

Cabinet

Wednesday, 17 October 2012

Annex 1 – Part 3 – Draft Local Plan Submission Draft Document – Supporting Appendices

Contact: Ian Willcox (Telephone 01793 463601),
email: iwillcox@swindon.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix 3

**Strategic Environmental Assessment incorporating
Sustainability Appraisal**

Diversity Impact Assessment

Habitats Regulation Assessment

Health Impact Assessment

Infrastructure Delivery Plan

Duty to Cooperate Statement

Contents

Non-technical Summary	3
1.0 Introduction and Background	9
1.1 Introduction	9
1.2 Achieving Sustainable Development through Planning	9
1.3 Compliance with Legal Requirements	10
2.0 Swindon Borough's Local Plan	12
2.1 Introduction	12
2.3 Sustainability Appraisal to Date	12
3.0 Appraisal Methodology	15
3.1 Introduction	15
3.2 Stages of Sustainability Appraisal Preparation	15
3.3 Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report	15
3.4 The Sustainability Appraisal Framework	16
3.5 Policy Appraisal	17
3.6 Who carried out the Sustainability Appraisal?	18
3.7 When was the Sustainability Appraisal carried out?	18
3.8 Difficulties Encountered in carrying out the Appraisal	18
4.0 Sustainability Context and Baseline Characteristics	20
4.1 Introduction	20
4.2 Review Relevant Policies, Plans, Programmes and Initiatives	20
4.3 Baseline Assessment	20
4.4 Key Sustainability Issues Identified at Scoping Stage	21
4.5 What would the Situation be Without the Plan?	33
5.0 Vision and Strategic Objectives	35
5.1 Introduction	35
5.2 The Vision	35
5.3 The Strategic Objectives	37
5.4 Evolution of Strategic Objectives	37
5.5 Pre-Submission Strategic Objectives	37
6.0 Issue and Options Stage	39
6.1 Introduction	39
6.2 Assessment of Issues and Options	39
6.6 Summary of Effects	42
7.0 Preferred Options Stage	43
7.1 Introduction	43
7.2 Assessment of Preferred Options	43
7.3 Summary of Effects	43
8.0 Proposed Submission Stage	48
8.1 Introduction	48
8.2 Assessment of Proposed Submission Policies	48
8.3 Summary of Effects	48

9.0	Revised Proposed Submission	53
9.1	Introduction	53
9.2	Assessment of Revised Proposed Submission	53
9.3	Summary of Effects	53
10.0	Pre-Submission	58
10.1	Introduction	58
10.2	Assessment of Pre-Submission Policies	58
10.3	Summary of Effects	59
11.0	Predicted Significant Effects	90
11.1	Introduction	90
11.2	Cumulative Impacts	90
11.3	Permanent or Long-term Impacts	91
11.4	Medium-term, Short-term and Temporary Effects	91
11.5	Secondary / Indirect Impacts	96
11.6	Cross Boundary Effects	96
11.7	Significant Effects	96
12.0	Mitigation and Enhancement Recommendations	98
12.1	Introduction	98
12.2	Existing Mitigation and Enhancement Measures	98
12.3	Recommended Mitigation and Enhancement Measures	98
13.0	Implementing and Monitoring	100
13.1	Introduction	100
13.2	Monitoring Indicators	100
14.0	Other Related Assessments	103
14.1	Introduction	103
14.2	Habitats Regulations Assessment	103
14.3	HRA Process	103
14.4	Findings of HRA Screening	104
14.5	Findings of Appropriate Assessment	104
15.0	Conclusion and Next Steps	105
15.1	Summary	105
15.2	Next Steps	106
15.3	Consultation Arrangements	106
<u>Appendices</u>		
A.	Compliance with the Requirements of the SEA Directive	108
B.	Sustainability Framework	109
C.	SA Objectives Internal Compatibility Matrix	116
D.	Issues and Options: Spatial Options Matrices	117
E.	Preferred Options: Spatial Options Matrices	136
F.	Pre-Submission: Kingsdown Matrix	179

Non-technical summary

Introduction

This Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Report outlines the findings of the appraisal of the Swindon Borough Local Plan Pre-Submission Document. It has been produced to accompany the Local Plan Document, during formal public consultation, which will take place in December 2012.

What is the purpose of Sustainability Appraisal?

The principal purpose of the SA is to promote sustainable development in our planning documents. It is a systematic process that has been undertaken throughout the preparation of the Local Plan, helping to ensure that policies relating to the development and use of land are compatible with the aims of sustainable development.

The SA process has provided a rational basis for the preparation of the Local Plan and enabled its objectives and options to be assessed against sustainability criteria that have been agreed through stakeholder consultation. The SA has sought to identify the economic, environmental and social impacts of the Local Plan. It suggests measures to prevent, reduce or offset any significant adverse effects of policies whilst maximising the benefits.

Stages of Sustainability Appraisal

The key stages undertaken in the preparation of the SA follow the key stages of the Local Plan as to ensure the SA progress is integral to the development of the Local Plan. Firstly a Scoping Report was produced which set out the scope of the sustainability appraisal, which was published in 2006 and is currently being updated. Secondly throughout the evolution of the Local Plan a Sustainability Statement or Appraisal has been undertaken to accompany the Local Plan. This includes:

- A Sustainability Statement which accompanied the Issues and Options Paper, which was published for public consultation from 11th April 2007 to 23rd May 2007.
- At Preferred Options stage, a Draft SA Report was published for public consultation from 17th March 2008 to 12th May 2008.
- At Proposed Submission stage, a SA Report was published for public consultation from 27th July 2009 to 21st September 2009
- At Revised Proposed Submission stage, a SA Report was published for public consultation from 24th March 2011 to 16th May 2011
- An updated SA Report has been completed to accompany the Pre-Submission Local Plan which will go out for public consultation in December 2012

The Local Plan

The Local Plan is an overarching document, which sets the strategic direction and policy for Swindon Borough looking forward to 2026 and beyond. It identifies the overall strategy and framework for development including housing, employment, transport, social and green infrastructure.

Relationship with Other Plans, Policies, Programmes or Initiatives

During the Scoping stage it is essential to identify the spatial implications of plans, policies, programmes or initiatives (PPPIs) that the Local Plan will need to consider. The key PPPIs have been identified in the full SA and include documents such as the National Planning Policy Framework and Swindon's Sustainable Community Strategy "A Shared Vision for Swindon 2008-2030".

Current State of the Environment

The proposed level of growth will need to shape into a Borough, which is highly urban with Swindon having already rapidly expanded over the past 60-70 years. The following section briefly explains the key baseline information for Swindon Borough which was established in the Scoping Report to identify key sustainability issues.

The Borough has experienced positive population growth as the population grew by over 4% over the period 1996-2001 which continued in the following five-year period as population grew by 3.69%. Swindon has high population density as the majority of population growth has occurred within the Swindon urban area. The Borough has a larger proportion of young people aged 0-15 years than the region and nation. Black and ethnic population in 2001 stood at 4.8% and a large majority of this group live in Swindon's five most deprived area, Central, Gorse Hill and Pinehurst, Parks, Penhill and Walcot.

The Borough's population is generally in good health and life expectancy for women and men, is higher or similar to that of the nation respectively. There are pockets of deprivation across Swindon, as 8 neighbourhoods fall within the lowest 10% most deprived areas nationally.

Swindon Borough's economy has been performing well in recent decades however the recession has impacted the economic performance in Swindon, as it has nationally and globally. At the start of the recession, job density was 1.02 in the Borough which indicates that labour demand is greater than labour supply. Current unemployment rate is 4.9% which is lower than the national rate however this rate is increasing in the Borough. A significant amount of employment is within the service sector however the manufacturing sector provides a higher proportion of jobs in Swindon than the South West and UK and has been increasing between 2004 and 2007. The reliance on these two sectors has meant that the impact of the recession had been felt with a number of manufacturing companies suspending production.

The level of educational attainment is mixed in the Borough. The amount of the population gaining NVQs is similar or higher to national patterns however the percentage of pupils achieving 5 GCSE's A-C grades has fluctuated and is lower than the national percentage. There is a broad network of open spaces in the Borough including a range of green corridors and local open spaces including playing fields, parks and amenity spaces. There are a number of environmental designations within the Borough including SSSIs covering 0.6% of the Borough's area, a high number of County Wildlife Sites and Local Nature Reserves. The Great Western Community Forest covers sections of the Boroughs and creates a high quality environment for local people through providing a range of opportunities such as recreational and cultural activities. Swindon Borough does have a rich variety of man-made historic features including approximately 28 conservations areas, more than 1000 listed buildings and 52 scheduled ancient monuments.

The amount of waste generated in the Borough has been decreasing over the past few years however a higher percentage of waste is still going to landfill.

Key Sustainability Issues

The key sustainability issues for Swindon Borough rising from the baseline assessment and review of PPPIs are:

- Continuing high economic performance and business growth
- Threats to biodiversity, countryside and historical assets from urban expansion
- The need to protect and enhance existing biodiversity
- Impacts from climate change on habitats and species
- The need to continually produce less waste
- High rates of landfilling
- Lack of previously developed land
- Poor river quality
- High demand for water resources
- Potential increase in flood risk
- High car ownership rates
- Need to reduce the need to travel by car
- Continuation of good access to services
- Ensuring the transport system can manage planned growth
- Maintaining good air quality
- Reducing emissions and greenhouse gases
- Encouraging sustainable and renewable energy developments
- Low levels of community participation
- Low delivery of affordable housing
- Addressing fuel poverty
- Providing sites for gypsies and travellers
- Increase in population and delivering housing demand
- Pressure to deliver and maintain high housing figures
- Promoting healthier and more active lifestyles
- Increasing demand on health services
- Reducing actual and perceived levels of crime
- Continued protection of historic environment
- Continued delivery of open space
- Provision of quality employment land
- Improve stability and resilience of the economy
- Low educational attainment
- Lack of highly skilled labour

Testing the Local Plan Objectives

The Local Plan Strategic Objectives were tested against the SA objectives and it showed no major conflicts between the two. However it did highlight the potential impacts upon biodiversity, landscapes, waste and water resources caused by the proposed level of growth.

Summary of the Sustainability Appraisals

The Sustainability Statement accompanying the Issues and Options paper appraised all of the three spatial options. The SA supported Spatial Option 2 'Proposed new growth within

Swindon outside existing places' which was the option taken forward. The SA highlighted the importance of finding an appropriate balance between development of greenfield land and previously developed land and to allow for sustainable communities to develop that will benefit as many people as possible.

The SA report accompanying the Preferred Options Document assessed and compared all options through completing a series of matrices against the SA objectives. The Preferred Option for the Spatial Framework was considered the best option in meeting RSS targets considering the full range of SA objectives. However there was potential for adverse effects on water resources, increased waste production and biodiversity due to large-scale development of greenfield land. Mitigation measures were advised in relation to the above in the individual assessment. Potential positive effects that would arise from the Green Infrastructure PO and Historic Landscape and Buildings PO include linking and increase in biodiversity, more opportunity for physical activity and protection and enhancement of the historic environment.

The Proposed Submission Document provided further detail of the Preferred Options taken forward. The potential effects arising from the proposed urban extensions remained similar with some effects accentuated such as transport implications. The Development Management Policies were introduced at this stage however no additional adverse effects were predicted however there was potential for positive effects arising from the provision of essential infrastructure which will provide sufficient infrastructure in response to large amount of growth.

The Revised Proposed Submission Document was based on the Proposed Submission Document however due to the government's intent to abolish RSS and the need for more locally derived housing and employment targets, the policies had to be amended in light of these changes. Therefore this SA provides details on the evolution of the policies and provides more detail on the predicted effects to ensure no gaps have been missed. Thus the potential effects arising from the policies remained similar to those previously predicted however some impacts were lessened due to less growth.

The SA report accompanying the Pre-Submission Local Plan provides an update of the previous SA. However due to a revised development planning process due to the introduction of the Localism Act 2011 and the National Planning Policy Framework and the Swindon Economic Strategy revisiting local economic projections, the Plan has had to be amended in light of these changes. Therefore this SA provides details on the evolution of the policies and provides more detail on the predicted effects to ensure no gaps have been missed.

The predicted significant effects are similar to those predicted previously however a couple have been reemphasised. The focus on a higher level of growth and an economically led plan will provide significant economic benefits for Swindon Borough. However due to the higher level of growth a strategic allocation at Kingsdown has been reinstated which the SA has considered could have potential impacts on Broad Blunsdon especially coalescence which the SA has advised of mitigation measures.

Predicted Significant Effects

Significant effects likely to arise from Local Plan policies centre on the following:

- The delivery of economic growth is embedded within the Plan and will significantly provide economic benefits
- The development of a green infrastructure network will provide significant benefits related to biodiversity, urban and rural landscapes, health and accessibility
- The accumulation of the urban extensions will have an adverse impact upon biodiversity and rural landscapes due the high amount of development on greenfield land
- The proposed level of growth will increase demand for water and higher production of waste which could lead to adverse impacts upon the health of the existing and growing population and the environment
- Increased level of traffic from the high level of growth will put a huge amount of pressure on the existing transport infrastructure which will have adverse impacts upon the economy, environment (increase in air pollution) and accessibility to services (increase in congestion)
- Coalescence with surrounding villages and towns resulting from the urban extensions, in particular the Eastern Villages and Kingsdown, could result in severe adverse impacts upon the character and identity of surrounding settlements
- The combination of regenerating the Central Area, providing many employment opportunities and improving life-long education will provide significant positive impacts upon Swindon's economy

Proposals for monitoring

The predicted significant effects of implementing the plan must be monitored to identify unforeseen adverse effects and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action. Monitoring allows the actual significant economic, environmental and social effects of implementing the Local Plan to be tested against those effects predicted in the SA. A set of significant effect monitoring indicators are shown in the full report and will be monitored in the Annual Monitoring Report.

How has the SA influenced the development of the Local Plan?

The SA has been carried out as an integral part of developing the Local Plan and has provided input at each stage of development. The SA highlighted the relative sustainability of all options and alternatives considered detailing the potential significant effects of each and recommended possible mitigation measures. This has informed the preferred spatial options to accommodate new development and population growth in the Borough.

Next Steps

This report will be out for public consultation alongside the Pre-Submission Local Plan between in December. It will be available on the Council's website www.swindon.gov.uk/corestrategy.

Any queries regarding this report should be sent to:

Planning Policy Team
Swindon Borough Council
Wat Tyler West Fourth Floor
Beckhampton Street
Swindon
SN1 2JH

Email: forwardplanning@swindon.gov.uk
Telephone: 01793 466513

1.0 Introduction and Background

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 Achieving sustainable development and minimising adverse impacts on the environment are crucial aspects of the planning agenda. Both apply at all scales, from individual buildings and developments to national and international policy and they are key parts of the Government's commitment to sustainable development and the creation of sustainable communities.
- 1.1.2 Assessing the sustainability and environmental impact of developments and policy prior to implementation is key to meeting these commitments. The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process is a way of ensuring that all plans and programmes which relate to the development and use of land are compatible with the aims of sustainable development.
- 1.1.3 This SA Report, incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as required by EU Directive 2001/42/EC, outlines the findings of the SA of the Swindon Borough Local Plan (formally known as the Core Strategy). It accompanies the Local Plan during an eight-week period of public consultation and the two documents should be read together.
- 1.1.4 Although SA and SEA are derived from distinct legal requirements they have a high degree of overlap and involve a comparable number of stages. Throughout this report, where reference is made to SA, it relates to the combined process of SA and SEA, incorporating the requirements of European Directive 2001/42/EC.
- 1.1.5 A Non-Technical Summary accompanies this report.

1.2 Achieving Sustainable Development through Planning

- 1.2.1 Sustainable development is the core principal underpinning the planning system. At the heart of sustainable development is the simple idea of ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, now and for future generations.
- 1.2.2 The integrated treatment of social, environmental and economic issues is a key principle of the Government's National Planning Policy Framework and the UK's Sustainable Development Strategy. Planning authorities need to ensure that there is a presumption in favour of sustainable development embedded within the Local Plan. This involves the consideration of the inter-relationship between social inclusion, protecting and enhancing the environment, the prudent use of natural resources and economic development.
- 1.2.3 The principal purpose of an SA, is to promote sustainable development, it is a systematic process undertaken throughout the preparation of a plan or programme, looking at the social, economic and environmental impacts of plan policies, and considering ways of achieving further benefits in all three areas. In effect, attempting to achieve a win-win-win (win³) situation.
- 1.2.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published in March 2012, sets out the Governments planning policies for England and how these are expected to be

applied. At the heart of the NPPF is a presumption in favour of sustainable development which should be embedded in plan making.

- 1.2.5 In 'Securing the Future: Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy' (DEFRA, 2005), the Government outlined four priorities for immediate action across the UK, which are Sustainable consumption and production, Climate change and energy, Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement, and Sustainable communities. The Government has also set out five principles for sustainable development, as follows:

- Living within environmental limits
- Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society
- Achieving a sustainable economy
- Promoting good governance –
- Using sound science responsibly

1.3 Compliance with Legal Requirements

- 1.3.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (2012) para 165, states an SA which meets the SEA requirements should be an integral part of the plan preparation process and should consider all likely significant effects in the environment, economy and social factors. Under Section 39(2) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Regulations, SA is mandatory for new or revised Local Development Documents.
- 1.3.2 Local Planning Authorities must also consider the need to carry out an environmental assessment on plans which are determined likely to have significant environmental effects, this is in accordance with European Union Directive 2001/42/EC "on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment" (the SEA Directive). The SEA Directive is transposed into UK law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.
- 1.3.3 Environmental assessment is an important tool for integrating environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of certain plans and programmes, which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. It ensures that such effects are taken into account during their preparation and before their adoption.
- 1.3.4 The SEA Directive sets out certain procedural elements that must be followed. In particular, the SEA Directive requires the preparation of an 'Environmental Report' on the implications of the plan or programme in question. The requirements of the SEA Directive are contained in a signposting table in Appendix A, showing where the requirements are addressed within the body of this report and related documents.
- 1.3.5 Swindon Borough Council considers that the Local Plan has the potential to lead to significant environmental effects and therefore, should be subject to an environmental assessment under the SEA Directive. The Environmental Report identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects of the plan, and

reasonable alternatives, taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan.

2.0 Swindon Borough's Local Plan

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 Swindon Borough's Local Plan establishes the spatial policies required to deliver the Borough Council's vision and its strategic objectives. It is fundamental in shaping and achieving Swindon Boorugh's aspirations to be the UK's most sustainable place.

2.1.2 The purpose of the Local Plan is to:

- set out the overall strategy for development in the Borough, including a spatial vision and strategic objectives;
- make strategic allocations in the Borough, including major growth and large employment areas;
- set out in broad terms where other development should go in the rest of the Borough; and
- set out the key elements of the planning framework.

2.1.3 The timetable for the Local Plan is outlined in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1: Local Plan Timetable

Key Milestones	Date
Commencement of preparation of document	July 2006
Issues and Options Consultation	March 2007
Preferred Options Consultation	March 2008
Proposed Submission Consultation	July 2009
Revised Proposed Submission Consultation	March 2011
Pre-Submission Consultation	December 2012
Submission to SoS	Spring 2013
Independent Examination	Summer 2013
Stage 5: Adoption	Late 2013/Early 2014

2.2 Sustainability Appraisal Progress to Date

2.2.1 The development and appraisal of options for the Local Plan has been an iterative process, with policy options being revised to take account of appraisal findings and consultation responses. This has informed the selection and refinement of policies in the Local Plan.

- 2.2.2 A revised SA Scoping Report was published in December 2006. This includes an SA Framework, containing a set of sustainability objectives used in the appraisal of Local Plan policies. An update of the Scoping Report is currently being undertaken and has informed the development of the SA, in particular the assessment of the Pre-Submission document.
- 2.2.3 In April 2007, the Issues & Options Paper was published for a 6-week period of public consultation; this was accompanied by a Sustainability Statement which is an informal discussion document designed to stimulate debate on the key sustainability issues that Swindon faces.
- 2.2.4 In March 2008, a Draft SA Report was published with the Preferred Options document for a period of public consultation lasting 8 weeks appraising a number of preferred and alternative options. The Draft SA Report concluded that the Preferred Options were likely to result in wide-ranging benefits for the Borough, including varied provision of a range of housing types, educational and employment opportunities and a regenerated town centre. However, the scale of the proposed growth would be likely to have adverse impacts on biodiversity and landscapes and there would be significant concerns regarding water resources, traffic congestion, flood risk and climate change from such large-scale development.
- 2.2.5 In July 2009, the Proposed Submission Document was published with an accompany SA document. The Preferred Options were taken forward in this document and changed in light of consultation responses, the development of the RSS and other national, regional and local documents.
- 2.2.6 Any changes to policies were appraised and the likely significant effects focussed on pressure to meet housing and employment demand, increased pressure on the transport network, ensuring adequate provision of infrastructure to meet a wide range of needs, adverse impacts upon the landscape and biodiversity and potential coalescence issues with nearby villages and towns. Potential opportunities were highlighted such as incorporating sustainable design and construction in new developments and potential to develop more sustainable forms of transport provision.
- 2.2.7 In March 2011, the Revised Proposed Submission Document was published with an accompanying SA. This document was affected by major governmental and policy changes and thus a reduced level of growth was proposed in light of the intent to abolish the RSS and to produce more locally derived housing figures. Also the document was amended to be further aligned with Swindon's Sustainable Community Strategy due to the emerging localism agenda.
- 2.2.8 These changes resulted in no additional adverse impacts however the likely significant effects as a result of the strategic allocations were lessened due to the reduce level of growth and reduced number of allocations. Also more emphasis was placed on continual community involvement which would provide additional positive social effects in terms of encouraging social inclusion.
- 2.2.9 Since the Revised Proposed Submission Document was published, further major changes have led to modifications to the proposed level of growth and consequently the spatial strategy. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), published March 2012 amalgamates all national planning policy

statements and planning policy guidance notes into one national planning policy document. The NPPF advocates returning to a Local Plan style led document which is reflected in the Pre-submission document thus a restructure of policies has taken place. The Neighbourhood Planning Regulations were also published April 2012 which has led to the need to introduce a neighbourhood planning policy which replaces the community based policies.

- 2.2.10 Local evidence base work has been undertaken in the interim period and has influenced the level of growth, mainly the formulation of the Swindon Economic Strategy which recommends an economically driven Plan including a higher level of job creation over the plan period, thus to ensure an equal balance between employment and housing, the level of housing has increased. As a result of this, a previously proposed strategic allocation has been reintroduced at Kingsdown. Therefore to allow the public and stakeholders to consider and influence these changes, a Pre-Submission Document has been developed and will be consulted on.
- 2.2.11 The wide-ranging recommendations made in all SA reports have been incorporated into the most recent document and have also informed this SA Report, particularly in the appraisal of significant changes that have been made to policy.

3.0 Appraisal methodology

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 This section sets out the methodology for the appraisal. The approach adopted in undertaking this SA is based on Government guidance¹ for SA and SEA and these should be referred to for further information.
- 3.1.2 The SA takes into account all relevant consultation responses from all previous stages and focuses on appraising any significant changes to policy that may result in significant effects. Significant effects predicted in the SA Reports of previous Core Strategy stages are summarised in this report, however due to the nature of the changes to the Local Plan, further appraisal work has been required as to ensure all significant effects were identified.

3.2 Stages of Sustainability Appraisal preparation

- 3.2.1 The key stages undertaken in the preparation of the SA follow the key stages of the Local Plan as to ensure the SA progress is integral to the development of the Local Plan.
- 3.2.2 The appraisal findings from the Local Plan SA at Issues & Options, Preferred Options, Proposed Submission and Revised Proposed Submission stage can all be seen on the website within the individual reports. There are brief summaries of the outcomes of each report included within this report.

3.3 Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

- 3.3.1 The first stage of the SA process involved the publication of a Scoping Report. The Scoping Report establishes the context and evidence base for SAs of Swindon's development plan, gathering information about the current and likely future baseline situation in the Borough in order to aid the assessment of effects. A Scoping Report was published for public consultation from 24th July to 5th September 2006.
- 3.3.2 The Scoping Report involved the following tasks:
- Identification of other relevant policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives;
 - Collection and analysis of baseline information;
 - Identification of sustainability issues and problems in the Borough;
 - Development of an SA Framework; and
 - Consultation on the scope.
- 3.3.3 The Report was circulated to a wide range of external and internal stakeholders, including the four statutory environmental consultation bodies, in accordance with SEA Regulations. The responses received proved invaluable in strengthening the baseline data, sustainability objectives and indicators that will be used for monitoring significant effects, and updating the list of other plans and programmes

¹ 1. Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents (ODPM, 2005).

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/sustainabilityappraisal>

2. A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (ODPM, 2005).

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/practicalguidesea>

that were reviewed. Wide-ranging responses were received from twenty organisations and individuals.

- 3.3.4 A Revised Draft of the Scoping Report was published in December 2006, taking account of consultation responses. This can be viewed on the Council's website at www.swindon.gov.uk/sustainabilityappraisal. Key findings from the Scoping Report are outlined in Section 4.
- 3.3.5 The Scoping Report is currently being updated and the outcomes of the update has informed the Sustainability Appraisal on the Pre-Submission Document 2012.
- 3.3.6 The Scoping Report and SA Report (including Non-Technical Summary) will together meet the requirements of Section 19(5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the SEA Directive's requirement for an Environmental Report.

3.4 The Sustainability Appraisal Framework

- 3.4.1 The Scoping Report culminated in the production of an SA framework. The SA framework provides a way in which sustainability effects can be described, analysed and compared. It contains a set of high-level 'sustainability objectives' for use in assessing the potential effects of emerging policies on environmental, social and economic conditions. They have been devised to reflect the full cross-section of sustainability themes and are purposely broad-ranging in nature.
- 3.4.2 Sustainability objectives are distinct from the objectives of the Local Plan. They have been derived from a number of sources, including national and regional sustainability objectives, a review of objectives within relevant plans and strategies, a review of baseline conditions in Swindon Borough and from objectives contained within the Swindon Sustainable Community Strategy and Swindon Borough Council Corporate Plan.
- 3.4.3 The SA Framework was originally published for consultation in July 2006 as part of the Scoping Report, and has since been amended in light of representations received. The 18 objectives are highlighted in Table 3.1.
- 3.4.4 The detailed decision-aiding questions included in the full framework help to clarify the sustainability issues relevant to each objective, which can be seen in Appendix B. They ensure that the appraisal remains relevant to land use planning and help to improve objectivity.
- 3.4.5 It was considered useful to test the internal compatibility of the sustainability objectives. This was done to establish the tensions that may exist between objectives that could not be resolved, and to clarify these so that subsequent decisions are well based. The compatibility matrix is outlined in Appendix C of this report. The sustainability objectives are:
- Maintain and enhance biodiversity and avoid irreversible losses.
 - Use land and existing buildings efficiently and prioritise development on previously developed land.
 - Promote sustainable waste management solutions.
 - Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner.

- Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable forms of transport.
- Reduce impacts on climate change through energy efficiency measures and promotion of renewable energy solutions.
- Reduce environmental pollution.
- Reduce social exclusion and poverty.
- Provide decent and affordable housing for everyone.
- Provide a safe and healthy environment in which to live.
- Protect people and property from the risk of flooding.
- Provide a high quality built environment.
- Maintain the identity and function of individual settlements.
- Conserve and enhance the historic built environment and archaeological assets.
- Conserve and enhance rural and urban landscapes.
- Promote a sustainable, diverse and vibrant sub-regional economy.
- Provide opportunities for a highly skilled and educated workforce.
- Enhance the image and role of Swindon's Central Area as a sub-regional centre and destination.

3.5 Policy Appraisal

- 3.5.1 A visual appraisal of the predicted significant effects of the policies has been undertaken throughout most stages of the Local Plan. Within this SA report, a summary table of the predicted effects of previous policies has been included in the relevant sections. The key in Figure 3.1 illustrates the appraisal symbols, which represent the overall effect of the policy.

Figure 3.1: Key to appraisal symbols

++	Significant positive contribution in achieving the sustainability objective either by maximising opportunities and /or resolving an existing issue
+	Positive contribution in achieving the sustainability objective either by maximising opportunities and /or resolving an existing issue
0	Little or no effects predicted
?	Predicted Effects are unknown at this stage due to insufficient detail available
-	Negative contribution in achieving the sustainability objective either by contributing to a problem and / or undermining opportunities for enhancement
--	Significant negative contribution in achieving the sustainability objective either by contributing to a problem and / or undermining opportunities for enhancement

- 3.5.2 It must be understood that these are predicted effects and there are a number of limitations and uncertainties with this form of appraisal. The strategic nature of this document can result in some uncertain or unknown impacts, as well as both positive and negative effects arising from the same policy.

3.6 Who carried out the Sustainability Appraisal?

- 3.6.1 It is the responsibility of the Local Planning Authority to make sure an SA Report has been carried out. The SA has been carried out in house formulated by the Planning Policy team at Swindon Borough Council.

3.7 When was the Sustainability Appraisal carried out?

- 3.7.1 The SA has been undertaken throughout the production of the Local Plan, feeding into the development of options, alternatives and policies. It has played an important role in demonstrating if the Local Plan is sound by ensuring it reflects sustainability objectives. It is considered that integration of SA into the Local Plan preparation is fundamental to sound plan making.
- 3.7.2 During implementation of the Local Plan, monitoring will be undertaken to provide information to highlight specific performance issues and significant effects, leading to more informed decision-making.

3.8 Difficulties Encountered in Carrying out the Appraisal

- 3.8.1 A key issue in undertaking the appraisal of the Local Plan is the strategic nature of the document and the uncertainty surrounding precisely how its ambitions would be implemented on the ground and the degree to which they would be achieved in practice (particularly since many different partners are involved in its delivery). A key assumption was made that the policies in the Local Plan would be fully implemented (i.e. they were taken at 'face value').
- 3.8.2 In terms of the prediction and evaluation of significant effects, although the Local Plan defines strategic areas for development, it is difficult to assess the significance of effects without more detailed knowledge of individual proposals. Significant effects can be described more accurately when the details of a particular development, its location, siting, shape, design, materials etc are known.
- 3.8.3 There are gaps in the baseline data regarding detailed trends in the Borough. Although every effort has been made to present an accurate baseline situation, there have been inevitable data constraints. The assessment of the baseline has concentrated on key sustainability issues for the Borough. Also the current scoping report is becoming out of date, thus an update is underway to ensure accurate data is used to measure the current situation.
- 3.8.4 Inevitably, a high degree of judgement has been required in undertaking the policy appraisals to determine the 'significance' of effects. Assessing policies on a strategic scale with such wide-ranging implications has made it difficult to apply thresholds for when an effect of a policy is likely to become 'unsustainable'. Nevertheless, the SA has proved to be a useful tool in raising awareness of potentially significant effects to inform the content of the Local Plan.

- 3.8.5 By undertaking an SA in house can provide both positives as well negatives. The SA can be integrated into the Local Plan process thoroughly however officers undertaking the SA may not have an in depth knowledge of all the wide-ranging topics included in the Local Plan therefore some impacts may not have been identified. To overcome this the SA has been examined by a range of in house officers to ensure no impacts were overlooked.

4.0 Sustainability Context and Baseline Characteristics

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 Stage A of the SA process (the scoping stage) involved gathering evidence regarding the sustainability baseline and sustainability context in the Borough. This evidence was used to develop a set of sustainability objectives, against which the sustainability effects of the Local Plan can be assessed. Together, the objectives can be considered to be the 'framework' for the appraisal.
- 4.1.2 A related aim of the evidence gathering stage is to gather information about the current and likely future baseline situation in the Borough in order to aid the assessment of effects against these sustainability objectives.
- 4.1.3 The Scoping was undertaken in 2006 and the context review and baseline assessment are gradually becoming out of date. This combined with other changes to the plan making system (intent to abolish RSS, introduction of localism and the NPPF) has led to a need to revise and update the Scoping Report. This is currently being undertaken alongside the development of the Local Plan. However findings of the update are being fed into the Local Plan thus an update of the review of plans, policies and programmes, baseline assessment and key sustainability issues has taken place to ensure the Local Plan is addressing current issues.

