January to 21.7 °C in July. **Average monthly rainfall** in the South East varies from 45.2mm in July to 86.1mm in December with an average annual total of 776.8mm.

Figure 11 – Average annual rainfall (mm) 1971 – 2000

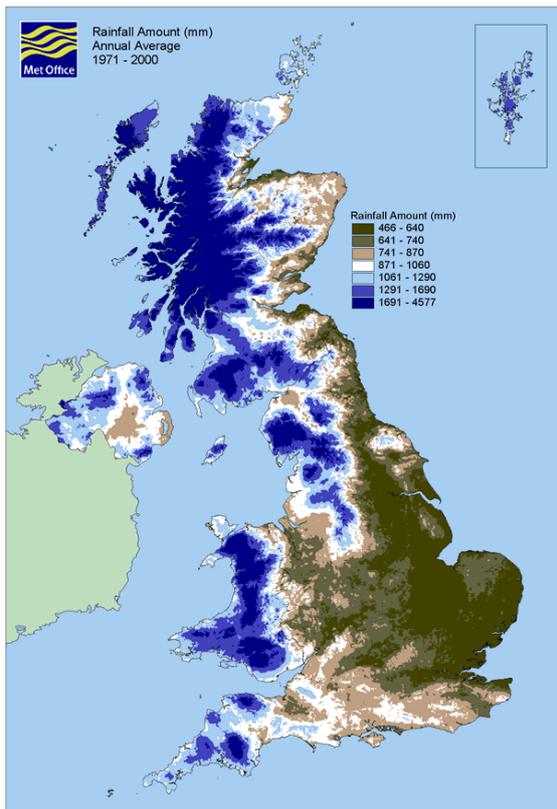
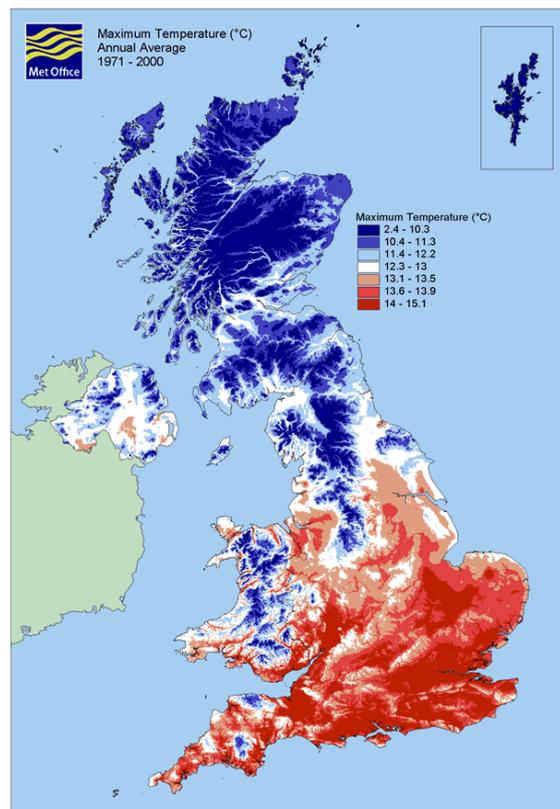


Figure 12 Average annual max. temp.(°C) 1971 - 2000



Source: Met Office (Crown copyright). www.metoffice.gov.uk

The UK Climate Projections, known as UKCP09³⁴ consolidate other scientific reports and provides a basis for studies of impacts and vulnerability and decisions on adaptation to climate change in the UK over the 21st century. It provides observed trends in UK climate. A summary of the main findings are:

³⁴ Defra, (2009) Adapting to Climate Change: UK Climate Projections

- Warming of the global climate system is unequivocal, with global average temperatures having risen by nearly 0.8 °C since the late 19th century, and rising at about 0.2 °C/decade over the past 25 years.
- Central England Temperature has increased by about 1 °C since the 1970s with 2006 being the warmest on record. It is likely that global emissions of man-made greenhouse gases have contributed significantly to this rise.
- Annual mean precipitation over England and Wales has not changed significantly since records began in 1766. Seasonal rainfall is highly variable, but appears to have decreased in summer and increased in winter, although with little change in the latter over the last 50 years.
- All regions of the UK have experienced an increase over the past 45 years in the contribution to winter rainfall from heavy precipitation events; in summer all regions except NE England and N Scotland show decreases.
- Severe windstorms around the UK have become more frequent in the past few decades, though not above that seen in the 1920s.
- Sea-surface temperatures around the UK coast have risen over the past three decades by about 0.7 °C.
- Sea level around the UK has risen by about 1 mm/yr. in the 20th century; the rate of rise in the 1990s and 2000s has been higher than this.

Defra announced in January 2016 that the UK Climate Projections will be updated following the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (December 2015).³⁵ The Environment Agency's guidance 'Flood risk assessments: climate change allowances' 2016 provides allowances for anticipated change in peak river flow by river basin district, peak rainfall intensity, sea level rise, offshore wind speed and wave height to help planners, developers and their advisors to understand the likely impact of climate change rivers and coast.

Within the Thames River Basin District the following medium future scenario is projected by 2055³⁶

- Winter precipitation increases of around 15%.
- Precipitation on the wettest day in winter up by about 15%.
- Relative sea level at Sheerness likely to be up between 10cm and 40cm from 1990 levels.
- Peak River flows in a typical catchment likely to increase by 15%.

Climate Change is also likely to lead to reduced water quality due to lower summer flows, and increased water temperatures which could lead to higher concentrations of pollution and algal blooms, which could in turn impact on habitats and local wildlife.

Future trends: The data available indicates that planning for change must take place both in terms of mitigation and adaptation. Understanding and adapting to the realities of climate change will be one of the challenges the District will be faced with. The measures taken to respond to climate change can take many years, so it is important to develop flexible policy solutions to deal with the range of future weather conditions and possible new knowledge and technologies. Climate change scenarios for the UK (UKCIP02 and UKCP09) provide the best information on which to form an understanding of climate change, and show that it is expected to be more pronounced in the South East than in any other UK region. Nationally it is estimated that, under Medium emissions, there will be an annual warming generally by the 2080s with mean temperatures of up to 4.2°C warmer in the south-east and with greater warming in summer and autumn than in winter and spring. Over the same period, although annual rainfall totals are not expected to show much change, winters are expected to be up to 33% wetter than at present, and summers about 40% drier³⁷. A changing climate will bring about more storms, heavier rain, stronger winds and more summer heat-waves.

Climate change will have an impact on the landscape and our lifestyles; rare wildlife habitats and species may be threatened by the changing climate; farming could suffer from more pests, worse soil erosion and a decrease in agricultural land; more intense rain, rising sea levels and wetter soils will increase flood risk; and water supplies will be affected along with our demands made on them. Infrastructure is vulnerable to these changes through disruption (e.g. flooding), reduction in capacity or

³⁵ Meteorological Office UK Climate Projections UKCP18 project announcement

³⁶ Defra, EA (2011) Climate change Information for Local Flood Risk Management Strategies, Thames River Basin District Map

³⁷ UKCIP02 Climate Change Scenarios for the UK, UK Climate Impacts Programme, www.ukcip.org.uk.

efficiency (eg long term rising temperatures) and impacts on design life of infrastructure and the services it provides.

Water quality and Contaminated Land

Water quality is assessed by the percentage of river length that has good chemical and ecological 'status'. Ecological status, in turn, is defined as a combination of physico-chemical elements (e.g. nutrients, pH and dissolved oxygen), biological elements (e.g. fish and algae), specific pollutants and hydromorphology (e.g. depth, width and flow). The Water Framework Directive and the Thames River Basin Management Plan 2015 set the baseline 'status' for water bodies in West Berkshire, below which there should be no deterioration and future objective 'status' to be achieved by 2027.

Poor water quality is typically due to a combination of agricultural runoff, untreated drainage from built-up areas and roads, and discharge from wastewater treatment works. It can affect people's health, and that of plants and animals.

The main catchment in the District is the Kennet and its tributaries. Surface water quality is generally moderate for ecology and good for chemical status.³⁸ Pollution from rural areas and waste water, physical modifications and changes to natural level and flow of water are some of the main challenges in the catchment.

Diffuse pollution remains the major issue affecting groundwater quality. Nitrates continue to impact a significant fraction of aquifers across West Berkshire. There are no Nitrate Sensitive Areas in West Berkshire, but there are large areas covered by Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZs).. NVZs apply to areas where surface and/or groundwater contains nitrate concentrations in excess of 50mg/l and to bodies of water that are or may become enriched by nitrogen compounds which cause a growth of algae and other plant life that unbalances the quality of the water and to organisms present in the water. The widespread classification of NVZs in West Berkshire is reflective of the land use within the area and the intensive agricultural practices which are employed. As a consequence farmers within NVZs are required to comply with mandatory Action Programme measures designed to protect both ground and surface waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agriculture.

In 2017, 58% of England was designated as a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ). Approximately three quarters of West Berkshire is now designated as a NVZ, including Newbury, Thatcham and the eastern part of the district including Theale and Calcot.

Three different types of NVZs have been identified in West Berkshire:

- Surface Water;
- Groundwater; and
- Eutrophic waters.

The most prominent is the groundwater NVZ, which covers much of the northern and western areas of West Berkshire.

Groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZs) have been defined by the Environment Agency in England and Wales to protect groundwater sources such as wells, boreholes and springs that are used for public drinking water supply. The zones signal the risk of contamination from certain nearby activities that might cause groundwater pollution in the area. SPZs cover a large part of West Berkshire mainly in the central and eastern part of the District. The River Thames forms part of the northern boundary of the District. The River Kennet flows through Newbury on its way to Reading, and the River Lambourn joins the Kennet at Newbury. There are a total of 25 SPZs either fully or partially contained within the District. Eight of these are Inner SPZs, 7 are Outer SPZs and the other 10 are Total Catchment Zones. The majority is Zone 3 with 8 main areas identified as Zone 1 and 2 clustered around Newbury and the eastern boundary bordering Reading.

³⁸ Thames River Basin Management Plan 2015 – Kennet summary

Groundwater Vulnerability Zones vary from 'high' in parts of the west and north of the District to 'medium/medium-low' in the east and south. New maps produced by the Environment Agency show the vulnerability of groundwater to a pollutant discharged at ground level based on hydrological, geological, hydrogeological and soil properties within a single square kilometre. It can be used as a high level screening tool to give an indication of whether a proposed site allocation is likely to be acceptable or of potential concern.

West Berkshire Council has due regard to the Water Framework Directive and the Thames River Basin Management Plan with respect to future development planning. The zoning above will assist in the site selection process for the Local Plan Review.

Contaminated Land

Contaminated land in the UK is a legacy of our industrial past. Industrial processes such as gas works, chemical works and waste disposal have resulted in large number sites whose soils are contaminated with a wide range of hazardous chemicals. The contaminants resulting from some of these industrial activities can lie hidden in soils, posing a health risk to humans that unknowingly come into contact with them. They can also pollute our groundwater, surface waters (rivers, streams and lakes) as well as wildlife and ecological conservation areas.

Although West Berkshire has never been a heavily industrialised area, the district does have its own legacy of contaminated land that needs to be dealt with. To date, 2 sites have been declared contaminated land under Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and approximately a further 1200 potentially contaminated land sites have been identified within the district.

West Berkshire's industrial history can be traced back to at least Roman times with the manufacture of pottery, iron and woodcrafts. The industrial revolution during the latter part of the 18th century impacted strongly on parts of the county but left many areas untouched. Agriculture was the major employer and industries were related either to serving an agriculture economy or processing the materials produced in the area. Due to the various types of clay deposits found throughout the county the brick making industry flourished until World War II but declined during the 1950s. Gravel was not used extensively until the 20th century and the subsequent use of exhausted gravel pits as landfill sites for refuse disposal was another essential major industry. Current land use is dominated by agriculture, covering 74% of the District. The remaining land is either residential or used for commercial or light industrial activity. The area has a high concentration of high – tech firms, a renowned racehorse industry and a number of areas owned or previously owned by the Ministry of Defence. They are; AWE Burghfield, AWE Aldermaston, RAF Welford, and Greenham Common. Greenham Common has been decommissioned and is now owned by a trust of which West Berkshire District Council is a part. The other three sites remain operational.

Future Trends: Meeting water quality standards is a challenge for the Thames Basin and West Berkshire. Together with tightening water quality standards and targets to comply with the Water Framework Directive, a growing population and development pressures are placing extra demands on the sewerage treatment infrastructure and the waters receiving effluent. The New Local Plan will need to consider the increase in housing numbers in relation to point source pollution and the infrastructure.

The Council Contaminated Land Strategy provides an updated roadmap for how it intends to continue to deal with declared part II EPA sites and the threats arising from contaminated land in the district.

Water supply

Water resources within West Berkshire are managed by water and wastewater services company Thames Water. The District is located within two Water Resource Zones; the Kennet Valley Resource Zone and the Swindon and Oxfordshire Resource Zone (SWOX). Above ground water resources include the rivers Pang, Lambourn and Kennet. The primary groundwater resource is the chalk aquifer that underlies much of eastern and southern England, this aquifer is tapped by a number of bores that supply potable water to the district. The Environment Agency, in its document *Water for People and the Environment (2009)*, indicated that West Berkshire is within an area with "serious levels of water

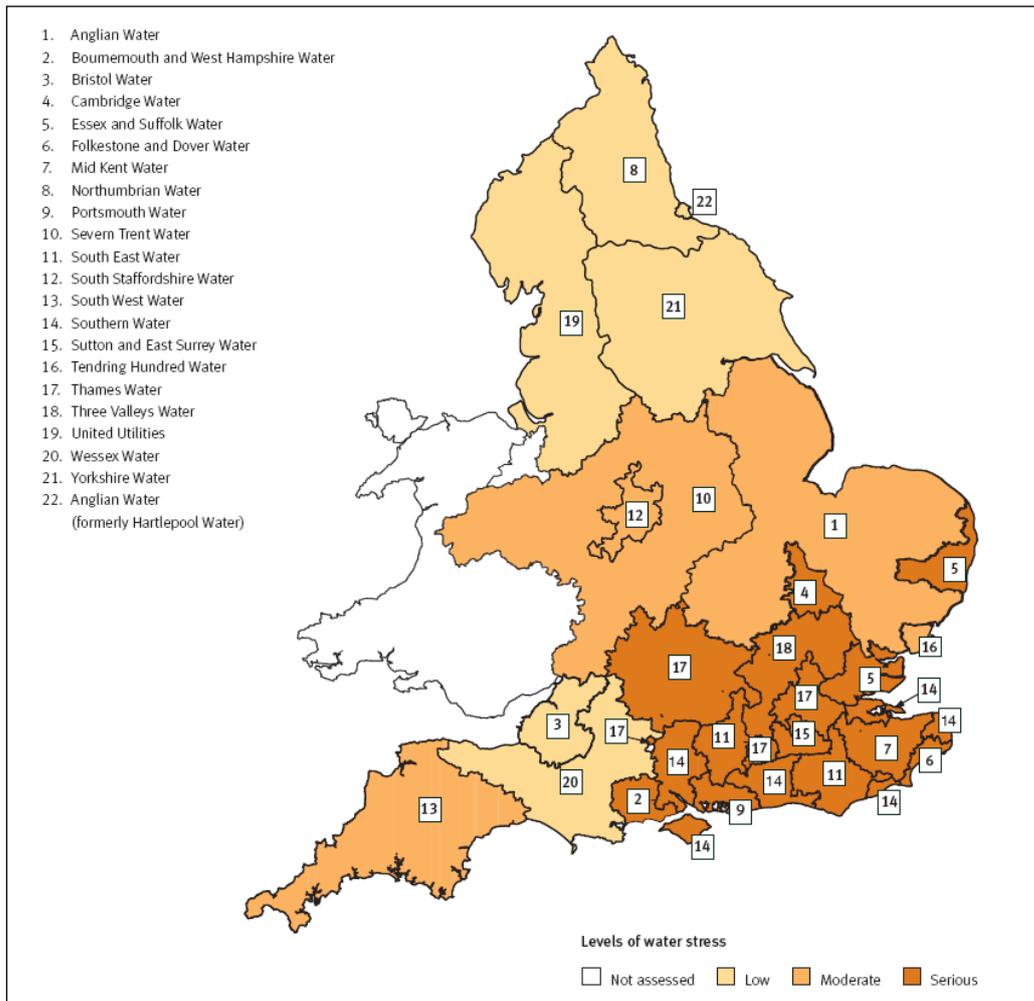
stress". In addition, much of the district has water resources that are either over licensed, over abstracted or there is no water available for abstraction³⁹.