4.2 Review Relevant Policies, Plans, Programmes and Initiatives (PPPIs)

- 4.2.1 It is important to establish the context in which the Local Plan is being prepared. Swindon Borough Council must take account of the relationships between the Local Plan and many other relevant policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives. The SEA Directive specifically requires the consideration of environmental protection objectives which are relevant to the plan or programme.
- 4.2.2 Identifying relationships with other policies and plans helps:
- to identify any external objectives that should be taken into account in the SA;
 - to identify other sustainability issues that might influence the preparation of the Local Plan;
 - to determine if any cumulative effects may occur as a result of other plans.
- 4.2.3 Key documents were identified and reviewed at the Scoping stage, which included a range of International, National, Regional and Local level documents. As the National Planning Policy Framework was published March 2012, the review of national policy has been revised in light of this.

4.3 Baseline Assessment

- 4.3.1 Before any appraisal is undertaken of policies in the Local Plan, it is important to have an understanding of the Borough as it is today, together with how this may change in the future.

4.3.2 Assessing the baseline conditions in the Borough is an important part of SA and a legal requirement of the SEA Directive, which requires a significant level of understanding of the baseline environment. Baseline data provides the basis for prediction and monitoring of environmental and other sustainability effects, and helps to identify sustainability problems and alternative ways of dealing with them.

4.4 Key Sustainability Issues Identified at Scoping Stage

4.4.1 At the scoping stage, the identification of sustainability issues (including environmental problems as required by the SEA Directive) was an opportunity to define the key issues affecting Swindon, which has enabled the development of sustainable plan objectives and options.

4.4.2 Key issues have been identified through the baseline assessment and through experience with issues identified in other plans, including the Local Plan and Sustainable Community Strategy. Also, issues were identified through consultation with authorities with social, environmental and economic responsibilities, other relevant stakeholders and the public.

4.4.3 The updated Scoping Report will illustrate the review of PPPSIs, baseline assessment and key sustainability issues within individual topic papers as to ease the need of updating in the future and to avoid duplication. Table 4.1 to 4.11 highlights the outcome of the topic papers showing:

- The key plans, policies and programmes, which have been reviewed (the lists are not exhaustive)
- Summary of the review of key plans, policies and programmes, current state of the environment and areas which are likely to be affected by the plan
- Key sustainability issues

Table 4.1: Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

Key Policies, Plans, Programmes and Initiatives
<p>EC Directive 92/43/EEC Conservation of Natural Habitats, Flora & Fauna, EC (1992)</p> <p>UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), UK Biodiversity Partnership (1994)</p> <p>Swindon Biodiversity Action Plan, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust</p>
Summary of Context Review & Baseline
<p>The National Planning Policy Framework states Local Planning Authorities should set out a strategic approach in the Local Plan to planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure. Also great weight should be given to conserving landscape and AONB.</p> <p>The European Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC protects habitats and species of European nature conservation importance through designated sites as Natura 200 sites or European sites which comprise of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas</p>

(SPAs). In the Borough there are none of these sites however there are 5 designated sites within 15km of the Borough boundary and development proposals in the Borough may still have the potential to adversely affect sites in neighbouring areas.

In terms of national designations, SSSIs cover 0.6% of the area of the Borough, which consists of 9 separate sites. However there are many sites within Swindon, which have local biodiversity importance, such as County Wildlife Sites and Local Nature Reserves. There are a high number of locally designated County Wildlife Sites in the Borough, which form a vital network of threatened habitats including sites at Coate Water, The Coombs at Hinton Parva and Bincknoll Dip which are also designated as SSSI.

In Swindon there are a number of nationally rare and protected species such as water voles, otters, bats and crested newts and the most important habitat found in the Borough is chalk downland as this is one of the most threatened UK habitats. Swindon's Biodiversity Action Plan has identified how these species and habitat will be protected through various action plans.

The Great Western Community Forest (GWCF) covers 140 square miles, stretching from Wootton Bassett to Faringdon and from the Marlborough Downs to the River Thames. The GWCF is creating high-quality environments for local people by diversifying land-use, revitalising derelict landscapes, enhancing biodiversity and providing new opportunities for leisure, recreation, cultural activity, education, healthy living and social and economic development.

"Green infrastructure" is an umbrella term, which covers all types of open spaces and the green corridors between them.

Key Sustainability Issues

- Threats from Urban Extension
- Need to protect and enhance existing biodiversity
- Impacts from climate change on habitats and species

Table 4.2: Land and Soil Resources

Key Policies, Plans, Programmes and Initiatives

EU Directive 91/156/EEC EU Framework on Waste
Soil Strategy for England, DEFRA
Wiltshire & Swindon Waste Core Strategy, Wiltshire & SBC

Summary of Context Review & Baseline

The percentage of land covered by agriculture is minimal in the Borough, at approximately 15% which reflects the urban character of the area. However agricultural is a dominant land use in Wiltshire thus sustainable soil management within the Borough needs to protect soil functions across administrative boundaries.

The amount of waste generated in the Borough has been decreasing over the past few years. Traditionally landfill has been the preferred method of disposing of waste however national policy through to the Wiltshire & Swindon Waste Core Strategy 2006-2026 have been emphasising the need to push waste up the waste hierarchy, as to protect the environment and human health. However compared with the recycling rates of the region and percentage of household waste going to landfill nationally and regionally, the Borough is underperforming and needs to improve.

The National Planning Policy Framework encourages effective use of land by re-using land that has been previously developed with the option for LPA's to consider settling locally derived targets for brownfield land. Over the past 6 years, on average, over 30% of housing has been developed on previously developed land within Swindon. The NPPF also states LPA's should set out their own approach to housing density to reflect local circumstances. The average density of all new housing sites within the Borough since 2000 is 36 dwellings per hectare.

Ecological footprint is a technique for calculating global sustainability. It measures the amount of land and water required to produce the amount of resources we consume and need to absorb waste. In Swindon, 5.38 global hectares is needed in relation to amount of resources the Borough consumes. Swindon's footprint is slightly higher than the national footprint but lower than the regional footprint however the footprint for Swindon, South west and nationally is still way above the resources we have.

Key Sustainability Issues

- Continue to produce less waste
- High rates of landfilling
- Lack of previously developed land

Table 4.3: Water Resources

Key Policies, Plans, Programmes and Initiatives

EC Council Directive 2000/60/EC Water Framework)
 Future Water Government's Water Strategy for England, DEFRA (2008)
 Swindon Water Cycle Study (Phase 1), (2007)
 Swindon Flood Risk Assessment (2008)

Summary of Context Review & Baseline

There are two main rivers which drain the Swindon area, the River Cole and the River Ray. The River Cole flows from its source in Swindon in a north easterly and its catchment is low lying and largely rural. The River Ray catchment is relatively flat and largely is surrounded by agricultural land. The amount of rivers with good chemical and biological quality in the Borough is lower than rivers nationally and in the Thames region. Swindon is located at the headwaters of rivers where limited dilution for treated effluent is available thus the quality of rivers in Swindon is lower

due to this.

The EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) introduced legislation that protects and enhances the status of aquatic ecosystems and promotes sustainable consumption of water through providing an integrated approach to the planning and management of water and water related issues.

Thames Water acknowledge that pressure on water resources within their region has and will increase significantly over the next few years as a result of planned housing growth. The Swindon Water Cycle Study concluded that with demand management measures there would be sufficient water supplies to deliver the anticipated level of population growth in Swindon.

The north and east of the Borough are the most sceptical areas to flooding, particularly around the River ray, thus the proposed growth in these areas will need to have detailed master plans which protect the natural floodplain. Significant surface run-off attenuation will also be necessary to manage any run off at source and limit risks of flooding further downstream. To understand the extent of flood risk in the Borough, a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) has been undertaken of the Borough including part of northern Wiltshire.

The NPPF states Local Plans will need to be supported by Strategic Flood Risk Assessments and should develop policies that manage flood risk by directing development away from areas of high risk areas. Also Local Plans should adopt sequential testing and where necessary exceptions testing.

The predicted effects of climate change will make our winters wetter and the summers will become drier with soil being unable to absorb heavier downpours. It is predicted this will increase the size of flood zones associated with rivers and the amount of flooding. It is expected that the localised areas of Park North, Park South and north Covingham will be largely affected from the impacts of climate change

Key Sustainability Issues

- Poor river quality
- High demand for water
- Flood risk
- Potential impacts from climate change in particular intense rainfall

Table 4.4: Transport

Key Policies, Plans, Programmes and Initiatives

Delivering a Sustainable Transport System: Main Report, DfT (2008)
Swindon Local Transport Plan 3 2011-2026 (2010)
Swindon Transport Strategy (2009)

Summary of Context Review & Baseline

Swindon is in a strategic location in regards to the regional transport network. The M4 runs along the south of Swindon and the Great Western Railway provides direct and quick links with London and South Wales. The improved A419 runs along the east side of Swindon providing clear lines of transport with Gloucester and the M5 which in turn leads to Birmingham.

The NPPF states policies have an important role to play in facilitating sustainable development but also contributing to health objectives. The transport system should be balanced in favour of sustainable transport modes and the pattern of development should facilitate use of such transport modes. Development which generates significant movements should be supported by a Transport Statement/Assessment and a Travel Plan should be produced for large scale developments.

Car ownership has continually risen over the past few decades due to sustained economic activity and increasing prosperity, which is illustrated in the baseline assessment as over 75% of the Borough's households owns one or more cars.

Distance travelled to work is a good indication of whether people are living where they are working hence reducing the need to travel. Approximately 75% of Swindon's population travel less than 10km to work where as approximately 55-60% of the population of the South West and England travel less than 10km. This presents an opportunity for more of the population of Swindon to use more sustainable modes of transport. Current trends show there has been an increase in cycle trips since 2003/04 however this change has stayed at approximately 28% between 2004-2006.

Public transport accounts for approximately 6% of all journeys to work which is more than the population in the South West but less than the population in England. However percentage change in bus and train patronage has increased within Swindon since 2005/06, which does reflect the national pattern. The Transport Strategy 2009 proposes a new bus interchange station as part of the wider regeneration of the Central area. This new interchange will be key in delivering modal shift towards the use of buses, rail, walking and cycling.

Key Sustainability Issues

- High car ownership
- Reducing the need to travel
- Continuation of good access to services
- Ensuring the transport system can manage planned growth

Table 4.5: Climatic Factors

Key Policies, Plans, Programmes and Initiatives

The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan, DECC (2009)
Building a Greener Future: Policy Statement, DCLG (2007)
Planning & Climate Change: Supplement to PPS1, DCLG (2007)
Swindon District Heating Feasibility Study (2011)

Summary of Context Review & Baseline

The UK has committed to reducing its greenhouse emissions through the Climate Change Act 2008. This Act has set the UK a target of reducing greenhouse emissions by 80% by 2050, again based on 1990 levels. The actual CO₂ emissions per capita in the Borough are well above the regional and national figures and trend data illustrates that in one year CO₂ emissions increased in the Borough by just under 3%. One of the major contributors to this is road transport as there is already a high number of car owners and a high amount of residents travelling to work by car in the Borough.

Average annual domestic consumption of both electricity and gas is lower than that of the UK, and has been decreasing over recent years in line with national trends. This would indicate that industrial and transportation sources are contributing the most to the CO₂ emissions.

The NPPF states Local Planning Authorities should adopt proactive strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change, taking full account of flood risk and water supply and demand considerations. Policies should support a low carbon future, in particular community led initiatives and plan for developments to be located in locations that reduce greenhouse gases and support energy efficiency.

The results of air pollution monitoring have shown that there are no dangerous levels of pollutants thus no air quality management areas have been identified. Also the UK Air Quality Archive has showed that pollutant levels in Swindon have been decreasing in between 2001—2005.

Investigations of potential energy resources carried out by ETSU (now Future Energy Solutions) and Southern Electric in the 1990s indicated that the most likely schemes in the Borough would be for wind farms, waste from energy or harvested crops. Renewable energy schemes may offer opportunities to provide combined heat and power or district heating to residential, commercial or industrial buildings

The exact course that climate change will take is an unknown. Whilst across the globe temperatures will become hotter, it has been mooted that the melting of the ice caps will lead to an influx of cold water into the ocean circulation from the north, which will cut off the warm Gulf Stream, which the UK currently benefits from. One theory is that the UK will experience warming, followed by a temporary spell of cooling as this process bears out, before returning to a hotter climate than we have today. The uncertainty surrounding these predictions means that it is hard to plan for long-term adaptation to climate change.

Key Sustainability Issues

- Maintaining good air quality
- Reducing emissions and greenhouse gases
- Encouraging sustainable and renewable energy developments

Table 4.6: Inclusive Communities

Key Policies, Plans, Programmes and Initiatives
<p>Strong & Prosperous Communities, DCLG (2006)</p> <p>A Shared Vision for Swindon 2008-2030, SBC (2009)</p> <p>Swindon LDF Sustainable Neighbourhoods Study, SBC (2009)</p> <p>Shaping your Community (2011)</p>
Summary of Context Review & Baseline
<p>The Index of Multiple Deprivation is a Super Output Area (SOA) level measure of deprivation produced by the DCLG. Swindon Borough contains 119 SOA's and 18 of these SOAs are among the most deprived 20% nationally with 8 of the SOA's among the most deprived 10% nationally. These 8 SOAs are split across 4 wards and represent approximately 12,000 people. The Swindon area performs better than the national average in terms of overall deprivation, largely due to favourable income and employment levels. However, the area is more deprived than the national average in terms of education and skills, and barriers to education and services. The black and ethnic minority population of the Borough in the 2001 Census stood at 4.8% of the total population, compared with 9.1% nationally. A large majority of this group live in Swindon's five most deprived areas – Central, Gorse Hill and Pinehurst, Parks, Penhill and Walcot.</p> <p>Swindon Borough is mainly urban in nature, but people living in its rural areas can experience disadvantage due to their geographical location. The existence of rural facilities in villages such as a post office, pub or shop, used to provide an important social function as well as services, but Swindon has experienced the loss of a number of these facilities since the mid 1970's so rural dwellers need to travel in order to carry out their everyday needs.</p> <p>The statistics show that households in Swindon suffer less fuel poverty than those in the South West as a whole. The figures are only available at Borough level so it is likely that pockets of fuel poverty exist within Swindon. Fuel poverty can be address by building energy efficient homes and developing district heating systems.</p> <p>International and national policy requires local authorities to encourage participation in decision-making. Giving local people and communities more power and influence to improve places can help to create inclusive communities. The Swindon Place Survey 2008/09 showed that civic participation in Swindon is lower than average and almost three quarters of the respondents did not believe that they could influence local decision-making.</p>

The Neighbourhood Planning Regulations and the NPPF encourage neighbourhoods and communities to create neighbourhood plans for their local area through planning positively to support local development and shaping and directing local development.

Key Sustainability Issues

- Low levels of community participation
- Low delivery of affordable housing
- Addressing fuel poverty
- Sites for Gypsies and Travellers

Table 4.7: Population and Housing

Key Policies, Plans, Programmes and Initiatives

Swindon Housing Assessment, Fordham Research (2006)
 Swindon Small Scale Urban Extensions Study, SBC (2008)
 Swindon Market Assessment 2009, DTZ Pida Consulting (2006)

Summary of Context Review & Baseline

In recent years, the Borough has experienced positive population growth. The Borough grew by 4% over the period 1996-2001 which continued in the following five-year period as population grew by 3.69%. Projected population figures show that the current positive trend is likely to continue with even higher increase in population growth. The population density of the Borough is high due to the urban nature of the Borough, as literally all of the population growth has occurred within the Swindon urban area.

The NPPF states Local Plans need to deliver a wide choice of high quality homes and plan for a mix of housing based on demographics including the identification of type, size, tenure and range of housing required in particular locations. Evidence should be used to ensure Local Plans meets the needs for market and affordable housing. An annually supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide five years' worth of housing should be identified.

The Black and ethnic minority population of the Borough in the 2001 Census stood at 4.8% of the total population, compared with 9.1% nationally. However, a large majority of this group live in Swindon's five most deprived areas, Central, Gorse Hill and Pinehurst, Parks, Penhill and Walcot.

Swindon has a larger proportion of young people aged 0-15 years than the region and nation. However trend data illustrates that the percentage of young people is decreasing in Swindon reflecting the general trend of an ageing population.

Providing housing developments in suitable locations will be a key component of development plans. The 2006 Housing Needs Assessment, commissioned by Swindon Borough Council, asserts that the housing

market in Swindon is excluding many families and single person households who are seeking access to local housing. The wards of Eastcott and Central were identified to have the highest shortfalls in affordable housing.

The average house price in Swindon Borough for the year 2008-09 was over £30,000 less than the average for England however it is still 6.94 times the average annual salary in the Borough which is higher than the house price to income ratio in England.

The percentage of dwelling stock which is privately owned in Swindon is similar to national trends however the percentage of local authority owned dwelling stock is higher in Swindon than in England. Much less flats are provided in Swindon however more terraced housing is provided which reflects the historic development of the town as a railway town.

The rate of housing completions has fluctuated over the past 20 years with peak rates occurring around the mid-late 1990s and mid 2000s. Within these years, high completions were being achieved all over the Borough including high figures in rural areas which was concentrated in or around the two primary settlements of Wroughton & Highworth.

Key Sustainability Issues

- Increase in population and delivering housing demand
- Pressure to deliver and maintain high housing figures
- Encouraging sustainable design and construction
- Low delivery of affordable housing

Table 4.8: Healthy Communities

Key Policies, Plans, Programmes and Initiatives

Safer Places – The Planning System & Crime Prevention, ODPM (2004)
 Active Swindon – More People, More Active, More Often, NHS Swindon (2009)
 Community Risk Strategy, Wiltshire Fire & Rescue (2009)

Summary of Context Review & Baseline

Swindon's population is generally in good health comparative to England and South West. Life expectancy for women and men is either higher or similar to that of England however the population of the South West does have a slightly higher life expectancy. The percentage of people with limiting long-term illness is lower within the Borough than the South West and England. Also according to the 2001 Census only a small proportion of people think their health is not good within the Borough. The conception rate of women aged under 18 in the Borough is much higher than that of the South West by 10.5% and England by 4.8%.

The percentage of residents that feel safe in the day in the Borough is 98%, which is a high proportion of the population. However after dark only 74.7% of the population feel safe and this figure has unfortunately decreased over time. In terms of crimes committed in the Borough, violent offences are the highest with 16.7 crimes committed per 1000 population. However the number of burglaries, sexual offences, vehicle crime and violent offences committed are decreasing. Safety and crime are influencing factors on the choices people make in where to live. Designing out crime and designing in community safety will eliminate any perceived and actual fears of safety and crime within the Borough.

The Active Swindon Strategy 2009—2015 is one of the major tools to getting more people, more active, more often in the Borough. It states it is necessary to build physical activity into the way people live their lives. This means prioritising walking and cycling over other methods of transport within the physical environment. Also breaking down barriers to allow easier access to facilities and services such as open space and recreational facilities

The NPPF states policies should plan for the provision of shared spaces, community facilities and local services to enhance sustainability of communities. Also policies should guard against the loss of valued facilities.

Key Sustainability Issues

- Promoting healthier and more active lifestyles
- Increasing demand on health services
- Reducing actual and perceived levels of crime

Table 4.9: Culture & Heritage

Key Policies, Plans, Programmes and Initiatives

Green Infrastructure Guidance, Natural England (2009)
 A Green Infrastructure Strategy for Swindon, SBC (2009)
 Open Space Audit and Assessment Update 2006/07, SBC (2007)

Summary of Context Review & Baseline

The Borough has a variety of cultural assets, including the Wyvern Theatre, Swindon Arts Centre, National Monuments Record Centre, STEAM railway museum, Outlet Village, the Science Museum at Wroughton and the palladian house at Lydiard Park. Even though the Borough has a range of cultural facilities, it is still poorly viewed in terms of arts and cultural attractions in particular in the central area.

Swindon Borough has a rich variety of man-made historic features, including 28 Conservation Areas, more than 1,000 listed buildings and many other buildings of significant local interest. The Borough contains 52 Scheduled Ancient Monuments and a significant number of features of documented archaeological importance.

The variety of listed buildings range from the Cotswold-style stone buildings of Castle Eaton in the north to the thatched 'chalk downland' cottages of Badbury and Bishopstone in the south. In the urban area of Swindon, listed buildings include The Mechanics Institute and the former Great Western Railway (GWR) Museum. The percentage of listed buildings considered at risk is 4.9% therefore it is essential these cultural and heritage assets are protected.

Conservation Areas range from rural hamlets and villages, such as Hodson and Hampton, to urban districts such as Prospect Place and the former Great Western Railway areas. Swindon's historic GWR area is the most significant surviving railway-engineering establishment of its time, in the world. It is of international importance and a rich source for social and historic study interest.

There is a broad network of public open spaces in the Borough, from wide 'green corridors' linking urban areas to the countryside to local spaces including playing fields, parks and amenity spaces. The Open Space Audit and Assessment illustrates the distribution of open spaces is variable across the Borough. Some areas benefit from a high level of quality open space while others, particularly some areas of older private housing, have considerably less provision.

The NPPF state Local Planning Authorities should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment and should consider the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of conservation.

Key Sustainability Issues

- Continued protection of historic environment
- Continued delivery of open space
- Threats from urban expansion upon the countryside and historical assets

Table 4.10: Economy & Enterprise

Key Policies, Plans, Programmes and Initiatives

Summary of Context Review & Baseline

The NPPF states planning should give significant weight to and support economic growth through planning pro-actively to meet development needs of businesses. Local Plans should be clear on its economic vision and strategy for the area and support existing business sectors and new industries. Local Planning Authorities should avoid long term protection of sites allocated for employment uses where there is no reasonable prospect of a site being used for that purpose.

The Borough's economy has been performing well in recent decades in line with the major growth of Swindon. Prior to the expansion of Swindon, the main opportunity for employment was the Great Western Railway. As the population of Swindon grew, the economy diversified and is now host to large companies such as Honda, BMW, Motorola and the corporate headquarters of Nationwide, The National Trust, Zurich and WHSmith. In the last two years the recession has impacted on economic performance in Swindon, as it has nationally and globally.

At the start of the recession, the Gross Value Added (GVA) per head in the Borough was 28,037 in 2008 whereas the GVA per head of the UK is 19,413. Job density within the Borough is 1.02 which indicates that labour demand is greater than labour supply.

The percentage of the Borough's population, which is of working age, is 61%, which is similar to that of the region and Great Britain. This has been declining since 2007, which reflects the national demographic changes of an ageing population. The proportion of the Borough's population which is both economically active and in employment is 80.1%. The current figure shown for unemployment is the highest it has been in recent years at 4.9%, however the national rate is even higher. The proportion of working age population claiming jobseekers allowance (JSA) has fluctuated in the Borough.

A significant amount of employment within the Borough is within the Service sector however it is less than the South West and the UK. The Manufacturing sector provides a higher proportion of jobs in the Borough than the South West and the UK and has been increasing between 2004 and 2007. This does reflect the nature of some of the larger companies which have located at Swindon such as Honda. The reliance on these two sectors meant that the impact of the economic downturn was felt keenly in Swindon at the start of the recession, with a number of manufacturing companies suspending production both permanently and temporarily.

In order to sustain economic growth in Swindon is important that an appropriate range of sites is identified and provided. Swindon has around 40 industrial estates and business parks however the quality of employment land is just as important as quantity. The Wiltshire and Swindon Workplace Strategy has identified advanced technology, ICT

and creative industries, and business services as sectors of growth in the future.

Key Sustainability Issues

- Provision of quality employment land
- Continuing high economic performance and business growth
- Improve the stability and resilience of the economy

Table 4.11: Education and Skills

Key Policies, Plans, Programmes and Initiatives

Swindon 13-19 Transition & Progression Strategy 2009-2013, SBC (2009)
Swindon Children & Young People's Plan, Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership (2008)
Swindon School Place Planning Study, SBC (2009)

Summary of Context Review & Baseline

The level of educational attainment in the Borough is mixed. At key stage 2, the percentage of pupils achieving level 4 and above in all three subjects has increased and is similar to the national pattern. The percentage of working age population achieving NVQ level 3 and above has increased but is only slightly lower than the population nationally. However the percentage of pupils achieving 5 GCSEs A* - C grades has fluctuated and is lower than the percentage for the whole of the UK.

A low level of education attainment will have an effect on the amount of skilled labour the Borough is producing. As there is currently a shortage of skilled labour, which from the baseline data, will continue to be. In particular local supply of highly skilled labour in manufacturing, finance and energy and water is currently inadequate to meet demand. Many employers, especially large companies, are increasingly recruiting temporary staff or recruiting from outside the Borough to alleviate the shortage.

The NPPF emphasises the importance of ensuring sufficient choice of school places is available to meet the needs of the existing and new communities. Great weight should be given to the need to create, expand and alter schools.

Key Sustainability Issues

Low educational attainment
Lack of highly skilled labour

4.5 What would the situation be without the plan?

- 4.5.1 Without the plan in place, the Borough is likely to suffer from the impacts of climate change including more intense rainfall and drier summers, which can increase the

risk of floods. Continued release of CO2 emissions through traffic and buildings will negatively impact climate change and air pollution.

- 4.5.2 Appropriate delivery of housing would not be achieved or inline with demographic need and there would be an increase in the need for affordable homes.
- 4.5.3 Waste would continually be going to landfill having negative impacts upon the environment and human health. There would be an increase in the use of water as population grew which would put a great pressure on water resources.

5.0 **Vision & Strategic Objectives**

5.1 **Introduction**

- 5.1.1 SA guidance advises that the objectives of the Local Plan should be tested for compatibility with the SA objectives. It is important that the Local Plan objectives are consistent with each other and in accordance with sustainability principles. Testing their compatibility with the sustainability objectives has helped refine them and with the identification of options in earlier stages of Local Plan development.
- 5.1.2 It was also considered useful to carry out a compatibility analysis of the Local Plan's vision, as it is important that this is also compatible with the principles of sustainable development and with the Sustainable Community Strategy.
- 5.1.3 This analysis has already been undertaken at earlier stages of the Local Plan. Therefore, a brief summary of findings and recommendations is presented below, together with a discussion of any changes that have been made to Local Plan objectives.

5.2 **The Vision**

- 5.2.1 The vision is informed by an analysis of the characteristics of the area and its constituent parts and the key issues and challenges facing them. It is closely related to the Sustainable Community Strategy for the area.
- 5.2.2 The Pre Submission has an amended Vision, which reflects the Sustainable Community Strategy for Swindon however has been amended in light of consultation responses. The Vision is still similar to previous versions and has already been widely consulted on as part of Sustainable Community Strategy and has continuously received general support.
- 5.2.3 The compatibility of the vision has been assessed against the SA objectives shown in Table 5.1.

Table 5.1: Appraisal of Vision

Sustainability Objective	Vision Analysis
1. Maintain and enhance biodiversity and avoid irreversible losses.	+
2. Use land and existing buildings efficiently and prioritise development on Previously Developed Land.	+
3. Promote sustainable waste management solutions.	0
4. Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner.	0
5. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable forms of transport.	0
6. Reduce impacts on climate change (mitigation), through promotion of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy solutions.	+
7. Reduce environmental pollution.	+
8. Reduce social exclusion and poverty.	+

9. Provide decent and affordable housing for everyone.	0
10. Provide a safe and healthy environment in which to live.	++
11. Protect people and property from the risk of flooding.	0
12. Provide a high quality built environment.	+
13. Maintain the identity and function of individual settlements.	?
14. Conserve and enhance the historic built environment and archaeological assets.	+
15. Conserve and enhance rural and urban landscapes.	+
16. Promote a sustainable, diverse and vibrant sub-regional economy.	++
17. Provide opportunities for a highly skilled and educated workforce.	+
18. Enhance the image and role of Swindon's Central Area as a sub-regional centre and destination.	+

- 5.2.4 The vision is broadly compatible with the sustainability objectives and there are no aspects of the vision that are assessed as being incompatible.
- 5.2.5 There is a strong focus on achieving a strong economy within Swindon which is supported by the NPPF and the Swindon Economic Strategy which states the Local Plan needs to be economically driven.
- 5.2.6 The vision explicitly addresses delivery of sustainable development in communities. However, the importance of tackling climate change and protection of the environment are areas that the vision could emphasis more as meeting the challenges of climate change will have significant impacts on a number of objectives, including biodiversity, waste, water, transport, energy, flood-risk and for the local economy.
- 5.2.7 Blending high quality design with existing traditional architecture in developments will be especially important in reducing our impacts on the climate, helping to improve the image of the town as well as protecting the heritage of Swindon.
- 5.2.8 The vision specifically refers to creating caring and cohesive neighbourhoods and encouraging healthier lifestyles. This will create positive impacts on a number of SA objectives, particularly objective 10.
- 5.2.9 The focus upon improving the ambitions of young people has been removed from the visions however the strong emphasis on Swindon becoming a regional centre and the best business location combined with Policy CM1 will both directly and indirectly lead to positive impacts upon Swindon's community.
- 5.2.10 The importance of the central area to Swindon's appeal as a key destination has been recognised and reinstated in the vision which is supported by the SA. Regeneration of the central area will be crucial in maintaining a flourishing economy and helping to attract visitors and inward investment to the Borough.

5.3 The Strategic Objectives

- 5.3.1 The strategic objectives of the Local Plan form the link between the high level vision and the detailed strategy. They should expand the vision into the key specific issues for the areas that need to be addressed, and how that will be achieved within the timescale of the Local Plan.

5.4 Evolution of Strategic Objectives

- 5.4.1 The Strategic Objectives have evolved quite considerably since the 'Issues and Options' stage. Full appraisals of the objectives for each stage of the Local Plan are included in the various SA reports accompanying each Local Plan.
- 5.4.2 At the Issues and Options stage, 30 principles were put forward and these were tested in the SA for their compatibility with the sustainability objectives. The SA noted that many of the principles related to economic growth and social progress, with environmental objectives appearing to be under-represented. The SA recommended that the document reconsider the balance and mix of key objectives so that a more representative balance is found between social, economic and environmental objectives
- 5.4.3 At Preferred Options stage, principles were transformed into key objectives relating to a number of topics. Overall the key objectives were compatible with many of the sustainable appraisal objectives however the proportion of economic and social objectives still outweighed the environmental objectives.
- 5.4.4 Potential conflicts were outlined and the main conflict was around achieving a high level of housing and employment growth, which would produce adverse impacts upon environmental sustainability objectives, in particular in reference to strategic objectives 1,2 & 9. The other main conflict highlighted was the cost implications of introducing significantly higher standards of design and energy efficiency.
- 5.4.5 In light of these conflicts the SA recommended that the objectives should be reviewed further, with more emphasis placed on reducing the potential impacts of widespread development on the natural environment. In particular, potential adverse impacts on the rural-urban fringe, rural villages on the edge of the urban area and wildlife habitats.
- 5.4.6 The Proposed Submission Document reduced the amount of objectives and provided a more concise set of Strategic Objectives revolving around a number of themes. Overall objectives contain many positive intentions and so additional impacts were envisaged however the conflict between growth and adverse environmental impacts still existed. It should be recognised that mitigation measures to offset some of the adverse impacts on environmental sustainable objectives are adopted within policies. The Revised Proposed Submission included 10 strategic objectives, which were very strongly aligned with the Proposed Submission strategic objectives.

5.5 Pre Submission Strategic Objectives

- 5.5.1 The Pre Submission Document includes 10 strategic objectives, which are strongly based on the Proposed Submission and subsequently the Revised Proposed

Submission objectives. As explained above, these objectives have been thoroughly appraisal in previous SA reports however Table 5.2 provides a summary of the predicted effects.

- 5.5.2 The objectives contain mainly positive intentions, particularly regarding the key issues in Swindon, addressing the causes of climate change, housing and employment provision, education, transport and infrastructure requirements.
- 5.5.3 The SA does not consider that these objectives will lead to any additional significant effects that have not already been addressed. Issues of the effects of development on biodiversity and landscapes, potential increases in flood risk due to development and impacts on waste and water resources caused by an increasing population are recognised and are dealt with in individual policies.
- 5.5.4 These objectives are strategic thus there is always going to be a level of uncertainty regarding the effects until further detail is provided. In most cases, these impacts will be identified and addressed within other Plan.