Future Trends: Climate change is anticipated to have an impact on water supply due to more extreme climatic variability. Hotter summers are expected to result in increased water usage and reduce the period when groundwater sources can refill, in addition, soil moisture is expected to be reduced in summer, resulting in increased use of irrigation for crops. Overall, increased population and the effects of climate change are going to place greater pressures on a finite resource. The Environment Agency suggests that within less than thirty years there will be a major water shortage in the South East unless there is a reduction in the amount of water used or new resources are found. Water conservation measures are going to be required to ensure an adequate water supply into the future. Baseline water supplies are forecast⁴⁰ to reduce over the Thames Water area during the Water Resource Management Plan 2015 - 2040 planning period due to the impact of climate change on groundwater sources and sustainability reductions as defined by the Environment Agency NEP3. However, sustainability reductions are not forecast for the Kennet Valley Water Resource Zone (WRZ). In the SWOX zone Thames Water predict a supply demand deficit in both dry year annual average and dry year critical period where the deficit will grow from -1 MI/d in 2020 to -32 MI/d by 2040 resulting in a supply that is not secure without corrective action. This mean there is a greater probability that demand restrictions will be required in dry years and demand management, such as metering, and resources options are being considered with the former being basis of a preferred plan. By contrast, Kennet Valley WRZ is predicted to remain in surplus throughout the planning period to 2040, though the WRMP preferred plan features promotion of water efficiency and a roll out of household metering. This approach will help to manage demand particularly in case of drought, the protection of sensitive European designated sites, and to apply a consistent policy to customers across the Thames Water area.

³⁹ Water for people and the environment, Water Resources strategy for England and Wales (2009) Environment Agency, www.environment-agency.gov.uk

⁴⁰ Water Resource Management Plan 2015 – 2040 (Thames Water)

Figure 13 – Water Stressed Areas in England



Source: Environment Agency (Crown Copyright). www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Flood risk

There are various forms of flooding which all present various levels of risk. Flooding can occur from rivers, the sea, from land, groundwater, sewers, reservoirs, canals and other artificial sources. West Berkshire has undertaken a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)⁴¹ as required by the NPPF, in consultation with the Environment Agency to “determine the variation of flood risk across and from their area as the basis for preparing appropriate policies for flood risk management for these areas”.

The Environment Agency (EA) provide climate change allowances to be considered as part of flood risk assessments. They are based on climate change projections and different scenarios of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions to the atmosphere. The EA provides predictions of anticipated change for the following:

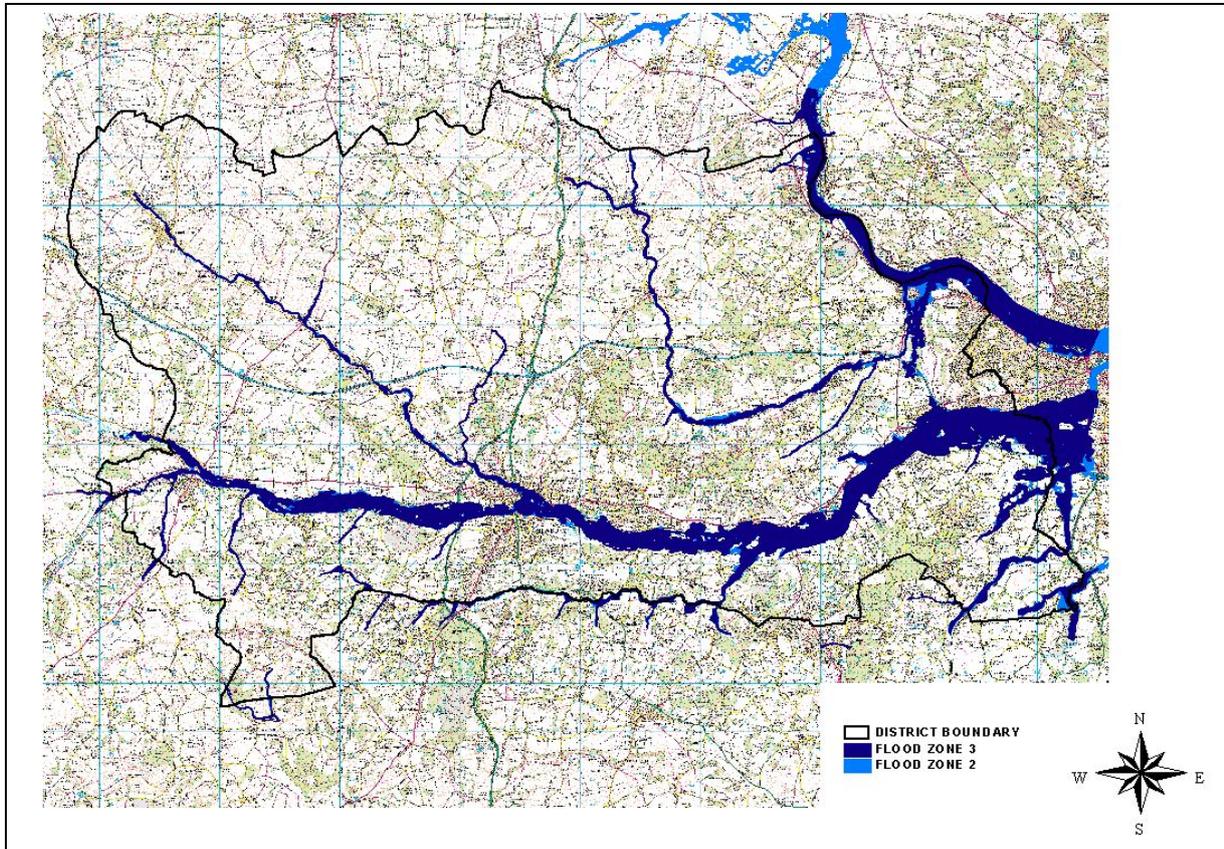
- peak river flow by river basin district
- peak rainfall intensity
- sea level rise
- offshore wind speed and extreme wave height

An updated SFRA is currently being prepared and together with the existing SFRA will inform the West Berkshire Local Plan Review and highlight requirements for specific development sites in

⁴¹ West Berkshire Council, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 1, 2008 (updated 2015)

relation to flood and drainage infrastructure. The new SFRA is expected to be published in 2018 and will include assessment of the potential impact of climate allowances in the Thames Basin District and which will be taken into account for the Sustainability Appraisal of proposed developments and their vulnerability to flood.

Figure 14 – Flood Zone Map of West Berkshire



Source: Environment Agency (Crown Copyright) www.environment-agency.gov.uk

The risk of flooding within West Berkshire is widespread, arising not only from rivers but also from surface water and groundwater flooding. The events of the summer of July 2007 and January and

February 2014 were reminders of the impacts that flooding can have upon the local community. A relatively large number of homes and businesses within West Berkshire are at risk of flooding, arising from a number of sources including river flooding, localised runoff, groundwater flooding, some surface water flooding and infrastructure failure. The SFRA has delineated the District into zones of 'low', 'medium', and 'high' probability of fluvial flooding in accordance with national guidance (as set out then in PPS25 and since taken into account under the NPPF), it has modelled the impacts of climate change, and it has investigated the risk of groundwater and surface water flooding which has resulted in a series of 'Critical Drainage Areas' being identified to inform the planning process.

Future Trends: A considerable amount of research is being carried out worldwide in an endeavour to quantify the impacts that climate change is likely to have on flooding in future years. Climate change is perceived to represent an increasing risk to low lying areas of England, and it is anticipated that the frequency and severity of flooding will change measurably within our lifetime.

According to the SFRA for West Berkshire, climate change will not markedly increase the extent of river flooding within most areas of the District, however those properties (and areas) that are currently at risk of flooding may be susceptible to more frequent, more severe flooding in future years. The 'best practice' approach adopted throughout England is that Flood Zone 2 Medium Probability is considered a reasonable approximation of the likely extent of the High Probability Flood Zone in 100 years as a result of climate change. Climate change will also potentially increase the frequency and intensity of localised storms over the District, this could exacerbate localised drainage problems.

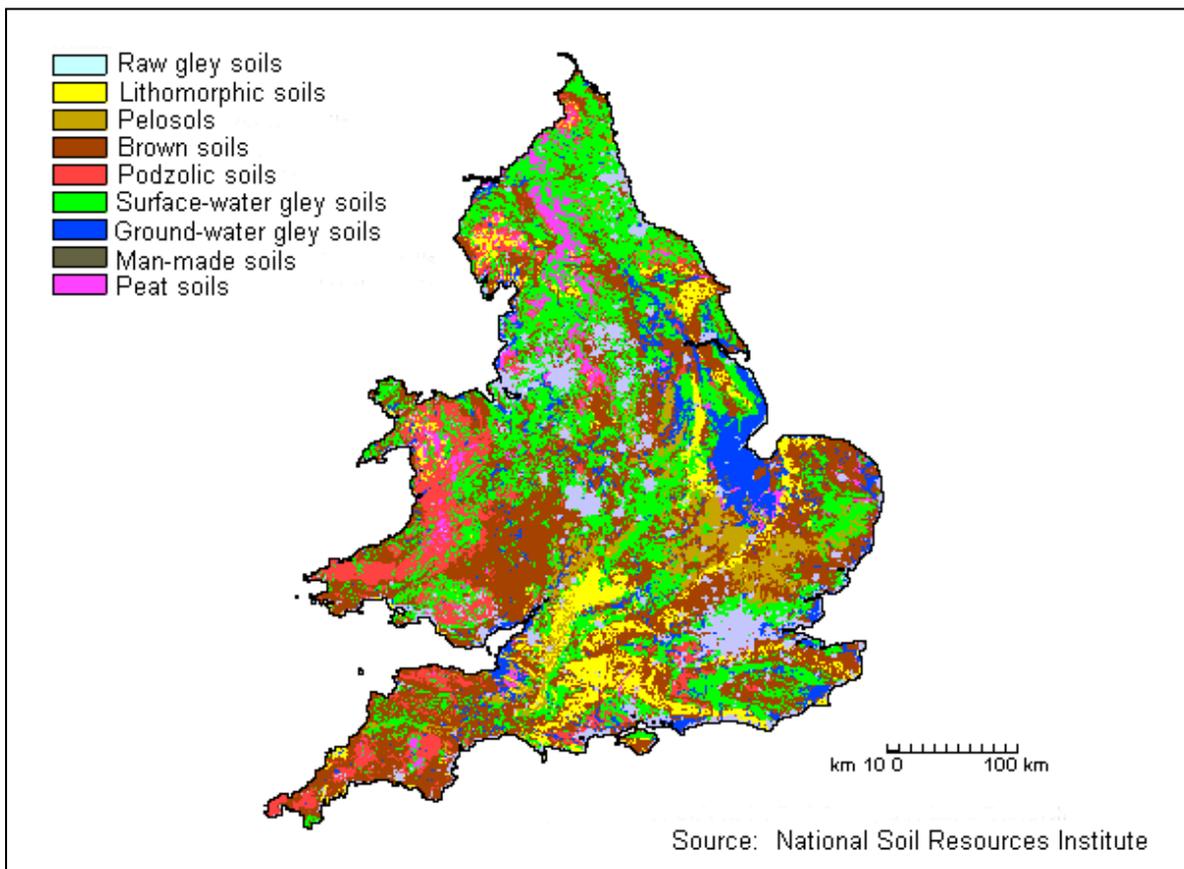
Locating developments outside areas of flood risk is essential to avoid a legacy of economic, social and environmental costs as is maintaining existing flood risk management infrastructure and ensuring all development incorporates sustainable drainage systems to minimise surface water flood risk.

Land use planning in urban areas can make an important contribution to the management of water resources as changes to the built environment have significant implications for water use and quality (as runoff or as treated wastewater). For example, green infrastructure can promote innovative, cost-effective and environmentally sustainable approaches to management of water in cities. Natural Flood Management can benefit both flood alleviation and biodiversity. A variety of technologies are being developed or are now available which mimic natural processes that slow down, store or reduce storm waters.

Soil

West Berkshire has a number of different soil types ranging from sandy with low fertility, to loamy with high fertility. There are naturally wet soils associated with river valleys and dry well drained soils on hillsides. The Environment Agency, DEFRA, and other research bodies concerned with soil science, such as the National Soil Resources Institute, have been undertaking research on soils in the UK and are actively promoting the protection of soil health. Healthy soils are vital to a sustainable environment. They produce food and timber, filter water, store carbon, support wildlife and the built landscape, and preserve records of our ecological and cultural past.

Figure 15– Soil types of England and Wales



Erosion of soil and compaction, decline in organic matter/carbon storage through intensive agricultural activities, contamination by heavy metals, nutrient loss, and degradation of soil biodiversity, atmospheric pollution and the effects of climate change are all threats to the ongoing sustainable use of soils in the UK. In West Berkshire, increasing urbanisation, the continuation of unsustainable

agricultural activities and the potential for increased flooding due to climate change are the major concerns.

Future Trends: There is evidence that soil degradation is continuing in the UK and around the world despite greater awareness of the importance of soils. Building resilience of soils to a changing climate through a supportive policy framework has potential to support wider adaptation of the economy and society to climate change, for instance, the contribution of soils to coping with drought, regulating drainage of heavy rainfall, helping to prevent flood and carbon storage. DEFRA has developed a *Soil Action Plan for England (2004-2006)* and *A Strategy for England: Safeguarding our Soils (2009)*. The intention of the Action Plan and Strategy is to increase the sustainable use of soils in England and ensure that the protection of soil protection is a consideration in decisions made relating to land use planning process including *inter alia*, dealing with contaminated land and providing green space for communities. There is increasingly a better understanding of the importance of soils to sustainable agriculture and food production. Sustainable agricultural techniques and organic food production methods have increased in recent years and are predicted to continue to gain importance in the future.