Table 5.2: Appraisal of Strategic Objectives

Core Strategy Strategic Objectives											
SA Objectives		SO1 High Quality Design & Sustainable Development	SO2 Infrastructure Requirements	SO3 Economic Growth	SO4 Housing	SO5 Education	SO6 Community & Health Facilities	SO7 Transport	SO8 Culture and Leisure	SO9 Green Infrastructure	SO10 Natural, Historic and Built Environment
	1	?	+	?	?	0	0	+	+	++	+
	2	?	?	?	+	0	+	0	0	0	+
	3	?	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	0	0
	4	?	+	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	0
	5	?	+	?	?	?	+	++	?	+	0
	6	+	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	0	0
	7	+	?	?	?	?	0	+	0	0	0
	8	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	0	0
	9	?	?	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0
	10	+	+	0	+	0	+	+	+	+	+
	11	?	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
	12	+	+	0	?	0	0	+	+	+	+
	13	?	0	?	?	0	0	0	?	0	+
	14	?	?	0	?	0	0	0	+	0	++
	15	?	?	?	?	0	0	0	+	+	++
	16	+	+	++	+	+	0	+	+	0	+
	17	+	+	+	0	++	0	0	0	0	0
	18	+	+	++	+	0	0	+	?	?	0

6.0 Issue and Options Stage

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 An Issues & Options Paper was published for public consultation in April 2007. The purpose of this document was to seek views on how the vision for positive and sustainable growth at Swindon should be managed over the next twenty years. At this stage, it was important for the SA to appraise in broad terms the effects of the strategic options put forward. The consultation helped in the identification of issues and development of different options for growth.
- 6.1.2 A Sustainability Statement was produced and published at the Issues & Options stage and went out to consultation between 11th April and 23rd May 2007. This stage has helped to ensure that the SA is comprehensive and robust enough, to support the Local Plan during the later stages of consultation and examination.

6.2 Assessment of Issues and Options

- 6.2.1 The Issues and Options Document proposed a number of key principles and spatial options. The 30 key principles set out what the document was aiming to achieve and set out the context for the spatial options. The 30 principles were not appraised individually but rather grouped into 8 sustainability themes as per the sustainability appraisal framework.
- 6.2.2 The Issues and Options Document proposed three spatial options for the direction of growth in the future. Spatial Option 1: Growth within existing places in Swindon involves maximising development within the built up area through increasing densities and maximising the potential of PDL and undeveloped land. Spatial Option 2: Proposed new growth within Swindon outside existing place, involves encouraging the early development of an additional one or two sustainable urban extensions to Swindon in addition to the extensions identified within the Regional Spatial Strategy. Spatial Option 3: Contain growth within existing allocation plus through proposals within the RSS, involves future development within already allocated urban extensions in the RSS.
- 6.2.3 The eight sustainability themes and the three spatial options were appraised against the sustainability objectives in terms of nature and duration of effects. Matrices were completed and can be seen in Appendix D. Table 6.1 to 6.3 below provide a summary of the effects envisaged from each spatial option using a symbol to demonstrate the overall effect. The full Sustainability Statement can be viewed online at:

Table 6.1: Spatial Option 1

Summary of Impacts	Overall Effect
Focusing development within the built up area of Swindon	+

may reduce pressure to develop greenfield land with resulting benefits for the rural landscape, wildlife habitats and rural communities.	
Development of previously developed land within the existing urban area, and at higher densities, makes effective and efficient use of land	+
There is a relatively limited amount of previously developed land available for redevelopment. This presents a major challenge in meeting housing targets.	?
There are likely to be significant benefits for existing residential areas with this option through urban regeneration, with a general improvement in the urban environment from increased investment.	+
Possible adverse impacts include the effects of 'town cramming', accessibility issues for some sections of the community and the effect on Swindon's historic environment.	-
If housing targets are to be met through option 1, dwelling sizes are likely to be significantly smaller. This is therefore unlikely to support the provision of the range of house types that the Borough needs.	-
Maximising development within the urban area could lead to a more rapid regeneration of Swindon's central area, with far reaching benefits for the local economy, including improvements to the retail and cultural offer.	+
This option alone is unlikely to be able to provide the level of employment land necessary, or the mix of dwellings that will attract skilled workers to live in the Borough.	?

Table 6.2: Spatial Option 2

Summary of Impacts	Overall Effect
Additional greenfield development, in the form of urban extensions, could have significant impacts for biodiversity, habitat fragmentation and rural landscapes.	-
Encouraging the early development of greenfield extensions and identifying additional extensions will increase the likelihood of achieving RSS housing targets	+
Development must complement the regeneration of Swindon's central area and other parts of the urban area	+
Option 2 is likely to result in increased traffic volumes, resulting in additional pressure on local roads.	-
Any significant increase in the urban area will lead to impacts of noise, light and air quality issues	-
Location of development and strict requirements for high quality design and sustainable construction will be important in mitigating any potential effects	+
Essential infrastructure must be delivered simultaneously,	+

preferably through an approved, comprehensive master plan, to achieve a balanced and integrated form of development.	
This option is more likely to produce the variety of dwelling types and sizes that the Borough needs, with a larger number of affordable homes	+
Developments are likely to be more profitable for developers and therefore more viable	+
This variety and mix will help attract the skilled workers that the Borough's businesses need.	+
Additional urban extensions will create further issues of coalescence with neighbouring communities	-

Table 6.3: Spatial Option 3

Summary of Impacts	Overall Effect
Development through Option 3 may reduce pressure to develop further greenfield sites	+
There will likely be less issues of coalescence with nearby settlements	+
There is a risk that RSS targets will not be met through this option alone, placing increased pressure on existing urban extensions to deliver more housing.	-
Increasing housing densities meets Government policy of making efficient use of land, and represents prudent use of natural resources	+
Maximising development at the EDA may put increased pressure on the natural function of floodplains. In order to avoid development on the floodplain at the EDA, and meet housing targets, it may be necessary to increase the area of that strategic extension.	-
It is more likely that infrastructure will be able to be delivered in advance of development, than is likely through Option 2.	+
Provision of strategic water resources to match the demand of houses and jobs and provision of sufficient wastewater discharge and treatment facilities are two of the most critical issues.	-
Higher density housing at the EDA will increase the critical mass likely to use public transport, resulting in more frequent, and accessible public transport provision. This would take cars off local roads, with a range of benefits for the economy and local air quality.	+

6.3 Summary of Effects

- 6.3.1 Overall the key principles were broadly in line with the sustainability objectives however, inevitably, there were some conflicts, such as:
- Greenfield Development: the effects of greenfield development on biodiversity, wildlife habitats and rural communities;
 - Water demand: a potential overall increase in demand for water and the infrastructure needed to deal with waste water as a result of an increasing population
 - Waste: potential increases in the amounts of waste going to landfill
 - Transport: potential increase in traffic volumes on local roads leading to traffic congestion, adverse effects on air quality and knock on effects for residents and the economy
 - Climate Change: significant challenge, with the projected level of growth, to reduce carbon emissions.
- 6.3.2 The appraisal of each of the three spatial options found that there are a number of positive and negative impacts with each one. It is important to find an appropriate balance between development of greenfield land and previously developed land and to allow for sustainable communities to develop that will benefit as many people as possible.
- 6.3.3 It was Option 2, which was taken forward as the preferred spatial strategy for Swindon Borough, which was supported by the SA. The SA findings did influence this decision and fed into the progression of the Core Strategy Preferred Options. Key findings of the SA are given below and the full report can be viewed on our website www.swindon.gov.uk/sustainabilityappraisal.

7.0 Preferred Options Stage

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 At Preferred Options stage, the Plan identified the preferred spatial options for the Borough. The policies examined the spatial options for delivering the housing and employment requirements of the RSS, but also looked at the options for the various locational types in the area, the urban area, the central area and areas for regeneration, urban extensions and the rural area.

7.1.2 The SA accompanied the Preferred Options Report for an 8-week period of public consultation from March to May 2008. The SA predicted and evaluated the social, economic and environmental effects of the options being considered and suggested ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects.

7.2 Assessment of Preferred Options

7.2.1 The Preferred Options document develops the Issues and Options key principles and spatial options into a series of options based on workings with the community and relevant stakeholders. It sets out a number of preferred options and alternative options and reasoning why certain options have and have not been taken forward. The consideration of alternative options is a requirement of the SEA Directive, which stipulates the need to assess the relative sustainability implications of alternative approaches to implementation of the plan under consideration. This is essential as to assure there is not a better way of proceeding with the plan in particular the spatial strategy.

7.2.2 To assess and compare the preferred and alternative options of both spatial options and Borough wide options, a series of matrices were completed. The matrices appraised all the options against the sustainable objectives including an explanation of all effects against each sustainable objective. These matrices can be seen in Appendix E and the SA that accompanied the Preferred Options Document explains the predicted effects in more detail with explanation of whether the alternative options is considered more sustainable. Any likely significant effects on the environment are provided as required by the SEA Directive. Table 7.1 provides a summary of the predicted effects. The full Preferred Options Sustainability Appraisal can be viewed online.

7.3 Summary of Effects

7.3.1 Overall the sustainability appraisal has found that, for the most part, the policies are likely to progress the sustainability objectives however strengthening of some policies would be beneficial. Potential significant effects could arise from the Green Infrastructure (GI) PO and the Historic, Landscape & Buildings PO. The GI PO would provide significant positive effects in relation to providing a multi-functional network, which connects

a range of sites and provide biodiversity corridors and opportunities for physical activity thus improvements to health. The Historic, Landscape & Buildings PO will provide protection and enhancement to the built and historic environment, urban and rural landscapes and thus providing benefits for the local economy and the Central Area due to the protection of GWR areas.

- 7.3.2 The SA did advise that the preferred option on the appraisal of zero and low carbon energy developments will need to be strengthened as to ensure the impacts on biodiversity and climate change are minimised and maximised respectively.
- 7.3.3 The Preferred Option for the Spatial Framework was considered the best option to meet the RSS housing targets considering the full range of sustainable objectives however significant effects were still predicted which would require careful mitigation, such as demand for water resources, increased production of waste and adverse impacts upon biodiversity due to large scale developments upon greenfield land. The RSS also detailed where strategic allocations should be located in which evidence base studies, including the Small Scale Urban Extensions Study (SBC, 2007) and the West of Swindon Study (SBC and Wiltshire Council, 2009), demonstrated the level of proposed housing could be met within allocations.
- 7.3.4 The Eastern Development Area preferred option is likely to have significant impacts due to the size of the urban extension such as implications for wildlife species and habitats in particular concerns around the impact on River Cole Corridor, potential coalescence, increase CO2 emissions from buildings and traffic and issues surrounding flood risk. The preferred option was considered the best option as the alternative options may cause delay in delivery and not deliver the infrastructure required. The SA did advise that the urban extension be planned in a co-ordinated way, recommending a masterplan approach. Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems was strongly recommended by the SA to manage surface water drainage.
- 7.3.5 The Commonhead preferred option provides the best option in light of the Small Scale Urban Extension Study and changes in direction of the preferred location for a university. The Small Scale Urban Extensions Study provides details on why the principle of development is preferred at this location thus the alternative option of no development is considered not acceptable. The preferred option is a lower level of development than the Local Plan Policy DS3 which reflects further evidence relating to the impacts on archaeology and the importance of environmental constraints weighed without the strategic economic and social benefits associated with DS3. The SA supports a buffer zone which will minimise any disturbance on wildlife.
- 7.3.6 The Small Scale Urban Extensions options set out how to accommodate 3,000 dwellings as small scale urban extensions to Swindon. A range of

potential development scenarios and scales as different sites has been assessed through a Small Scale Urban Extensions Study which was not repeated in the SA. The preferred option was considered the best option as the alternative options 1 and 2 would introduce undue delay in the process of sites coming forward and could potentially lead to further significant adverse effects due to a lack of consideration of potential impacts and lack of public and stakeholders opportunity to consider the proposals. Alternative option 3 assessed an alternative distribution of dwellings on those sites put forward by interested parties.

7.3.7 The Smaller Scale Urban Extensions preferred option proposed to distribute the 3,000 dwellings as follows:

- 1,500 dwellings at Tadpole Farm
- 1,000 dwellings to Ridgeway Farm / Moredon Bridge in North Swindon
- 500 dwellings to the South of Kingsdown Lane

7.3.8 These sites were selected based on the Multi Criteria Analysis used within the Small Scale Urban Extensions Study which assessed social, economic and environmental constraints. The following constraints were predicted:

- Tadpole Farm: Two potential significant effects which relate to impact on local transport network in particular during peak times and shortfall of education
- West of Swindon Sites: specific landscape and biodiversity impacts as well as potential impacts on transport junctions
- Kingsdown : potential for some landscape impacts thus advised development restricted to south of Kingsdown Lane to minimise this impact. Also significantly increase traffic on the A419 and Cricklade Road and significant highway improvements would be required.

7.3.9 The SA does recommend a number of mitigation measures for each small scale urban extension. All of the extensions would be required to address landscape and environmental constraints in particular the use of sensitive design. Also the SA proposes that significant highway improvements would be required as a result of all the extensions.

Table 7.1: Summary of Effects of Preferred Options

Sustainability Objectives																	
Spatial Preferred Options (PO)					Borough-wide Options												
	Spatial Framework PO	EDA PO	Smaller Scale Urban Extensions PO	Commonhead PO	Rural Development PO	Climate Change Mitigation PO	Zero & Low Carbon Energy Development PO	Design & Amenity PO	Affordable Housing PO	Developer Contributions for Infrastructure Requirements PO	Existing Employment Areas PO	Green Infrastructure and Open Space PO	Sustainable Transport PO	Community Facilities PO	Historic Landscape & Buildings PO	Gypsies & Travellers PO	Travelling Showpeople PO
1	+/+	+	-/-	-/-	?	+	?	0	0	+	?	++	0	0	+	0	0
2	+/+	+	+/+	-/-	0	+	-/-	++	0	0	+/+	0	0	+	0	+	0
3	0	+	?	-	0	+	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	-/-	+	?	?	0	++	0	+	0	+/+	?	+	0	0	0	0	0
5	-/-	+/+	-	-/-	+	0	0	0	+/+	+	+	+	++	+	0	+	0
6	?	+	+	-/-	0	++	++	+	0	0	?	+	+	+	0	0	0
7	-/-	-/-	+	-/-	0	+	+/+	0	0	0	?	+	+	0	0	0	0
8	+	+	+	0	+/+	+	0	++	+	+	+	+	+	++	0	+	+
9	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	++	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	+
10	+	+	+	+/+	+	+	0	++	0	+	0	++	+	+	0	+	0

Table 7.1: Summary of Effects of Preferred Options

Sustainability Objectives	Spatial Preferred Options (PO)					Borough-wide Options											
	Spatial Framework PO	EDA PO	Smaller Scale Urban Extensions PO	Commonhead PO	Rural Development PO	Climate Change Mitigation PO	Zero & Low Carbon Energy Development PO	Design & Amenity PO	Affordable Housing PO	Developer Contributions for Infrastructure Requirements PO	Existing Employment Areas PO	Green Infrastructure and Open Space PO	Sustainable Transport PO	Community Facilities PO	Historic Landscape & Buildings PO	Gypsies & Travellers PO	Travelling Showpeople PO
11	?	+/?	?	-/?	0	++	+/?	+	0	+/?	?	+	0	0	0	0	0
12	++	+	+	?	+/?	++	0	++	?	+	?	+	+	0	++	0	?
13	-/?	-/?	0	?	+/?	0	0	+/?	?	0	-/+/?	0	0	++	0	0	0
14	?	?	?	?	+	0	-/?	?	0	0	?	+	0	0	++	0	0
15	?	-	-/?	-/?	?	+	-/?	+	0	+	?	++	0	0	++	0	0
16	+/?	+	+	+	+	++	+	+	+/?	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	0
17	+/?	?	+	0	+	0	0	+	+	+	+/?	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	++	?	+/?	-/?	0	+	+	+/?	?	++	+	++	+	0	+	0	0

8.0 Proposed Submission Stage

8.1 Introduction

- 8.1.1 The Proposed Submission Document was published in July 2009 and is based on the Preferred Options Document. The policies put forward are more detailed as this is usually the final draft before the document is submitted to the Secretary of State.
- 8.1.2 The document was split into two sections, firstly the Core Policies, which set out what will be required in order to achieve the spatial vision for Swindon Borough and the strategic objectives. These are then taken forward in the second section under the Spatial Strategy, which determines the strategic location of these outcomes. The Development Management policies are presented in the same document but are a separate Development Plan Document. These policies set out the criteria against which planning applications will be considered and are based on the Borough-wide options in the Preferred Options Document.

8.2 Assessment of Proposed Submission Policies

- 8.2.1 The purpose of the SA at the proposed submission stage is to appraise any additional policies that were not included in the Preferred Options, to the extent that they are considered to have significant impacts. The majority of policies within all of the sections in the Proposed Submission Document have not changed significantly since Preferred Options and they have already been subject to an SA. Tables 8.1 to 8.3 provide a summary of the predicted effects. The full Proposed Submission Sustainability Appraisal can be viewed online.

8.3 Summary of Effects

- 8.3.1 The predicted significant effects of the Proposed Submission policies reflected those of the Preferred Options however as this document provided further detail on the preferred options some uncertainties were clarified and the nature and extent of policies were identified.
- 8.3.2 Overall the Core Policies did not present any further significant impacts however the SA highlighted those impacts that were addressed, raised potential concern or support by the SA. Core policies CP2 (essential infrastructure), CP2A (Water Infrastructure), CP8 (Culture) and CP10 (Green Infrastructure) all presented positive impacts, as CP2 and CP2A ensure adequate provision of infrastructure, in particular water infrastructure, to meet the needs of all communities was met and CP8 and CP10 increase opportunities for health benefits. CP3 Economic Development promotes Swindon's Central Area for office development which is supported by the SA. The SA emphasises the importance of delivering an appropriate balance of providing jobs and houses as so to ensure sustainable development. The only concern was CP4 Housing as the affordable housing target increased by 5% which could create

viability issues and thus not achieving the balance between meeting affordable demand whilst meeting the high level of growth.

8.3.3 The Spatial Strategy reflects the Spatial Framework preferred option and the RSS, with proposed development as follows:

- Eastern Development Area: 12,000 dwellings
- Commonhead: 750 dwellings
- Tadpole Farm: 2,000 dwellings
- Wichelstowe: 4,500 dwellings (already approved)
- Urban extension to Swindon in Wiltshire: 3,000
- Other urban extensions (reserve sites (potentially Kingsdown 500 dwellings))

8.3.4 The level of growth did not change from preferred options as this continued to be based on the RSS. The only significant change was an increase of 500 dwellings at Tadpole Farm as further transport assessment concluded that 2,000 dwellings could be accommodated at Tadpole Farm rather than 1,500. As Tadpole Farm is a more sustainable location than Kingsdown, the best option was considered to increase the numbers at Tadpole Farm and recognise that development opportunities exist at Kingsdown as a reserve site which could be delivered within or beyond the plan period.

8.3.5 The potential significant effects arising from the urban extensions remained the same as those effects predicted previously thus the SA reiterated and summarised these effects. The SA did emphasise the transport implications as a result of increased growth and the strategic allocations especially as the allocation at Tadpole Farm was increased. However policy CP7 'Sustainable Transport and Movement' proposes to deliver a comprehensive sustainable strategic and local transport network in the Borough which includes provision of a number of mitigation measures which should reduce transport effects.

8.3.6 The strategic allocation at the Eastern Development Area, policy SSP8, was progressed through the undertaking of an Eastern Development Area Supplementary Planning Document, which went out to consultation in April 2009. An SA was undertaken on this document and potential significant effects were identified and mitigation measures were integrated into the SPD which are reflected in policy SSP8.

8.3.7 As a result of the Eastern Development Area and community engagement with South Marston, a separate policy regarding the future of South Marston, SSP13, was introduced. This policy further highlighted the need to protect South Marston as a separate settlement to ensure coalescence with Swindon does not happen which is fully supported by the SA and has been endorsed from the outset of the document.

8.3.8 The Development Management policies do not provide any additional significant adverse effects however DMP2 The Provision of Essential

Infrastructure Community Benefits / Planning Obligations provides significant positive contributions to achieving the SA objectives and delivering sufficient infrastructure in response to a large amount of growth. Also there is potential for DMP10 Renewable & Low Carbon Energy Development to provide significant effects however this is dependent on the type, location and scale of developments that are delivered.

Table 8.1: Summary of Predicted Effects of Core Policies

		CP1	CP2	CP2A	CP3	CP4	CP5	CP6	CP7	CP8	CP9	CP10	CP10A	CP11
Sustainability Objectives	1	+	0	0	0	-	0	0	+	0/+	0	++	+	0
	2	+	+	0	0	+	+/-	0	0	+	+	0	0	+/?
	3	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	4	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0
	5	0	0	0	++	-	+	0	++	0	0	+	0	+
	6	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0
	7	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0
	8	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	+
	9	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
	10	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	0	+
	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0
	12	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0
	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0
	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	++	0	0
	16	0	+	0	++	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0
	17	0	0	0	+	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0
	18	0	0	0	++	0	++	0	+	+	0	0	+	0

Table 8.2: Summary of Predicted Effects of Spatial Strategy

		SSP1	SSP2	SSP3	SSP4	SSP5	SSP6	SSP7	SSP8	SSP9	SSP10	SSP11	SSP12	SSP13	SSP14
Sustainability Objectives	1	0	--	-	+	0	-/+	-	--/+	-/+	-/+	-	0	+	+
	2	+/?	+/-	+/-	++	+	-	-	-/+	-	-	?	0	?	0
	3	0	0	0	?	+	?	?	+/?	-	-	?	0	0	0
	4	0	0	0	?	0	?	?	+/?	-	-	?	0	0	0
	5	+	-/?	+/?	+	+	+	+	-/+	-/+	-/+	+	+	+	0
	6	0	0	0	?	0	-	-	+	-	-	-	0	0	0
	7	0	0	0	+	0	?	?	-	-	-	-	0	0	0
	8	0	0	0	?	+	?	?	?	+/?	?	?	+	+	+
	9	0	?	0	+	0	-	?	+	+	?	?	+	0	+
	10	0	0	0	+	+	?	+/?	+	+	?	?	+	+	0
	11	0	0	0	0	+	-	0	+/-	?	?	?	0	?	0
	12	+	0	0	+	0	?	?	?	?	+	?	+	+	+
	13	0	?	?	0	0	-	0	-	-	-	+/?	+	+	+
	14	0	0	0	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	?	+	+	0
	15	0	0	0	+	0	+/-	+	+/-	+/-	+/-	?	+	+	+
	16	0	0	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	0	?	+	0	0
	17	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	?	0	0	0
	18	0	0	+	++	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 8.3: Summary of Predicted Effects of Development Management Policies

		DMP1	DMP1A	DMP1B	DMP2	DMP3	DMP4A	DMP4B	DMP4C	DMP5	DMP6	DMP7	DMP8	DMP9
Sustainability Objectives	1	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	++	0
	2	+	0	0	0	+	?	+	0	0	+	+	0	0
	3	++	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	4	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	5	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0
	6	++	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0
	7	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0
	8	0	0	0	+	0	+	+	+	+	0	++	0	+
	9	0	0	0	+	0	++	+	+	0	0	0	0	+
	10	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	11	+	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	12	+	0	0	+	0	?	+	0	+	+	0	+	0
	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0
	15	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	++	0
	16	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	17	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	18	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0

9.0 Revised Proposed Submission

9.1 Introduction

- 9.1.1 The Revised Proposed Submission Document was published in March 2011 and was based on the Proposed Submission Document. Again, similar to the previous document, the policies proposed were very detailed however a further stage of consultation was required due to governmental changes and the need for localism which led to a change in the level of growth, the introduction of community based policies and further alignment with the Swindon Sustainable Community Strategy.
- 9.1.2 The structure of the Revised Proposed Submission Document was split into two sections: Core Theme Policies and Spatial Strategy. The Core Theme Policies reflect the themes set out in the Swindon Sustainable Community Strategy with the addition of a seventh theme, which has a cross-cutting role over all the themes. The Spatial Strategy reflects a similar structure to that of the Proposed Submission Document however there are new policies reflecting the aspirations of the local communities.

9.2 Assessment of Revised Proposed Submission

- 9.2.1 The purpose of the SA at this stage is to appraise any additional policies that were not included within the Preferred Options and subsequently the Proposed Submission Documents, to the extent that they are considered to have significant impacts. The majority of the policies have already been appraised however the form and structure of policies has been amended to reflect the Swindon Sustainable Community Strategy therefore the evolution of policies is vague. Therefore within the SA that accompanies the Revised Proposed Submission, there are tables which demonstrate how the policies have evolved since Preferred Options including explanation of whether the policies were changed and why, summary of the overall impacts including the use of symbols to illustrate the overall effect of the policy. Table 9.1 provides a summary of this, explaining if and what additional impacts have been predicted. The full Revised Proposed Submission Sustainability Appraisal can be viewed online.

9.3 Summary of Effects

- 9.3.1 The significant effects arising from the Revised Proposed Submission were similar to those predicted at the Proposed Submission stage however due to the reduction in growth the extent of effects has been reduced.
- 9.3.2 Overall the Core Theme Policies did not present any new significant effects however the addition of policy CT6 'Local People have Real Influence', will provide additional positive social effects, as this policy will help to develop sustainable and safe communities encouraging social inclusion.

- 9.3.3 The extent of the potential significant effects arising from the level of growth, which is set out in Policy CT2, such as impacts on greenfield land and subsequently biodiversity and landscapes, demand on water, increased waste and increased traffic, will decrease due to the reduction in the level growth. The previous level of growth was based on the RSS however due to the government's intent to abolish RSS there was a need for locally derived levels of housing. The Housing Requirement Update Report (January 2011) set out how the housing requirement was reassessed locally based on more recent economic projections. This resulted in a lower level of growth to achieve an appropriate housing and jobs balance which the SA has advocated throughout the evolution of the document.
- 9.3.4 In terms of the Spatial Strategy, policies SC3-SC9 were introduced which reflected the aspirations of the communities. These policies were a result of a series of community participation events held throughout the Borough to ensure localism was embedded in the document. Details of all the events were compiled into Shaping your Community Report which is an evidence base study for the document. Through consulting with the community and reflecting their aspirations within the document will encourage social participation and inclusion. The content of the policies do reflect what is expressed in the Core Policies however they are more spatially specific. The outcomes of the community events also fed into policy RA1 Highworth and Wroughton which provides further detail than previous policies.
- 9.3.5 The reduction in the level of growth subsequently led to a decrease in the number of proposed urban extensions and in particular a reduction in the level of growth at Eastern Villages and Tadpole Farm. This will lessen the impacts upon biodiversity and flood risk and transport, education provision and landscape respectively. The strategic allocation to the west of Swindon has been removed along with the reserve site at Kingsdown. This reflected the outcome of the Small Scale Urban Extensions Study and the previous SA reports as Tadpole Farm is the most sustainable location out of the three allocations.
- 9.3.6 In terms of the Development Management Policies, no further significant effects were predicted however additional positive effects were predicted through DMP3 as this policy provides a more detailed flood risk policy and encourages SUDS, which the SA has supported since the Preferred Options. Also DMP5 provides flexibility for providing varying uses at employment sites depending on the quality of sites, which provides flexibility and thus additional economic positive effects. Also the original level of affordable housing was reinstated at 30% which is more viable for developers and thus could improve delivery.

Table 9.1: Summary of Predicted Effects of Core Theme Policies

Policy	Summary of Impacts	Overall Effect
DS1	No additional impacts predicted	+ / -
CT1	No additional impacts predicted	+
CT2	No additional impacts predicted however the level of growth is reduced thus potential adverse impacts on biodiversity, landscape, water resources are decreased.	+ / -
CT3	No additional impacts predicted	++
CT4	No additional impacts predicted	+
CT5	No additional impacts predicted	+ / ?
CT6	Additional positive social impacts: <i>Involving the community at all stages of development both in formulating policies and consulting on planning applications will help to develop sustainable and safe communities encouraging social inclusion. It will also ensure that the impact of development on the social fabric of communities is influenced by the community.</i>	+
CT7	No additional impacts predicted	+
SC1	No additional impacts predicted	+
SC2	No additional impacts predicted	++
SC3 – SC9	Additional positive impacts: <i>Protection and enhancement of local facilities will improve availability of services in the area. Improvement of sports centres and open spaces will promote the opportunity for a healthier lifestyle through encouraging physical activity and allow biodiversity / particular habitats and species to flourish. Resisting loss of historical assets is beneficial however protection of such assets would provide stronger protection against harm and loss. Improving public transport, walking and cycling will encourage more sustainable modes of transport and provide environmental benefits Provision of affordable homes will help to meet the local demand and provide social benefits. Providing more jobs and training will provide opportunities for Swindon's workforce to develop and become more skilled. It will also benefit the local economy through providing a more skilful workforce. Addressing flood risk will provide many benefits for residents and businesses from potential damage. Providing further school places and 6th form provision is providing more educational opportunities where people live thus improving access. Canal restoration will allow diversification of biodiversity. Developing further opportunities at existing employment areas will provide employment opportunities for the local population as well as providing businesses with appropriate land and premises and will maximise PDL.</i>	+
NC1	No additional impacts predicted	+
NC2	No additional impacts predicted	+ / -
NC3	No additional impacts predicted	+ / -

Policy	Summary of Impacts	Overall Effect
NC4	No additional impacts predicted however adverse impacts are lessened: <i>The level of development has decreased since the Proposed Submission and thus potential negative impacts upon biodiversity and flood risk will be lessened due to this.</i>	+ / -
NC5	No additional impacts predicted however adverse impacts are lessened: <i>The housing figure has been decreased which will lessen potential adverse impacts which relate to transport, education provision and landscape.</i>	- / +
RA1	Additional social & economic benefits: <i>Overall this policy promotes vitality and sustainability of rural communities. Improved transport links will improve access however no mention of improved public transport between Highworth and Swindon which will have adverse social effects especially upon social exclusion. Strengthening the role of the central areas of the settlements will strengthen identity and support local economies.</i>	+
RA2	No additional impacts predicted however adverse impacts are lessened: <i>The changes to the policy provide further mitigation against the potential adverse impacts thus will lessen any adverse effects. The policy ensures South Marston will retain its identity, prevents coalescence and that essential infrastructure will be put in place</i>	+ / -
RA3	No additional impacts predicted	+

Table 9.2: Summary of Predicted Effects of Development Management Policies

Policy	Summary of Impacts	Overall Effect
DMP1	No additional impacts predicted	+
DMP2	No additional impacts predicted	+
DMP3	Additional positive environmental impact: <i>The policy reflects the outcomes of the SFRA which is supported by the SA. Flooding mitigation measures are proposed to reduce the impact of development which will minimise the potential harm of flooding to sensitive areas. This includes SUDS which was strongly advised through the previous SA Reports</i>	+
DMP4	Additional positive economic and social impacts: <i>This policy will ensure that sufficient services and infrastructure will be in place to meet the needs of substantial employment and housing growth which has the potential to make a significant positive contribution to the SA objectives.</i>	+

Policy	Summary of Impacts	Overall Effect
DMP5	Additional positive economic impacts: <i>This policy ensures employment land uses (B-uses) are located in the appropriate locations and thus deters other uses. This will ensure there is no additional pressure to release unsuitable land for B-uses. This is maximising PDL and provides appropriate land and premises for businesses. The reintroduction of quality of employment areas and uses appropriate for varying quality reflects the need to rejuvenate and modernised under used and poorer quality employment areas. This will provide economic benefits in the short and long-term.</i>	+
DMP6	No additional impacts predicted	+
DMP7	Additional positive social impacts: <i>The affordable housing provision has been reduced from 35% to 30% mainly due to the intend to abolish the RSS which proposed this figure however 30% is a more realistic option and will be more viable for developers. The provision of wheelchair housing is supported as inclusive design is crucial to reducing social inequalities.</i>	+
DMP8	No additional impacts predicted	+
DMP9	No additional impacts predicted	0
DMP10	No additional impacts predicted	+
DMP11	No additional impacts predicted	++
DMP12	No additional impacts predicted	+
DMP13	Additional social and economic impacts: <i>Ensuring retail development is focused within existing town, village, district and local centres ensures accessibility. It also provides economic benefits by directing retail uses to existing centres and bringing further trade to these areas.</i>	+
DMP14	No additional impacts predicted	+

10.0 Pre-Submission

10.1 Introduction

- 10.1.1 The Pre-Submission Document has been adapted to align the document with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations. The NPPF advocates returning to a Local Plan style led document which is reflected in the Pre-Submission Document through a restructure of the policies and naming the document 'Local Plan'. The Pre-Submission Document is therefore split into three sections; Sustainable Development Strategy, Enabling Sustainable Development and Managing Sustainable Growth and Change.
- 10.1.2 The first section Sustainable Development Strategy outlines how the presumption in favour of sustainable development will be taken forward in Swindon for all development. The second section, Enabling Sustainable Development includes what was previously the Core Theme Policies and the Development Management Policies which have been amalgamated into a number of themes. The last section, Managing Sustainable Growth and Change is what was previously the Spatial Strategy.