Previously developed land

The NPPF encourages the re-use of previously developed land and the Government has committed to having planning permission or permission in principle in place on 90% of suitable brownfield land by 2020. As such, 84% of West Berkshire's gross residential completions (2006/07 – 2015/16)⁴² have been on previously developed land.

As required by the Town and Country Planning (Brownfield Land Register) Regulations 2017, the Council is compiling their Register. Brownfield land registers will provide information on brownfield sites that local authorities consider to be appropriate for residential development having regard to the criteria set out in the 2017 Regulations.

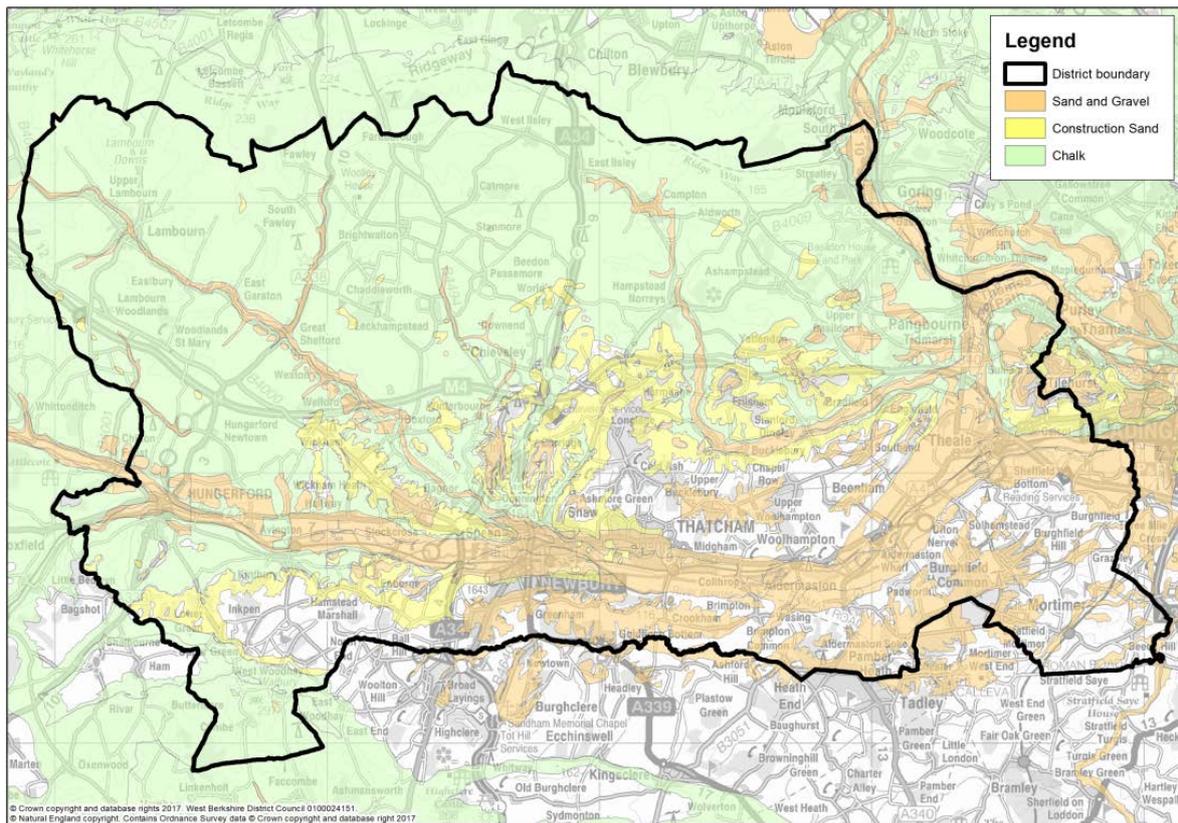
Future Trends: In the past it was anticipated that the amount of previously developed land available for development in West Berkshire would decline as government policy of focusing development on previously developed land continued to take effect. With the advent of the brownfield register and its intent to drive the availability of land for housing, it is possible that the trend could be reversed. The reduced reliance on windfall development contributing to supply may also mean that the level of Greenfield allocations may need to be higher than in the past.

Minerals

West Berkshire has historically been a major area for mineral extraction. In the past, clay and chalk were the main minerals produced, however since the beginning of the 20th Century, aggregates such as sand and gravel have been the main minerals extracted to supply the building and construction industry. Sharp sand and gravel has been the most widely extracted mineral resource in West Berkshire in recent years, although both the number of sites producing and the level of production have dropped significantly year on year since 2007. Sand and gravel deposits in West Berkshire are primarily situated along the Kennet Valley between Newbury and Reading.

⁴² West Berkshire Local Plan Annual Monitoring Report 2016

Figure 16 – West Berkshire Mineral Resources

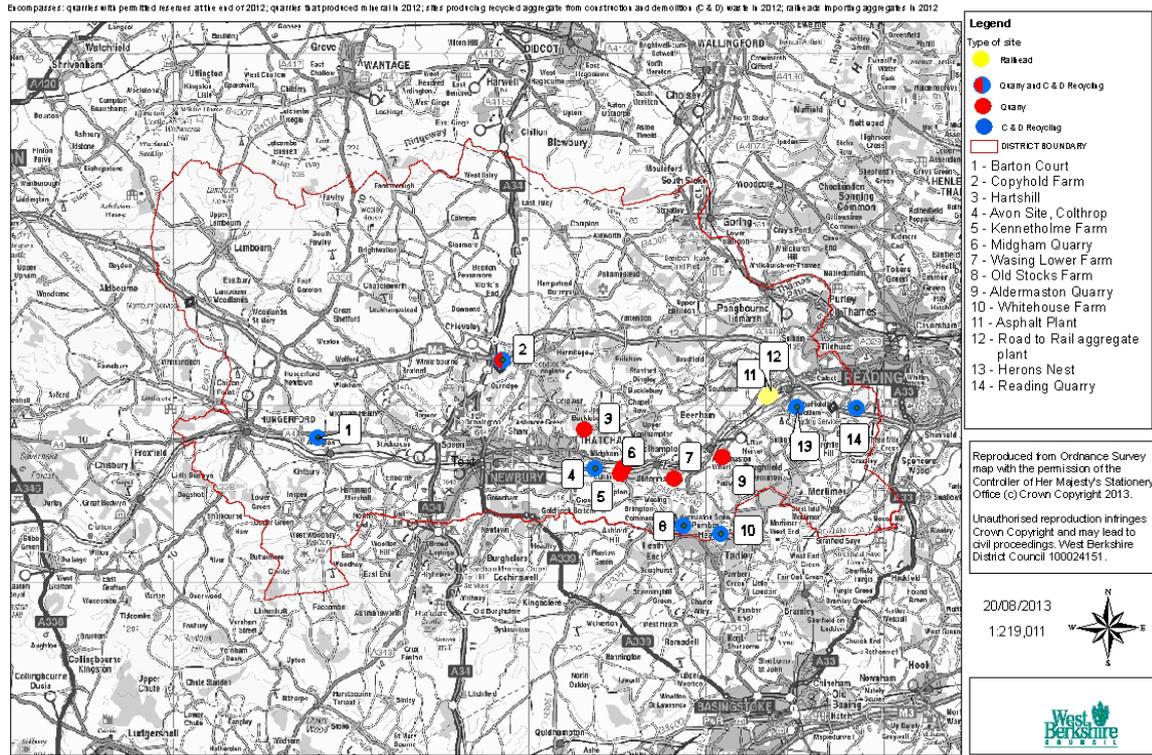


Source - Minerals and Waste Local Plan (Preferred Options) May 2017

West Berkshire includes three major depots for importing aggregates by rail, and one of these depots is associated with an asphalt plant. These are situated on adjacent sites at Theale, and are chiefly used to import crushed limestone from the Mendips and Derbyshire, as well as marine sand and gravel landed at a wharf in East London.

Figure 17 below shows the sites in West Berkshire (situation as at 2015) which are involved in producing and importing construction aggregates. These include quarries extracting sand and gravel, waste processing sites which produce recycled aggregates, and rail depot sites which import primary aggregates.

Figure 17 – Mineral sites in West Berkshire as at 2015



Future Trends: 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 recycling of construction and demolition waste into aggregates is likely to increase in the future, although the availability of construction and demolition waste and hence the ability to produce recycled material is dependent on the level of development being undertaken. Similarly the demand for virgin aggregates for building and construction are largely dependent on the economic situation. It is accepted that there will continue to be a requirement for primary aggregates as recycled material is not a suitable replacement for all construction applications.

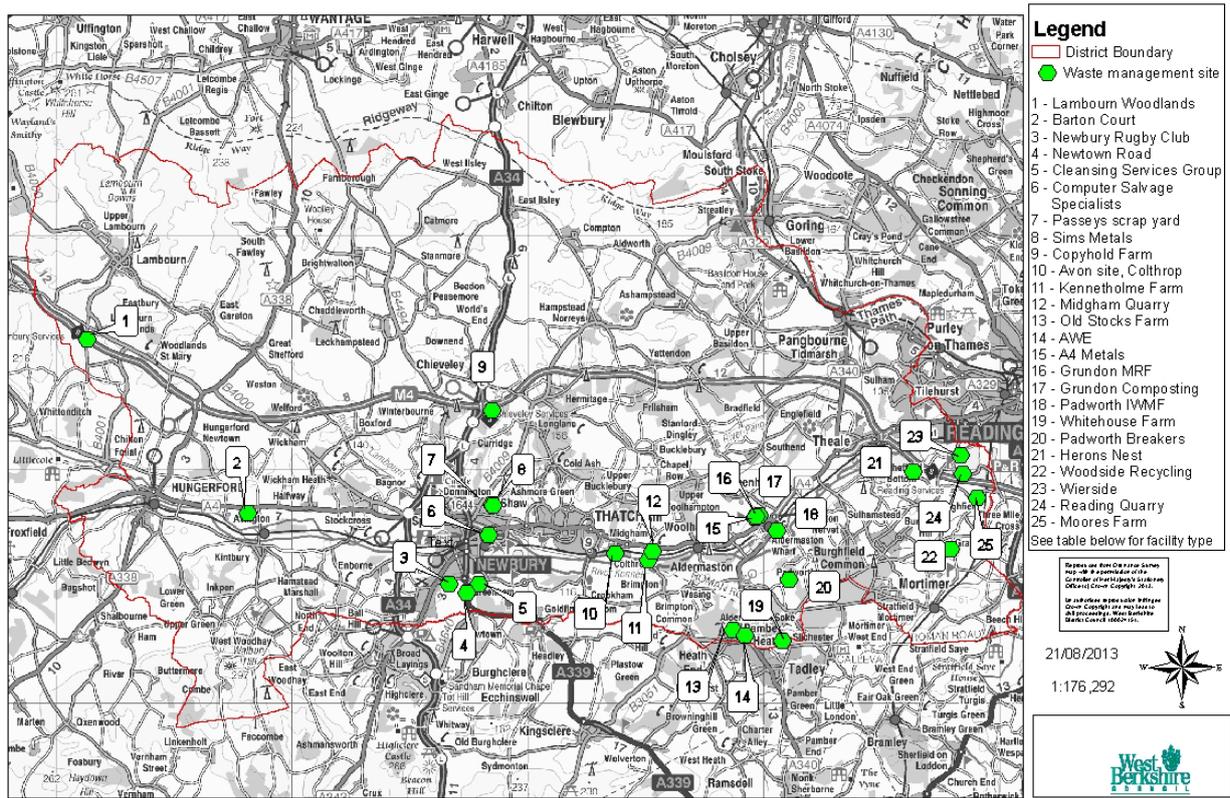
Minerals are a finite resource and the sharp sand and gravel reserves between Newbury and Thatcham and outside the AONB are largely worked out. As a result of this there may be pressure for mineral development in the AONB in the future.

Waste

In England about 177 million tonnes of waste per year⁴³ is produced, about a quarter of which comes from homes and businesses. In West Berkshire about 747,000 tonnes of controlled waste was handled in 2015/16. Of this 12% was Local Authority Collected Waste (LACW), 38% from commercial and industrial waste (C & I), 48% from construction, demolition and excavation (C,DE) and 2% hazardous waste. The map below shows the locations of permitted Waste management sites in West Berkshire.

⁴³ DEFRA Policy Paper: Waste and Recycling 2015

Figure 18 – Permitted Waste Management Sites in West Berkshire



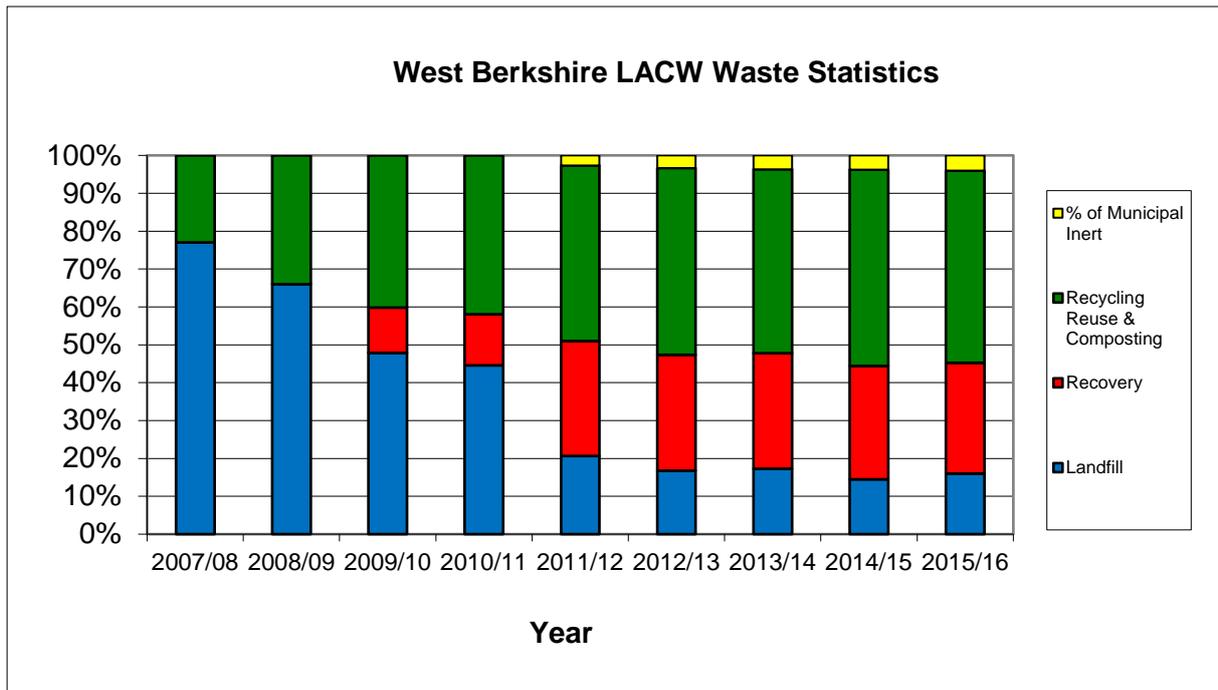
The total estimated waste management capacity in the District (excluding transfer) is about 960,000 tonnes⁴⁴. According to the Environment Agency's Waste Data Interrogator (WDI), there has been significantly more waste managed in West Berkshire than was recorded as arising there, thus indicative of West Berkshire's service across administrative boundaries.

A number of observations⁴⁴ can be made about the existing waste management facilities in West Berkshire:

- West Berkshire has no hazardous landfill capacity.
- West Berkshire has no non-hazardous landfill capacity.
- West Berkshire has no low level or intermediate level radioactive waste disposal capacity.
- West Berkshire has very little waste recovery capacity (and the little that there is generates heat or electricity by burning wood waste).

Reliance on landfill for Local Authority Collected Waste has reduced over time, from circa 77% of all waste in 2007/08 to circa 17% in 2015/16. The graph below shows the trends in Local Authority Collected Waste management in West Berkshire.

⁴⁴ West Berkshire Council (2017) Local Waste Assessment



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Future Trends: The UK Government is committed to continuing to move the UK towards a position where waste generation is minimised and the quantities of waste that are generated are seen as an important resource that can be re-used and recycled, and only disposed to landfill as a last resort.

West Berkshire Council developed a Waste Management Strategy (2002–2022)⁴⁵ which sets out the Council's objectives and standards for the management of LACW in the district. It sets out the long-term vision for the management of LACW, focusing on the maximisation of recycling and composting.

The emerging Minerals and Waste Local Plan (MWLP), which considers all waste streams, will provide the local planning policy against which planning applications for minerals and waste development will be assessed, guiding development to suitable sites throughout the anticipated plan-period to 2036. As part of the development of the evidence base for the MWLP, the Local Waste Assessment was produced in 2017 indicating that the total arisings currently are estimated to be approximately 751,000 tonnes per annum and by 2036 arisings are predicted to be a maximum of approximately 838,000 tonnes⁴⁴. The authority has generally sought to adopt the worst case projections, that remain realistic, that have been identified for each of the waste streams. As such it is considered that the projected arisings for 2036 are robust and may indeed overestimate the actual level of arisings at this date. The increase predicted by 2036 is largely due to a potential increase in LACW and C & I waste. Therefore, at this point it is anticipated there would be 'headroom' in terms of available waste management capacity throughout the plan-period even after factoring in temporary consents.

Recycling and composting (aspirational target) for West Berkshire 2016/17 to 2031/2032 is 56%. At 2015/16 it was 54%⁴⁴.

Renewable energy

Renewable energy (RE) can play a major role in sustainable development and mitigating Climate Change effects. The UK is committed under the Renewable Energy Directive 2009 to achieve 15% of its energy consumption from renewable sources by 2020.

Regional Planning Guidance, since rescinded nationally, nevertheless helped to set a benchmark for renewable energy development through the South East Plan. This aimed to have 209MW of installed

⁴⁵ <http://info.westberks.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=36818&p=0>

capacity in the Thames Valley by 2016. The target set for West Berkshire was 18.5MW by 2016⁴⁶. However, by the end of 2011, the district was well short of this figure. By then there were 273 renewable energy installations in West Berkshire with a combined installed capacity of 2.7 MW. This includes both heat and power and supplied approximately 1% of the district's total energy needs. The current installed capacity is about 15% of the previously designated 2016 target.

The current Core Strategy recognises that West Berkshire is one of the highest electricity users in the South East, is in the upper quartile of local authorities for CO2 emissions within the region and has high fuel poverty levels compared to other authorities. This is clear evidence and justification that West Berkshire needs to do more to meet national targets in relation to CO2 emissions reduction.

The Local Plan Review will have a major role in determining what can, and what cannot move forward relating to new energy infrastructure. It should support in principle, the development of renewable energy and build on existing criteria based policies. However, there are considerable non-technical barriers. Such development needs to be located and designed to minimise adverse impacts on landscape, wildlife and amenity. This is a major challenge where 74% of the District is AONB which will be a considerable influence on the scale and nature of any developments put forward within its boundaries. A strategic landscape sensitivity study for wind turbine development has been undertaken by the North Wessex Downs AONB which can be used to inform the production of the LDF.

The Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) has two bases in the District with implications for development within their consultation zones, in the interests of public safety.

Future Trends: Given the very many constraints on development, the West Berkshire Renewable Energy Strategy identifies three general areas where West Berkshire might seek to bring forward and influence renewable energy projects:

- Projects based on existing developments and housing (so 'retrofit' technology')
- Projects based on planned housing and commercial developments/ infrastructure (so 'new' but integrated developments)
- Projects based on 'greenfield' sites (so completely 'new' developments).

Economy and Infrastructure

Economy

West Berkshire is an integral part of one of the most prosperous sub regions in Europe, the so called Thames Valley business wedge spanning from South Buckinghamshire, South Oxfordshire, through all of Berkshire, North Hampshire, and Surrey. Along with Greater London and other parts of the South East, this region is recognised as "the economic engine" which leads and pulls along the rest of the UK economy.

Employment space is dominated by industrial (B1c/B2/B8) uses with office space accounting for just 31% of total stock.⁴⁷ Whilst B use class floor space is located across the area, it tends to be concentrated in and around the key commercial centres of Newbury, Thatcham and Theale, and to a lesser extent Hungerford. It is also clustered along the main transport routes and networks including the A4 and M4.

West Berkshire is well located and is bisected north to south by the A34 which connects the south coast with the Midlands. The Great Western Railway and the M4 motorway links South Wales and the West with London, with the M4 running directly through West Berkshire from the east to west. These roads are also of European importance. The other main roads are the A339 connecting Newbury to Basingstoke and the A4 which runs east/west. The key urban centres in southern England (London, Reading, Southampton, Portsmouth, Bristol, Oxford and Swindon) are all within an hour's drive, as is Heathrow airport.

⁴⁶ Renewable Energy Strategy for West Berkshire, 2012

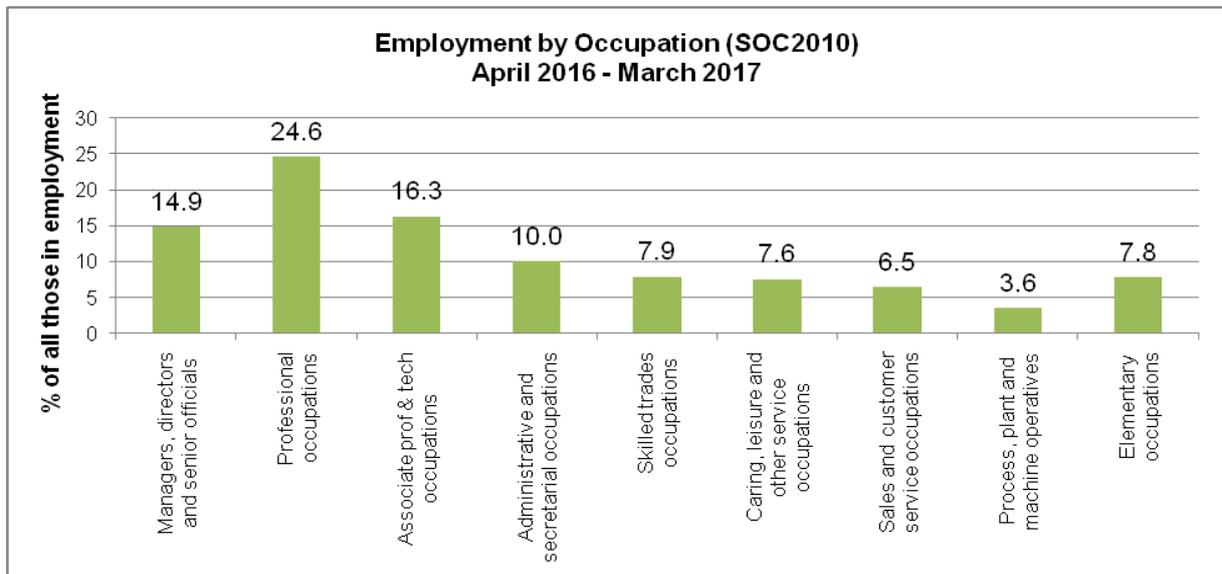
⁴⁷ Western Berkshire FEMA: Economic Development Needs Assessment October 2016

Business Sectors

Whilst there are some very large businesses based in the area (AWE, Vodafone, Stryker, Micro Focus International plc), the vast majority of businesses are SMEs and cover a diverse range of sectors.

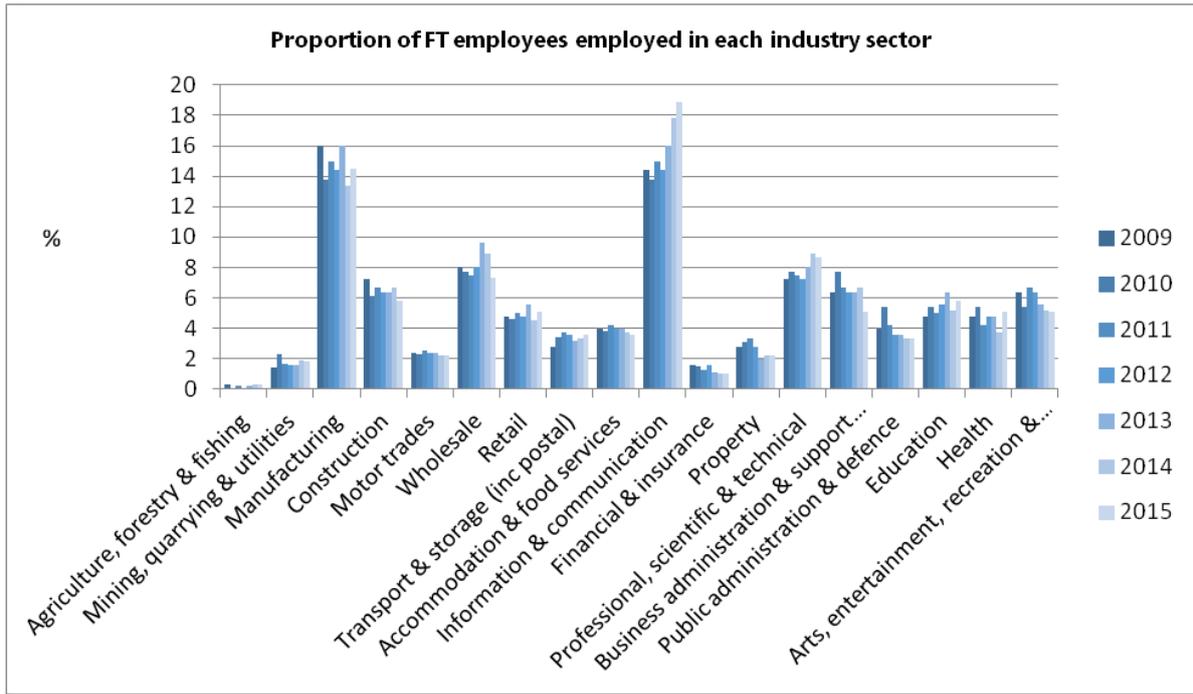
Size of West Berkshire Businesses 2016 ⁴⁸	Micro Businesses (0-9 employees)	Small Businesses (10-49 employees)	Medium Businesses (50-249 employees)	Large (>250 employees)	Total
	7890	730	145	40	8805

The largest employment sector for West Berkshire for April 2016-March 2017 is Professional Occupations. This includes employment such as financial services, legal services, professional consultancy and IT consultancy services.⁴⁹



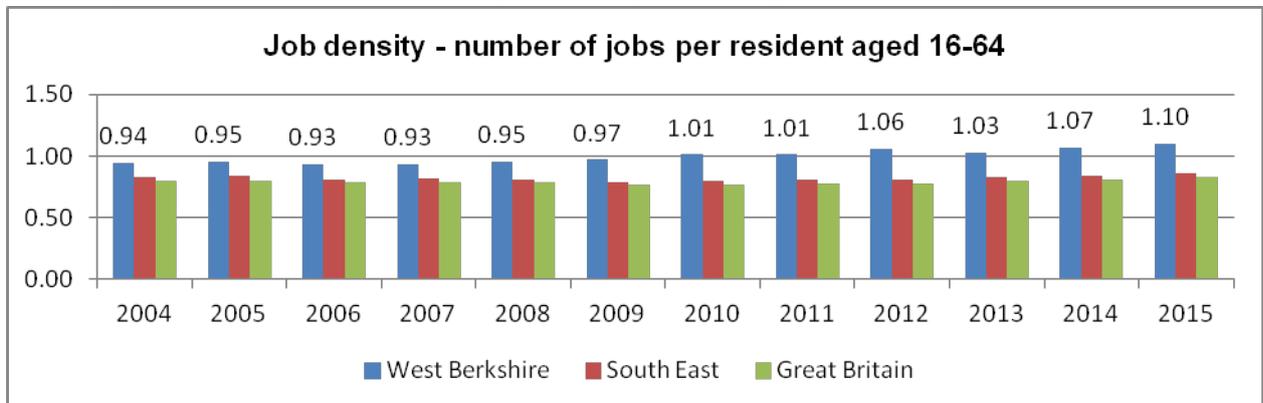
⁴⁸ Nomis Interdepartmental Business Register

⁴⁹ Nomis



Economically Active Population

West Berkshire enjoys low levels of unemployment compared with other areas of the South East and England. The job density figure represents the ratio of total jobs to working population. For example, a job density of 1.0 means that there is one job for every resident aged 16-64.⁵⁰



81.6%⁵¹ of the working age population in West Berkshire are economically active (i.e. are either employed, or unemployed but available to start work, looking for work, or waiting to start a job), higher than the rate for both the region and nationally. As well as having a higher proportion of people economically active, the district also has a significantly larger proportion of people in employment – and as a consequence, a lower proportion of people unemployed (i.e. available to start work and had either looked for work, or were waiting to start a job). The unemployment percentage of all working age adults in West Berkshire was 3.1% in March 2017, approximately 3000 people. This is the second lowest percentage in Berkshire, behind Wokingham at 2.8% (2000 people). Berkshire’s employment rate has now returned to its pre-recession peak of 79% and the unemployment rate has now fallen below the pre-recession low of 3.4% and is now at 3.2%.

⁵⁰ Nomis

⁵¹ Annual Population Survey, ONS March 2017

With high employment rates it is likely that the greatest uplift in economic output will be driven through productivity improvements rather than by an increase in the number of people employed.