10.2 Assessment of Pre-Submission

- 10.2.1 As the document has been through a number of Proposed Submission stages, the aim of the SA (at this stage) is to appraise any new policies and whether the policies could potentially create any additional significant effects that have not been taken into consideration. The majority of the policies have been assessed within previous documents however as the document has been restructured the evolution of policies is not necessarily clear.
- 10.2.2 Managing Sustainable Growth and Change section includes an additional strategic allocation, at Kingsdown, which was not proposed within the Revised Proposed Submission. The level of development at Kingsdown is higher than previously appraised and thus it is considered further appraisal work is needed on Kingsdown to ensure sustainability principles are embedded within the policy and subsequently the development.
- 10.2.3 Table 10.1 identifies how the policies within the Pre Submission Document have evolved since Preferred Options. There is an explanation of whether the policies have changed and why, summary of the overall impacts including the use of symbols to illustrate the overall effect. This also includes whether additional impacts are predicted from the Revised Proposed Submission Document. There is a matrix of policy NC5 Kingsdown, in Appendix F which appraises the policy against the sustainable objectives including an explanation of all effects against each sustainable objective.

10.3 Summary of Effects

- 10.3.1 The significant effects arising from the Pre-Submission Document are similar to those predicted from the Revised Proposed Submission Document however due to realigning the document with the NPPF, Localism Act and Neighbourhood Planning Regulations as well as in light of the Swindon Economic Strategy there have been a few amendments, mainly the level of growth and enhancement of the need to deliver sustainable development.
- 10.3.2 The Sustainable Development Strategy provides overarching sustainable principles which all development will need to comply with as to deliver sustainable development and sustainable communities. Through amalgamating these principles provides further emphasises of the need for the delivery of these principles within all development. This will provide a built environment which balances economic, environmental and social elements.
- 10.3.3 The policies within Enabling Sustainable Development do not present any further significant effects however some positive effects are reinforced. The policies regarding Biodiversity (EN4) and Landscape (EN5) within Theme 7 - Natural and Built Environment provide further protection for the natural environment including the potential to deliver biodiversity net gain which will provide additional positive environmental effects. Policies EN7 to EN9 are new policies in light of the NPPF and subsequent abolishment of Planning Policy Statements and Planning Policy Guidance which would have previously covered such policies. However these policies will ensure a high quality environment is delivered without being built on unstable or inappropriately treated contaminated land or produce unacceptable levels of pollution ensuring the environment and communities are not adversely impacted.
- 10.3.4 The Swindon Economic Strategy emphasises the need for the Local Plan to be economically driven which is reflected in slight amendments to policies. The policies regarding affordable housing (HA2) and sustainable construction (DE2) both provide flexibility in terms of viability thus the policies will provide flexibility for developments coming forward.
- 10.3.5 Policy SDS2 of the Sustainable Development Strategy sets out the overall development strategy for Swindon Borough and the proposed level of growth. The level of growth has increased since the Revised Proposed Submission in light of the Swindon Economic Strategy which proposes a higher level of job creation and thus a higher level of housing is required. This will ensure an appropriate balance between housing and employment is delivered which the SA has always endorsed. Also this reflects the NPPF as the Local Plan is now economically driven.
- 10.3.6 Since the Revised Proposed Submission, the urban extensions at Tadpole Farm and Commonhead have been granted planning permission which is reflected in the relevant policies however as a result of the

increase in the level of growth, the extension at Kingsdown has been reinstated. The proposed urban extensions at Kingsdown is larger than what was previously proposed (previously 500 dwellings) and the boundary encompasses land to the North of Kingsdown Lane which, again was not previously identified and thus an appraisal matrix has been completed to identify and assess any potential significant impacts which draws on the Small Scale Urban Extensions Study and previous SA work on the preferred options.

- 10.3.7 The appraisal on Kingsdown concluded that the extension would deliver a mixed use development including decent and affordable homes for the future population of Swindon which will provide social and economic benefits. However there are a few potential significant adverse effects which have been highlighted through previous SA reports and SSUES and further highlighted through this appraisal thus mitigation has been integrated. This includes:
- The integration of Kingsdown with the rest of Swindon urban area including access to facilities and services has been highlighted as a concern due to the A419 barrier between the two areas. The SA and SSUES have endorsed a bridge across the A419 however as Kingsdown was previously at a smaller scale the bridge was not viable. At the larger scale, the bridge is a more viable option. The appraisal did highlight that timely delivery of the bridge (delivered simultaneously with development) is essential to ensure access to services and facilities;
 - The impact of development on the landscape, north of Kingsdown Lane, could have significant adverse impacts on landscape however the policy does include explicit reference of providing landscape mitigation to reduce visual impacts to the north and east of the development including sensitive design;
 - Development to the north of Kingsdown Lane provides a distinctively more significant effect in terms of coalescence and the impact upon the character of Blunsdon. The policy does include the need for potential development to respect the context and character of Broad Blunsdon at the northern edge of Kingsdown through the design of development. This will help to mitigate effects however will not necessarily prevent coalescence. The policy could include the need for a non-coalescence area between Broad Blunsdon and Kingsdown and the protection of surrounding land to ensure coalescence does not occur in the future.
- 10.3.8 In summary, the appraisal on Kingsdown highlighted the potential adverse impacts arising from lack of access to services and facilities and the impact upon landscape however these issues are adequately mitigated within the policy. Therefore the only potential significant effect arising from Kingsdown is potential coalescence with Broad Blunsdon

however the SA advises potential mitigation measures to reduce this impact.

- 10.3.9 The Neighbourhood and Local Plan Policy (LN1) is a new policy in light of the NPPF, Localism Act and Neighbourhood Planning Regulations. It sets out the approach that will be taken for planning for local communities and neighbourhoods in Swindon Borough. This policy encompasses the previous policy CT6 but also includes details on the production and preparation of neighbourhood plans, which will enable communities to shape development within their area to reflect the needs and aspirations of the community. As a result of this, previous policies SC3 to SC9 have been removed from the document however the content of these policies are within evidence base study 'Shaping our Community'.

Table 10.1: Key Effects & Evolution of Pre Submission Policies: Sustainable Development Strategy

Policy	Relationship with Preferred Options 2008	Relationship with Proposed Submission 2009	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2011	Changes to Policy	Summary of Impacts	Overall + Effect
Sustainable Development Strategy						
DS1	N/A	CP1	CT1 (part) RA3 (part)	The Sustainable Development Strategy replaces the previous Development Strategy and merged parts of other policies as to provide a strong correlation with the National Planning Policy Framework's presumption in favour of sustainable development. SDS1 reflects parts of CT1 and RA3 through combining the overarching sustainable development principles into one policy. All potential development within Swindon Borough will need to ensure these principles are embedded within the proposal..	Ensuring all development is underpinned by a range of sustainable development principles will help to meet all the sustainability objectives. It will provide an environment for a sustainable community. Additional positive impacts	++

Table 10.1: Key Effects & Evolution of Pre Submission Policies: Sustainable Development Strategy

Policy	Relationship with Preferred Options 2008	Relationship with Proposed Submission 2009	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2011	Changes to Policy	Summary of Impacts	Overall Effect
DS2	Spatial Framework Options	SSP1, SSP2, SSP3	DS1 CT2 (part)	The only change is the proposed level of housing and employment which has been increased in light of the outcomes of the Swindon Economic Strategy as to provide a robust balance between jobs and homes	<p>Focussing development in the urban area will help to achieve efficient use of land and reduce the need to travel. Development within urban extensions will provide for the needs of the growing population however there will be adverse effects in relation to biodiversity, landscape, water, education provision, flooding and increased traffic. Development within settlement boundaries will ensure no adverse effects on landscape around the villages and prevent coalescence. There will be impacts upon South Marston and Blunsdon however the relevant spatial policy will aim to mitigate any impacts.</p> <p>No additional impacts predicted however adverse impacts are lessened from Proposed Submission.</p>	+/-

Table 10.1: Key Effects & Evolution of Pre Submission Policies: Sustainable Development Strategy

Policy	Relationship with Preferred Options 2008	Relationship with Proposed Submission 2009	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2011	Changes to Policy	Summary of Impacts	Overall + Effect
DS3	N/A	N/A	NC1	This policy is mostly a new policy which takes into account the CLG / PAS model on sustainable development. NC1 has been included in its entirety with factual updates which makes explicit the requirements to secure infrastructure and the long term maintenance of infrastructure prior to development at all major development areas	Ensuring adequate provision of infrastructure is essential in meeting the needs of existing and new communities and maintaining a stable and productive economy. Design Codes and Framework Plans will ensure the built environment will be of a high standard, in keeping with the surrounding character and provide a sustainable pattern of development. No additional impacts	+

Table 10.2: Key Effects & Evolution of Pre Submission Policies: Enabling Sustainable Development

Policy	Relationship with Preferred Options 2008	Relationship with Proposed Submission 2009	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2011	Changes to Policy	Summary of Impacts	Overall + - Effect
Enabling Sustainable Development						
Theme 1: High Quality Design						
DE1: High Quality Design	Design & Amenity Options	DMP1	CT1 (part) CT3 (part) DMP1	Policy DMP1 has been included in its entirety with factual updates in light of the NPPF and the creation of policy SDS1.	Encouraging high quality design within the Central Area will improve the image of the Borough and enhance the Central Area's role. This policy is strong in terms of delivering a high quality built environment and consideration of inclusion, safe and accessibility of developments. Improving key gateways and corridors will improve accessibility and indirectly improve the health of the community. No additional impacts	+
DE2: Sustainable Construction	Sustainable Design & Construction Options,	DMP1 DMP1B	DMP2	Policy DMP2 has been included in its entirety with factual updates.	This policy includes requirements for energy use in building such as passive solar benefits and renewable energy technologies which will contribute to climate change. There are targets for all development to reduce CO2 emission including domestic and non-domestic which is supported. The implementation of a district heating system will provide economic and environmental benefits in	+

Table 10.2: Key Effects & Evolution of Pre Submission Policies: Enabling Sustainable Development

Policy	Relationship with Preferred Options 2008	Relationship with Proposed Submission 2009	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2011	Changes to Policy	Summary of Impacts	Overall + Effect
					the long term. Viability is a key issue regarding the implementation of this policy especially in the short-term however the policy provides flexibility where viability is an issue. No additional impacts	
Theme 2: Economy						
EC1: Economic Growth through existing business etc	KO3	CP3	CT1 (part)	Reflects parts of policies CT1 and CT2 however provides a stronger aspiration in helping to deliver planned sustainable economic growth and in identify opportunities to develop key employment sectors.	Strong economic benefits predicted as the policy encourages business growth, inward investment and regeneration. The policy supports a range of employment sectors which will provide a diversity of employment opportunities for all. Protecting the best quality employment land, identifying new sites and supporting large inward investment will provide the best and a range of land and premises for existing and future employers. The policy supports the role of the Town Centre and endorses a university in the central area which will improve the skill base of the population. No additional impacts	+

Table 10.2: Key Effects & Evolution of Pre Submission Policies: Enabling Sustainable Development

Policy	Relationship with Preferred Options 2008	Relationship with Proposed Submission 2009	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2011	Changes to Policy	Summary of Impacts	Overall + Effect
EC2: Employment Land and Premises	Employment Area Options	CP3, DMP3	CT2 (part), DMP5, DMP6	Reflects parts of CT2 and provides a more concise version of DMP5 as to help achieve inward investment and the growth and retention of existing businesses. Also policy DMP6 has been included in its entirety with factual updates.	This policy ensures employment land uses (B-uses) are located in the appropriate locations and thus deters other uses. This will ensure there is no additional pressure to release unsuitable land for B-uses. This is maximising PDL and provides appropriate land and premises for businesses. The policy ensures the Central Area is the primary location for office space which will improve and support the role of the Central Area. The policy also ensures that employment land is provided within the new communities ensuring a balanced and sustainable community is delivered. No additional impacts	+
EC3: Role of Centre	KO6	CP5	DMP13	Policy DMP13 has been included in its entirety with factual updates in light of the NPPF.	Ensuring retail development is focussed within existing town, village, district and local centres through using the sequential approach, ensures accessibility and maximising opportunities to improve the role of the Central Area. It also provides economic benefits by directing retail uses to existing centres and bringing further trade to these areas. It also maximises the development of PDL.	+

Table 10.2: Key Effects & Evolution of Pre Submission Policies: Enabling Sustainable Development

Policy	Relationship with Preferred Options 2008	Relationship with Proposed Submission 2009	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2011	Changes to Policy	Summary of Impacts	Overall + Effect
					No additional impacts	
EC4: Conversion of Building to Employment in Countryside	KO5?	N/A	CT1 (part)	New policy in light of the NPPF and subsequently the abolishment of Planning Policy Statements and Planning Policy Guidance.	The policy provides opportunities for rural businesses to develop however it still ensures the character of villages or the countryside is maintained. Additional economic benefits	+
EC5: Farm Diversification	N/A	N/A	DMP5 DMP6	New policy in light of the NPPF and subsequently the abolishment of Planning Policy Statements and Planning Policy Guidance.	The policy provides opportunities for farm diversification however it still ensures the character of villages or the countryside is maintained. Additional economic benefits	+
Theme 3: Housing						

Table 10.2: Key Effects & Evolution of Pre Submission Policies: Enabling Sustainable Development

Policy	Relationship with Preferred Options 2008	Relationship with Proposed Submission 2009	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2011	Changes to Policy	Summary of Impacts	Overall + Effect
HA1: Mix, type and density	KO9	CP4	CT2 (part)	Policy CT2 part E has been included in its entirety.	The policy ensures a range of types, mixes and densities of housing will be delivered across the Borough providing for all sectors of the community therefore providing social benefits. No additional impacts	+
HA2: Affordable Housing	KO10, Affordable Housing Options	CP4, DMP4A	CT2 (part) DMP7 (part)	Policy CT2 part F and DMP 7 parts A and B have been included in its entirety with factual updates.	Provision of affordable housing will provide social and economic benefits for the population. There were concerns over the viability of the delivery of affordable homes in the short term however the policy provides flexibility where viability is an issue. The policy also ensures affordable housing is mixed in with private housing which will provide a balanced community and promote social inclusion. No additional impacts	+
HA3: Wheelchair Accessible Housing	KO11	CP4, DMP4C	CT4 (part)	Policy DMP7 part C has been included in its entirety.	This policy will ensure wheelchair accessible housing is delivered thus ensuring all sectors of the community have access to housing. No additional impacts	+

Table 10.2: Key Effects & Evolution of Pre Submission Policies: Enabling Sustainable Development

Policy	Relationship with Preferred Options 2008	Relationship with Proposed Submission 2009	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2011	Changes to Policy	Summary of Impacts	Overall + Effect
HA4: Subdivision / HMO	KO9	DMP4B	DMP8	Policy DMP8 has been included in its entirety with stronger emphasis on not generating areas which have excessive concentrations of HMOs (this was highlighted in representation received on the Revised Proposed Submission document).	This policy provides a comprehensive approach to the subdivision of dwellings and HMOs. It recognises and mitigates the potential problems associated with HMOs thus minimising adverse impacts and a concentration of HMOs in one area. This type of housing does provide an important form of affordable accommodation. No additional impacts	+
HA5: Rural Exceptions	KO13?	N/A	DMP7 (part)	New policy in light of the NPPF and subsequently the abolishment of Planning Policy Statements and Planning Policy Guidance.	Provides opportunities for affordable housing to be delivered within the rural area promoting social inclusion and a balanced community. Additional social benefits	+
HA6: Agricultural Workers	N/A	N/A	N/A	New policy in light of the NPPF and subsequently the	The policy supports the needs of rural businesses where a dwelling is required providing economic benefits. It also	+

Table 10.2: Key Effects & Evolution of Pre Submission Policies: Enabling Sustainable Development

Policy	Relationship with Preferred Options 2008	Relationship with Proposed Submission 2009	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2011	Changes to Policy	Summary of Impacts	Overall + Effect
Dwellings				abolishment of Planning Policy Statements and Planning Policy Guidance.	ensures potential development is in keeping with the character of the area. Additional economic impacts	
HA7: Conversion of buildings to resi use in countryside	N/A	N/A	N/A	New policy in light of the NPPF and subsequently the abolishment of Planning Policy Statements and Planning Policy Guidance.	Provides opportunities for appropriate housing to be delivered within the rural area promoting social inclusion and a balanced community. Additional social benefits	+
HA8: Gypsies Travellers and Showpeople Options	KO14, Gypsies and Travellers Options, Travelling Showpeople Options	CP11, DMP9	RA3 (part)	Policy CT2 part I has been included in its entirety however there is a stronger expression of what criteria any future sites would need to comply with reflecting the NPPF.	Ensures the needs of Gypsies and Travellers are met however further detailed work will be required on the allocation of Gypsy and Traveller Sites. If sites come forward before this, the policy ensures the amenity of the existing community is not harmed and that the amenity of the Gypsies and Travellers is adequate. No additional impacts	+
Theme 4: Transport						

Table 10.2: Key Effects & Evolution of Pre Submission Policies: Enabling Sustainable Development

Policy	Relationship with Preferred Options 2008	Relationship with Proposed Submission 2009	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2011	Changes to Policy	Summary of Impacts	Overall Effect
TR1: Sustainable Transport Networks	KO7, Sustainable Transport Options	CP7	CT1 (part) CT3 (part) CT7	Policy CT1 part G, CT3 part H and CT7 have been included in their entirety with factual updates.	The scale of growth proposed is likely to substantially increase traffic volumes therefore the promotion of sustainable forms of transport will help to mitigate this. The promotion of equality of opportunity and access will improve social inclusion, reduce congestion thus reducing indirect impacts this can have on local economy. Also there will be less pollution providing indirect environmental and health benefits. No additional impacts	+
TR2: Transport and development	KO7, Sustainable Transport Options	DMP5	DMP10	Policy DMP10 has been included in its entirety with factual updates.	Requiring travel plans, transport assessments or a transport statement will ensure the impacts of transport from development are fully considered and are minimised. No additional impacts	
Theme 5: Infrastructure Needs						
IN1: Infrastructure Provision	Infrastructure Requirements Options	CP2, DMP2	CT1 (part) DMP4	Policies CT1 part C and DMP4 have been amalgamated with factual updates in light of the NPPF.	Ensuring adequate provision of infrastructure is essential in meeting the needs of existing and new communities and maintaining a stable and productive economy. The policy provides flexibility where viability is an issue which will ensure	

Table 10.2: Key Effects & Evolution of Pre Submission Policies: Enabling Sustainable Development

Policy	Relationship with Preferred Options 2008	Relationship with Proposed Submission 2009	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2011	Changes to Policy	Summary of Impacts	Overall + Effect
					a positive approach to all development. No additional impacts	
IN2: Water Supply and Wastewater	N/A	CP2A	CT3 (part)	Policy CT3 part C has been included in its entirety.	The level of growth proposed could have a negative impact on water infrastructure due to increased demand however water management plans address this which is outlined in the Habitat Regulations Assessments. No additional impacts	+
IN3: ICT & Telecommunications	N/A	N/A	N/A	New policy in light of the NPPF and subsequently the abolishment of Planning Policy Statements and Planning Policy Guidance.	This policy ensures the existing built and natural environment is not harmed as a result of such infrastructure. However supports the provision of essential infrastructure providing social and economic benefits. No additional impacts	+
IN4: Low Carbon and Renewable Energy	KO2, Zero & Low Carbon Energy Development	DMP1 DMP1B	CT3 (part)	Policy CT3 parts E and F have been amalgamated with a stronger focus on	The implementation of a modular energy and district energy network will provide environmental and economic benefits in the long term The policy supports and	+

Table 10.2: Key Effects & Evolution of Pre Submission Policies: Enabling Sustainable Development

Policy	Relationship with Preferred Options 2008	Relationship with Proposed Submission 2009	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2011	Changes to Policy	Summary of Impacts	Overall + Effect
	Options			delivering community benefits associated with low carbon and renewable energy (highlighted in representations received on the Revised Proposed Submission document).	encourages low carbon energy infrastructure as long as it provide all social, economic and environmental benefits. No additional impacts	
Theme 6: Education, Community and Health Facilities						
CM1: Education	KO5, KO12	CP6	CT5	Policy CT5 has been included in its entirety with factual updates.	Developing a range and high quality educational facilities will raise the skill levels of Swindon's population which has been highlighted in the baseline analysis as an issue. This will benefit young people and also help local businesses. The increased provision will help to meet the extra demand due to major population growth however the local of educational facilities will need to reflect need. Further SA work will be required for any allocations work. The Central Area represents the ideal location for the university especially in	+

Table 10.2: Key Effects & Evolution of Pre Submission Policies: Enabling Sustainable Development

Policy	Relationship with Preferred Options 2008	Relationship with Proposed Submission 2009	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2011	Changes to Policy	Summary of Impacts	Overall + Effect
					terms of accessibility. No additional impacts	
CM2: Active, Healthy and Safe Lifestyles	N/A	CP8, CP9	CT4 (part)	Policy CT4 parts A and C have been included in their entirety with factual updates. There has also been an amendment in light of representations received on playing pitches.	Positive effects will arise from the provision of sports centres and promoting an active, healthy and safe lifestyles including reducing social exclusion, improving health and reducing health inequalities. No additional impacts	+
CM3: Integrating Facilities and delivering services	KO12, Community Facilities Options	CP9, DMP7	CT4 (part)	Policy CT4 parts B, D and F have been included in their entirety with factual updates.	The provision of further health, social and emergency services will be required in light of the level of growth and extra demand. Providing local and integrated services through co-location of services and multi-use buildings will improve accessibility and the services available. No additional impacts	+

Table 10.2: Key Effects & Evolution of Pre Submission Policies: Enabling Sustainable Development

Policy	Relationship with Preferred Options 2008	Relationship with Proposed Submission 2009	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2011	Changes to Policy	Summary of Impacts	Overall Effect
CM4: Maintaining and enhancing community facilities	KO12, Community Facilities Options	CP8, CP9, DMP7	DMP12	Policy DMP12 has been included in its entirety with factual updates.	This policy ensures new community facilities are located within accessible locations for all members of the community which will provide social benefits. This policy also protects the loss of community facilities ensuring communities have access to facilities. No additional impacts	+
Theme 7: Natural and Built Environment						
EN1: Green Infrastructure	KO8, Green Infrastructure and Open Space Options	CP10, DMP8	CT3 (part) DMP11 (part)	Policies CT3 part A and DMP11 parts A and G have been amalgamated to provide a positive approach to delivering GI.	Development of GI network provides direct and indirect benefits in relation to human health biodiversity and climate change. Ensures new developments designs in GI maximising the benefits noted above. No additional impacts	++
ENV2: Community Forest			DMP11 (part)	Policy DMP11 part G (criteria a) has been included with stronger emphasis on the protection and contribution towards the Great Western Community Forest.	Ensuring development contributes to the Great Western Community Forest will maintain and improve the function of the forest which provides health, environmental especially biodiversity and educational benefits. No additional impacts	+

Table 10.2: Key Effects & Evolution of Pre Submission Policies: Enabling Sustainable Development

Policy	Relationship with Preferred Options 2008	Relationship with Proposed Submission 2009	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2011	Changes to Policy	Summary of Impacts	Overall Effect
EN3: Open Space	KO8, Green Infrastructure and Open Space Options	CP10, DMP8	DMP11 (part)	Policy DMP11 parts B, C and D have been included in their entirety with factual updates.	Ensuring development contributes and protects open space will ensure the local community has access to such spaces which can provide health benefits. This will also ensure biodiversity links remain unharmed. No additional impacts	+
EN4: Biodiversity	N/A	CP10, DMP8	DMP11 (part)	Policy DMP11 parts E and F have been amalgamated to provide stronger protection to biodiversity and geodiversity. There are also factual updates in light of the NPPF.	The policy protects biodiversity sites from potential development thus ensuring habitats and species are not harmed. It also provides opportunities for biodiversity to be enhanced and increased through net gain thus allowing species and habitats to flourish. Additional environmental benefits	+
EN5: Landscape	N/A	N/A	RA3 (part)	This policy is mostly a new policy which takes into account landscape protection in light of the outcomes of the NPPF.	This policy ensures development considers the landscape character and historic landscape of Swindon Borough. This will ensure the character is maintained and potentially enhanced. Additional environmental impacts	+
EN6: Flood Risk	N/A	DMP1A	CT3 (part) DMP3	Policies DMP3 and CT3 part G have been amalgamated and	The policy reflects the SFRA outcomes and the sequential approach which is supported by the SA. Appropriate flooding mitigation	+

Table 10.2: Key Effects & Evolution of Pre Submission Policies: Enabling Sustainable Development

Policy	Relationship with Preferred Options 2008	Relationship with Proposed Submission 2009	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2011	Changes to Policy	Summary of Impacts	Overall + Effect
				amended to provide the need for sequential testing and exceptions testing (where necessary) which reflects the NPPF.	and management measures are proposed to reduce the impact of development which will minimise the potential harm of flooding to sensitive areas. This includes SUDS which was strongly advised through the previous SA reports. No additional impacts	
EN7:Pollution	N/A	N/A	N/A	New policy in light of the NPPF and subsequently the abolishment of Planning Policy Statements and Planning Policy Guidance.	This policy protects the environment and community from unacceptable levels of pollution which will ensure there are not any adverse indirect impacts on health and biodiversity. Additional positive environmental impacts	+
EN8: Unstable Land	N/A	N/A	N/A	New policy in light of the NPPF and subsequently the abolishment of Planning Policy Statements and Planning Policy Guidance.	This policy ensures development takes place on stable land which will, in the long term, ensures a high quality built environment is delivered. Additional positive environmental impacts	+
EN9: Contaminated	N/A	N/A	N/A	New policy in light of the NPPF and	This policy ensures development takes place on appropriately treated	

Table 10.2: Key Effects & Evolution of Pre Submission Policies: Enabling Sustainable Development

Policy	Relationship with Preferred Options 2008	Relationship with Proposed Submission 2009	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2011	Changes to Policy	Summary of Impacts	Overall Effect
Land				subsequently the abolishment of Planning Policy Statements and Planning Policy Guidance.	contaminated land which will, in the long term, ensures a high quality built environment is delivered. Additional positive environmental benefits	
EN10: Heritage	Historic Landscape and Buildings Options	CP8, DMP6	CT3 (part) DMP14	Policies CT3 part B and DMP14 have been amalgamated and amended in light of the NPPF.	This policy ensures historical assets such as buildings, archaeology and gardens are protected and enhanced. This will provide benefits in terms of ensuring a high quality built environment is created alongside the heritage of Swindon being maintained and enhanced. No additional impacts	
EN11: Canal	Provision of Canal Options	CP10A	SC1 (part) ?	Reinstatement of a policy previously detailed in the Proposed Submission Core Strategy. The policy is required to ensure that the canal can be sufficiently safeguarded	The protection of the historic alignment of the canal will enable future opportunities for the canal to be restored which could provide social including health and environmental benefits. No additional impacts	

Table 10.3: Key Effects & Evolution of Pre Submission Policies: Managing Sustainable Growth and Change

Policy	Relationship with Preferred Options 2008	Relationship with Proposed Submission 2009	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2011	Changes to Policy	Summary of Impacts	Overall Effect
Delivering Sustainable Growth and Change						
Existing Communities						
SC1: Central Area	KO4, KO6, Spatial Framework Options	SSP4	SC1	Policy SC1 has been included in its entirety with updates on the latest positions regarding Oasis, North Star and UTC.	Regeneration of the Central Area will provide a range of benefits. High quality design, provision of a range of uses and improved health, leisure and education facilities will bring economic benefits as well as attracting businesses and visitors. The policy promotes sustainable transport modes and a green spine, this combined with what provision of a range of facilities will encourage social inclusion, improve the built environment and thus improving the image of Swindon and health and well-being of the population. Identifying specific roles of particular areas of Swindon will help to protect the historic environment however the level of proposed development could adversely affect historic elements and development will need to be sensitive to this. No additional impacts	

Table 10.3: Key Effects & Evolution of Pre Submission Policies: Managing Sustainable Growth and Change

Policy	Relationship with Preferred Options 2008	Relationship with Proposed Submission 2009	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2011	Changes to Policy	Summary of Impacts	Overall Effect
SC2: Swindon's Existing Communities		SSP5	SC2 (part) SC3 (part) SC4 (part) SC5 (part) SC6 (part) SC7 (part) SC8 (part) SC9 (part)		Developing and providing for the needs of the existing communities will provide social & economic benefits including improved accessibility & facilities and providing opportunities for the population to carry out a more active and healthier lifestyle. Development GI and a district-heating network will provide environmental benefits in relation to biodiversity and climate change. This policy also ensures the level of growth is not detrimental on existing policies. No additional impacts	
New Communities						
NC1: Wichelstowe		SSP6	NC2	Policy NC2 has been included in its entirety with updates in regards to the latest position	Provision of a large, high density and mix-use development at Wichelstowe will reduce the need to travel and improve accessibility to services, employment opportunities and facilities. The range of facilities proposed will provide for the needs of a diverse population. An improved transport network will improve accessibility however an increase in traffic is inevitable. Potential adverse effects on biodiversity,	+/-

Table 10.3: Key Effects & Evolution of Pre Submission Policies: Managing Sustainable Growth and Change

Policy	Relationship with Preferred Options 2008	Relationship with Proposed Submission 2009	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2011	Changes to Policy	Summary of Impacts	Overall Effect
					landscape, visual impact and flooding due to development on a large amount of greenfield land however Part C of this policy seeks to mitigate these potential effects. There is specific mention of protecting historical assets and safeguarding the canal route which potentially could lead to positive biodiversity impacts. No additional impacts predicted	
NC2: Commonhead	Commonhead Preferred Option	SSP7	NC3	Policy NC3 has been included with updates in light of planning consent granted in April 2012.	Potential adverse effects upon biodiversity, landscape, historic environment and transport due to development upon greenfield land, visual impact on environmental designation (Country Park & AONB) and increased traffic. Promoting sustainable modes of transport will help to minimise traffic generation and the indirect benefits associated with this. Mixed-use development is proposed which will reduce the need to travel. The protection of the area between Coate Water and the new development is supported by the SA. The protecting of GI, important features and corridors will provide environmental and	+/-

Table 10.3: Key Effects & Evolution of Pre Submission Policies: Managing Sustainable Growth and Change

Policy	Relationship with Preferred Options 2008	Relationship with Proposed Submission 2009	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2011	Changes to Policy	Summary of Impacts	Overall Effect
					health benefits No additional impacts predicted	
NC3: Eastern Villages & South Marston	Eastern Development Area Preferred Option	SSP8	NC4	Policy NC4 has been included in its entirety with updates in regards to the latest position.	The level of development has decreased since the Proposed Submission and impacts will be lessened due to this. The benefits that will arise from the Proposed Eastern Villages and South Marston are provision of a wide range of high quality facilities, services, provision of a high quality sustainable transport network and the creation of a GI network benefitting wildlife and residents. Potential adverse effects are the risk of flooding as parts of this area are within flood risk zones, impact on biodiversity due to large amount of greenfield land being developed upon, impacts upon ancient scheduled monuments, increased traffic which will indirectly impact upon the environment and local economy and physical coalescence and impact on surrounding villages however this policy does seek to mitigate these effects. This is a large development and will impact the existing communities within the east of Swindon therefore it is	