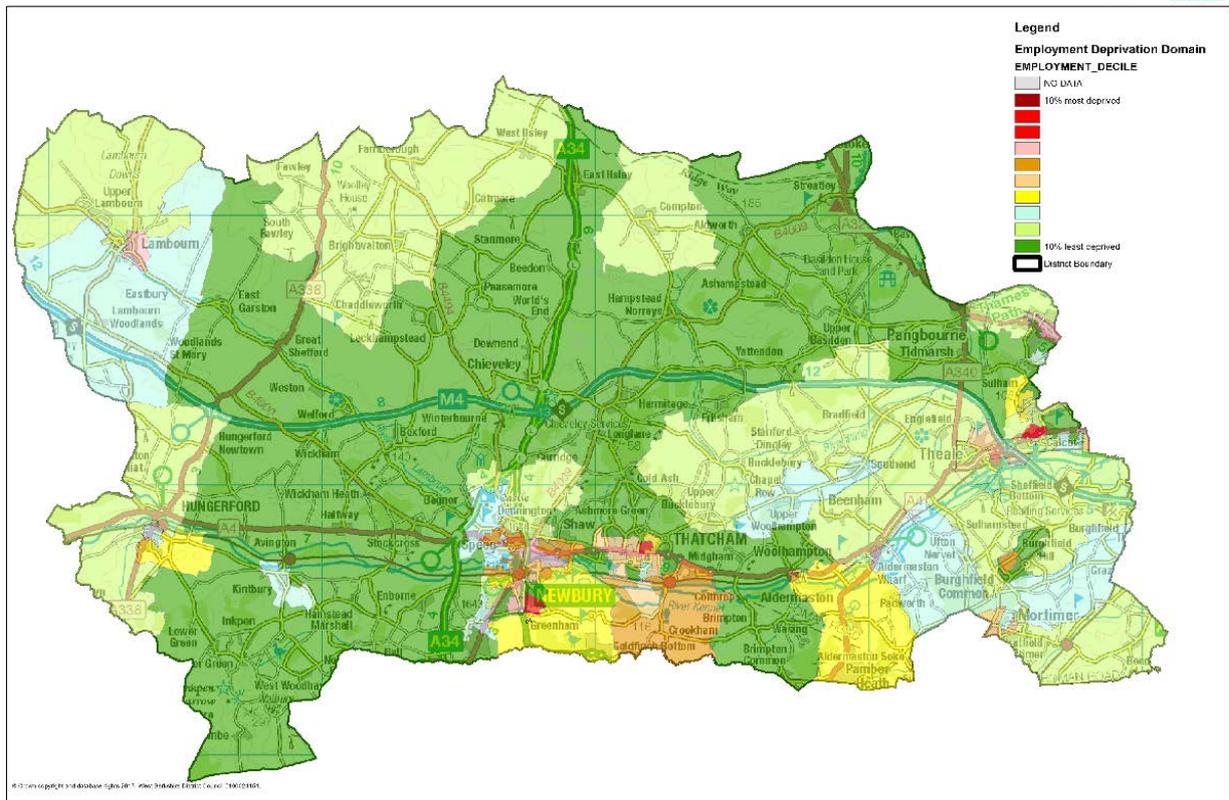
Employment deprivation

The darker areas on the map show the areas with higher levels of deprivation in this domain. Generally, West Berkshire is not particularly deprived in this respect, with only one area – Greenham – which sits within the lowest 3rd of areas in the country.

Figure 19 – Index of Employment Deprivation

Figure 19

07/12/2017
1:108924



Source: DCLG Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2015

The more deprived areas are concentrated around Newbury, Thatcham (notably the more rural area of Thatcham South and Crookham) and the Reading fringe as well as the more rural towns of Lambourn and Hungerford. Source: (www.communities.gov.uk)

Demand for Employment space

Demand for industrial space remains strong and very low levels of vacancy reflect a limited supply of industrial accommodation (particularly modern, good quality space). Development of new industrial space has been limited in recent years, with much of the existing stock relatively dated and in need of refurbishment. Local commercial property agents report that demand for industrial premises is currently outstripping supply.

Rural Economy and Rural Employment Space

The rural areas of the West Berkshire also accommodate provision of employment space. This takes the form of purpose built, stand-alone business parks, industrial estates and converted rural

premises/barns within permitted development or prior approval. These sites accommodate a range of sectors and industries but generally B1 and light industrial uses. Demand for rural employment space is reported to be limited,⁵² with continued steady growth of this type of premises considered inevitable to meet the needs of what is essentially a local market consisting of rural businesses which operate in the area. These premises can also play an important role in providing affordable workspace and retaining home based businesses within the local community. The agricultural sector in West Berkshire has the smallest number of workers by sector.

Future Trends: West Berkshire is an integral part of one of the most prosperous sub regions in Europe, the so called Thames Valley business wedge. Effective and proactive economic development will play a central role in enabling West Berkshire to rise to the financial challenges of the present day at the same time as equipping our community for future wellbeing and prosperity. Returning to rates of growth previously achieved in the period 1995 to 2005 will be the ultimate challenge in the coming years, especially given an increasingly competitive environment in an increasingly global economy, notwithstanding Brexit. However, the relative prosperity disguises particular challenges that constrain economic sustainability within the District. The lack of adequate housing and its high cost is a barrier to recruitment and retention for employers. Economic potential can be restricted by skills and labour supply issues. Local skills shortages and pockets of relative deprivation and income inequality mean that local employment need and opportunity risk being unfulfilled. A lack of new land and/or modern space to accommodate new development constrains the provision of the right mix of employment land to meet the needs of businesses.

Tourism

Tourism is significant for West Berkshire but not a major industry. A report: *The Economic Impact of Tourism* was prepared by Tourism South East Research Services on behalf of West Berkshire District Council in July 2007. The report details the following information on tourism in West Berkshire and its contribution to the local economy:

“Overall, an estimated 485,500 staying trips were spent in West Berkshire District in 2005, of which around 396,000 were made by domestic visitors (82%) and 89,700 by overseas visitors (18%). Staying trips result in an estimated 1.53 million bednights in the District. Domestic visitors account for 62% of these nights and overseas visitors accounted for 38%. Approximately 3.43 million tourism day trips were made to the District (lasting more than 3 hours and taken on an irregular basis) in 2005. Total expenditure by visitors to West Berkshire is estimated to have been in the region of £200 million in 2005.

With the addition of other expenditure such as the expenditure on goods and services by friends and relatives visitors were staying with, or visiting, total expenditure associated with overnights trips to West Berkshire in 2005 was approximately £212 million.⁵³

Primary attractions within West Berkshire include the heritage and cultural attractions described within this section; visitors also come for the tranquillity and scenery in the surrounding countryside. Large swathes of the countryside of the district lies within the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) – an area of gently rolling, chalk landscape and picturesque villages.

Several national routes pass through the area including *The Ridgeway National Trail*, *the Thames Path* and parts of the *Sustrans* countryside cycling network. The *Kennet and Avon Canal* runs through West Berkshire on its way from Bristol and Bath, through Hungerford and Newbury to Reading and the Thames beyond. This attracts boaters and other visitors along the length of the canal. The Canals and Rivers Trust estimate that around a million visits are made to the canal in a year.

The internationally significant *Newbury Racecourse* (home of the iconic Ladbrokes Trophy (formerly known as the Hennessy Gold Cup)) brings a very large number of visitors to the area; approximately 200,000 people attend race meetings each year.

⁵² Western Berkshire FEMA: Economic Development Needs Assessment October 2016

⁵³ The Economic Impact of Tourism, West Berkshire, July 2007, Tourism South East Research Services.

Future trends: Data and information on the contribution of tourism towards the economy of West Berkshire is dated now although all the primary attractions of District are current and apparently well used. One of the priorities of A Breath of Fresh Air, West Berkshire's Sustainable Communities Strategy, is to realise the tourist potential and increase the number of tourist visitors to West Berkshire. A long term strategy for the promotion and management of tourism, including the world class horseracing offering, is needed if this sector is to advance in a measureable way.

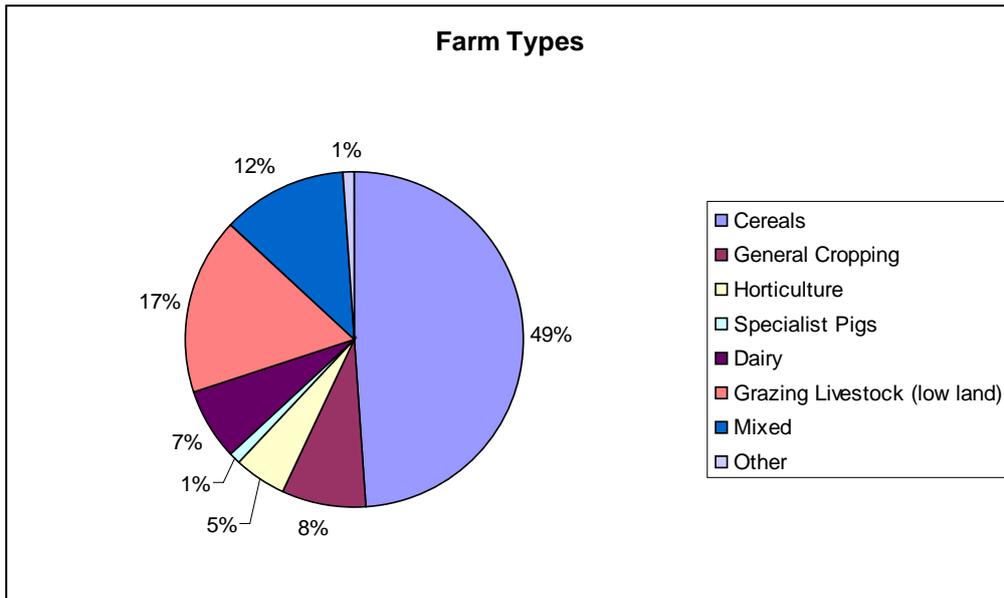
Agriculture

DEFRA's agricultural census for June 2013 shows that there were 49,096 ha of total farmed area in West Berkshire managed by 348 agricultural holdings with 967 people employed directly. Since 2013 people directly employed has dropped to 825⁵⁴ or 1 % of the total working age population although conversely farmland represents the largest land use in the district at 79% and is essential for the conservation of the natural environment.

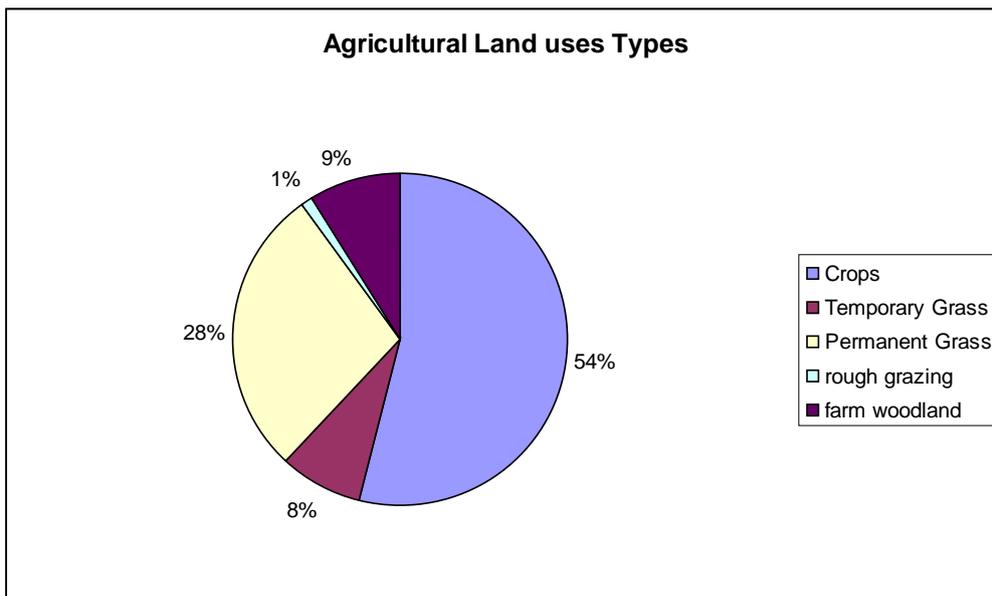
Over half of the agricultural area was under arable cropping (54%), and around one third was grazed. DEFRA assigns each of the registered agricultural holdings to a main farm type on the basis of their principal outputs. This shows that nearly 50% of farms were devoted to cereal crops such as wheat, 29% were grazed livestock farms (i.e. beef and sheep). The charts below show the different agricultural land use and farm types in West Berkshire.

Figures 20 and 21 - Farm types and Agricultural land use types in West Berkshire

⁵⁴NOMIS, September 2017



Source: June 2013 Agricultural and Horticultural Survey – England



Future Trends: Although agriculture makes up a small part of the economy and employment in West Berkshire, its activities are central to the environmental qualities of a District where 74% is AONB. The downward trend in the number of farms and those that work in agriculture in the District continues but perhaps more than any other sector the impacts of leaving the European Union and its Common Agricultural Policy and Environmental Programmes could have a profound effect on the future of land use and management in West Berkshire. Much will depend on the negotiation of future trading arrangements and the transposition of EU farming and environmental protection and support into domestic legislation and programmes. The Government produced a *Future of Farming Review* in 2013 which identified key challenges facing people entering and staying in farming. Amongst the need for more educational opportunities it highlighted the need for supportive planning policies towards rural housing. DEFRA identified a vision for the future of British agriculture in DEFRA's *Farming for the Future Programme*⁵⁵. Key themes arising for this are the need to cut carbon emissions resulting from farming activities, increasing the efficiency of the management of nutrients on farms and

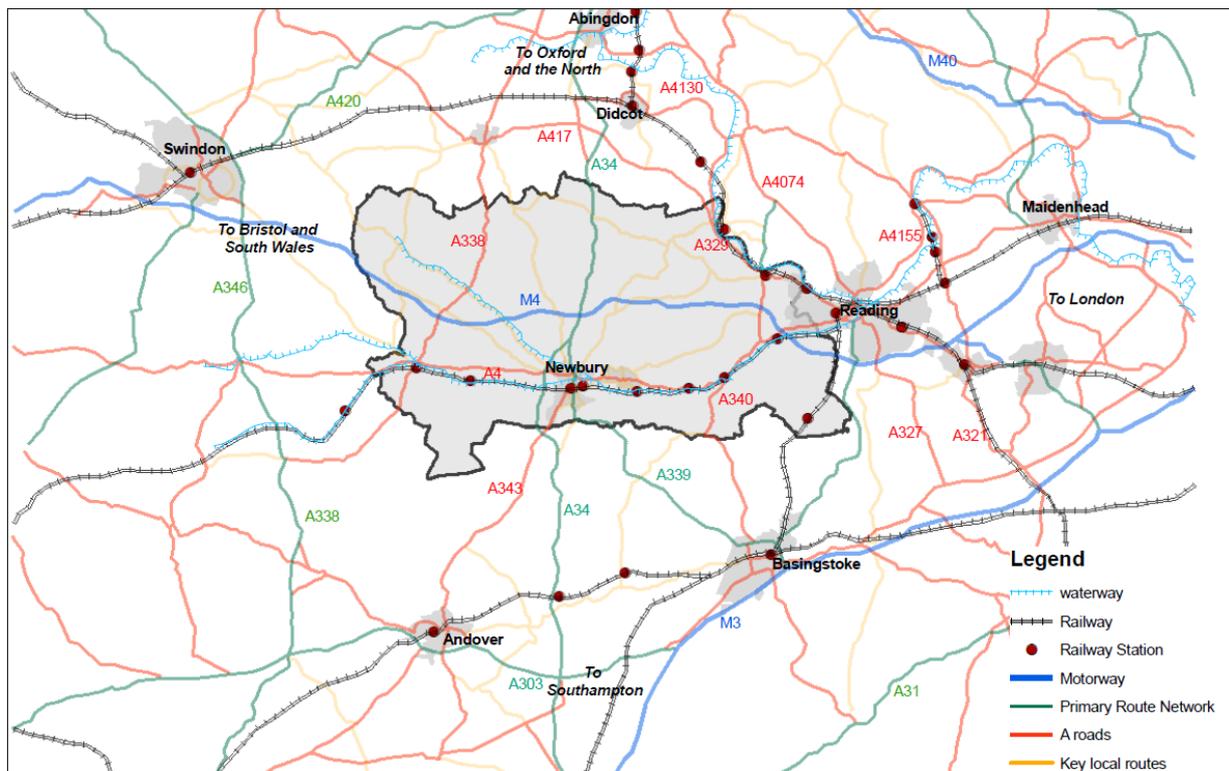
⁵⁵ Farming for the Future Programme, <http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/future/index.htm>

reducing pollution. There are further plans to increase the skills to make UK farming more competitive, and achieve higher standards of animal health⁵⁶. DEFRA is due to publish a long awaited 25 year action plan in 2017.

Transport

West Berkshire's position in central southern England and its good links to the transport network have been key factors in West Berkshire's success at attracting businesses to the area. The district lies at the crossroads of the M4 and A34 strategic roads providing good connectivity in all directions, and with good rail access with direct trains to Reading and London and in the opposite direction to the South West. Heathrow Airport is highly accessible.

Figure 23 - West Berkshire's Transport Links



Reproduced from Ordnance Survey map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office (c) Crown Copyright 2012. West Berkshire District Council 100024151.

Source: WBC – Transport Policy Team

Although these links to and from the area are good, the largely rural nature of West Berkshire makes accessibility within the district more of an issue. In a 2010 research paper by Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion (OCSI), one statistic summarises the hidden picture of the district. Of all households within the West Berkshire, 72.9% live more than 10km/6miles from a principal job centre, considerably higher than the average of 50.4% in England. A large proportion of the residents live in rural towns, villages and hamlets and, through due to the difficulty in providing viable sustainable public transport options to these areas, are dependent on the motor car for access to work place, services and facilities. Data from the DfT shows that West Berkshire has 150,089 licensed vehicles in 2014, of which over 80% are cars (120,375) (DfT, Table VEH0105). When calculated by the most recent household averages in the district, this equates to 1.93 cars per household (1.4 nationally), illustrating an essential need for a vehicle to conduct day to day activities. The rural nature, dispersed population and affluence of West Berkshire is problematic for the provision of a frequent and financially viable bus service as people tend to sway towards the convenience of the car in these locations.

⁵⁶ Information taken from Defra Departmental Report 2008, Defra, May 2008. www.defra.gov.uk

According to the Movement Framework for Newbury (Atkins, 2005), at present, demand exceeds available capacity on the highway network, particularly at peak times, resulting in an average delay per vehicle of between 35% and 43% of an average journey time on key routes within Newbury in the morning peak being spent in delays or queuing.

Newbury, Thatcham and the Reading corridor have a reasonable public transport service, with up to 5 buses and 3 trains per hour. Reading - just to the east of the district - is a major confluence on the strategic rail network, providing direct and efficient access to key urban centres across the country. The disabled are quite well catered for both as individuals and as groups on public transport in West Berkshire; buses have a terminal and priority access to Newbury's principal shopping street, and there is a telephone information service for bus and route times. Bus services are provided in the majority of towns and larger villages in West Berkshire. In addition there are a number of community transport schemes ranging from community buses to cars that help ensure provision and access across the district.

The 2011 census shows that for West Berkshire, 71% of people travelled to work by car or motorcycle including passengers. This is higher than other Berkshire Unitary authorities, with the exception of Reading Borough where figures are substantially lower. A relatively lower proportion of people use public transport to get to work, perhaps reflecting the geographically dispersed nature of the population and the marginally longer distances travelled. A relatively similar proportion of people either work from home, or walk to work. Noticeable is the small proportion of people who cycle to work, although this is reflected nationally also.

Table 5 – Modes of travel to work

	West Berkshire (%)	South East (%)	England and Wales (%)
Work mainly from home	7.6	6.6	5.4
Public Transport	8.9	14.3	26
Car / Motorcycle	70.9	66.5	63.4
Bicycle	2.6	3	2.9
Walk	9.4	10.9	10.7

Source: Census 2011

Accidents: West Berkshire's overall casualty numbers in 2016 have increased slightly from 2015, but are considerably lower than the baseline period (average over 2006-2010)⁵⁷. There has been an increase in child casualties, with numbers only slightly lower than the baseline period. Collisions on Highway England roads and non-resident casualties have both increased slightly in 2016, along with young driver collision involvement levels but are all below their respective baseline periods. 'All' casualty numbers have steadily decreased over the last decade. There were 417 casualties on West Berkshire's roads in 2016, up 3% from 2015, but a 25% reduction from the baseline period. Killed or seriously injured (KSI) casualty numbers in West Berkshire had slightly reduced over the past few years, however in 2016 there was an increase to 72 KSI casualties which is just above the baseline period.

Active travel to work and school: Active travel for regular journeys to work and school are encouraged through 'Travel Plans' that are implemented by workplaces and school communities. Travel Plans work by offering incentives to use alternative modes of travel to work than the car. All schools in West Berkshire have a school travel plan, and many schools actively promote walking and cycling through these plans. There has been an overall growth trend in walking⁵⁸ to school across the district since 2001 (36% of pupils) to 2010 (48%), tailing off by 2014 (45%). The number of monitored⁵⁹ cyclists has fluctuated but declined 13% since a peak of 3200 in 2011/12.

⁵⁷ West Berkshire Road Casualties Update: January to December 2016 based on DfT, 2015, Traffic by local authority (TRA89)

⁵⁸ WBC Annual School Travel Survey

⁵⁹ West Berkshire Cycle Forum – Cycle Monitoring

It is important that people find it easy to move about their local environments, this extends to accessibility problems for those who are disabled or the elderly population. Busy roads, crossing times at traffic lights and steep hills may pose particular barriers to movement locally. The particular design features of streets can have an effect on movement and health. Having many street intersections increases physical activity, while long, wide roadways are likely to reduce active travel. Traffic calming measures (one-way streets, roundabouts, road narrowings, chicanes, road humps, reduction in speed limits) reduce accidents, and benches and trees on streets encourage people to spend time outside.⁶⁰

Future trends: Growth in rail passenger demand in recent years has been one of the successes of UK transport policy. This growth is forecast to continue, with the rail industry's view that by 2035 the national rail network will be carrying twice as many passengers as in 2011. To help meet this demand, the Department for Transport has announced a series of measures to modernise the Great Western rail network, including proposals to electrify parts of the route and new trains, which will provide additional seating capacity. From December 2016, rail passengers travelling between London, Slough, Reading, Newbury, Didcot, Oxford, and on the Mainline west to Bristol and South Wales will benefit from new electric trains. Further details regarding how the Great Western rail network will be improved can be found on the Network Rail website.

With traffic flows forecast to continue to increase the challenge is to work towards slowing down the rate of increase in traffic by encouraging more sustainable modes of travelling than the private motor vehicle and alternatives to travelling such as working from home, tele-conferences, etc. The West Berkshire Local Transport Plan aims to implement a number of policies relating to road, rail and public transport, in particular, increased usage of public transport and a reduction in the use of the car. There are also objectives in relation to encouraging walking and cycling.

⁶⁰[The Marmot Review: implications for Spatial Planning](#). The Marmot Review Team (2011).

Appendix 3 – Compatibility of the SA Objectives with the West Berkshire Local Plan Review Objectives

	Sustainability Objectives									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Local Plan Review Objectives	To enable provision of housing to meet identified need in sustainable locations	To improve health, safety and wellbeing, and reduce inequalities	Improve accessibility to community infrastructure	To promote and maximise opportunities for all forms of safer and sustainable travel	To ensure that the character and distinctiveness of the natural, built and historic environment is conserved and where possible, enhanced	To protect and improve air, water and soil quality, and minimise noise levels throughout West Berkshire	To promote and improve efficiency of land use	To reduce consumption and waste of natural resources and manage their use efficiently	To reduce emissions contributing to climate change and ensure adaptation measures are in place to respond to climate change	To support a strong, diverse and sustainable economic base meets identified needs
A. Climate Change To mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change and minimise demand for energy and other resources.	+	++	0	++	++	++	+	++	++	0
<i>Comments:</i>	3. Tensions exist between the need to improve accessibility where vehicular transport is the primary means (eg in rural areas) and community benefits. 10. Economic growth and technological advances make a balance of prediction difficult notwithstanding accommodation of environmental impacts.									
B. Housing Together with the other Berkshire authorities within the Western Berkshire Housing Market Area, to ensure that the assessed need for market and affordable housing up to 2036 will be met across the District. To provide a mix of house sizes, types and tenures, through a variety of delivery methods and respond to the changing demographic and health profile of the District.	++	++	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	++
<i>Comments:</i>	5/6/8/9: Potential conflicts may occur depending on the siting and type of new development.									

Sustainability Objectives										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Local Plan Review Objectives	To enable provision of housing to meet identified need in sustainable locations	To improve health, safety and wellbeing, and reduce inequalities	Improve accessibility to community infrastructure	To promote and maximise opportunities for all forms of safer and sustainable travel	To ensure that the character and distinctiveness of the natural, built and historic environment is conserved and where possible, enhanced	To protect and improve air, water and soil quality, and minimise noise levels throughout West Berkshire	To promote and improve efficiency of land use	To reduce consumption and waste of natural resources and manage their use efficiently	To reduce emissions contributing to climate change and ensure adaptation measures are in place to respond to climate change	To support a strong, diverse and sustainable economic base meets identified needs
C. Sustainable and Quality Development To ensure provision of sustainable developments of high quality design, construction and efficiency (including land use) which contribute to an attractive, safe and accessible environment for all.	++	++	+	+	+	+	++	++	++	++
<i>Comments:</i>	All: Given the need for housing under Objective B, then this objective should support all sustainability objectives.									
D. Economy To facilitate and support a strong, diverse and sustainable economic base across the District, including the provision of employment land which provides for a range of local job opportunities.	++	++	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	++
<i>Comments:</i>	5/6/8/9: Potential conflicts may occur depending on the siting and type of new development.									

	Sustainability Objectives									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Local Plan Review Objectives	To enable provision of housing to meet identified need in sustainable locations	To improve health, safety and wellbeing, and reduce inequalities	Improve accessibility to community infrastructure	To promote and maximise opportunities for all forms of safer and sustainable travel	To ensure that the character and distinctiveness of the natural, built and historic environment is conserved and where possible, enhanced	To protect and improve air, water and soil quality, and minimise noise levels throughout West Berkshire	To promote and improve efficiency of land use	To reduce consumption and waste of natural resources and manage their use efficiently	To reduce emissions contributing to climate change and ensure adaptation measures are in place to respond to climate change	To support a strong, diverse and sustainable economic base meets identified needs
E. Town Centres To enhance the vitality and viability of town, district and local centres in West Berkshire as places for shopping, leisure and community activities.	+	+	++	+	+	0	++	0	0	++
<i>Comments:</i>	6/8/9: Potential conflicts may occur depending on the siting and type of new development.									
F. Culture Together with partners, to develop and promote the cultural distinctiveness and heritage of the area to ensure it makes a positive contribution to the future wellbeing and sustainability of West Berkshire's economy and communities.	0	++	+	+	++	0	0	0	0	+
<i>Comments:</i>	1/6/7/8/9: The variety of potential developments make the compatibility difficult to predict as inherently the development is must increase local and visitor activity, so much is dependent on infrastructure and management.									
G. Heritage To conserve and enhance the local distinctive character and identity of the built, historic	0	++	++	0	++	++	+	++	++	+

	Sustainability Objectives									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Local Plan Review Objectives	To enable provision of housing to meet identified need in sustainable locations	To improve health, safety and wellbeing, and reduce inequalities	Improve accessibility to community infrastructure	To promote and maximise opportunities for all forms of safer and sustainable travel	To ensure that the character and distinctiveness of the natural, built and historic environment is conserved and where possible, enhanced	To protect and improve air, water and soil quality, and minimise noise levels throughout West Berkshire	To promote and improve efficiency of land use	To reduce consumption and waste of natural resources and manage their use efficiently	To reduce emissions contributing to climate change and ensure adaptation measures are in place to respond to climate change	To support a strong, diverse and sustainable economic base meets identified needs
and natural environment in West Berkshire's towns, villages and countryside.										
<i>Comments:</i>										
H. Green Infrastructure and Healthy Living To ensure that West Berkshire contains a strong network of multi-functional green infrastructure which provides health and environmental benefits and enhances the overall quality of life of sustainable communities.	+	++	++	++	+	++	++	+	++	+
<i>Comments:</i>										
I. Transport To make provision for transport networks that support sustainable growth in West Berkshire and to promote low emission transport choices.	++	++	+	++	0	0	+	0	+	++

Sustainability Objectives										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Local Plan Review Objectives	To enable provision of housing to meet identified need in sustainable locations	To improve health, safety and wellbeing, and reduce inequalities	Improve accessibility to community infrastructure	To promote and maximise opportunities for all forms of safer and sustainable travel	To ensure that the character and distinctiveness of the natural, built and historic environment is conserved and where possible, enhanced	To protect and improve air, water and soil quality, and minimise noise levels throughout West Berkshire	To promote and improve efficiency of land use	To reduce consumption and waste of natural resources and manage their use efficiently	To reduce emissions contributing to climate change and ensure adaptation measures are in place to respond to climate change	To support a strong, diverse and sustainable economic base meets identified needs
<i>Comments:</i>	5/8: Potential conflicts may occur depending on the siting and type of new development.									
J. Infrastructure To ensure that the physical and social infrastructure needs arising from the growth in West Berkshire are provided to support and keep pace with development in accordance with the detail set out in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.	++	++	++	+	0	0	+	0	0	++
<i>Comments:</i>	5/6/8/9: Potential conflicts may occur depending on the siting and type of new infrastructure and rate of technological advances.									