Table 10.3: Key Effects & Evolution of Pre Submission Policies: Managing Sustainable Growth and Change

Policy	Relationship with Preferred Options 2008	Relationship with Proposed Submission 2009	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2011	Changes to Policy	Summary of Impacts	Overall Effect
					essential to integrate existing and new communities, which this policy does address. A n increase amount of employment land is proposed which will hopefully provide more employment opportunities for all. No additional impacts predicted however adverse impacts are lessened from Proposed Submission policy	
NC4: Tadpole Farm	Smaller Scale Urban Extensions Preferred Option	SSP9	NC5	Policy NC3 has been included with updates in light of planning consent granted in June 2012.	The housing figure has decreased since Proposed Submission which will lessen potential adverse impacts which relate to transport, education provision and landscape. An increase in traffic will be generated which will impact the road network and provide indirect adverse impacts on the environment and health. There is a shortage of education provision in the north of Swindon and this development will increase this pressure however the policy does mitigate this by providing further education provision. There will be impacts on biodiversity and landscape due to development on greenfield land and there are flood risk	

Table 10.3: Key Effects & Evolution of Pre Submission Policies: Managing Sustainable Growth and Change

Policy	Relationship with Preferred Options 2008	Relationship with Proposed Submission 2009	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2011	Changes to Policy	Summary of Impacts	Overall Effect
					<p>zones in this area thus development will need to be sensitive to this however the policy does put mitigation measures in place. The protecting of GI, important features and corridors will provide environmental and health benefits</p> <p>No additional impacts predicted however adverse impacts are lessened from Proposed Submission</p>	
NC5: Kingsdown	Smaller Scale Urban Extensions Preferred Option	SSP11	N/A	Reinstatement of a policy previously detailed in the Proposed Submission Core Strategy. The policy is required to ensure that the level of growth is delivered within the Plan period.	<p>The allocation will deliver a mixed use development including decent and affordable homes for the future population of Swindon which will provide social and economic benefits. There will be impacts on biodiversity due to large amount of greenfield land being developed upon, however the policy does include GI enhancement. The bridge across the A419 is a necessity to ensure accessibility and integration of Kingsdown with the rest of Swindon urban area. It is essential this bridge is delivered simultaneously with development. There are potential adverse impacts upon landscape and potential coalescence however the policy does</p>	+/-

Table 10.3: Key Effects & Evolution of Pre Submission Policies: Managing Sustainable Growth and Change

Policy	Relationship with Preferred Options 2008	Relationship with Proposed Submission 2009	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2011	Changes to Policy	Summary of Impacts	Overall Effect
					include mitigation measures to lessen impacts. The policy could, however, include explicit reference to preventing coalescence for this development and potential future development in this area. Potential significant effects relating to coalescence.	
Rural Settlements						
RA1: Highworth	KO13, Rural Development Strategy Preferred Option	SSP12, SSP14	RA1 RA3 (part)	Policy RA1 (parts relevant to Highworth) has been included in its entirety with factual updates especially in regards to Neighbourhood Planning.	Overall this policy promotes vitality and sustainability of Highworth, in particular the town centre. Improved transport links will improve access however no mention of improved public transport between Highworth and Swindon which would have been beneficial. Strengthening the role of the central area of Highworth will strengthen identity and support local economy. In particular, the policy supports tourism, expansion of existing businesses and expansion of Blackworth Industrial Estate will provide employment opportunities for all. No additional impacts	

Table 10.3: Key Effects & Evolution of Pre Submission Policies: Managing Sustainable Growth and Change

Policy	Relationship with Preferred Options 2008	Relationship with Proposed Submission 2009	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2011	Changes to Policy	Summary of Impacts	Overall Effect
RA2: Wroughton				Policy RA1 (parts relevant to Wroughton) has been included in its entirety with factual updates especially in regards to Neighbourhood Planning.	Overall this policy promotes vitality and sustainability of Wroughton, in particular, its identity through maintaining separation with Swindon. Improved transport links will improve access with a number of locations. Strengthening the role of Wroughton village centre will provide economic benefits. No additional impacts	
RA3: South Marston		SSP13	RA2	Policy RA3 has been included in its entirety with factual updates.	This policy provides mitigation against the potential adverse impacts at the Eastern Villages and South Marston. The policy ensures South Marston will retain its identity, prevents coalescence and that essential infrastructure will be put in place. The growth of the village will support and reinforce local services and facilities and there will be improved public transport which will improve accessibility and present social benefits for the local population. There are concerns over the amount of traffic that will be generated which will present indirect environmental and economic adverse effects however there are mitigation measures proposed. There will be loss of views and noise and light	

Table 10.3: Key Effects & Evolution of Pre Submission Policies: Managing Sustainable Growth and Change

Policy	Relationship with Preferred Options 2008	Relationship with Proposed Submission 2009	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2011	Changes to Policy	Summary of Impacts	Overall + Effect
					pollution will be generated. No additional impacts predicted however adverse impacts are lessened from Proposed Submission	
Local and Neighbourhood Policies						
Neighbourhood Planning			CT6 (part) RA3 (part)	A new policy in light of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations and Localism Act 2011.	This policy ensures the community is involved at all stages of development both in formulating policies and consulting on planning applications will help to develop sustainable and safe communities encouraging social inclusion. It will ensure that the impact of development on the social fabric of communities is influenced by the community. This if further emphasised with the inclusion of details regarding communities creating their own neighbourhood plans and influencing the shape of future development. Additional social benefits	+

11.0 Predicted Significant Effects

11.1 Introduction

11.1.1 The nature of the effects of the Local Plan policies has been appraised in previous chapters. However there are other impacts such as cumulative, duration, permanence and cross boundary implications, which can arise from policies and help to determine whether an effect is significant.

11.1.2 In previous SA reports cumulative impacts have been identified and the SA on the Revised Proposed Submission identified and addressed these impacts separately however as the Local Plan has been restructure with some amendments, these impacts have been revisited. This chapter will provide clear indication of the type of cumulative impacts predicted and whether there have been any changes and any mitigation measures, which have not already been identified.

11.2 Cumulative Impacts

11.2.1 Cumulative impacts are the impacts on a particular receptor from the whole of the Local Plan. There is a need to establish these impacts, as the potential negative impacts arising from one policy may be self mitigated through other policies in the plan. On the other hand, two policies could have a worse impact than just the impact from one of the policies. Table 11.1 explains the cumulative impact of the Local Plan upon each SA objective.

11.2.2 The key findings from the cumulative impact assessment are:

- The urban extensions will cumulatively have an adverse impact upon biodiversity as all extensions are being developed upon greenfield land having a negative impact on SA objectives 1 & 2.
- The whole of the Local Plan is geared towards delivering a strong, regional economy which this Plan further emphasises by proposing a higher scenario of growth and a deliverable balance between jobs and homes
- The use of sustainable design, construction, ensuring infrastructure is delivered in a timely manner, improving accessibility, designing out crime and providing a range of facilities provides positive cumulative impacts in regards to SA objectives 10 & 12.
- The creation of a multi functional GI network which integrates with the new communities and is an aspiration for most existing local communities will provide a healthy environment and conserves and enhance rural and urban landscapes.

- The combination of the urban extensions will lead to an increase in population thus cumulatively this will put a huge demand on water and there will be an increase in waste produced.

11.3 Permanent or Long-Term Effects

- 11.3.1 Permanent effects are often similar to long-term effects especially due to the timescale of the Local Plan of approximately 14 years. The permanent effects arising from the Local Plan are mainly interlinked with the effects of the proposed high level of growth in particular the loss of greenfield land and the impact on associated biodiversity. Also the potential of coalescence with South Marston and Broad Blunsdon villages would be permanent unless mitigation and protection of the character of villages is ensured. The new community policies and the regeneration of the Central Area can provide well-designed, safe, sustainable environments, which promote sustainable travel and an active lifestyle, which will be permanent. This is highly dependent upon the form of each of the urban extensions.
- 11.3.2 The provision of a university will provide a continuous delivery of a higher skilled workforce, which will attract businesses throughout the future.

11.4 Medium-Term, Short-Term and Temporary Effects

- 11.4.1 Short-term and temporary effects are closely linked, as where short-term effects were predicted they were generally temporary. Short-term effects are effects that last less than 10 years. Medium effects are considered to be effects that last between 10 – 15 years however due to the nature of the Local Plan it is considered that there will be hardly any effects which are in the medium-term due to the nature of the Plan.
- 11.4.2 The Local Plan extenuates the need to deliver infrastructure in a timely manner however due to the scale of new development, local facilities, services, transport infrastructure may not be delivered in the short-term which could potentially be a temporary, short term negative effect.
- 11.4.3 Implementing sustainable design will provide long-term climate change benefits however the cost implication and viability in the short-term may effect whether sustainable design is implemented.

Table 11.1: Cumulative Impacts

SA Objective	Cumulative Impact	Overall Cumulative Impact
1	The combination of urban extensions to the east, north and south of Swindon will have severe adverse impacts upon biodiversity, as there will be a loss of habitats and species. There are policies that encourage the promotion of a GI network and development of biodiversity through corridors as well as protection and enhancement of existing designated environmental sites. Overall the extent of urban extensions will lead to a net negative impact on biodiversity.	Negative
2	The focus on regenerating the central area will maximise PDL through high density developments and by adopting sequential tests which favour the town centre will further maximise PDL. Improving existing employment areas, local and district centres and co-locating facilities is making efficient use of existing buildings and PDL. All of the urban extensions are on greenfield land and the major of the policies outline an appropriate density to maximise land however due to the scale of development on greenfield land the Local Plan does not cumulatively satisfy this objective.	Negative
3	There is a cumulative impact upon waste as there is an increase in development and population, which will increase the amount of waste generated. Certain policies do encourage the use of sustainable construction and policy IN2 outlines how development proposals should take account of the capacity of waste and sewage however it is still unclear how much impact this will have on how much waste is generated, recycled or used for energy.	Uncertain
4	The increase in development and population will lead to extra demand for water therefore putting pressure on water supply. Policy IN2 does address this issue putting forward solutions such as demand management techniques and for development proposals to take account of capacity of water however due to the cumulative impact of the extensions will have is uncertain and whether these solutions are sufficient.	Uncertain
5	There is clear promotion of sustainable travel choices within TR1 and TR2 and the new community policies. There is a clear focus on improving walking and cycling links alongside developing a GI network & improving the public realm. The regeneration of the central area will improve public transport interchanges and improving safety at bus stops will further encourage use. However the scale of the	Uncertain

Table 11.1: Cumulative Impacts

SA Objective	Cumulative Impact	Overall Cumulative Impact
	urban extensions will dramatically increase traffic. It is unclear whether the promotion and integration of sustainable modes will reduce the need to travel especially by car and minimise the impact of the extensions.	
6	The use of renewable and low carbon energy and sustainable design and construction techniques is encouraged throughout the Local Plan and is implemented clearly through Policy DE2. Implementation of a range of measures will have a positive impact and reduce the effects of climate change.	Positive
7	The proposed level of growth will inevitably increase traffic subsequently increasing air pollution. However the level of air pollution is relatively low therefore uncertain over the extent of the impact.	Uncertain
8	The policies within Theme 6 Healthy and Supportive Communities provide a range of measures to tackle social exclusion including increasing access to services and facilities especially through promotion of co-locating facilities. The needs of an ageing population are addressed including increasing capacity for health and emergency services and provision of education for all ages including the opportunity for life-long learning. Policy LN1 promotes community participation in the planning process. Cumulatively these measures will provide a number of positive impacts.	Positive
9	The proposed level and location of growth will ensure an adequate supply of housing is delivered for new and existing population. The provision of affordable, safe and decent housing is dealt with in policies in Theme 3 Housing and Accommodation including the provision of a range of housing to reflect demographic need. Policies for the provision of HMOs, wheelchair housing and gypsy and travellers sites illustrate the diverse needs of the community are being addressed.	Positive
10	There are a number of policies that contribute to providing a safe and healthy environment in particular DE1, IN1, CM2, CM3, CM4, EN1, EN2 and EN3. This includes improving accessibility, designing out crime, providing leisure and recreational opportunities and access to green spaces. The delivery of these elements is also included within the new community policies to ensure the strategic allocations provide a safe and healthy built environment.	Positive

Table 11.1: Cumulative Impacts

SA Objective	Cumulative Impact	Overall Cumulative Impact
11	EN6 addresses minimising the risk of flooding and the new communities' policies address minimising the potential impacts. However the accumulation of the new communities being development upon greenfield land will inevitably impact the risk of flooding however the extent will depend upon the form of development and the extent of the mitigation measures implemented. Therefore the cumulative impact is unclear.	Uncertain
12	The need for delivering a high quality built environment is embedded within the Local Plan, in particular in the Sustainable Development Strategy. DE1 and DE2 will ensure high quality design is achieved and the use of sustainable design and construction is promoted. There is also emphasis on the need to ensure essential infrastructure is delivered in particular in a timely manner which is reflected in policy IN1.	Positive
13	The proposed Eastern Villages will impact upon South Marston however there is an individual policy (RA3) explaining how the impacts on South Marston will be mitigated including ensuring a separate identity from Swindon. The proposed strategic allocation at Kingsdown could impact on the character and identity of Broad Blunsdon and there is potential for coalescence however the policy (NC5) does include mitigation measures including appropriate and sensitive design of Kingsdown near to Broad Blunsdon. However the impact will depend on the form of the development therefore the impact is currently uncertain.	Uncertain
14	The historic built environment and archaeological assets are protected and enhanced within policy EN10. The new communities' policies include protection, enhancement and integration of heritage assets.	Positive
15	The policies within Theme 7 Natural and Built Environment cumulatively provide positive impacts for Swindon Borough. The creation of a multi functional GI network will enhance the urban landscape through the connection of green space including connecting rural and urban landscapes. Existing recreational spaces and open spaces are protected including separate protection for biodiversity and geodiversity sites which also includes the delivery of net gain to minimise impact on biodiversity. There will be an impact of the new communities upon the rural landscape however the policies do provide	Positive

Table 11.1: Cumulative Impacts

SA Objective	Cumulative Impact	Overall Cumulative Impact
	mitigation measures and are integrating and enhancing existing environmental assets.	
16	The development of a vibrant, regional economy that provides employment opportunities for all is at the heart of the Local Plan with a higher provision of employment land proposed over the plan period. There are a number of policies which promote this, including SDS1, SDS2, EC1, EC2, EC3, EC4, EC5, EC1, SC2, NC1 – NC5 and RA1-RA2. . Cumulatively the Local Plan will help to deliver a strong, regional economy.	Positive
17	Policy CM1 supports the delivery of education for all levels including life-long learning. This will provide opportunities for all of the population to improve their skills. The new communities' policies identify the need for education provision in particular reflecting the growth in demand associated with the new communities.	Positive
18	There is a clear focus on regenerating the Central Area in SC1, which is promoted throughout the policies within the themes in Enabling Sustainable Development. SC1 identifies the need to regenerate the Central Area to make Swindon town centre a destination of choice including a regional leisure destination and a university. The combination of these policies will enhance the Central Area.	Positive

11.5 Secondary / Indirect Impacts

- 11.5.1 Secondary or indirect effects are effects that are either not intended or are effects that occur due to another effect. These effects are common throughout the Local Plan due to the strategic nature of the whole of the Plan.
- 11.5.2 The integration of a GI network will provide indirect positive impacts in terms of health as the network will provide opportunity for physical activity that will encourage an active lifestyle. The Local Plan could potentially emphasis this relationship more.
- 11.5.3 The delivery of a university will provide secondary economic positive impacts through attracting businesses, as there will be a more skilled workforce due to improved education provision.
- 11.5.4 There are many indirect impacts arising from focusing services within existing accessible centres, which provide benefits associated with climate change, as reduction is air pollution as less reliance on the private car, which can in turn provide health benefits. Also promotion of sustainable travel modes will reduce air pollution which has a positive impact upon climate change.
- 11.5.5 Secondary impact of the urban extensions being developed on greenfield land is there will be an increase in surface run off, less infiltration and thus increase risk of flooding if mitigation measures are not adopted.

11.6 Cross Boundary Effects

- 11.6.1 Predicted effects not only occur within the Borough boundary but also across adjacent authorities. Such effects are often linked to the environment, as there is no control over the boundaries of these effects.
- 11.6.2 The main effects associated with cross boundary effects relate to flood risk, biodiversity and transport. The urban extensions are all developed on greenfield land thus potentially increasing the risk of flood risk within Swindon Borough but also to the north and east boundaries in Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire respectively if mitigation measures are not adopted.
- 11.6.3 The urban extensions to the north and east of Swindon will potentially increase the volume of traffic along the A419 and A420. Subsequently this effect could potentially increase the volume of traffic within Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire.

11.7 Significant Effects

- 11.7.1 The significant effects that will arise from the Local Plan are similar to those identified at Revised Proposed Submission however due to a few

unforeseen changes, the Local Plan was amended and thus there is a need to reemphasise the significant effects.

11.7.2 The significant effects likely to arise from the Local Plan focus on the following:

- The proposed balance between housing and employment will ensure an adequate supply of housing is delivered. The Plan as a whole will encourage economic activity as it is embedded within the Plan.
- The development of a green infrastructure network, which will provide corridors for species and habitats and walking and cycling links, will provide significant benefits related to biodiversity, health and accessibility.
- The accumulation of the urban extensions will have an adverse impact upon biodiversity and rural landscapes due to the high amount of development on greenfield land
- The proposed level of growth will increase demand for water and higher production of waste, which could lead to adverse impacts upon the health of the growing population and the environment.
- Increased level of traffic from the high level of growth will put a huge amount of pressure on the existing transport infrastructure which will have adverse impacts upon the economy, environment (increase in air pollution) and accessibility to services (increase in congestion).
- Coalescence with surrounding villages and towns resulting from the urban extensions, in particular the Eastern Villages and Kingsdown, could result in severe adverse impacts upon the character and identity of South Marston and Broad Blunsdon.
- The combination of regenerating the Central Area, providing many employment opportunities and improving life-long education will provide significant positive impacts upon Swindon's economy through developing a higher skilled workforce, developing the Central Area to become a regional centre thus attracting more visitors and businesses.

11.7.3 There are uncertain impacts, which are particularly clear in the cumulative assessment and this is due to unknown quantities. In particular, many of the impacts cannot be determined as the form of the strategic allocations is unknown.

12.0 Mitigation and Enhancement Recommendation

12.1 Introduction

- 12.1.1 Potential significant effects have been identified and the Local Plan will need to prevent, reduce or offset the significant adverse effects and where possible maximise positive effects arising from implementation of the plan. This can include changes, additions or removals to the actual policy or supporting text including adding requirements to substitute or offset certain types of impacts.

12.2 Existing Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

- 12.2.1 The Local Plan already includes a range of mitigation measures due to the advanced stage of the document and recommendations feeding into the document from previous SA reports. This includes measures such as:
- Sustainable Drainages Systems to reduce flood risk
 - Water demand management techniques
 - Incorporation of high, sustainable design standards in all developments
 - Enhancement of the rural and urban environment through green infrastructure and landscape protection
 - Energy efficiency measures and renewable forms of energy in all new developments
- 12.2.2 The new community policies all include mitigation measures in relation to the potential impacts the urban extensions will have. These measures particular relate to the impacts upon biodiversity, landscape features, archaeological features, views and environmental designations.

12.3 Recommended Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

- 12.3.1 Even though mitigation measures are already integrated into the Local Plan, there are some further measures, which could be proposed.
- 12.3.2 The potential of coalescence at Broad Blunsdon due to the level of development at Kingsdown is partially mitigated within NC5 however further mitigation measures could be proposed such as a non-coalescence area between the two areas.
- 12.3.3 Sustainable design and construction is proposed for all new developments which will provide positive environmental benefits however this could be further enhanced by aiming to improve the existing stock as well. This could provide further environmental benefits; improve living conditions and cost of living.
- 12.3.4 The regeneration of the Central Area will provide a range of positive impacts including an increase in activity in the Central Area. This

potentially can reduce opportunities for crime but also have the potential to increase crime in the Central Area. Within SC1, security measures could be provided to increase safety of the Central Area thus further enhancing the role and activity within the Central Area.

- 12.3.5 To offset the predicted increase in waste production, policies could encourage the need for recycling and reusing waste in both new and existing communities. The new community policies could encourage waste recycling schemes or facilities within the urban extensions. Also to reduce the demand for water, 'water neutral' development could be promoted within the urban extensions.

13.0 Implementation and Monitoring

13.1 Introduction

- 13.1.1 The significant sustainability effects of implementing the plan must be monitored to identify unforeseen adverse effects and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action.
- 13.1.2 Monitoring allows the actual significant economic, environmental and social effects of implementing the Local Plan to be tested against those effects predicted in the SA. It can lead to more informed decision-making and acts as a useful source of baseline information. It can also help to ensure that problems that arise during implementation can be identified and future predictions made more accurately.

13.2 Monitoring Indicators

- 13.2.1 Plan monitoring and SA monitoring will be interlinked as the SA Scoping Report informed both the SA Framework and was used to help refine the Local Plan policies. Table 13.1 illustrates the relationship between the Local Plan monitoring framework and the SA objectives.

Table 13.1: Relationship between Core Strategy monitoring & SA objectives

SA Objective	Core Strategy Policy Monitoring (Appendix 6? of Core Strategy)
1. Maintain and enhance biodiversity and avoid irreversible losses.	EN1 to EN5
2. Use land and existing buildings efficiently and prioritise development on previously developed land.	SDS2, HA1
3. Promote sustainable waste management solutions.	IN2
4. Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner.	IN2
5. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable forms of transport.	TR1, TR2
6. Reduce impacts on climate change through energy efficiency measures and promotion of renewable energy solutions.	DE2, IN4, TR1

SA Objective	Core Strategy Policy Monitoring (Appendix 6 of Core Strategy)
7. Reduce environmental pollution.	TR1, EN7
8. Reduce social exclusion and poverty.	CM2 - CM4, LN1
9. Provide decent and affordable housing for everyone.	SDS2, HA1 to HA8, NC1 to NC5
10. Provide a safe and healthy environment in which to live.	DE1, IN1, CM2, CM3, CM4, EN1, EN2 and EN3
11. Protect people and property from the risk of flooding.	EN6
12. Provide a high quality built environment.	DE1, DE2
13. Maintain the identity and function of individual settlements.	EN5, NC2, NC3, NC5
14. Conserve and enhance the historic built environment and archaeological assets.	EN11
15. Conserve and enhance rural and urban landscapes.	EN1 to EN5
16. Promote a sustainable, diverse and vibrant sub-regional economy.	SDS2, EC1 to EC3, SC1, NC1 to NC5
17. Provide opportunities for a highly skilled and educated workforce.	CM1
18. Enhance the image and role of Swindon's Central Area as a sub-regional centre and destination.	SC1

13.2.2 Table 13.2 illustrates the indicators that will monitor the significant effects. The SA indicators have been taken from the Scoping Report and there is duplication through both plan and SA monitoring.

Table 13.2: Significant Effect Monitoring Indicators

Significant Impact	Proposed Indicator
Housing supply and economic growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Completions • Business registrations and de-registrations • Employment by occupation • Amount of floorspace developed for employment by type and location
Development of Green Infrastructure Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in area of open space • Change in area of green infrastructure corridors

Adverse Impacts on Biodiversity and Rural Landscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in areas of biodiversity importance including areas designated for their intrinsic environmental value • Percentage of development approved in areas where there is a need to take account of landscape character contrary to landscape team advice.
Water Demand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily domestic consumption per capita
Increase in Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount of waste produced per person / household • % Waste recycled • % Waste landfilled
Increase in Traffic Volume	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average journey time per mile during the morning peak (measure of congestion).
Coalescence with Towns and Villages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount of greenfield land developed adjacent to rural settlements • Amount of development permitted within the non-coalescence areas
Swindon's Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business registrations and de-registrations • Employment by occupation • Amount of floorspace developed for employment by type and location

13.2.3 There may be unknown effects that have not been identified through the SA process however through establishing the links between the monitoring frameworks these effects will become apparent and can be dealt with.

13.2.4 The Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) will monitor both the plan monitoring indicators and the SA indicators. The indicators presented are draft versions.

14.0 Other Related Assessments

14.1 Introduction

- 14.1.1 Sustainability Appraisal is one of a number of assessments which have been undertaken on the Local Plan. The Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), a Diversity Impact Assessment (DIA) and Health Impact Assessment (HIA) have all assessed the Local Plan and been undertaken alongside the SA process, in particular the HRA process.

14.2 Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 14.2.1 European Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (the Habitats Directive) requires a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) to be undertaken to assess the impacts of a land-use plan against the conservation objectives of a European Site, and to ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity of that site. Where significant negative effects are identified, alternative options should be examined to avoid any potential damaging effects.
- 14.2.2 There are no European sites within the Borough boundaries, however sites up to 15km outside the boundary were considered as part of the screening exercise of potential significant effects, in line with English Nature guidance (2006). These sites are as follows:
- North Meadow & Clattinger Farm Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
 - Hackpen Hill SAC
 - Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain SAC
 - River Lambourn SAC
 - Pewsey Downs SAC

14.3 HRA Process

- 14.3.1 The HRA process begins with an initial screening stage which determines whether significant effects are anticipated. If significant effects are anticipated, then an Appropriate Assessment (AA) is undertaken to examine whether significant effects are likely. Enfusion Environmental Consultants were appointed by Swindon Borough Council to undertake both stages of the HRA process.
- 14.3.2 HRA and SA are two separate processes, each with their own legal requirements. The HRA has been undertaken in conjunction with the SA process in order to maximise the relevant evidence gathered. The HRA has informed the Local Plan's emerging options as it is inadvisable, as a rule, to pursue a plan option that is likely to have adverse impacts on a European site.

14.4 Findings of HRA Screening

14.4.1 The screening of the preferred policy options identified a number of likely impacts that have the potential to result in significant effects on some of the identified sites. These impacts can be broadly characterised against the following 'pathways of impact':

- Urbanisation
- Recreational impacts
- Water resources and water quality
- Atmospheric pollution

14.4.2 The findings of the screening exercise suggested the potential for significant effects at three of the five sites; North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC, Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain SAC and River Lambourn SAC. These effects are considered to arise both from the plan itself and as a result of 'in-combination' effects from other plans and programmes being developed and implemented simultaneously in the area thus it was determined an AA would be required on further work.

14.5 Findings of the Appropriate Assessment

14.5.1 The AA focused on the impacts of water resources, water quality and air pollution and overall it was evaluated that significant effects were not likely however recommendations were put forward which the Local Plan has addressed. This included making explicit policy commitments focussing on water demand and mitigation measures, cross boundary-working, requirement for Code for Sustainable Homes and sustainable transport solutions. Changes to the green infrastructure policy were recommended by Natural England, which have also been considered.

14.5.2 The AA was undertaken on the Proposed Submission Document however due to the nature of changes made to the Pre-Submission document, it was determined that no additional effects would be likely. Thus the recommendations made within the AA report were integrated into the Pre-Submission document. An Update Note has been undertaken which explains this in more detail.

15.0 **Conclusion and Next Steps**

15.1 **Introduction**

- 15.1.1 Swindon Borough's Local Plan has been evolving for many years and due to governmental and major national policy changes taking place throughout the process, the form of policies and level of growth have been continually emerging. The evolution of these policies has been assessed by the SA along the way which has been integral to the development of the Plan.

15.2 **Summary**

- 15.2.1 Integrating the SA from the outset was considered essential to ensure that the Local Plan meets the objectives of sustainable development. A crucial element of the SA process is to consider the preferred and alternative options for policies and growth and due to the proposed differing growth levels through the evolution of the Local Plan, Table 15.1 provides a brief outline of the variations to the level and location of growth to ensure the evolution of the options is transparent.

Table 15.1: Summary of the evolution of proposed growth

Stage	Preferred Options March 2008	Proposed Submission July 2009	Revised Proposed Submission March 2011	Pre-Submission December 2012
Level of growth	34,200 homes (plus additional 3,000 in Wiltshire to the West of Swindon)	34,200 homes (plus additional 3,000 in Wiltshire to the West of Swindon)	25,000 homes	29,000 homes
Evidence	Regional Spatial Strategy	Regional Spatial Strategy	Local Derived	Local Derived Economic Strategy
Urban Extensions	Wichelstowe Commonhead Tadpole Farm Eastern Development Area Kingsdown West of Swindon	Wichelstowe Commonhead Tadpole Farm Eastern Development Area Kingsdown (reserve site) West of Swindon	Wichelstowe Commonhead Tadpole Farm Eastern Villages	Wichelstowe Commonhead Tadpole Farm Eastern Villages and South Marston Kingsdown

- 15.2.2 Table 15.1 illustrates that the level of growth within the Plan began at a very high level, following the RSS targets at Preferred Options and Proposed Submission stages and subsequently there were a number of

proposed urban extensions. These allocations were based on information within the RSS and local evidence base studies, the Small Scale Urban Extensions Study and the West of Swindon Study. These illustrated, along with the SA reports, that the capacities and locations proposed were the most sustainable options.

- 15.2.3 At the Revised Proposed Submission stage the level of growth was decreased, this was due to the intent to abolish RSS and thus a need for housing figures to be based on locally derived evidence. The reduction in the level of growth resulted from a reassessment of the economic projections and the need to achieve an appropriate balance between housing and job creation, this is outlined in The Housing Requirement Update Report (January 2011). As a result of this, the number of urban extensions was reduced with the extensions at Kingsdown and the sites to the West of Swindon being removed. This reflected the outcome of the Small Scale Urban Extensions Study and the Preferred Options Sustainability Appraisal as Tadpole Farm is the most sustainable location out of the three allocations.
- 15.2.4 The current document, Pre-Submission stage, proposes a higher level of growth due to the Swindon Economic Strategy and further assessment of various economic growth scenarios. Also the introduction of the National Planning Policy Framework emphasised the need for Local Plans to focus on achieving economic growth. This has led to an increase in growth and subsequently a restatement of a urban extension at Kingsdown which the Small Scale Urban Extensions Study and SA reports concluded was more sustainable than the West of Swindon sites. The level of development proposed at Kingsdown is higher than originally proposed however the appropriate mitigation measures are included within the Plan with this SA advising on further mitigation measures.
- 15.2.5 Overall, it important to note that some uncertainty remains about the implications of certain policies upon the sustainability objectives and an efficient monitoring regime will be put in place to assess the actual effects of policy.

15.3 Next Steps

- 15.3.1 The Pre-Submission Local Plan will go out for consultation in December 2012 for an eight-week period. The SA will also be available for consultation alongside the Local Plan. Revisions to the Local Plan and SA will be made, if required in light of consultation outcomes or if there are changes to national and local guidance.
- 15.3.2 Monitoring the significant effects of the Local Plan, as detailed earlier in this section, will continue during the lifetime of the Plan once adopted.

15.4 Consultation Arrangements

- 15.4.1 This Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Report has been prepared for public consultation to accompany the Swindon Borough Local Plan Pre-Submission Document.
- 15.4.2 It is recommended that public and stakeholder involvement on the SA is carried out at each stage in the development of the Local Plan, in order to ensure that policies meet the objectives of sustainable development.
- 15.4.3 Your comments are very much welcomed on any aspects of this report and will be used to help shape the ongoing SA process and development of the Local Plan. In particular, your responses to the following questions would be most useful:
- Has the SA been carried out in a clear and understandable way?
 - Are statements about likely significant effects accurate?
 - Are there other significant effects (positive or negative) that have not been identified/discussed in the SA?
 - Will suggested mitigation measures and recommendations be effective in preventing, reducing or offsetting adverse effects predicted? If not, what measures would you propose?
- 15.4.4 An outline of the consultation process for the preparation of Swindon Boroughs' Local Plan is set out in Swindon Borough Council's Statement of Community Involvement².
- 15.4.5 Consultation will take place over an 8-week period. Please ensure that you include your name and address. All comments will be placed on a public register, which will be available for the general public to view. Details on how to make representations are included in the Local Plan.
- 15.4.6 Further copies of this report can be obtained from:

Planning Policy Team
Swindon Borough Council
Wat Tyler House West,
Beckhampton Street,
Swindon,
SN1 2JH

Telephone: (01793) 466513
E-mail: forwardplanning@swindon.gov.uk

² Swindon Borough Local Development Framework: Statement of Community Involvement. Adopted Version 2007.
<http://www.swindon.gov.uk/environment/environment-forward/environment-planning-sci.htm>

APPENDIX A: COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE SEA DIRECTIVE

This SA Report incorporates the requirements for an Environmental Report under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. These regulations transpose the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive 2001/42/EC into English Law.