Key:	
++	Strongly supports sustainable objectives
+	Supports sustainable objectives
0	Neutral
-	Works against sustainable objectives
--	Works strongly against sustainable objectives

APPENDIX 4 - Glossary

Acronym	Term	Definition
AA	Appropriate Assessment	Regulations require that an appropriate assessment is carried out to determine the impact of plans and projects on sites of European importance for nature conservation.
	Adoption	Formal approval by the Council of a DPD whereupon it achieves its full weight.
	Alternatives	Different ways of achieving the Plan objectives. Sometimes referred to as Options.
AMR	Annual Monitoring Report	Annual statement analysing the implementation of policies. Produced in December. This is a statutory requirement of the new planning system.
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	Areas of land designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, where the primary purpose is the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty, which includes protecting flora, fauna, geology and landscape features. Natural England is responsible for formally designated AONBs and advising on policies for their protection. 74% of West Berkshire is within the North Wessex Downs AONB.
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area	Area designated (under the Environment Act) by local authorities following local assessment of air quality where individual pollutants are forecast to exceed standards defined in the National Air Quality Strategy.
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan	A Plan with a list of actions designated to protect and restore biological systems
BOA	Biodiversity Opportunity Area	An area identified to have the greatest opportunity for habitat creation and recreation
BREEAM	Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method	An environmental assessment method for buildings which sets standards for best practice in sustainable design
	Conservation Area	Area of special architectural or historical interest.
	Core Strategy	Document setting out the overall spatial planning policies and objectives for an area.
	Council Strategy	Statement of the Council's aims and priorities.
	Council	In this context, the local planning authority; in this case West Berkshire Council. References to full Council are to the meeting of all elected members which is the Council's supreme decision making body.
	Cumulative Effects	Effects that result from changes caused by a project, plan, programme or policy in association with other past, present or reasonably foreseeable future plans and actions.
DEFRA	Department for Environment and Rural Affairs	UK government department responsible for safeguarding our natural environment, supporting the food and farming industry, and sustaining a thriving rural community.
DCLG	Department of Communities and Local Government	Communities and Local Government sets policy on local government, housing, urban regeneration, planning and fire and rescue.
MHCLG	Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government	Renamed in 2018 to reflect the Government's renewed focus to deliver new homes.
DPD	Development Plan Document	A statutory document which is the primary consideration in determining planning applications. It is required to undergo public testing (inquiry or examination before an independent inspector or panel).
EA	Environment Agency	Public body for protecting and improving the environment in England and Wales.
EDNA	Economic Development Needs Assessment	Information on the economy and the identification of how much land is required for employment growth.
	Evidence Base	Background information on the District, including its needs and predictions of what might be needed in the future
	Examination	In this context the forum at which an independent inspector considers the soundness of a development plan document.
	Executive	In this case, the Council's lead decision making body comprised of elected members.
FC	Forestry Commission	Public body responsible for the protection and management of forests and woodlands.
GIS	Geographical Information System	Technology that manages, analyses, and disseminates geographic knowledge.
HRA	Habitat Regulations Assessment	Assesses the impact of development on national habitat designations
HE	Historic England	Public body responsible for the protection of historic buildings, land, ancient monuments and archaeology.
HER	Historic Environment Record	Information services that seek to provide access to comprehensive and dynamic resources relating to the historic environment of a defined geographic area for public benefit and use.

Acronym	Term	Definition
HELAA	Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment	Identifying potential land for housing and economic development in West Berkshire
	Housing Trajectory	Diagram showing housing delivery and expected trends of development.
	Indicator	Measurement of change to a system or objective.
IDP	Infrastructure Delivery Plan	A document which identifies future infrastructure and services needs for the district over the Local Plan period
	Landfill	The disposal of waste material by tipping into voids in the ground.
LCA	Landscape Character Assessment	A tool to assess and identify features and elements that contribute to the character of the landscape.
LDD	Local Development Documents	<p>The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 define a LDD as:</p> <p><i>“Any document prepared by a local planning authority individually or in cooperation with one or more other local planning authorities, which contains statements regarding one or more of the following –</i></p> <p><i>(i) the development and use of land which the local planning authority wish to encourage during any specified period;</i></p> <p><i>(ii) the allocation of sites for a particular type of development or use;</i></p> <p><i>(iii) any environmental, social, design and economic objectives which are relevant to the attainment of the development and use of land mentioned in paragraph (i); and</i></p> <p><i>(iv) development management and site allocation policies, which are intended to guide the determination of applications for planning permission.”</i></p> <p>LDDs therefore include the local plan and related SPDs, along with the AMR. As the statement of community involvement refers to part of the process of plan preparation, it is also defined as a local development document (but it is not a development plan document as it does not contain policies for use of land).</p>
LDS	Local Development Scheme	A public statement of the Council’s programme for the production of Local Development Documents relating to the Local Development Framework.
LEP	Local Enterprise Partnership	Local Enterprise Partnerships are locally-owned partnerships between local authorities and businesses. They play a central role in deciding local economic priorities and undertaking activities to drive economic growth and create local jobs.
BLNP	Berkshire Local Nature Partnership	Local Nature Partnerships are partnerships of a broad range of local organisations, businesses and people who aim to help bring about improvements in their local natural environment. A key commitment from the Government’s Natural Environment White Paper.
	Listed Building	Building included on a list of buildings of architectural or historic interest.
LTP	Local Transport Plan	A plan setting out a transport planning policy framework and strategy for the delivery of local transport measures until 2026
	Material consideration	A factor or document which can be taken into account in deciding a planning application.
	Mitigation	Measures to avoid, reduce or offset the adverse effects of the plan on sustainability
	Monitoring	Check of effectiveness of policies
	Objective	Statement of what is intended, specifying the desired direction of change
NE	Natural England	Public body for the protection of landscape, wildlife, natural features and access to the countryside.
NPD	Neighbourhood Planning Document	A new way for communities to decide the future of the places where they live and work. The government has introduced the community right to do neighbourhood planning through the Localism Act.
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework	A simplified set of national policies published by the government in March 2012 that replaces the government guidance formerly contained in Planning Policy Guidance Notes (PPGs), Planning Policy Statements (PPSs), Minerals Planning Guidance Notes (MPGs) and Minerals Policy Statements (MPS’).
NPPG	National Planning Policy Guidance	On-line guidance produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government in March 2014 that supplements the NPPF and supersedes previous planning practice guidance
NPPW	National Planning Policy for Waste	This document sets out detailed waste planning policies. It should be read in conjunction with the National Planning Policy Framework, the National Waste Management Plan for England and national policy statements for waste water and hazardous waste, or any successor documents. All local planning authorities should have regard to its policies when discharging their responsibilities to the extent that they are appropriate to waste management.
ODPM	Office Deputy Prime Minister	Former government department whose responsibilities have now been taken over by the Department of Communities and Local Government
	Planning Inspectorate	National agency which supplies independent planning inspectors. Their main work is the processing of planning and enforcement appeals and holding examinations into regional spatial strategies and local development frameworks.

Acronym	Term	Definition
PDL	Previously Development Land	Previously Developed Land. Defined by Government as land which 'is or was occupied by a permanent structure, including the curtilage of the developed land and any associated fixed surface infrastructure'.
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance	Government statement issued by DCLG of its policy on planning issues. Gradually being replaced by PPS but now replaced by NPPF and NPPG.
PPS	Planning Policy Statements	Former Government statement of its planning policies. Now replaced by the NPPF and NPPG.
	Public Examination	See Examination above.
	Primary Aggregates	Naturally occurring sand, gravel and hard rock used for construction purposes
	Recycled Materials	Aggregate materials that are recovered from construction and demolition processes and from excavation on construction sites.
SA	Sustainability Appraisal	A single appraisal tool which provides for the systematic identification and evaluation of the economic, social and environmental impacts of a proposal
SAC	Special Area of Conservation	A European designation under the EC Habitats Directive that requires the establishment of a European network of important high-quality conservation sites to conserve habitats and species considered to be most in need of conservation at a European level (excluding birds). Together with Special Protection Areas (SPAs), they form a network of Natura 2000 sites. All SACs and SPAs are also designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) under UK legislation.
SM	Scheduled Monument	Nationally important archaeological site included in the Schedule of Monuments.
SCI	Statement of Community Involvement	Adopted document setting out the Council's policy for involving the community in the preparation and revision of planning policy documents, and in the consideration of planning applications within the District.
	Scoping	Process of deciding the scope and level of detail of the SEA.
	Screening	Process of deciding if a plan or programme requires an SEA or other assessment.
	Spatial Strategy	An integrated planning/development strategy aiming to achieve a range of objectives.
	Stakeholder	In this context an organisation or individual with an interest in local planning matters.
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment	A process to ensure that significant environmental effects arising from policies, plans and programmes are identified, assessed, mitigated, communicated to decision-makers, monitored and that opportunities for public involvement are provided.
SEP	South East Plan	RSS for the South East.
SFRA	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	Determines the variation in flood risk across the district. Level 1 assessment looks at the district as a whole; the Level 2 assessment looks at specific sites or areas.
SHLAA	Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment	Identifies potential sites being promoted for new homes at a particular time. A technical assessment and not a policy document.
SHMA	Strategic Housing Market Assessment	Assessment of housing needs into the local and wider housing market area.
SPA	Special Protection Area	Strictly protected sites classified in accordance with Article 4 of the EC Directive on the conservation of wild birds (79/409/EEC), also known as the Birds Directive, which came into force in April 1979. They are classified for rare and vulnerable birds, listed in Annex I to the Birds Directive, and for regularly occurring migratory species. The nearest such area to West Berkshire is the Thames Basin Heaths. Together with Special Protection Areas (SPAs), they form a network of Natura 2000 sites. All SACs and SPAs are also designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) under UK legislation.
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document	A local development document which does not have DPD status but which provides supplementary guidance to the main policies and is a material consideration in determination of planning applications. Part of the Local Plan.
SPG	Supplementary Planning Guidance	Local planning guidance produced under the previous planning system. They gave additional guidance in support of policies in statutory planning documents. The equivalent in the new system is a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).
SSSI	Site of Specific Scientific Interest	Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Areas of national nature conservation or wildlife importance protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. SSSIs are identified by Natural England
SUDs	Sustainable Urban Drainage	
	Submission	Stage at which a prepared DPD is presented to Secretary of State.
TVERC	Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre	A 'not for profit' operation run by a partnership of organisations that collect or need to use information about the natural environment
UA	Unitary Authority	Administrative unit of Great Britain. Since 1996 the two-tier structure of local government has ceased to exist in Scotland and Wales, and in some parts of England, and has been replaced by unitary authorities, responsible for all local government services.
VDS	Village Design Statement	Local design guidance produced by local community and adopted by the Council.

Acronym	Term	Definition
WBCS	West Berkshire Core Strategy	The Core Strategy of the Local Plan.

Appendix 5 – Statutory Consultation bodies comments and Council response

	Respondent	Comments	Council Response
1	Historic England	<p>General advice on Sustainability Appraisal and the historic environment is set out in Historic England’s Advice Note 8 “Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment”</p> <p>Prefer a separate objective specifically for the historic environment/ heritage assets – the natural and historic environments are both significant matters in their own right, worthy of separate consideration. There is a danger that conflating the two could mask effects on one or the other.</p> <p>Reference should be made to the significance of the historic environment/heritage assets – the significance is what is important about heritage assets and what should be conserved or enhanced (as well as the asset itself).</p> <p>Objective 5 should be accorded particular importance in any ranking, having regard to statutory requirements for listed buildings, scheduled monuments and conservation areas and the clear indications in the National Planning Policy Framework that heritage assets should be conserved and enhanced.</p> <p>Appendix 1: List and Review of Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies reference should be made to the 2016 Culture White Paper</p> <p>Other relevant background documents for the historic environment should ideally be specified e.g. the West Berkshire Historic Environment Record, the West Berkshire Historic Landscape Characterisation, Conservation Area Character Appraisals, any archaeological studies etc.</p> <p>We consider the baseline data for the historic environment to be largely adequate. However, on the 2017 Heritage at Risk Register there are eleven assets deemed to be at risk: three listed</p>	<p>Guidance has been accessed and will be used to inform the SA.</p> <p>They are separated in the sub-objectives with associated indicators.</p> <p>Text amended to distinguish significance.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Added to Appendix 1. TBC</p> <p>These are technical documents at a level that is too detailed to be included in Appendix 1. Some hyperlinks are included the baseline text.</p> <p>Included in Table 3 in Appendix 2.</p>

	Respondent	Comments	Council Response
		<p>structures, four scheduled monuments, three Registered Historic Parks and Gardens and one dual designation (listed and scheduled).</p> <p>It should be noted that outside London, the Register does not include Grade II listed secular buildings. Has the Council undertaken a survey of Grade II listed buildings and/or completed Historic England's annual survey of Conservation Areas to see if any are at risk ? If not, these should be identified as gaps in the baseline.</p> <p>The historic environment baseline should describe the current and future likely state of the historic environment and be both quantitative and qualitative. What are the trends in the condition of the historic environment?</p> <p>It would be helpful to state how many structures, places and buildings of local interest are on the Council's local list and how many of the 52 conservation areas have up-to-date Character Appraisals and/or Management Plans.</p> <p>We agree, in principle, with the sustainability issue relating to the historic environment. However, we would expect a reference to heritage assets at risk within West Berkshire.</p> <p>We welcome the suggested indicators, although the reference to the HER is erroneous - the reference should be to the Heritage at Risk Register. We would also suggest adding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of Conservation Areas in West Berkshire with an up-to-date character appraisal (and management plan); • the number of major development projects that enhance the significance of heritage assets or historic landscape character; • the number of major development projects that detract from the significance of heritage assets or historic landscape character; and 	<p>Text added to clarify the 'gap'.</p> <p>Text covers the current state so far as is known and gaps have been acknowledged which makes detecting 'trends' in 'future' difficult other than an anticipated development pressure.</p> <p>Text added.</p> <p>Reference added.</p> <p>Corrected.</p> <p>Indicators included.</p>

	Respondent	Comments	Council Response
		<p>Although a point to raise when commenting on the Local Plan Review, we mention now that Local Plan Objective F should refer to the historic environment alongside (or preferably separately from) the natural and built environment. Not all historic features are “built”. In fact, the National Planning Policy Framework specifically refers to the historic environment (distinguishing it from the built environment in paragraph 7) and even defines it. It is therefore clear that “built environment” and “historic environment” are not interchangeable terms.</p>	Objective amended.
2		<p>Natural England has not reviewed the plans listed. However, we advise that the following types of plans relating to the natural environment should be considered where applicable to your plan area;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Green infrastructure strategies. <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity plans. <input type="checkbox"/> Rights of Way Improvement Plans. <input type="checkbox"/> River basin management plans. <input type="checkbox"/> AONB and National Park management plans. <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant landscape plans and strategies. <p>Natural England advise including baseline data (and a related indicator) on the critical loads, levels, and background levels of pollutants, and in particular nitrogen deposition and oxides of nitrogen (both associated with vehicular usage) for designated sites of National importance (Sites of Special Scientific Interest - SSSIs) and sites of European importance (Special Protection Areas - SPAs, Special Areas of Conservation - SACs and Ramsars). This information can be found on the APIS website. The protection of designated sites is covered e.g. in paras 118 and 119 of the NPPF, along with air quality which is covered in para. 124.</p>	<p>Noted and already included.</p> <p>Reference added.</p> <p>Noted.</p>