This table indicates where the material required for the purposes of Article 5(1) of Directive 2001/42/EC can be found within the SA Report and associated SA Scoping Report.

Information required in the Environmental Report	Relevant section(s)
1. An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;	Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the SA Revised Proposed Submission Report.
2. The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme;	Scoping Report and Section 4 of the SA Revised Proposed Submission Report.
3. The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;	Scoping Report and Section 4 of the SA Revised Proposed Submission Report.
4. Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC;	Scoping Report and Section 4 of the SA Revised Proposed Submission Report.
5. The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation;	Scoping Report.
6. The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors;	Sections 5 -11 of the SA Revised Proposed Submission Report.
7. The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme;	Sections 9-12 of the SA Revised Proposed Submission Report.
8. An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information;	Sections 7-23 of the Preferred Options SA Report. Section 3 of the SA Revised Proposed Submission Report.
9. A description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10;	Section 13 of the SA Revised Proposed Submission Report.
10. A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	Non-technical summary located at the beginning of this report.

APPENDIX B: SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK

Sustainability theme	SA Objective	Detailed Decision-Making Criteria. Will the policy...	Potential indicators (to be used in monitoring the implementation of the plan
Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora	1• Maintain and enhance biodiversity and avoid irreversible losses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect and enhance habitats and species? ▪ Protect and enhance international, national and locally designated wildlife sites? ▪ Avoid habitat fragmentation? ▪ Ensure all new developments protect and enhance local biodiversity? ▪ Contribute to the achievement of targets within the LBAP? ▪ Prevent the loss of ancient woodland? ▪ Result in the need for Appropriate Assessment? ▪ Incorporate a network of multifunctional Green Infrastructure within new developments, where appropriate? ▪ Result in a net gain for the natural environment with each new development? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ % of SSSIs in 'favourable' or 'unfavourable recovering' condition. ▪ Change in area of designated biodiversity sites (Ha). ▪ % change in Community Forest planted area. ▪ Changes in habitats identified in the Swindon BAP. ▪ Quantity and proportion of new development designated as new strategic green corridor (Ha and % of area). ▪ Area of habitat created as a benefit of new development (NOT including compensatory or translocated habitat) ▪ Area of degraded habitat restored and sensitively managed as a benefit of new development.
Land and Water resources	2• Use land and existing buildings efficiently and prioritise development on Previously Developed Land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maximise densities in sustainable locations? ▪ Protect the best and most versatile agricultural land? ▪ Maintain and enhance soil quality? ▪ Maximise reuse of Previously Developed Land? ▪ Encourage remediation of contaminated land? ▪ Maximise efficient use of land within Swindon's Central Area? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ % dwellings and/or development completed on previously developed land. ▪ Average density of new housing per ha (all sites). ▪ Housing density of new developments in Swindon's Central Area. ▪ Amount of best and most versatile agricultural land lost to development (Ha).
	3• Promote sustainable waste management solutions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce the amount of waste produced? ▪ Maximise recovery, re-use and recycling of waste? ▪ Promote 'on-site' sustainable waste management facilities within new developments? ▪ Deal with waste in a sustainable manner? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ % household waste landfilled. ▪ % household waste recycled. ▪ % household waste composted. ▪ Amount of waste produced per person/household. ▪ Amounts of industrial, commercial, demolition and agricultural waste produced in the Borough. ▪ % new developments with 'on-site' sustainable waste management facilities. ▪ % households with kerbside recycling collection schemes. ▪ % households living within 300 metres of a local "bring site" for recycling or Household Recycling Centre.

Sustainability theme	SA Objective	Detailed Decision-Making Criteria. Will the policy...	Potential indicators (to be used in monitoring the implementation of the plan)
	4. Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage sustainable management of water resources? ▪ Maximise efficient use of water resources? ▪ Reduce the risk of flooding to people and property (new and existing development)? ▪ Take climate change impacts into account in the location and design of development? ▪ Protect and enhance the natural function of floodplains? ▪ Minimise the environmental effects of water abstraction, both inside and outside the Borough? ▪ Promote the use of sustainable drainage systems, in appropriate circumstances? ▪ Ensure that essential water infrastructure is co-ordinated with any new development? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Daily domestic water consumption per capita. ▪ % of new developments with water efficiency measures, including use of grey water and rainwater reuse. ▪ Groundwater quality/quantity.
Pollution, Air and Climatic Factors	5- Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable forms of transport.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote mixed-use developments that reduce reliance on the private car? ▪ Provide for suitable alternatives to the private car ie public transport, walking, cycling? ▪ Promote car-share schemes and/or working from home? ▪ Promote the development of Park & Ride Schemes? ▪ Improve the jobs/homes balance? ▪ Reduce traffic volumes? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ % of residents who travel to work by public transport/private motor vehicle/walking/cycling. ▪ No. of vehicles entering the urban centre in the morning peak. ▪ % of schools with Travel Plans. ▪ No. of employees working for businesses with Green Travel Plans. ▪ % of people travelling to work in private car involved in car-share schemes. ▪ Number and patronage of Park & Ride Schemes. ▪ % of housing development completed within or adjacent to Swindon settlement boundary. ▪ Length of dedicated bus lanes/ cycleways. ▪ % of new residential developments in the Central Area that include mixed uses. ▪ % change in parking spaces in the Central Area. ▪ No. of parking spaces per dwelling in new major developments in the Central Area. ▪ No. of parking spaces per dwelling in new major developments in the Southern Development Area. ▪ No. of bicycle parking spaces within new major developments.

Sustainability theme	SA Objective	Detailed Decision-Making Criteria. Will the policy...	Potential indicators (to be used in monitoring the implementation of the plan)
	6- Reduce impacts on climate change (mitigation), through promotion of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy solutions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce emissions of Greenhouse gases and ozone depleting substances? ▪ Consider the likely impacts of future development on climate change? ▪ Promote the development of renewable energy resources? ▪ Promote energy efficiency in buildings and new development? ▪ Promote energy from waste schemes? ▪ Reduce contributions to climate change through sustainable building practices? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ % household waste used to recover heat, power and other energy sources. ▪ % energy production met by renewable sources. ▪ % renewable energy use within the Borough. ▪ Number of renewable energy schemes approved. ▪ Number and/or output of energy from waste schemes. ▪ Number of schemes using Combined Heat & Power (CHP). ▪ % buildings meeting Code 3 of the Code for Sustainable Homes and/or 'excellent' BREEAM Eco-Homes standards.
	7- Reduce environmental pollution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain and improve local air quality? ▪ Minimise and, where possible, improve on unacceptable levels of noise, light pollution, odour and vibration? ▪ Maintain and improve the quality of all water bodies in the Borough? ▪ Minimise all forms of contamination to soils? ▪ Maintain and enhance soil quality? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Concentrations of selected local air quality indicators as set out in the Local Air Quality Management Progress Report. ▪ No. of Air Quality Management Areas. ▪ % new residential developments meeting set standards in accordance with WHO Environmental Health Criteria 12 (Noise). ▪ No. of complaints received/resolved with regard to lighting, noise and odour. ▪ % of residential developments permitted against the advice of Environmental Health. ▪ % river length of good/fair chemical quality. ▪ % river length of good/fair biological quality. ▪ No. of incidents of major significant water pollution occurring in a year in the Borough.

Sustainability theme	SA Objective	Detailed Decision-Making Criteria. Will the policy...	Potential indicators (to be used in monitoring the implementation of the plan)
Inclusive Communities	8- Reduce social exclusion and poverty.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve the availability and accessibility of key local facilities, including healthcare, education, retail and leisure? ▪ Encourage active involvement of local people in community activities? ▪ Maximise opportunities for all members of society? ▪ Maximise opportunities within the most deprived areas? ▪ Increase the ability of 'Hard-to-Reach' groups, as defined in the Statement of Community Involvement, to influence decisions? ▪ Reduce fuel poverty? ▪ Maintain and enhance rural facilities? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ % of population living within 400m walking distance of a bus stop. ▪ % of population living within 300m walk or 20 mins bus travel (15 mins frequency) of a Primary School. ▪ % of households living within 1 mile of a static public library. ▪ % of rural villages with a General Store/Post Office. ▪ % of rural villages with a Level 1 Journey to Work Public Transport Service. ▪ % of representations received to LDD consultation from 'Hard-to-Reach' groups, as defined in the Statement of Community Involvement. ▪ IMD Rank ▪ Ward unemployment levels. ▪ Employment by gender. ▪ Average earnings. ▪ Unemployment rate. ▪ BVPI156 - % Local Authority buildings suitable for and accessible by disabled people.
	9. Provide decent and affordable housing for everyone.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide an adequate supply of affordable housing? ▪ Support the provision of a range of house types and sizes to meet the needs of all sectors of the community? ▪ Reduce homelessness? ▪ Provide a decent home for all by 2010? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 'Affordable' housing completed as % of all new completions. ▪ Average house price/ household gross earned income ratio. ▪ No. of households classified as homeless. ▪ BV184a - LA homes which are non-decent. ▪ % of private sector homes judged unfit to live in. ▪ % of dwellings in new developments designed for disabled access. ▪ No. of households in overcrowded dwellings.
Healthy Communities	10. Provide a safe and healthy environment in which to live.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce crime and the fear of crime? ▪ Promote design of buildings and public spaces to reduce the potential for crime? ▪ Encourage healthy lifestyles and reduce health inequalities? ▪ Provide for high quality healthcare facilities? ▪ Incorporate a network of multifunctional Green Infrastructure within new developments, where appropriate? ▪ Promote recreational and leisure opportunities in the countryside? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ % change in crime levels (various categories). ▪ % of residents feeling 'safe' or 'fairly safe' outside in the local authority area after dark. ▪ Standard Mortality Rates (all causes). ▪ % of SOAs in lowest 20% IMD Health Domain. ▪ No. of GPs per 1000 population. ▪ % of population suffering from fuel poverty. ▪ % of population living within 600m walk or 30mins bus travel (15mins frequency) of a GP surgery/Health clinic. ▪ BVPI 178 - % length of rights of way easy to use by the public

Sustainability theme	SA Objective	Detailed Decision-Making Criteria. Will the policy...	Potential indicators (to be used in monitoring the implementation of the plan)
	11. Protect people and property from the risk of flooding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Avoid the loss of natural floodplain? ▪ Reduce the risk of flooding to people and property (new and existing development)? ▪ Take climate change into account in the location and design of development, ensuring that development can adapt to any future flood risk scenarios? ▪ Protect and enhance the natural function of floodplains? ▪ Promote the use of sustainable drainage systems, in appropriate circumstances? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ % of new development incorporating Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS). ▪ No. of applications subject to objection by the EA on flood risk grounds. ▪ New development situated in Flood Zones 2 & 3. ▪ No. of properties considered at risk of flooding.
Development and Growth	12. Provide a high quality built environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure high standards of design and construction in all new developments? ▪ Improve people's satisfaction with their neighbourhoods as places to live? ▪ Ensure new development is co-ordinated with essential infrastructure to support future sustainable growth? ▪ Improve the public realm? ▪ Improve the amenity of residential areas? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Value of Public Art provision. ▪ Value of developer contributions to the public realm from new developments.
	13. Maintain the identity and function of individual settlements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prevent coalescence of individual settlements? ▪ Maintain and enhance the character and distinctiveness of settlements? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No. of Parish Plans in place. ▪ Quantity (ha & % of area) of development permitted within Rural Buffers. ▪ Loss of essential rural facilities.
Conservation and Heritage	14. Conserve and enhance the historic built environment and archaeological assets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conserve and enhance features and areas of historical and cultural value, including Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Historic Parks and Gardens? ▪ Conserve and enhance archaeological sites and features? ▪ Ensure appropriate archaeological assessment prior to development of Greenfield land? ▪ Promote sensitive re-use of listed buildings and buildings of significant local interest where appropriate? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ % of grade I and II* listed buildings considered 'at risk'. ▪ No. of listed buildings or listed features lost or damaged through development. ▪ No. and % of Scheduled Ancient Monuments considered at risk. ▪ No. of historic parks and gardens lost or damaged through development. ▪ BVPI % Conservation Areas with published management proposals. ▪ BVPI % Conservation Areas with an up-to-date character appraisal. ▪ % of applications where further archaeological evaluation was recommended.

Sustainability theme	SA Objective	Detailed Decision-Making Criteria. Will the policy...	Potential indicators (to be used in monitoring the implementation of the plan)
	15. Conserve and enhance rural and urban landscapes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect and enhance the landscape character and scenic quality of the countryside? ▪ Protect and enhance natural landscapes within the urban area, including recreational open space and strategic green corridors? ▪ Incorporate a network of multifunctional Green Infrastructure within new developments, where appropriate? ▪ Contribute to the conservation and enhancement of the North Wessex Downs AONB? ▪ Contribute to the objectives of the Great Western Community Forest? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Section 106 agreements contributing to Great Western Community Forest landscape enhancement and new and/or existing areas of Open Space. ▪ % of Open Space provision in strategic development areas which meets local plan standards. ▪ % and area of existing strategic green corridors developed for alternative uses. ▪ No. of applications that make a positive contribution to the achievement of the North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan. ▪ No. of approved applications that provide for the restoration of degraded landscape features. ▪ Quantity of the countryside developed for alternative uses (Ha and % of area).
Economic Development and Employment	16. Promote a sustainable, diverse and vibrant sub-regional economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide employment opportunities for all? ▪ Improve business development and enhance competitiveness? ▪ Assist businesses in finding appropriate land and premises? ▪ Support the rural economy and farm diversification? ▪ Recognise the importance of the environment to the Borough's economy? ▪ Promote sustainable tourism opportunities? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gross Value Added (GVA) ▪ Business premises vacancy rates ▪ Business premises rental values ▪ Jobs density ▪ Economic Activity ▪ % change in VAT registrations ▪ Employment land availability ▪ Average earnings ▪ Unemployment rate ▪ Business registrations and de-registrations ▪ Loss and gain of major employers ▪ % registered working age disabled people in employment ▪ % working age BME people in employment
	17. Provide opportunities for a highly skilled and educated workforce.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide high quality educational facilities? ▪ Improve the skills and qualifications of young people? ▪ Promote life-long learning that is accessible to all? ▪ Provide an increased supply of skilled workers to the local economy? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ % of 16 year olds achieving 5+ GCSEs Grade A*-C. ▪ % of people with NVQ level 3 or 4 (or equivalent) or a trade apprenticeship. ▪ Business surveys of staff/skills shortages. ▪ % of adults on a registered further education course. ▪ No. of companies experiencing skills shortages. ▪ No. of residents attending University. ▪ % of employees undertaking job related training.

Sustainability theme	SA Objective	Detailed Decision-Making Criteria. Will the policy...	Potential indicators (to be used in monitoring the implementation of the plan)
	18. Enhance the image and role of Swindon's Central Area as a sub-regional centre and destination.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote Swindon's Central Area as a business location? ▪ Make land and property available for a range of different business needs within the Central Area? ▪ Allow the realisation of the New Swindon Company's objectives? ▪ Improve the quality of the public realm in Swindon's Central Area? ▪ Promote Swindon as a destination of choice for shopping? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Footfall in Central Area. ▪ % change in office floorspace within Central Area. ▪ Value of public realm improvements within the Central Area. ▪ Unit vacancy rate within the Central Area. ▪ % change in floorspace of Class A1 retail frontages in the Central Area. ▪ Shopping centre yields

APPENDIX C: SA OBJECTIVES INTERNAL COMPATIBILITY MATRIX

✓ Objectives considered compatible x Objectives considered incompatible ! Potential conflict		Objective 1	Objective 2	Objective 3	Objective 4	Objective 5	Objective 6	Objective 7	Objective 8	Objective 9	Objective 10	Objective 11	Objective 12	Objective 13	Objective 14	Objective 15	Objective 16	Objective 17	Objective 18
Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora																			
	1. Maintain and enhance biodiversity and avoid irreversible losses.																		
	2. Use land and existing buildings efficiently and prioritise development on previously developed land.	✓																	
	3. Promote sustainable waste management solutions.	✓	✓																
Land and Water Resources	4. Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner.	✓	✓	✓															
	5. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable forms of transport.	✓	✓	✓	✓														
	6. Reduce impacts on climate change through energy efficiency measures and promotion of renewable energy solutions.	!	✓	✓	✓	✓													
	7. Reduce environmental pollution.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓												
Inclusive Communities	8. Reduce social exclusion and poverty.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓											
	9. Provide decent and affordable housing for everyone.	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	✓										
Healthy Communities	10. Provide a safe and healthy environment in which to live.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓									
	11. Protect people and property from the risk of flooding.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	!	✓								
	12. Provide a high quality built environment.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	!	✓	✓							
Development and Growth.	13. Maintain the identity and function of individual settlements.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	!	✓	✓	✓						
	14. Conserve and enhance the historic built environment and archaeological assets.	✓	!	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	!	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Conservation and Heritage.	15. Conserve and enhance rural and urban landscapes.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	!	✓	✓	!	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
	16. Promote a sustainable, diverse and vibrant sub-regional economy.	!	!	✓	!	!	!	!	✓	✓	✓	!	✓	!	!	!			
Economic Development and Employment.	17. Provide opportunities for a highly skilled and educated workforce.	!	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	18. Enhance the image and role of Swindon's Central Area as a sub-regional centre and destination.	!	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	!	✓	✓	✓	!	✓	✓	!	✓	✓	✓	

APPENDIX D: ISSUES AND OPTIONS: MATRICES

Analysis of the key principles Key: ✓ Potential to support the sustainability objective x Potential to work against the sustainability objective ? Uncertain effects on the sustainability objective 0 No clear links with the sustainability objective		Principles – Theme 1	Principles – Theme 2	Principles – Theme 3	Principles – Theme 4	Principles – Theme 5	Principles – Theme 6	Principles – Theme 7	Principles – Theme 8
Sustainability objectives									
Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora	1. Protect and enhance biodiversity.	✓	✓?	✓	?	✓	✓?	✓	x?
	2. Use land efficiently and prioritise development on Previously Developed Land.	0	✓	✓	x?	0	?	✓	?
Land and Water Resources	3. Promote sustainable waste management solutions.	0	0	0	?	0	✓	0	0?
	4. Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner.	✓	0	0	x?	0	✓	0	0?
Pollution, Air and Climatic Factors.	5. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable forms of transport.	0	✓?	✓	?	✓	0	0	x✓
	6. Maximise energy efficiency and promote renewable energy solutions.	0	0	✓	?	0	✓	0	0?
Inclusive	7. Reduce environmental pollution.	0	0	✓	x?	✓	✓	0	x?
	8. Reduce social exclusion and poverty.	0	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	✓

APPENDIX D: ISSUES AND OPTIONS: MATRICES

Analysis of the key principles Key: ✓ Potential to support the sustainability objective x Potential to work against the sustainability objective ? Uncertain effects on the sustainability objective 0 No clear links with the sustainability objective		Principles – Theme 1	Principles – Theme 2	Principles – Theme 3	Principles – Theme 4	Principles – Theme 5	Principles – Theme 6	Principles – Theme 7	Principles – Theme 8
Sustainability objectives									
communities	9. Provide decent and affordable housing for everyone.	✓	0	0	✓	0	✓	0	✓
Healthy communities	10. Provide a safe and healthy environment in which to live.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Development and Growth.	11. Provide a high quality built environment.	✓	0	0	✓	0	✓	✓	✓
	12. Maintain the identity and function of individual settlements.	✓	✓	0	?	0	✓?	✓	?
Conservation and Heritage.	13. Conserve and enhance the historic built environment and archaeological sites.	✓	✓	✓	x?	0	✓	✓	?
	14. Conserve and enhance important natural landscapes.	✓	✓	✓	x?	✓	✓	✓	?
	15. Promote a sustainable, diverse and vibrant sub-regional economy.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Economic Development and Employment.	16. Provide opportunities for a highly skilled and educated workforce.	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	✓
	17. Enhance the image and role of Swindon's Central Area as a sub-regional centre and destination.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Key to effects: ++ Significant positive + Marginal positive 0 Little or neutral effect - Marginal negative -- Significant negative
? Effects uncertain

Time periods: Short term = 0-5 Yrs. Medium term = 5-10 Yrs.
Long term = 10-20+ Yrs.

Page 119

Key to effects: ++ Significant positive + Marginal positive 0 Little or neutral effect - Marginal negative -- Significant negative
? Effects uncertain

Time periods: Short term = 0-5 Yrs. Medium term = 5-10 Yrs.
Long term = 10-20+ Yrs.

Swindon Borough Local Plan Pre Submission
Sustainability Appraisal Report 2012

Key to effects: ++ Significant positive + Marginal positive 0 Little or neutral effect - Marginal negative -- Significant negative
? Effects uncertain

Time periods: Short term = 0-5 Yrs. Medium term = 5-10 Yrs.
Long term = 10-20+ Yrs.

Swindon Borough Local Plan Pre Submission
Sustainability Appraisal Report 2012

Spatial Option 1 – ‘Growth within existing places in Swindon’

Key to effects: ++ Significant positive + Marginal positive 0 Little or neutral effect - Marginal negative -- Significant negative
 ? Effects uncertain
 Long term = 10-20+ Yrs. Time periods: Short term = 0-5 Yrs. Medium term = 5-10 Yrs.

Sustainability Appraisal objective	Likely significant social, environmental and economic effects	Time period over which effects are likely to occur		
		Short term	Medium term	Long term
17. Enhance the image and role of Swindon’s central area as a sub-regional centre and destination	This option is likely to increase the number of people living and working in the central area, and this in turn may lead to improvements in the retail and cultural offer. However, if this area is overdeveloped, cramming too many dwellings and offices onto a limited area of previously developed land and undeveloped land, overall attractiveness may be compromised.	+	+/-	+/--

<p>Spatial Option 2 – ‘Proposed new growth within Swindon outside existing places’</p> <p>Key to effects: ++ Significant positive + Marginal positive 0 Little or neutral effect - Marginal negative -- Significant negative ? Effects uncertain</p> <p>Time periods: Short term = 0-5 Yrs. Medium term = 5-10 Yrs. Long term = 10-20+ Yrs.</p>				
Sustainability Appraisal objective	Likely significant social, environmental and economic effects	Time period over which effects are likely to occur		
		Short term	Medium term	Long term
1. Maintain and enhance biodiversity and avoid irreversible losses	Option 2 will lead to increased development of Greenfield land, with additional urban extensions needed. This will have implications for biodiversity and habitat fragmentation. This option will reduce the need for higher housing densities (as option 1) and this could lead to further opportunities for Green Infrastructure provision. Both positive and negative impacts of such a policy.	- ?	+/- ?	+ ?
2. Use land and existing buildings efficiently and prioritise development on previously developed land	This option focuses on the development of greenfield land and does not necessarily prioritise use of previously developed land or existing buildings. Significant consequences likely for loss of agricultural land and natural floodplain. Government policy promotes effective and efficient use of land. This option, on its own, may compromise the objectives of the New Swindon Company and regeneration of the central area and Neighbourhood Renewal. Draft RSS states that specific priority should be given to regeneration and renewal of the urban area.	-	--	--
3. Promote sustainable waste management solutions	This option will give opportunities to incorporate accessible on-site waste facilities from the outset. However, there is less scope for re-use of reclaimed construction materials.	+/- ?	+/- ?	+/- ?

Spatial Option 2 – ‘Proposed new growth within Swindon outside existing places’

Key to effects: ++ Significant positive + Marginal positive 0 Little or neutral effect - Marginal negative -- Significant negative
? Effects uncertain

Long term = 10-20+ Yrs.

Time periods: Short term = 0-5 Yrs. Medium term = 5-10 Yrs.

Sustainability Appraisal objective	Likely significant social, environmental and economic effects	Time period over which effects are likely to occur		
		Short term	Medium term	Long term
4. Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner	Issues regarding protection of the natural function of floodplains and possible increases in surface water run-off due to Greenfield development. Climate change is likely to lead to an increase in significant rainfall events. However, essential water infrastructure and Sustainable Drainage Systems can be incorporated from the outset, without relying on existing pipes, sewers and drainage systems. Increased water demand in the longer-term.	+/- ?	+/- ?	+/- ?
5. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable forms of transport	It is likely that this option will lead to an increase in car journeys, putting more pressure on the local highway network, although mixed-use developments will locate retail and employment opportunities close to where people live and public transport routes can be planned at the same time as the development. Current trends suggest that traffic volumes will increase.	- ?	-- ?	-- ?
6. Reduce impacts on climate change through energy efficiency measures and promotion of renewable energy solutions	Energy efficiency measures, sustainable construction techniques and renewable energy technology should be incorporated into all new development. This option will likely involve development of larger dwellings that may be less energy efficient than smaller dwellings envisaged through option 1.	-	--	--

Spatial Option 2 – ‘Proposed new growth within Swindon outside existing places’

Key to effects: ++ Significant positive + Marginal positive 0 Little or neutral effect - Marginal negative -- Significant negative
? Effects uncertain

Long term = 10-20+ Yrs.

Time periods: Short term = 0-5 Yrs. Medium term = 5-10 Yrs.

Sustainability Appraisal objective	Likely significant social, environmental and economic effects	Time period over which effects are likely to occur		
		Short term	Medium term	Long term
7. Reduce environmental pollution	This option will likely increase levels of light pollution, with a larger urban area. Consequences for tranquillity in surrounding countryside. High quality design and sustainable construction can mitigate many of the potential problems. Impacts on air quality are likely to be less of an issue than with option 1 where densities will be higher in the urban area.	+/- ?	+/- ?	+/- ?
8. Reduce social exclusion and poverty	With this option, there is less focus on regeneration within the existing urban area and therefore opportunities to reduce deprivation and social exclusion may be less. There may also be added pressure, through competition, on facilities in rural communities and urban area, with development of district centres in the new urban extensions.	-	- ?	-- ?
9. Provide decent and affordable housing for everyone	This option is more likely to produce the variety of dwelling types and sizes that the Borough is projected to need, with a larger number of affordable homes. This type of Greenfield development, built at lower densities, is also likely to attract more skilled workers to the Borough with important implications for the local economy.	+	+	++

Spatial Option 2 – ‘Proposed new growth within Swindon outside existing places’

Key to effects: ++ Significant positive + Marginal positive 0 Little or neutral effect - Marginal negative -- Significant negative
? Effects uncertain

Long term = 10-20+ Yrs.

Time periods: Short term = 0-5 Yrs. Medium term = 5-10 Yrs.

Sustainability Appraisal objective	Likely significant social, environmental and economic effects	Time period over which effects are likely to occur		
		Short term	Medium term	Long term
10. Provide a safe and healthy environment in which to live	New developments, with high quality designed buildings, public realm and open space can make for an attractive urban environment where people want to live and work, and where crime and the fear of crime is at a minimum. High quality open space and recreational facilities can help encourage healthier lifestyles. However, this option may not provide the regeneration of some existing residential areas where anti-social behaviour and fear of crime is an issue for residents.	+/- ?	+/- ?	+/- ?
11. Provide a high quality built environment	Significant benefits anticipated, particularly if high design standards are required in all new developments. To maintain levels of development required under this option, essential infrastructure must be delivered simultaneously, preferably through an approved, comprehensive master plan, to achieve a balanced and integrated form of development.	+	+	++
12. Maintain the identity and function of individual settlements	This option will create issues of coalescence with neighbouring settlements in proximity to the urban extensions. However, if the RSS housing requirements can be fulfilled through this option, there will be less pressure to develop significant numbers of dwellings in smaller settlements. This may help them maintain their character and distinctiveness.	- ?	-- ?	-- ?

Spatial Option 2 – ‘Proposed new growth within Swindon outside existing places’

Key to effects: ++ Significant positive + Marginal positive 0 Little or neutral effect - Marginal negative -- Significant negative
? Effects uncertain

Long term = 10-20+ Yrs.

Time periods: Short term = 0-5 Yrs. Medium term = 5-10 Yrs.

Sustainability Appraisal objective	Likely significant social, environmental and economic effects	Time period over which effects are likely to occur		
		Short term	Medium term	Long term
13. Conserve and enhance the historic built environment and archaeological assets	Detailed archaeological investigations of proposed greenfield sites will need to take place. Swindon Borough contains many features of acknowledged archaeological importance and it is possible that additional features of interest in the area remain undiscovered. Similar protection (and enhancement) will need to be given to historical features on these areas.	?	?	?
14. Conserve and enhance rural and urban landscapes	There are likely to be considerable landscape issues with this option. Development needs to take account of its natural surroundings and the landscape character. The key issue is how to reconcile the needs of sustainable development, meeting the social and economic needs of the Borough, whilst ensuring that the intrinsic qualities of the landscape are respected and preserved.	- ?	-- ?	-- ?
15. Promote a sustainable, diverse and vibrant sub-regional economy	This policy may help attract skilled workers to the Borough and provide an adequate supply of employment land for businesses. However, regeneration of the central area will be crucial for economic growth and to improve Swindon's reputation.	+/- ?	+/- ?	+/- ?

Spatial Option 2 – ‘Proposed new growth within Swindon outside existing places’

Key to effects: ++ Significant positive + Marginal positive 0 Little or neutral effect - Marginal negative -- Significant negative
 ? Effects uncertain

Long term = 10-20+ Yrs.

Time periods: Short term = 0-5 Yrs. Medium term = 5-10 Yrs.

Sustainability Appraisal objective	Likely significant social, environmental and economic effects	Time period over which effects are likely to occur		
		Short term	Medium term	Long term
16. Provide opportunities for a highly skilled and educated workforce	Skills shortages in the Borough have been acknowledged. This is likely to be resolved through a combination of urban regeneration, an improved jobs/homes balance, a better mix of dwellings and improved quality of educational facilities, including substantial investment in higher education provision. Population increase must be accompanied with quality educational establishments.	?	?	?
17. Enhance the image and role of Swindon’s central area as a sub-regional centre and destination	The ‘ <i>Regeneration Framework</i> ’, prepared by The New Swindon Company, should provide the principal structure and focus – supplemented by other urban programmes. It is important that all urban extensions complement the regeneration of the central area, and other parts of the urban area. They should not draw the focus away from the town centre.	+/- ?	+/- ?	+/- ?

Spatial Option 3 – ‘Contained growth within existing places and identified growth through the RSS’ Key to effects: ++ Significant positive + Marginal positive 0 Little or neutral effect - Marginal negative -- Significant negative ? Effects uncertain Long term = 10-20+ Yrs.				
Time periods: Short term = 0-5 Yrs. Medium term = 5-10 Yrs.				
Sustainability Appraisal objective	Likely significant social, environmental and economic effects	Time period over which effects are likely to occur		
		Short term	Medium term	Long term
5. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable forms of transport	This option may be slightly more sustainable than option 2 with more emphasis on urban regeneration. Concentration of EDA would allow further patronage of public transport services, particularly nearer the end of the plan period.	- ?	- ?	-/+ ?
6. Reduce impacts on climate change through energy efficiency measures and promotion of renewable energy solutions	New development in any location is likely to increase energy demand/usage. High design standards that incorporate energy efficiency measures will help in the longer term. A policy that favours urban regeneration at higher densities is likely to be most sustainable, and transport emissions may be less. Increased concentration of the EDA may make renewable schemes more viable.	+/-	+/-	+/-
7. Reduce environmental pollution	There will be issues of environmental pollution from developing urban extensions and from urban regeneration. Increased concentration of the EDA may exacerbate problems of noise and light within the development and in the adjoining rural area.	0	-	--
8. Reduce social exclusion and poverty	Option 3 places more emphasis on urban regeneration, which will help reduce poverty and social exclusion.	+/- ?	+/- ?	+/- ?

Spatial Option 3 – ‘Contained growth within existing places and identified growth through the RSS’ Key to effects: ++ Significant positive + Marginal positive 0 Little or neutral effect - Marginal negative -- Significant negative ? Effects uncertain Long term = 10-20+ Yrs. Time periods: Short term = 0-5 Yrs. Medium term = 5-10 Yrs.				
Sustainability Appraisal objective	Likely significant social, environmental and economic effects	Time period over which effects are likely to occur		
		Short term	Medium term	Long term
9. Provide decent and affordable housing for everyone	Emphasis on both urban regeneration and urban extensions will likely produce an adequate range of variety and size to meet need. Levels of affordable housing may be lower than Option 2. Concentration of the EDA may result in significantly less large family homes being available for higher-income earners that the Borough needs to attract.	+ ?	+ ?	++ ?
10. Provide a safe and healthy environment in which to live	Emphasis on both urban regeneration and urban extensions could have significant positive impacts for crime and healthy living - reducing the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour in some residential areas through urban renewal initiatives, whilst allowing a network of multifunctional infrastructure to be built into the extensions.	+	+	++
11. Provide a high quality built environment	Emphasis on high quality design will lead to significant improvements in the urban area, creating attractive, pleasant living environments. High densities at the EDA, however, may create problems of ‘town cramming’, especially if 14,000-15,000 dwellings are required.	+/-	+/-	+/-

Spatial Option 3 – ‘Contained growth within existing places and identified growth through the RSS’ Key to effects: ++ Significant positive + Marginal positive 0 Little or neutral effect - Marginal negative -- Significant negative ? Effects uncertain Long term = 10-20+ Yrs.				
Time periods: Short term = 0-5 Yrs. Medium term = 5-10 Yrs.				
Sustainability Appraisal objective	Likely significant social, environmental and economic effects	Time period over which effects are likely to occur		
		Short term	Medium term	Long term
12. Maintain the identity and function of individual settlements	Option 3 will remove the need to allocate further strategic extensions, thereby reducing issues of coalescence. However, an increase in density at the EDA may have adverse effects for neighbouring rural settlements. Significance of effects will be better known at later stage.	+ ?	+ ?	++ ?
13. Conserve and enhance the historic built environment and archaeological assets	Need to ensure appropriate archaeological assessment prior to development of Greenfield land. Further smaller strategic extensions will not be allocated under this option and this will reduce the extent of investigations needed.	-	-	-
14. Conserve and enhance rural and urban landscapes	See 14 Option 2. Development of urban extensions likely to have adverse effects in respect of this sustainability objective. Significance of effects will depend on location, design, density, open space allocation etc. This option may be slightly more sustainable for this objective, due to the loss of smaller extensions, but higher densities at the EDA may mean that less open space, Green Infrastructure etc can be built-in. This may impact upon the North Wessex Downs AONB to the north.	- ?	- ?	- ?

Spatial Option 3 – ‘Contained growth within existing places and identified growth through the RSS’ Key to effects: ++ Significant positive + Marginal positive 0 Little or neutral effect - Marginal negative -- Significant negative ? Effects uncertain Long term = 10-20+ Yrs. Time periods: Short term = 0-5 Yrs. Medium term = 5-10 Yrs.				
Sustainability Appraisal objective	Likely significant social, environmental and economic effects	Time period over which effects are likely to occur		
		Short term	Medium term	Long term
15. Promote a sustainable, diverse and vibrant sub-regional economy	This option is likely to have benefits for the local economy, through provision of a range of housing types and employment land, together with regeneration of the urban area. Employment land availability may be greater under option 2 due to allocation of more Greenfield land.	+/-	+/-	+/-
16. Provide opportunities for a highly skilled and educated workforce	All new development will need to include provision of high quality educational establishments. Option 2 is likely to be more successful in attracting skilled workers to the Borough. House sizes are likely to be reduced through option 3.	+/-	+/-	+/-
17. Enhance the image and role of Swindon’s central area as a sub-regional centre and destination	Option 3 promotes the EDA as the major extension. It is unclear whether this will complement central area regeneration or detract attention.	?	?	?

Appendix F: Swindon Borough Council Core Strategy Options Appraisal Matrices

The following matrices show a visual appraisal of the predicted significant effects of each of the Preferred Options, and any reasonable alternatives that were considered.. An overall score is given as an indication of the sustainability of each option. However, it must be understood that these are predicted effects and there are a number of limitations and uncertainties with this form of appraisal. The strategic nature of the decisions being made, and the high level of uncertainty this entails, results in some uncertain or unknown impacts.

The policies have considered broad strategic options wherever possible – options that are considered to be sufficiently distinct to highlight the different sustainability implications of each, so that meaningful comparisons can be made. A more detailed commentary on the key sustainability issues and problems, with recommendations on how the Preferred Options can be improved eg through mitigation measures, is given in Sections 6-23.

It is important that the different options are compared with each other and with the current social, economic and environmental characteristics of the Borough. The Preferred Options must represent the most appropriate in all the circumstances, having considered the relevant alternatives. The main reason for the consideration of options and alternatives is in order to be satisfied that there is not a better way of proceeding with the spatial strategy, mindful of all of the relevant circumstances, and by reference to the overarching objective of ‘contributing to the achievement of sustainable development’.

Spatial Framework

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Preferred Option	Alternative options considered	Notes
1. Biodiversity	+/?	+	Impacts on biodiversity will relate primarily to development of greenfield sites and loss of agricultural land. There will, however, be significant opportunities to enhance biodiversity in the urban extensions through a comprehensive master planning approach and through the anticipated Green Infrastructure Strategy. Canal provision through the Borough also offers significant opportunities in this regard. The Preferred Option should make clearer the benefits for biodiversity enhancement that can result from this policy.
2. Land and buildings	+/?	+	The two alternative options of concentrating growth within Swindon and within existing allocations (including the EDA) would be more likely to increase densities in more sustainable locations, maximising use of previously developed land and protecting agricultural land. However, these options would not meet the requirements of the Draft RSS. The Preferred Option confirms that the focus of development will be on PDL and promotes the town centre for all office, cultural, tourism and leisure uses.
3. Waste	0	0	No significant impacts envisaged as a result of this policy. Population increase generally is likely to increase pressure on waste facilities. Consideration should be given to provision of accessible, convenient sustainable waste management facilities within all new developments.

Spatial Framework

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Preferred Option	Alternative options considered	Notes
4. Water	-/?	?	Thames Water have acknowledged that pressure on water resources within the Swindon area will increase significantly over the next few years as a result of planned housing growth, and the predicted future effects of climate change will impact on both forecasted demand and water supply. Key issues for Swindon Borough are expected to be security of supply, water quality and flood risk. The ability to treat and discharge waste-water to acceptable environmental standards is also a key issue for any level of future growth. The use of greater demand management techniques may be used to offset the requirement for some water cycle infrastructure, or delay the time by which it is needed.
5. Transport	-/?	-/?	The level of growth anticipated is predicted to place significant additional pressures on the existing transport infrastructure. There must be careful consideration of these demands and provision of timely infrastructure, in particular helping to reduce the number of unnecessary private car journeys through public transport provision and walking/cycling routes that enable people to leave the car at home.
6. Climate change and energy	?	+/?	Impacts on climate change and CO ₂ emissions can be significantly reduced through consideration of high design standards in all new developments and building developments that reduce the need to travel. The Preferred Option promotes location of development in the existing urban area, of mixed-use, and improvements to public transport services. However, other policies in the Core Strategy will have a more direct, positive influence on this sustainability objective. The ability of new developments to be able to adapt to the predicted impacts of climate change must be given serious consideration.

Spatial Framework

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Preferred Option	Alternative options considered	Notes
7. Pollution	-/?	?	With this level of anticipated growth there are likely to be concerns regarding air, noise and light pollution, through new development and traffic increases. These impacts can be mitigated through careful consideration of location and design and strict control of development in the countryside.
8. Social exclusion and poverty	+	+	There will be a number of benefits from both preferred and alternative options, through urban and rural regeneration, location of high-density development close to transport and community focal points, provision of adequate community, healthcare and educational infrastructure and employment provision.
9. Housing	++	++	Both sets of policies will allow for a range of housing to meet demographic and market demands and would allow for the housing requirements of the RSS to be met.
10. Safe and healthy environment	+	+	Other policies in the Core Strategy are likely to be more relevant to this objective. However, provision of housing of a high design standard, employment land to meet demand and a focus on central area and urban regeneration will lead to significant benefits. Infrastructure provision in a timely manner will be key.
11. Reducing flood risk	?	?	A significant proportion of new development will be built on greenfield sites and this poses particular concerns regarding flood risk. Flood risk must be taken into account at all stages in the planning process to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding, and to direct development away from areas at highest risk. Reducing flood risk to and from new development can be achieved through location, layout and design, incorporating sustainable drainage systems (SUDS), and by using opportunities offered by new development to reduce the causes and impacts of flooding eg surface water management plans, making the most of the benefits of Green Infrastructure for flood storage and by re-creating functional floodplain.

Spatial Framework

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Preferred Option	Alternative options considered	Notes
12. Built environment	++	+	It is vital that adequate infrastructure is appropriately phased with new development to support sustainable future growth. The Design & Amenity policy will be particularly relevant for this objective.
13. Settlements	-/?	-/?	There are significant issues likely for some neighbouring rural towns and villages. Impacts will depend on the particular location of developments and proximity to existing settlements. Impacts are difficult to assess at this stage but there should be adequate consultation with residents likely to be affected. Policy regarding limited development in the secondary settlements is likely to have benefits overall.
14. Historic environment	?	?	Issues are better addressed through other policies. The most significant issues are likely to arise through development of greenfield sites. The Core Strategy must ensure appropriate archaeological assessment prior to development of greenfield land.
15. Landscapes	?	?	Again, there will be significant issues regarding landscape impact through development of the various urban extensions. Impacts will depend on site specific locations. New development should protect and enhance natural landscapes within both urban and rural areas wherever possible and incorporate a network of multifunctional Green Infrastructure where appropriate. Specific landscape designations such as the AONB and the objectives of the Great Western Community Forest should be given careful consideration.
16. Sustainable economy	++/?	++/?	There will be significant benefits for the local economy through housing and employment provision, urban regeneration and provision of highways, water and community infrastructure. Policy should support the rural economy through limited, sustainable growth and invest in sustainable modes of transport in all areas.

Spatial Framework

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Preferred Option	Alternative options considered	Notes
17. Education and skills	+/?	-/?	Education provision is dealt with in greater detail in other policies, in particular under developer contributions. Provision for a university campus at North Star has the potential to increase skills levels in the Borough and may offer considerable opportunities for local people. Housing policy may also increase the numbers of skilled workers living in the Borough.
18. Central Area	++	-/+ ?	The Preferred Option will be good for the central area by focusing development on previously developed land (much of which is in this area) and by directing office uses, leisure, cultural and tourism proposals to the centre. Alternative spatial option 1 may benefit the central area by concentrating all development in the existing urban area, helping in urban regeneration. However, other alternatives of locating a university campus at Commonhead and locating a canal outside the centre would not benefit regeneration.
Summary of overall effects	Perhaps the most significant issue is the scale of growth anticipated in the Borough. The level of housing and employment proposed in the Core Strategy provides significant opportunities to increase the range and diversity of housing in the Borough to meet demographic and market demands, and a level of employment commensurate with the corresponding population growth forecasted. However, there will be impacts on landscape, biodiversity, transport and water resources, with the potential for some coalescence with neighbouring rural communities, which may cause considerable concern among those residents that are affected.		

Eastern Development Area

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Preferred Option	Alternative Option 1	Alternative Option 2	Notes
1. Biodiversity	+	0	-	Biodiversity enhancements more likely through an integrated Masterplan approach.
2. Land and buildings	+	?	?	It is unsure what effect the 2 alternatives will have on this objective. The EDA does not maximise development of previously developed land but is required if Swindon is to achieve growth targets.
3. Waste	+	?	-	Incorporation of accessible waste management infrastructure will be essential in reducing waste going to landfill and increasing recycling rates.
4. Water	+	?	-	Incorporation of all necessary water infrastructure must be considered in any Masterplan.
5. Transport	+/?	+/?	-	EDA policy promotes provision of sustainable transport links that integrate with the existing urban area. Will a Park & Ride site benefit the EDA? It may attract in-commuters from the east of Swindon.
6. Climate change and energy	+	+/?	-	Adequate provision of public transport infrastructure, sustainable transport links with the urban area and mixed-use development of high design standards will help Swindon reduce impacts on climate change.
7. Pollution	-/?	?	?	Impacts of light pollution on surrounding rural areas will need careful consideration.
8. Social exclusion and poverty	++	?	-	A co-ordinated approach to infrastructure provision will increase opportunities for all social groups, including provision of health and community facilities. Policy requires 30% affordable housing.
9. Housing	++	-	-	The SA agrees that RSS housing targets are more likely to be met through early commencement of the EDA and GOSW have approved the Preferred Option approach.

Eastern Development Area

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Preferred Option	Alternative Option 1	Alternative Option 2	Notes
10. Safe and healthy environment	+	0	-	A policy that promotes early and co-ordinated provision of essential infrastructure requirements is likely to achieve a more positive outcome against this objective.
11. Reducing flood risk	+/?	?	-	Parts of the EDA are situated in the floodplain and consideration of flood risk should be given in all planning proposals.
12. Built environment	++	?	-	Also refer to Option 3 (Design). The EDA must be developed with a high quality of sustainable design, and be capable of adapting to future climate change effects. Alternative Option 1 is unlikely to provide the infrastructure needed for a development of this size.
13. Settlements	-/?	?	?	Coalescence is a key issue with the EDA. RSS states that settlements should not coalesce with Swindon
14. Historic environment	?	?	?	Unknown effects at present. Will depend on specific proposals, including location.
15. Landscapes	-	-	--	The EDA has the potential to significantly effect the surrounding rural landscape.
16. Sustainable economy	++	?	+	EDA should benefit the economy through provision of housing and jobs.
17. Education and skills	?	?	?	Policy refers to 'necessary facilities'. Focus should be on quality of education to raise standards.
18. Central Area	?	?	-	It is essential that the EDA does not draw focus away from town centre regeneration.

Eastern Development Area

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Preferred Option	Alternative Option 1	Alternative Option 2	Notes
Summary of overall effects	<p>An urban extension of this size is likely to have significant impacts against a number of objectives. It is essential that the EDA is planned in a co-ordinated way, involving all relevant stakeholders. Further detailed appraisal of sustainability impacts must be carried out when future development proposals are received. A Masterplan approach is recommended to facilitate efficient delivery of high quality development, in accordance with PPS3 and PPS12. Development of an Area Action Plan may cause some delays but PPS12 recommends that they should be used to provide the planning framework for areas where significant change is needed. If GOSW have agreed the Preferred Option without an AAP then the option is not really a relevant consideration.</p> <p>A clearer policy on development of strategic gaps should be included to prevent coalescence of surrounding settlements.</p>			

Smaller Scale Urban Extensions

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Preferred Option	Alternative Option 1	Alternative Option 2	Alternative Option 3	Notes
1. Biodiversity	-/?	-/?	-/?	-/?	All preferred sites are on greenfield land and have the potential to impact upon biodiversity and wildlife habitats. However, incorporation of Green Infrastructure could enhance current habitats. All biodiversity assets should be incorporated into development with appropriate mitigation.
2. Land/buildings	+/?	?	-/?	-/?	All small-scale urban extensions will be located on greenfield sites. However, the preferred sites will avoid the loss of the best quality agricultural land and housing densities will be maximised. Development in these locations must avoid the loss of natural floodplain.
3. Waste	?	?	?	?	Impacts are unknown at this stage. All development should be planned to incorporate adequate household waste recycling facilities that are convenient and accessible.
4. Water	?	-	-	?	Impacts are unknown at this stage. Further consideration should be given to provision of adequate levels of water infrastructure, flood risk and the potential for climate change adaptation.
5. Transport	-	--	-	-	Preferred sites considered best in terms of accessibility and provision of transport infrastructure. However, there is potential for significant impacts on the local transport network.
6. Climate change and energy	+	?	?	-/?	All development must incorporate the highest possible standards of design and construction in conjunction with the Swindon Standard.

Smaller Scale Urban Extensions

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Preferred Option	Alternative Option 1	Alternative Option 2	Alternative Option 3	Notes
7. Pollution	+	?	-	?	Introduction through the Core Strategy will allow public consultation on any impacts.
8. Social exclusion and poverty	++	-	-	?	The Preferred Option will allow the greatest accessibility to the existing urban area's services and facilities and allow for adequate provision of essential community facilities.
9. Housing	+	-/?	?	-	The Preferred Option is likely to deliver the level of housing required in the Draft RSS.
10. Safe/healthy environment	+	-	-/?	?	The Preferred Option considers the need for sustainable transport solutions and these sites give the greatest accessibility to urban area services and facilities.
11. Flood risk	?	?	-/?	-/?	Careful consideration of flood risk will be needed, in particular re Ridegeway/Moredon Bridge
12. Built environment	+	--	-	?	All development should address the distribution of financial contributions arising from Section 106 agreements and other funding to deliver key infrastructure that can adapt to climate change.
13. Settlements	0	?	-/?	-/?	There are unlikely to be significant issues regarding coalescence from the preferred sites.
14. Historic environment	?	?	?	?	Further research is required on the extent of archaeological sites. The Sustainability Appraisal does not have information regarding this.
15. Landscapes	-/?	-/?	-/?	-/?	There are likely to be significant impacts on the landscape in these locations.

Smaller Scale Urban Extensions

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Preferred Option	Alternative Option 1	Alternative Option 2	Alternative Option 3	Notes
16. Economy	+	?	-	?	These sites will incorporate an element of employment land that will help the local economy.
17. Education/skills	+	-	-/?	?	Preferred Option addresses primary and secondary educational provision.
18. Central Area	+/?	?	-/?	?	All urban extensions should complement the regeneration of the central area of Swindon.
Summary of overall effects	A comprehensive appraisal of all potential small-scale extensions has been carried out by Swindon Borough Council, assessing the various sites and combination of sites against the full range of sustainability objectives. This work has been undertaken in conjunction with the SEA team within the Council and it is considered that the chosen sites represent the most sustainable in terms of finding a balance between social, environmental and economic impacts. However, further research is required on impacts and after public consultation.				

Commonhead

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Preferred Option	Alternative Option 1	Alternative Option 2	Notes
1. Biodiversity	-/?	--	+	Potential for significant impacts on biodiversity - area includes SSSI and LNR. Biodiversity would be best protected by not developing at this site. Any impacts dependant on specific proposals. Habitat fragmentation possible. Area is popular with residents from across the Borough.
2. Land and buildings	-/?	--	+	Preferred Option is likely to have less impacts, as a smaller area of land is proposed to be developed. Impacts dependant on specific proposals.
3. Waste	-	-	0	With any development at Commonhead there will be some impacts from municipal/ construction wastes.
4. Water	?	?	+	There will be issues in terms of water consumption and effects on Coate Water SSSI.
5. Transport	-/?	--/?	+	Development at this site will inevitably lead to increases in private car use. Consideration of convenient public transport links with central area and cycle routes will be required.
6. Climate change and energy	-/?	-/?	+	Impacts on climate change should be mitigated as far as possible through incorporation of renewables, energy efficiency in the design of buildings and promotion of sustainable transport modes.
7. Pollution	-/?	-/?	+	Impacts will depend on location of development and construction techniques. Sustainable construction should be required in all development. There will be issues of light and noise on surrounding areas.
8. Social exclusion and poverty	0	0	0	Little or no impacts envisaged. However, policy should stress the need for all necessary retail, employment and community facilities to meet the needs of all members of the community.
9. Housing	+	++	-	Scale of development reduced to 750 dwellings but it still positively progresses this objective. 30% affordable housing will be required as per Affordable Housing Policy.

Commonhead

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Preferred Option	Alternative Option 1	Alternative Option 2	Notes
10. Safe and healthy environment	+/?	+/?	0	See also Design & Amenity Policy. This addresses sustainable design and high standards of inclusion and accessibility. The nature of the site requires consideration of high levels of GI to act as a buffer but this will also benefit residents. 5.5 Ha is allocated for hospital expansion which will benefit the Borough.
11. Reducing flood risk	-/?	-/?	+	Consideration of flood risk and adapting to future effects of climate change should be a high priority. Surface water run-off is likely to increase. Use of SUDS should be required in all developments.
12. Built environment	?	?	+	Impacts will depend on specific development proposals. High design standards that respect the location, ability to adapt to climate change and provision of essential infrastructure in a timely manner are key.
13. Individual settlements	?	?	+	Possible impacts on Chiseldon? Policy promotes minimising impact on landscape character of the area.
14. Historic environment	?	?	++	Potential adverse impacts on archaeological interest. Policy seeks to protect and mitigate impacts.
15. Landscapes	-/?	-/?	++	Potential adverse impacts on landscape interest. Policy seeks to protect and mitigate impacts.
16. Sustainable economy	+	++	-	Benefits for the economy in terms of housing and employment provision.
17. Education and skills	0	++	0	Little or no impacts envisaged. Alternative 1 would provide university facilities at this location.
18. Central Area	-/?	-/?	0	Potential to adversely effect town centre regeneration – excellent transport links must be provided.

Commonhead				
Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Preferred Option	Alternative Option 1	Alternative Option 2	Notes
Summary of overall effects	<p>The Preferred Option is proposing a much-reduced area for development, with 1050 less dwellings, 15ha of employment land instead of 23ha and an enlarged buffer zone to the Country Park. Impacts, particularly against the environmental objectives, are likely to be less than existing Policy DS3 but still have some adverse effects. Development at Commonhead is likely to have significant benefits for the social and economic objectives, in terms of housing provision and health facilities at the GW hospital. However, the sensitive environmental nature of the site requires careful location of any development and consideration of environmental impacts.</p>			

Rural Development Strategy

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Preferred Option	Alternative Option 1	Notes
1. Biodiversity	?	++	Impacts will depend on location and scale of development. Generally, a more restrictive policy of development in the countryside will benefit biodiversity.
2. Land and buildings	0	0	Impacts are considered minimal against this objective. However, there is a limited supply of previously developed land in the villages and development on greenfield land must be appropriate in design and density.
3. Waste	0	0	Level of development proposed will not have significant implications.
4. Water	0	0	Level of development proposed will not have significant implications.
5. Transport	+	?	The Preferred Option supports rural transport initiatives that improve accessibility. The same level of funding may not be available for such schemes through the alternative option that focuses on environmental and historical assets.
6. Climate change and energy	0	0	No significant effects envisaged. Some impacts through additional development.
7. Pollution	0	0	No significant effects envisaged.
8. Social exclusion and poverty	+/?	-	It is likely that a small amount of development in rural communities will help maintain the viability of local businesses, community facilities and transport services.
9. Housing	++	-	The Preferred Option supports the identification of opportunities for the provision of rural exceptions affordable housing schemes where there is a proven need and supports facilitating appropriate levels of housing in line with the preferred options for the primary and secondary settlements. The alternative supports a more limited role for economic and social improvements which is unlikely to secure the levels of housing required in the RSS.

Rural Development Strategy

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Preferred Option	Alternative Option 1	Notes
10. Safe and healthy environment	+	0	The Preferred Option supports the retention of local community facilities and encouraging the provision of necessary new facilities. Alternative option would be less likely to provide such facilities, although the protection of environmental assets could enhance health and wellbeing for local residents.
11. Reducing flood risk	0	0	No significant effects envisaged.
12. Built environment	+/?	-	The Preferred Option states that it will ensure new development respects the special character and sense of place of rural settlements. If development is appropriate to the location, there should be mainly positive effects for the built environment.
13. Individual settlements	+/?	-	No significant effects are envisaged if the special character is maintained.
14. Historic environment	+	++	Any development should respect and preserve the historic built environment.
15. Landscapes	?	+	Alternative Option is more likely to protect landscape character and scenic quality of the countryside.
16. Sustainable economy	++	-	The policy supports the rural economy by recognising the need for limited development.
17. Education and skills	++	-	Limited residential development will allow rural schools to remain viable. Restricting development will restrict housing availability, especially for young people.
18. Central Area	0	0	No significant effects envisaged.
Summary of overall effects	The Preferred Policy scores well against most of the objectives, particularly in terms of housing provision, the rural economy, social inclusion and employment opportunities. A limited amount of development will help improve the viability of rural facilities and allow limited amounts of housing for local people. Potential impacts include the effects of development on the landscape and biodiversity.		

Climate Change Mitigation

Sustainability Appraisal objective	Preferred Option	Alternative Option 1	Alternative Option 2	Notes
1. Biodiversity	+	0	0	Green Roofs policy will increase opportunities for biodiversity, whilst measures to reduce the effects of climate change will help reduce predicted impacts on habitats and species.
2. Land and buildings	++	0	+/?	Designing buildings that can adapt to future climate change impacts (including Lifetime Homes) will reduce the need for costly future adaptation work.
3. Waste	+	?	+	Progressively higher BREEAM/Code levels will reduce household and construction waste.
4. Water	++	?	+	Preferred Option introduces higher requirements for water efficiency in new buildings.
5. Transport	0	?	0	Policy relates to energy efficiency standards for buildings – no direct influence on transport.
6. Climate change and energy	++	+/?	+	Preferred Option will be more likely to reduce the Borough's impacts on climate change and help adapt to future impacts.
7. Pollution	++	+/?	+	Use of SUDS will help reduce pollution to watercourses.
8. Social exclusion and poverty	+	0/?	0	Preferred Option will have impacts for fuel poverty through reduced energy bills and Lifetime Homes policy will help reduce social exclusion for some vulnerable social groups.
9. Housing	+	0/?	0/?	Preferred Option will provide a larger range of homes for all sections of the community.
10. Safe and healthy environment	+	0/?	0	Buildings that are more energy efficient will likely be easier to keep warm in the winter, reducing bills and reducing the effects of damp.

Climate Change Mitigation

Sustainability Appraisal objective	Preferred Option	Alternative Option 1	Alternative Option 2	Notes
11. Reducing flood risk	++	+/?	+	Preferred Option will help reduce flood risk through mitigation and adaptation measures.
12. High quality built environment	++	+/?	+	Preferred Option is likely to lead to buildings that are more energy and water efficient, and will be able to adapt to the long-term effects of climate change.
13. Individual settlements	0	0	0	No significant impacts envisaged.
14. Historic environment	0	0	0	No significant impacts envisaged.
15. Rural and urban landscapes	+	?	0	Code/BREEAM requirements could positively impact on the rural and urban environment.
16. Sustainable economy	++	+/?	+	Significant economic opportunities through the Preferred Option. More sustainable homes could help attract residents to the Borough and reduce in-commuting. Tourism potential.
17. Education and skills	0	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
18. Swindon's Central Area	+	+/?	+	Use of more sustainable materials could benefit the central area eg NT Heelis building.
Summary of overall effects	The Preferred Option is predicted to perform well against many sustainability objectives, and better than existing 'saved' policies which, although providing a high level policy framework for addressing environmental issues, would not provide the framework required to adequately address current climate change issues. Climate change is an important global issue and policies to mitigate impacts and adapt to effects can have many benefits across a range of sustainability issues.			

Zero and Low Carbon Energy Development

Sustainability Appraisal objective	Preferred Option	Alternative Option 1	Notes
1. Biodiversity	?	+	More detail is required on potential effects on wildlife and habitats of an increasing number of wind farms.
2. Land and buildings	-/?	+	Policies CF11 & CF12 are considered more sustainable because they consider decommissioning and restoration of sites, and the effects of renewable energy development in the countryside.
3. Waste	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
4. Water	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
5. Transport	0	0	No direct relevance, however, this policy could include the area of bio-fuels, which could be used for transport in the Borough.
6. Climate change and energy	++	++	Both sets of policies could have significant benefits on reducing impacts on climate change.
7. Pollution	+/?	+/?	Few benefits locally but could reduce need for fossil fuel use nationally. Further consideration of visual/noise impacts, particularly within urban areas.
8. Social exclusion and poverty	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
9. Housing	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
10. Safe and healthy environment	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
11. Reducing flood risk	+/?	+	Use of renewable energy help reduce impacts of climate change, including risk of flooding.

Zero and Low Carbon Energy Development

Sustainability Appraisal objective	Preferred Option	Alternative Option 1	Notes
12. High quality built environment	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
13. Individual settlements	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
14. Historic environment	-/?	-/?	Some renewable schemes can impact on the historic environment, depending on type and location.
15. Rural and urban landscapes	-/?	0	'Saved' policies consider the impacts of schemes on the landscape, visual intrusion and restoration of sites. This is not considered in the Preferred Option.
16. Sustainable economy	+	+	Potential benefits for the local economy are possible through direct employment and inward investment.
17. Education and skills	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
18. Swindon's Central Area	+	+	Some positives for the Central Area, particularly if incorporated into large development projects.
Summary of overall effects	The Preferred Option appears weak in sustainability terms, when compared against the two relevant 'saved' policies. The 'saved' policies consider the effects of RE development in much greater detail. However, the Core Strategy reflects national and regional planning guidance. The Preferred Option will be further developed in the future and subsequent drafts of the Core Strategy will need to give greater detail, as it will have important considerations for energy use and climate change impacts in the Borough. If the policy is to be further developed in an SPD, this should be explained, and also made more specific to the Borough.		

Design & Amenity

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Preferred Option	Alternative Option 1	Notes
1. Biodiversity	0	0	Little or no significant impacts resulting from this policy against this objective.
2. Land and buildings	++	++	Preferred Option and DS6/DS7 promote high quality design, including accessibility, which will allow buildings to last longer and adapt to the effects of climate change. There will be less need in future for costly renovation and demolition.
3. Waste	+	+	Good design is likely to make a positive impact, as buildings and places can be designed to incorporate waste recycling facilities that are convenient and accessible. Buildings will also last longer, reducing waste through demolition processes.
4. Water	+	+	Well-designed and well-located buildings can reduce demand for water and should incorporate water efficiency measures and infrastructure. Preferred Option should address importance of design re water efficiency – key issue for Swindon.
5. Transport	0	0	Little or no significant impacts resulting from this policy against this objective.
6. Climate change and energy	+	+	High quality design in new development throughout the Borough can significantly reduce impacts on climate change through designing buildings that are more energy and water efficient and which can adapt to future climate scenarios.
7. Pollution	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
8. Social exclusion and poverty	++	+	The policy makes specific relevance to ensuring inclusion and accessibility, including access for disabled people.
9. Housing	++	+	Well-designed dwellings can improve people's quality of life and are more likely to stand the test of time.
10. Safe and healthy environment	++	?	Well-designed buildings and developments will help minimise opportunities for crime and reduce health inequalities.

11. Flood risk	+	?	Developments should be designed to adapt to future climate change scenarios, including flooding, and incorporate SUDS wherever possible. Preferred Option refers to 'Swindon Standard' but more details required in policy.
12. Built environment	++	+	This policy will significantly help achieve this objective.
13. Settlements	+/?	+	The Preferred Option could better address the design of buildings in rural settlements that relate to local character.
14. Historic environment	?	?	Some design styles can damage areas and buildings of historic interest. Policy text could clarify further. DS6/DS7
15. Landscapes	++	++	The policy addresses landscaping and scale, massing and appearance that is appropriate for the character of an area.
16. Economy	++	++	Higher design standards can help improve Swindon's image and attract inward investment to the Borough.
17. Education/skills	+	+	As 16, better designed buildings can help attract skilled workers to work and live in Swindon. This will have knock on effects for future educational attainment in the Borough and for businesses attracting skilled employees.
18. Central Area	+/?	+	This policy has particular relevance to Swindon's Central Area and this could be highlighted in the text.
Summary of overall effects	<p>The Preferred Option is expected to raise design standards in the Borough. The principles of good design are encapsulated in national, regional and local planning policy and design standards are likely to be raised through the Swindon Design Guide and Swindon Shop Fronts Coding Guidance. Overall, higher design standards will help improve the living environments for residents which in turn will reduce health inequalities, reduce crime and the fear of crime and help tackle social exclusion.</p> <p>Local Plan policies DS6 and DS7 score well against sustainability objectives but it is considered that they do not adequately take account of recent national guidance and legislation.</p>		

Affordable Housing

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Preferred Option	Alternative Option 1	Notes
1. Biodiversity	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
2. Land and buildings	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged. Regeneration/refurbishment of existing council-owned properties/estates could reduce pressures on land take, particularly if redeveloped at higher densities.
3. Waste	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
4. Water	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
5. Transport	+/?	+/?	It is essential that access to public transport and walking/cycling routes is considered in the location of affordable housing. Areas with higher % affordable housing may make public transport services more viable.
6. Climate change and energy	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
7. Pollution	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
8. Social exclusion and poverty	+	++	A requirement for affordable housing has been identified in the Borough. Many people are unable to get onto the property ladder. Consideration of a higher requirement would have greater benefits for social inclusion.
9. Housing	++	+	The policy meets the local identified need in the Borough and meets emerging RSS guidance. A higher requirement might result in a lack of market housing, particularly larger dwellings to meet demand.
10. Safe and healthy environment	0	+	Alternative Option would give more people the chance to own their own home.
11. Flood risk	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.