	Respondent	Comments	Council Response
	Natural England	<p>Please see attached Annex A for further advice on sources of local plan evidence on the natural environment.</p> <p>Water Quality is raised as part of the Climate Change and Resource Efficiency section (page 18). Natural England would like to advise that water quality also be included in the Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure section (page 19) due to designated site (specifically, the River Kennet SSSI and the River Lambourn SSSI/SAC) sensitivity to high phosphorus concentrations and their subsequent vulnerability with regard to package treatment plant and septic tank usage.</p> <p>The SA5 objective emphasises the protection of designated sites. There is a risk that in some situations, development on land of limited biodiversity value in its own right can lead to the creation of islands of biodiversity, permanently severed from other areas. We therefore suggest adding to the Sustainability Objectives indicators to ensure that current ecological networks are not compromised, and future improvements to habitat connectivity are not prejudiced. The SA6 objective emphasises the maintenance and improvement of water quality. Natural England advise that water quality of the River Kennet SSSI and the River Lambourn SSSI/SAC designated sites should be given particular consideration (and be monitored through appropriate indicators), due to their sensitivity to high phosphorus concentrations and subsequent vulnerability with regard to package treatment plant and septic tank usage. The SA6 objective also emphasises the maintenance and improvement of soil quality. We note that strategic consideration and preservation of soils has been given due consideration, but has been referred to as “high grade agricultural land” in the indicator column on page 22 of the SEA Scoping document. We advise that this be changed to “Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land Grades 1- 3a” for the avoidance of any doubt.</p> <p>We have no comments on this [ranking of objectives], however due regard must be given to legislative framework, for instance European sites and species are afforded the highest level of importance and protection.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Vulnerability of nutrients is included in Table 4 in Appendix 2.</p> <p>It is intended that policies will support the conservation and enhancement of habitats and species and will be applied to individual sites in advance of allocation and permission.</p> <p>WFD status as assessed by the Thames RBMP is included in the indicators.</p> <p>Indicator amended.</p> <p>Noted.</p>

	Respondent	Comments	Council Response
		<p>As set out in Planning Practice Guidance, you should be monitoring the significant environmental effects of implementing the current local plan. This should include indicators for monitoring the effects of the plan on biodiversity (NPPF para 117).</p> <p>The natural environment metrics in the baseline information are largely driven by factors other than the plan's performance. They are thus likely to be of little value in monitoring the performance of the Plan. It is important that any monitoring indicators relate to the effects of the plan itself, not wider changes. Bespoke indicators should be chosen relating to the outcomes of development management decisions.</p> <p>Natural England considers the indicators in the SEA document to provide relevant measures for the associated objectives on the whole (although please see Q7, above). Whilst it is not Natural England's role to prescribe what indicators should be adopted, the following additional indicators could also be appropriate to include in the SEA document:</p> <p>Biodiversity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Number of planning approvals that generated any adverse impacts on sites of acknowledged biodiversity importance (e.g. SSSIs, SPAs, SACs etc.). <input type="checkbox"/> Percentage of major developments generating overall biodiversity enhancement. <input type="checkbox"/> Hectares of biodiversity habitat delivered through strategic site allocations. <input type="checkbox"/> Natural England notes that reference has been made to veteran trees within the baseline data review, however has not been included as an indicator. Veteran trees could be included as a potential indicator alongside ancient woodland (Objective 5, page 22). <p>Landscape:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Amount of new development in AONB with commentary on likely impact. <p>Green infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Percentage of population having access to natural greenspace within 400 metres of their home. 	<p>The chosen indicators will include reason for loss, damage or change and should identify the impact of development where relevant.</p> <p>Noted.</p>

	Respondent	Comments	Council Response
		<input type="checkbox"/> Hectares of accessible open space per 1000 population.	
3	Environment Agency	<p>Question 1: Suggest reference to the revised climate change allowances (2016), first published in February 2016 in 'climate change and resource efficiency' section beginning on page 101.</p> <p>Suggest On page 106 the new allowances should be discussed in relation to the 2018 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) assessment on the effect of climate change on the extent of river flooding.</p> <p>Mention and discuss SFRA and flood risk sequential test as part of the evidence which informs the SA.</p> <p>Include reference to The Thames River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) 2015. This sets out the baseline 2015 WFD status for the water bodies within the Thames River Basin District (including West Berkshire). As part of the no deterioration objective of the WFD, there should not be a deterioration from this baseline. The RBMP also sets out the future objective status of the water bodies. These objectives should not be compromised by proposed growth. Therefore the Local Plan needs to ensure that's its policies and site allocations are compliant with this</p> <p>Include a Water Cycle Study (WCS) within the evidence documents section. Without this assessment of water quality it may be unclear if the local plan and its proposed growth will be acceptable within the constraints of the environment. Will growth result in a WFD status deterioration? Will it compromise the ability of the water body to reach its future objective WFD status? Is growth located in the most suitable locations to ensure deterioration does not occur? It is not for the Agency to insist on a WCS but is rather up to the inspector to decide if enough evidence has been provided on the impacts.</p> <p>Page 12 includes screening under the Habitats Directive, but this</p>	<p>Reference included in Appendix 2.</p> <p>Relevance of new allowances added to Appendix 2 Flood Risk but note the SFRA due in 2018 is still in draft.</p> <p>The sequential test is embedded in the SFRA which will inform the SA as mentioned in the report.</p> <p>Reference in Appendix 1 already exists. Clarification added about status objective not being compromised by development.</p> <p>The Council does not have a WCS but this is under consideration in preparation for the Local Plan Review.</p>

	Respondent	Comments	Council Response
		<p>now requires updating because the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (2010 No. 490) were replaced by The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (SI 2017/1012), which came into force on 30 November 2017. Special Protection Areas (SPA) can be omitted as there are no SPAs in West Berkshire.</p> <p>Questions 2 & 3</p> <p>The out of date 2008/2015 SFRA is mentioned several times in the document, however the latest SFRA (currently in progress) should be used to inform the scope of the sustainability appraisal.</p> <p>From a groundwater perspective the two most important baseline data in determining (at least on a spatial basis) future development planning would be our Source Protection Zone (SPZ) mapping and Groundwater Vulnerability mapping. These are both available on our website.</p> <p>We would also highlight that a register of formally designated, contaminated sites that should be held by West Berkshire council. This is not an exhaustive list of all site potentially impacted by contamination. It would include though some principal sites, where contamination has been confirmed as a risk to human of controlled water receptors. This should also be referred to as a key baseline data.</p> <p>The baseline for water quality only really mentions nitrate from agriculture. Point source effluent if one of the biggest reasons for poor water quality. Phosphate, Ammonia and Biochemical Oxygen Demand are elements which form part of the overall WFD classification for a water body. These would likely need to be considered as housing numbers increase and effluent volume also increases. Key questions to consider include: Can effluent permits be tightened to prevent impact on WFD? Are these proposed permits within technically feasible limits? Will the necessary Sewage Treatment Work infrastructure be able to accommodative increased effluent flows?</p>	<p>Amended. Reference to SPA is for completeness with respect to the 5 km consultation zone of the Thames Basin and Heaths SPA that comes into the district.</p> <p>Noted. Reference is made in text to the need to take account of the new SFRA, due for publication in the first half of 2018.</p> <p>Additional wording entered under Water Quality to highlight these screening tools.</p> <p>Section on Contaminated Land added to Water Quality in Appendix 2. Omitted reference to the Contaminated Land Strategy has been added to Appendix 1.</p> <p>Text revised under Water Quality.</p>

	Respondent	Comments	Council Response
		<p>Questions 5 & 6</p> <p>The sentence at the end of page 17 beginning ‘the need to reduce impacts...’ is confusingly worded. We suggest it should be changed to: "There is a need to reduce impacts on climate change through reduced emission of greenhouse gases, consumption of natural resources and vehicular movements. In addition, more sustainable designs are required to mitigate and adapt to the physical, financial and economic impacts of a potential rise in flooding and overall temperatures."</p> <p>Diffuse pollution needs mention. The greatest issue with groundwater quality within West Berkshire is almost certainly nitrates. Almost three quarters of West Berkshire is designated as a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone, reflecting scale of the local impact. We would just suggest a simple line such as "Nitrates continue to impact significant fraction of aquifers across West Berkshire"</p> <p>The pressure from developments in relation to water quality, just refer to sewage (not specific on surface and groundwater). We are of the opinion that there should refer to wider issues (i.e. waste management). There is also no mention of contamination within the sustainability thematic topics. We would suggest something along the lines of the following: "As well as increased sewage pressures, development can pose other risks to water quality, this can could include inappropriate mobilising legacy contamination, waste management or site drainage."</p> <p>We are pleased to see that water quality appears to have been included. It identifies both the infrastructure capacity (ability of the network to accommodate higher effluent) and environmental capacity (ability of the receiving water to take the increase effluent without compromising water quality) of the receiving waters as potential issues to consider. These are two key topics that need to be considered.</p>	<p>Amended as suggested.</p> <p>Text added acknowledging diffuse pollution more explicitly and suggested wording added to section on Water Quality, Appendix 2.</p> <p>Text amended as suggested.</p> <p>Noted.</p>

	Respondent	Comments	Council Response
		<p>In Table 3, for the objective “To sustainably manage flood risk to people, property, and the environment” we suggest adding an additional indicator around the number of flood alleviation schemes developed to protect existing housing and infrastructure.</p> <p>The suggested indicators for Biodiversity only include statutory nature conservation sites and priority habitats and species. Other indicators that should be included are non-statutory sites such as Local Wildlife Sites and habitats and species that are not within designated sites but are of local biodiversity importance. Protected species should also be included. SACs should be included as well as specific mention of the rivers due to their importance for biodiversity as blue corridors, particularly as part of green and blue infrastructure.</p> <p>Remediation of contaminated site is only mentioned with regards to soil quality. Contamination of controlled waters (groundwater and to a lesser extent surface water), from historic uses of land is a major issue. These issues are principally resolved through the planning process. West Berkshire includes a number of sites which have had a significant legacy of groundwater contaminations (i.e. Stirling Way). The remediation of sites such that they are no longer impacting on water quality should also be included as indicator for water quality.</p> <p>In terms of water quality, Indicators appear rather reactive rather than proactive in nature. Forward planning and modelled future scenarios may be required to ensure compliance with directive objectives. This would ensure most suitable location and phasing of development.</p> <p>For the objective “to maintain and improve water quality” we suggest adding the additional indicator “Deterioration in WFD status from 2015 baseline”.</p> <p>Appendix 1 – List and review of Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies</p>	<p>Indicator added.</p> <p>The ‘TVERC’ indicator cover the remaining sites in a comprehensive annual report including protected and priority habitats and species.</p> <p>SAC condition added to indicator.</p> <p>Section on contaminated land added to Appendix 2.</p> <p>Indicator added.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Indicator added.</p>

	Respondent	Comments	Council Response
		<p><u>International</u></p> <p>Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. The final column (Implications for Sustainability Appraisal) should include enhancing biodiversity, not just protecting and preserving.</p> <p><u>EU Directives</u></p> <p>The Birds Directive 2009 Directive 2009/147/EC – please add that Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are designated under this Directive. But also add that while there are no SPAs in West Berkshire, the south eastern corner of the District falls within the 5km zone of the Thames Basin Heath SPA.</p> <p><u>Policies and Strategies</u></p> <p>Working with the grain of nature – A Biodiversity Strategy for England (DEFRA). In the fifth column (implications for the Local Plan) the wording should be stronger and we suggest: ‘The Local Plan should include policies to protect and enhance biodiversity. Development should be refused if there are adverse impacts on biodiversity or alternatively appropriate and adequate mitigation and compensation measures must be implemented.</p> <p>We suggest that this section should include reference to our key groundwater document: - “The Environment Agency’s approach to groundwater protection, November 2017 Version 1.1”.</p> <p><u>National Legislation</u></p> <p>The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (as amended) – this should make reference to The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (SI 2017/1012), which came into force on 30 November 2017 and replaced the 2010 Regulations.</p>	<p>Amended in Appendix 1.</p> <p>SPA terminology added.</p> <p>Reference to TBH added.</p> <p>Text amended.</p> <p>Reference added.</p> <p>Text referring to latest regulation added.</p>

	Respondent	Comments	Council Response
		<p>A piece of national legislation that is missing and so should be added is The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006) that amends the Wildlife & Countryside Act and the CROW Act. It also places a duty on public bodies including Local Planning Authorities, to have regard to conserving biodiversity. Section 41 of the NERC Act lists species and habitats of principal importance that must be taken into account when public bodies are performing any of their functions.</p> <p><u>Regional/Sub-regional</u></p> <p>Pleased to see that the Berkshire Biodiversity Strategy and specifically Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) are included and that the SA will have objectives and indicators for the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity.</p> <p>Replacement Minerals Local Plan for Berkshire – this should include a sentence ensuring that biodiversity is not adversely impacted or alternatively that appropriate and adequate mitigation and compensation measures must be implemented.</p> <p>Summary of Key Emerging Local Level Objectives</p> <p>Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure (GI) – this should include the importance of rivers in GI, particularly as green or blue corridors.</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Baseline information</p> <p><u>Biodiversity</u> (p.97), Table 4 – We welcome the wide-reaching nature of this section that recognises the importance of habitats outside of designated site. However, we would like to see a greater emphasis on the importance of rivers and their corridors for biodiversity and within green/blue infrastructure.</p> <p>The description of The River Lambourn SAC should include the fact that it is a chalk stream. While rivers are a habitat of principle importance, chalk streams are recognised as being of particular importance and are a priority Biodiversity Action Plan habitat.</p>	<p>Added.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Reference added to Appendix 1.</p> <p>Text added.</p> <p>Text added</p>

Respondent	Comments	Council Response
	<p><u>Flood risk</u> (p.105) – please include the benefits of Natural Flood Management that both alleviate flooding and benefit biodiversity.</p> <p>Appendix 4 - Glossary</p> <p><u>Defra</u> – the definition should be amended to read: ‘Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.’</p> <p><u>SAC</u> – please amend the definition to read: ‘A European designation under the EC Habitats Directive that requires the establishment of a European network of important high-quality conservation sites to conserve habitats and species considered to be most in need of conservation at a European level (excluding birds). Together with Special Protection Areas (SPAs), they form a network of Natura 2000 sites. All SACs and SPAs are also designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) under UK legislation.’ The last two sentences could also be included under the SPA entry in the glossary.</p> <p>General comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Table 1 and Table 5 are the same table- is it necessary to have these twice? • Page 27, second paragraph of ‘6. Stage A5 – Consultation’ seems to still be in a template format and needs updating. • In Appendix 1, some documents appear to be listed twice for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Securing the future: Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy 2011 (page 42, 43) - Future Water: The Government’s Water Strategy for England (DEFRA) 2008, 2011 (page 42, 45) 	<p>Text added</p> <p>Amended</p> <p>Amended</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Template amended</p> <p>Duplication removed</p>