Affordable Housing

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Preferred Option	Alternative Option 1	Notes
12. Built environment	?	?	A higher provision of affordable housing may affect economic viability and consequently affect other aspects of development such as build quality, levels of open space etc.
13. Settlements	?	?	There are specific issues with provision of affordable housing in rural areas. Policy may need to consider affordable housing in rural areas to meet demand, its effect on village structures and function.
14. Historic environment	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
15. Landscapes	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
16. Economy	+/?	-/?	Policy likely to result in more balanced communities. However, % requirement will need review – it is essential that developments are viable and developers are not put off developing in Swindon by excessive requirements.
17. Education and skills	+	?	Provision of affordable housing will enable younger people to remain in the Borough, thereby retaining a flexible workforce.
18. Central Area	?	?	Provision of more affordable housing in the Central Area may help attract more people to live in this area, including young families who cannot currently get on the ladder. However, there is some concern that regeneration may be constrained if 30% is rigidly insisted upon.
Summary of overall effects	RSS Policy H1 suggests authorities can specify rates up to 60% or higher in areas of greatest need. Policy for 30% affordable housing meets the minimum requirement of Policy H1. Alternative Option states that 'it is thought that higher levels would be resisted by developers and such an option may require significant public sector funding. Further research may be required to establish whether higher levels could be introduced.		

Developer Contributions for Infrastructure Requirements

Sustainability Appraisal objective	Preferred Option	Alternative Option 1	Alternative Option 2	Notes
1. Biodiversity	++	-/?	-/?	Green infrastructure provision can play an important role in protecting and enhancing biodiversity and providing habitats for species.
2. Land and buildings	0	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
3. Waste	+	+/?	+/?	Little or no significant impacts envisaged. Provision of waste infrastructure is covered in the policy.
4. Water	+/?	?	?	Provision of essential water infrastructure, including drainage and sewerage, is important and should take into account predicted effects of climate change.
5. Transport	++	-/?	-/?	Impacts of development on the transport network are one of the key sustainability issues identified for the Borough. Provision of transport infrastructure is a key consideration.
6. Climate change and energy	0	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
7. Pollution	0	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
8. Social exclusion and poverty	+	+/?	+/?	New development must provide for key local services and facilities, making them accessible to all members of the community. This is also important in rural areas.
9. Housing	0	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
10. Safe and healthy environment	++	+	+	Essential infrastructure must include accessible healthcare facilities and recreational opportunities commensurate with the level of population increase.

Developer Contributions for Infrastructure Requirements

Sustainability Appraisal objective	Preferred Option	Alternative Option 1	Alternative Option 2	Notes
11. Flood risk	+/?	?	?	Adequate provision of infrastructure to deal with current and future flood risk scenarios must be made, taking into account effects of climate change, including rainfall events.
12. Built environment	++	+	+	Provision of all necessary infrastructure will add to the quality of the built environment.
13. Settlements	0	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
14. Historic environment	0	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
15. Landscapes	++	+	+/?	Provision of green infrastructure, in particular, can improve an urban environment and help buffer new development in the urban fringe from neighbouring rural communities.
16. Economy	++	+	+/?	Provision of essential infrastructure, including services and facilities, is vital to sustain a successful local economy and manage the levels of growth in Swindon over next 20 years.
17. Education and skills	++	+	+	Policy will positively impact on this objective through provision of educational facilities and services to meet the needs of a growing population.
18. Central Area	++	+	+	Considerable development is planned or underway in the central area. Infrastructure must be provided to meet the needs of new and existing communities. Existing policies unlikely to provide

Developer Contributions for Infrastructure Requirements

Sustainability Appraisal objective	Preferred Option	Alternative Option 1	Alternative Option 2	Notes
Summary of overall effects	<p>All new development must ensure that infrastructure and services are provided to support new and existing economic development and housing. It must take into account the needs of all the community, addressing accessibility and ensure that the impact on the social fabric of communities is considered.</p> <p>The Preferred Option is considered the most sustainable because the alternatives may result in insufficient funds being received to take account of the needs of the entire community in terms of services and facilities that a significantly increased population will require. The Preferred Option will provide a holistic approach to capturing requirements.</p>			

Existing Employment Areas

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Preferred Option	Alternative Option 1	Alternative Option 2	Notes
1. Biodiversity	?	?	?	Impacts on biodiversity will depend on location and type of development. Consideration of enhancing biodiversity should be given in all new employment development.
2. Land and buildings	+/?	0	0	Redevelopment of existing employment sites would make more efficient use of land but it will also be important to provide employment sites in the new urban extensions.
3. Waste	0	0	0	Any employment development is likely to increase waste amounts. Incorporation of waste minimisation and recovery where practicable. Significant effects minimal however.
4. Water	?	?	?	Employment development must help reduce water usage and incorporate appropriate infrastructure to adapt to future effects of climate change.
5. Transport	+	?	?	The most sustainable form of development is where mixed-use developments help reduce the need to travel. A good housing/jobs mix will also help reduce current levels of in-commuting.
6. Climate change and energy	?	?	?	All development must try to reduce impacts on climate change through building design, energy policies, reducing the need to travel and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
7. Pollution	?	?	?	Care must be taken to reduce noise, light and air pollution, particularly near to residential areas. Adequate mitigation measures should be employed to reduce effects.
8. Social exclusion and poverty	++	+	?	Preferred Option promotes a wide range of employment opportunities and a wide geographical distribution. Sustainable communities will depend on a good homes/jobs balance.

Existing Employment Areas

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Preferred Option	Alternative Option 1	Alternative Option 2	Notes
9. Housing	+	?	+	Employment and housing policies are inextricably linked. Increased opportunities for skilled workers will influence the type of dwellings needed in the Borough. Option 2 may release existing employment land for other uses which would increase opportunities for housing.
10. Safe and healthy environment	0	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
11. Flood risk	?	?	?	Employment development must avoid flood plain and incorporate SUDS wherever possible.
12. Built environment	?	?	?	It is difficult to predict impacts from these policies. All development should ensure the highest standards of sustainable design and construction.
13. Settlements	-/+/?	-/+/?	-/+/?	Key impacts include the development of greenfield sites that impact upon neighbouring communities and provision of employment opportunities in rural areas.
14. Historic environment	?	?	?	Impacts uncertain – no specific sites are detailed. Impacts dependant on proposals.
15. Landscapes	?	?	?	Impacts uncertain – no specific sites are detailed. Impacts dependant on proposals.
16. Economy	+	+	+	All policies positively progress this objective.
17. Education and skills	++/?	?	?	Encouraging a sectoral shift to a more knowledge-based economy will increase opportunities for skilled workers, but this should be coupled with policies on educational attainment.

Existing Employment Areas

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Preferred Option	Alternative Option 1	Alternative Option 2	Notes
18. Central Area	++	+	+	Preference for location of offices in Central Area will provide a boost for local services and take advantage of good public transport links that may reduce the need to travel.
Summary of overall effects	Development of land for employment use is likely to result in impacts on the environment, which will require careful mitigation. Policies do not detail specific locations so analysis of impacts is difficult. Location of office uses in the Central Area is fully supported. Promotion of a knowledge-based economy must be linked to policies to increase skills locally.			

Green Infrastructure and Open Space

Sustainability Appraisal objective	Preferred Option	Alternative Option 1	Notes
1. Biodiversity	++	+	The Preferred Option has the potential to increase areas of biodiversity within new and existing developments, but also in the open countryside. Wide range of benefits for wildlife, health, recreation etc. Local Plan policies do not address GI specifically and an integrated approach should achieve better results.
2. Land and buildings	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
3. Waste	0	0	There is no direct link and no significant impacts expected.
4. Water	+	0	A GI policy can be used to positively enhance water quality throughout the sub-region, including enhancement of river and wetland habitats, prevention of pollution to watercourses and in conjunction with policy for use of SUDS.
5. Transport	++	+	Provision of attractive green routes that prioritise sustainable transport modes can enhance use of links throughout the urban area and into the countryside. These should provide convenient links with new urban extensions and opportunities for recreational activities such as walking and cycling.
6. Climate change and energy	+	+	Indirect benefits from reducing car use and reductions in CO ₂ emissions.
7. Pollution	++	+	Significant impacts likely in terms of improving soil quality, reduction of noise pollution and improving local air quality.
8. Social exclusion and poverty	+	+	Areas of GI and open space close to where people live can play a positive role in allowing people to take part in community activities that can bring whole communities together.
9. Housing	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
10. Safe and healthy environment	++	+	A range of benefits, including opportunities for informal recreation and designing places that will reduce the fear of crime. GI can give people the chance to be close to nature. There are also opportunities to increase

Green Infrastructure and Open Space

Sustainability Appraisal objective	Preferred Option	Alternative Option 1	Notes
11. Flood risk	++	?	Green Infrastructure can play a positive role in reducing flood risk.
12. Built environment	++	+	GI can significantly improve the local environment and should be considered at an early stage of all development proposals. Support for green roofs can also enhance an urban environment and provide a recreational resource in certain circumstances.
13. Settlements	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
14. Historic environment	+	+	GI can be used to protect and enhance areas of historical interest through landscape improvements and careful consideration of tree planting.
15. Landscapes	++	+	The Preferred Option will positively progress this objective.
16. Economy	++	+	The Preferred Option will positively progress this objective, especially in terms of attracting people to the Borough and from health benefits that reduce sickness from work and reduce use of healthcare facilities.
17. Education and skills	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
18. Central Area	++	?	Although not specifically a policy of the Core Strategy, support for the development of a 'Green Spine' will positively enhance the central area of Swindon.
Summary of overall effects	A GI policy performs well in an appraisal against many of the sustainability objectives, both directly and indirectly, and no adverse effects are anticipated. There could be significant benefits for the economy, biodiversity, urban and rural landscapes, health, reduction of flood risk and pollution. It is important that a collaborative approach is adopted that involves all relevant stakeholders so that the range of benefits that GI can bring are improved.		

Sustainable Transport

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Preferred Option	Alternative Option 1	Notes
1. Biodiversity	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
2. Land and buildings	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
3. Waste	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
4. Water	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
5. Transport	++	+	Positively progresses the objective by promoting sustainable transport modes and supporting objectives of the LTP.
6. Climate change and energy	+	+	A strengthened policy of promoting sustainable transport throughout the Borough will help reduce emissions of CO ₂ .
7. Pollution	+	+	Enabling people to leave the car at home and making use of public transport easier will help reduce air pollution and noise.
8. Social exclusion and poverty	+	++	Not everyone has use of a private car. Improved
9. Housing	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
10. Safe and healthy environment	+	+	Reducing car traffic will have the effect of improving local air quality and make the roads safer for cyclists and pedestrians. An increase in accessibility through provision of walking and cycle routes can increase opportunities for healthy recreation and help to tackle obesity.
11. Reducing flood risk	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
12. Built environment	+	+	Incorporation of adequate transport infrastructure is vital in developing sustainable communities where people are satisfied to live.
13. Settlements	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.

Sustainable Transport

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Preferred Option	Alternative Option 1	Notes
14. Historic environment	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
15. Landscapes	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
16. Sustainable economy	+	+	Reducing impacts of traffic and congestion will be crucial as Swindon rapidly develops.
17. Education and skills	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
18. Central Area	+	+	An increase in visitors to the central area could result in major congestion problems in the central area. This will be a key issue for Swindon that the Preferred Option could clarify in greater detail.
Summary of overall effects	No adverse effects predicted. The Preferred Option is predicted to be more sustainable than existing Policy T1 because it focuses on reducing the need to travel through mixed-use developments and an increased promotion of sustainable transport modes. Substantial development in the Borough could lead to significant congestion problems and measures must be put in place to deal with any adverse effects, particularly on the environment, the economy and on residential communities.		

Community Facilities

Sustainability Appraisal objective	Preferred Option	Alternative Option 1	Notes
1. Biodiversity	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
2. Land and buildings	+	0	The policy requires proposals to be located within or adjacent to settlements provided they show a preference for previously developed land where possible
3. Waste	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
4. Water	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
5. Transport	+	-	Requiring facilities to be well located to their catchment population and protecting facilities where no sustainable alternative exists will reduce the need for people to travel to other areas to use facilities. Particularly important regarding facilities such as pubs and local shops and post offices in rural villages.
6. Climate change and energy	+	-	Reducing the need to travel through protection of facilities will help reduce impacts on climate change from transport emissions.
7. Pollution	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
8. Social exclusion and poverty	++	-	Significantly positive effects in terms of Improving the availability and accessibility of key local facilities and encouraging active involvement of local people in community activities.
9. Housing	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
10. Safe and healthy environment	++	-	Protection and provision of local health centres will allow greater accessibility for all, thereby helping to reduce health inequalities. Also, requiring preference for previously developed land will help prevent the loss of important areas of open space that can play an important role in a local area.
11. Reducing flood risk	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
12. Built environment	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
13. Settlements	++	-	This policy will help retain essential facilities in villages.

Community Facilities

Sustainability Appraisal objective	Preferred Option	Alternative Option 1	Notes
14. Historic environment	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
15. Landscapes	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
16. Sustainable economy	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
17. Education and skills	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
18. Central Area	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
Summary of overall effects	The Preferred Option should have positive overall effects, particularly in relation to the social sustainability objectives.		

Historic Landscape & Buildings

Sustainability Appraisal objective	Preferred Option	Alternative Option 1	Notes
1. Biodiversity	+	0	This policy recognises the role GI can play in protecting and enhancing historical areas, including heritage parks and ancient woodland. Ancient woodland is a very rare habitat in the Borough.
2. Land and buildings	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
3. Waste	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
4. Water	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
5. Transport	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
6. Climate change and energy	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
7. Pollution	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
8. Social exclusion and poverty	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
9. Housing	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
10. Safe and healthy environment	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
11. Flood risk	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
12. Built environment	++	+	The policy directly addresses and progresses this objective.
13. Settlements	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
14. Historic environment	++	++	The policy directly addresses and progresses this objective.

Historic Landscape & Buildings

Sustainability Appraisal objective	Preferred Option	Alternative Option 1	Notes
15. Landscapes	++	+	Policy refers to preserving and enhancing the character, appearance and setting of landscapes.
16. Sustainable economy	++	+	Policy will directly benefit the economy by helping to increase numbers of tourists and visitors to the Borough, whilst indirectly enhancing the Borough's environment such that people choose to live and work here.
17. Education and skills	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
18. Central Area	++	++	Enhancement of historical buildings and parks in the central area will help in regeneration.
Summary of overall effects	<p>This is an important policy for Swindon with its rich historical environment, including Conservation Areas, listed buildings and historical parks. In particular, consultation responses have shown how important Swindon's railway heritage is to local residents. This policy will have significant benefits for the local economy and the GWR areas in the centre of town.</p> <p>The policy is not envisaged to have significant effects against any of the sustainability objectives.</p>		

Gypsies and Travellers

Sustainability Appraisal objective	Preferred Option	Alternative Option 1	Notes
1. Biodiversity	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
2. Land and buildings	++	-	Preferred Option would maximise densities in a sustainable, established location that makes use of existing services and facilities. An additional site would not benefit from this.
3. Waste	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
4. Water	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
5. Transport	+	-	Preferred Option will benefit from use of existing transport infrastructure and public transport services.
6. Climate change and energy	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
7. Pollution	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
8. Social exclusion and poverty	+	+	Both policies score well through provision of accommodation to meet need.
9. Housing	+	+	Supports the provision of a range of house types and sizes to meet the needs of all sectors of the community.
10. Safe and healthy environment	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
11. Flood risk	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
12. Built environment	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
13. Individual settlements	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.

Gypsies and Travellers

Sustainability Appraisal objective	Preferred Option	Alternative Option 1	Notes
14. Historic environment	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
15. Landscapes	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
16. Sustainable economy	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
17. Education and skills	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
18. Central Area	0	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
Summary of overall effects	<p>The Preferred Option will effectively meet the requirements of Circular 01/2006 and RSS Policy. It is considered that this policy meets the requirement to establish criteria for the location of Gypsy and Traveller sites in the Core Strategy. Locating additional pitches at Hay Lane will make use of an existing site with good facilities that can accommodate further pitches.</p>		

Travelling Showpeople

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Preferred Option	Notes
1. Biodiversity	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
2. Land and buildings	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
3. Waste	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
4. Water	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
5. Transport	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
6. Climate change and energy	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
7. Pollution	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
8. Social exclusion and poverty	+	When accommodation need has been established, the policy should clearly show how this need will be met.
9. Housing	+	Supports the provision of a range of house types and sizes to meet the needs of all sectors of the community.
10. Safe and healthy environment	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
11. Reducing flood risk	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
12. Built environment	?	Consideration should be given to the amenity of any existing residential areas.
13. Individual settlements	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.

Travelling Showpeople

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Preferred Option	Notes
14. Historic environment	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
15. Landscapes	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
16. Sustainable economy	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
17. Education and skills	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
18. Central Area	0	Little or no significant impacts envisaged.
Summary of overall effects	Alternative options should be considered when an accommodation needs assessment has been undertaken. This will allow opportunity for the relative sustainability impacts of each to be appraised.	

APPENDIX F: KINGSDOWN APPRAISAL

SA objective	Effect	Summary & Potential Impacts
1. Biodiversity	-/+	Impacts on biodiversity will relate primarily to the high level of development on greenfield land. However there will be significant opportunities to enhance biodiversity which the policy outlines including green infrastructure at Bydemill Brook and its tributaries and Stratton Wood.
2. Land and buildings	0 / +	Kingsdown is allocated on greenfield land thus it does not maximise the use of previously developed land. The proposed density will ensure the land is maximised.
3. Waste	0	Consideration should be given to the provision of accessible, convenient sustainable waste management facilities within Kingsdown however the policy does not include such provision. There is potential for the Masterplanning and design codes to ensure waste management facilities are provided.
4. Water	0	Consideration should be given to the provision of adequate levels of water infrastructure. It has been identified within the Habitats Regulations Assessment that Thames Water's Water Management Plan addresses the extra demand for water required for the Borough due to the level of growth.
5. Transport	-	A development of this scale will increase the volume of traffic and transport infrastructure will be impacted however the policy does include the need for contributions towards mitigation on the highway network. The policy does promote provision of sustainable transport links that link with the existing area including walking and cycling links to Swindon and Broad Blunsdon and also public transports links which could reduce reliance on the private car. There is provision for a mixed use local centre and an employment area which will create a mixed use development and potentially decrease use of the private car. It has been recognised, in previous SA reports and the Small Scale Urban Extensions Study that there is concern over accessibility and integration of Kingsdown with the existing urban area due to the A419 barrier however the policy includes the need for provision of a new vehicular bridge across the A419 to connect Kingsdown with Swindon urban area providing accessibility. Overall the mitigation measures and the transport links the policy states potential development will need to provide should ease the volume of transport and reliance on the car however it is inevitable that there will be an increase in traffic.

APPENDIX F: KINGSDOWN APPRAISAL

SA objective	Effect	Summary & Potential Impacts
6. Climate Change	+	The policy is encouraging a mixed use development and promotion of sustainable transport links and forms thus reducing potential impacts upon climate change. There is detail within the policy regarding a community wide approach to renewable energy which is supported by SA and should also help to reduce potential impacts on climate change.
7. Pollution	0	The main source of pollution will be from the increase in traffic, however the policy does promote provision of sustainable forms of transport to help mitigate this.
8. Social Exclusion	+ / ?	The policy will ensure there are available and accessible key local services for the new and existing population through providing a mixed use local centre, employment area and sport, leisure and community facilities. There is a need for the bridge to be timely delivered as where contributions are sought for off-site provision, such as the secondary school, there will only be good access to this when the bridge is in place. If it is not in place, the development may cause social exclusion for certain sectors of the community.
9. Decent & Affordable houses	+	This allocation will provide a significant amount of homes for Swindon's expanding population. The policy does provides flexibility for a range of housing to be delivered to meet demographic and market demands as well as provision of affordable housing to meet the needs of those economically deprived in accordance with policy HA?. To ensure delivery of affordable homes, the policy could explicitly reference this.
10. Safe & Healthy Environment	? / +	The policy does not provide the design detail to determine whether the built environment will reduce crime, thus this impact is uncertain however Policy DE1 does relates to achieving a safe environment. There is provision of sport and leisure facilities and links for walking and cycling which both help to provide a healthy environment. The local centre will need to include provision of health facilities.
11. Flooding	0	Kingsdown is allocated on greenfield land which will naturally pose concerns regarding flood risk however the allocation is not within a flood risk zone.

APPENDIX F: KINGSDOWN APPRAISAL

SA objective	Effect	Summary & Potential Impacts
12. Built environment	?	This objective is covered within other policies within the Plan especially DE1 and DE2 however the use of sustainable design and construction could be emphasised or encouraged within this policy and has been advised within previous SA reports. Essential infrastructure should be delivered in a timely manner as to ensure sustainable growth, thus emphasis on the timely delivery of the bridge and other transport links.
13. Settlements	+ / -	Previous SA reports and the Small Scale Urban Extensions Study have highlighted that coalescence should be avoided with Blunsdon to ensure the character and distinctiveness of Blunsdon is maintained. This allocation has been increased from what was proposed within previous documents and thus there is potential for coalescence to the south east of Blunsdon. The policy does include that the development will need to respect the context and character of Broad Blunsdon, at the northern edge of Kingsdown, through the design of the development. This will help to conserve the character of Blunsdon however will not necessarily prevent coalescence which the policy should address.
14. Historic environment	+	The policy recognises and proposes to enhance heritage assets including the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Westleaze Medieval Village which is supported by the SA.
15. Landscapes	+ / -	The allocation at Kingsdown has increased from what has been previously proposed including land to the North of Kingsdown Lane and therefore the proposal will impact significantly upon the natural landscape which has been highlighted within previous SA reports and the Small Scale Urban Extensions Study. The policy does include explicit reference that the development will need to provide landscape mitigation to reduce visual impact of development to the north and east of the site.
16. Sustainable economy	+	The policy promotes a mixed use development incorporating a sizeable amount of land for employment use providing a good balance between homes and jobs. It will be essential there is a mix of employment uses as to provide a range of employment opportunities for all.

APPENDIX F: KINGSDOWN APPRAISAL

SA objective	Effect	Summary & Potential Impacts
17. Education	+	There is provision of a primary school and off-site contributions to a secondary school which will serve the new and existing population however it is essential access to a secondary from Kingsdown is delivered.
18. Central Area	0	Kingsdown should support the regeneration of the Central Area through ensuring sustainable access to the Central Area.
Summary of overall effects		The allocation at Kingsdown has increased from what was previously proposed (500 dwellings to 1650 dwellings) which has led to potential significant adverse effects which previous SA reports and the Small Scale Urban Extensions Study have highlighted. The allocation will deliver a mixed use development including decent and affordable homes for the future population of Swindon which will provide social and economic benefits. The requirement for a bridge across the A419 has always been a necessity however at the lower level of growth, it was never viable whereas at a higher level it is potentially more viable and will ensure accessibility and integration of Kingsdown with the rest of Swindon urban area. The higher level of growth proposes development to the north of Kingsdown Lane which poses two potential significant adverse impacts upon landscape and potentially coalescence however the policy does include mitigation measures to lessen impacts. The policy could, however, include explicit reference to preventing coalescence for this development and potential future development in this area.

Diversity Impact Assessment

Swindon Borough Local Plan Pre-submission

2012

1. Introduction

What is a DIA?

- 1.1 A Diversity Impact Assessment (DIA) assesses whether the Council is carrying out its functions and delivering its services in the way they are intended and to everybody. The DIA on the Local Plan has assessed each individual policy and has identified potential equality opportunities and possible negative impacts.
- 1.2 The impacts consider the effects of the Local Plan policies upon equality groups including age, disability, gender, race, religion, belief, sexual orientation and also groups, which face social inequalities. Assessing the impacts on these groups includes identifying whether we are meeting the Council's equality duties and the dimensions of equality, which examines how the policy will affect the life chances of the equality groups. These are explained within the Council's Diversity Impact Assessment Framework shown in Appendix 1.

Structure of Report

- 1.3 This report follows the Council's approach to undertaking DIA's.
 - Section 1 is a brief introduction to what a DIA is.
 - Section 2 includes an overview of the Local Plan including the overarching aims, potential to meet the equality agenda and potential barriers.
 - Section 3 identifies who the Local Plan is aimed at including a profile of Swindon's population as to establish the make up of the equality groups which exist in Swindon.
 - Section 4 is the impact assessment, which establishes the potential equality benefits, negative impacts and required actions in light of the impacts.
 - Section 5 is the next steps. This includes a summary of the key impacts and changes required, future work and how the Local Plan will be reviewed and monitored in light of the impacts identified.

2. What is it about?

What is the Local Plan there for?

- 2.1 The Local Plan (formally known as the Core Strategy) is an overarching document, which sets the strategic direction and policy for Swindon Borough looking forward to 2026 and beyond. It identifies the overall strategy and framework for development including housing, employment, transport, social and green infrastructure.

What is it set up to deliver?

- 2.2 The Local Plan aims to make Swindon a regional centre alongside making Swindon one of the best business locations in the UK offering a high quality of life for its residents and visitors, regardless of age, gender, race, faith, disability or sexual orientation. It will also encourage the community of Swindon to respond to the needs of a growing population through close working with various organisations and groups to promote healthy living and to create caring, cohesive and inclusive neighbourhoods. The Local Plan will replace the majority of the Swindon Borough Local Plan 2006-2011 and it is anticipated it will be adopted in 2014.
- 2.3 The Local Plan will follow the guidance and principles set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). At the heart of the NPPF is a presumption in favour of sustainable development which is embedded in the Local Plan. The aim of sustainable development is to ensure that development meets current needs without compromising the needs of future generations to meet their own needs through seeking economic, social and environmental gains.
- 2.4 The presumption in favour of sustainable development has been integrated into the Local Plan through establishing a sustainable development strategy which will guide all development in the Borough. The strategy outlines sustainable principles which all development will need to conform to, the level and direction of growth and also the preferred process.

Evolution and Structure of the Local Plan

- 2.5 The Local Plan has been evolving since 2007 and due to governmental and major policy changes occurring along the process, the structure of the policies has been continually evolving. A DIA was undertaken on the Revised Proposed Submission Document (March 2011), however the document has since been amended to reflect the National Planning Policy Framework, Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations and thus there has been a restructure of the document.
- 2.6 The structure of the Local Plan is split into three sections; the first includes the Sustainable Development Strategy which outlines the overarching strategy for development. The second section is Enabling Sustainable Development which includes a number of overarching themes including a number of focused policies which were previously either Core Policies or Development Management Policies. The third section is Managing Sustainable Growth and Change which includes the previous spatial strategy outlining where strategic development will take place.

Alignment with the objectives and aims of local strategies

- 2.7 The Local Plan is one of a number of strategic policy documents for the Swindon area. The policies set out in the Local Plan should align with other areas such as education, transport, housing, employment,

environment and health. It will be influenced by the Sustainable Community Strategy, 'One Swindon' and various strategies by the areas mentioned.

Sustainable Community Strategy 'A Shared Vision for Swindon 2008-2030'

- 2.8 The Swindon Sustainable Community Strategy is a forward-looking vision for the town and borough, which outlines improvements to the social, environmental and economic well-being of the area. The Local Strategic Partnership is responsible for this Strategy and is made up of various partners from within and outside the council.
- 2.9 This Strategy feeds into the Local Plan and will help to support and deliver the six key themes identified in the vision. Previously, to achieve this, the Core Theme Policies in the previous document were structured around the key themes however these themes have now been integrated into the revised structure.

One Swindon

- 2.10 One Swindon is a corporate strategy, which sets the strategy directions for Swindon over a four-year period. It will create a single plan for Swindon developed by all key delivery partners (health, police etc.). Through integrated partnership working, this single plan will offer clarity and focus on the priorities, investment and disinvestments within and across the council. This plan will play an important role especially in response to fewer resources now and in the future and due to extra demand for services.
- 2.11 The priorities, which have emerged, are based on extensive consultations with public sector partners and local people. These priorities are:
- I like where I live
 - Regeneration, employment, skills and managed growth
 - Everyone is enjoying sports, leisure and cultural opportunities
 - Living independently, making a positive contribution

What potential is there to meet equality duties?

- 2.12 The Local Plan sets out the development framework for the Borough now and for the future and thus the Local Plan will affect all of the population of Swindon Borough.
- 2.13 The Local Plan needs to be in accordance with National Planning Guidance, which recognises that the needs of everyone should be considered. Local Plans should contain clear, comprehensive and inclusive access policies. Such policies should consider people's diverse needs and aim to break down unnecessary barriers and exclusions in a manner that benefits the entire community.

- 2.14 Community involvement is a key aspect of plan-making and the Councils Statement of Community Involvement details consultation methods, including hard-to-reach groups.

What equality benefits does this create?

- 2.15 The vision of the Local Plan highlights what benefits the Local Plan will bring to the population of Swindon. This includes:

- Responding to the needs of a growing population
- Promoting healthier living
- Creating caring, cohesive environments
- Improving employment prospects and skills of workforce
- Reducing crime & keeping people safe
- High quality of life
- An attractive, well equipped town
- Sustainable design & construction

- 2.16 All of these aspects will benefit all equality groups and have been explained further within Appendix 2 where key impacts have been identified.

What are the barriers to meeting this potential?

- 2.17 There are a number of barriers and challenges to meeting the equality duties through the Local Plan. An overall challenge that will effect the delivering of all aspects of the Local Plan will be budget pressures due to concerns regarding public spending over the next 5 years. Delivery of all projects will be affected by budget restrictions throughout and also beyond the Council.

- 2.18 In terms of delivering the Local Plan, budget pressures will play a crucial role in the viability of delivering projects and infrastructure requirements. The provision of affordable housing, local services and public transport will be affected by whether it is viable for developers and the Council to deliver such services in the current economic climate. However the Local Plan does reflect this, as viability is considered as part of policies.

- 2.19 In common with many areas, Swindon is experiencing an increasing ageing population, which is likely to put additional pressures on services, particularly health related.

3. Who's it for?

Who is expected to benefit or use this service?

- 3.1 The Local Plan establishes the long-term spatial vision for the Borough to 2026 and provides the overall strategy for delivering that vision.

Therefore the whole of the population within the Borough is expected to benefit from the Local Plan including population outside of the Borough.

- 3.2 The Local Plan determines what, where and how development will be delivered including housing, employment, education, retail, leisure, open space and the transport requirements to support development. However the majority of policies are strategic in nature and cover a wide range of issues therefore in the matrix shown in Appendix 2, nearly all equality groups will benefit from all policies.

What do you know about them?

- 3.3 To identify whether the Local Plan is meeting the needs of the equality groups, there is a need to establish the profile of each of the equality groups based on the relevant data sources, which are the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and the Index for Multiple Deprivation.

Age

- 3.4 Based on the Census 2011, Swindon Borough has a population of 209,200, which has increased by nearly 30,000 from 2001.

The current demographic structure for Swindon is as follows:

Table 2.1: Population by age group for the Borough of Swindon

	Census 2001		Census 2011	
0-19 yrs	45900	25.48%	51200	24.47%
20-29 yrs	24000	13.35%	28000	13.38%
30-39 yrs	31550	17.52%	31500	15.06%
40-49 yrs	25200	13.98%	33300	15.92%
50-59 yrs	20650	11.47%	25400	12.14%
60-69 yrs	15150	8.41%	19500	9.32%
70+ yrs	17650	9.80%	20400	9.75%
Total	180050		209200	

* Total does not sum due to rounding

- 3.5 It is projected that the proportion of children aged 0-19 years in Swindon will remain stable over the next 15 years. Critically the number of people in Swindon aged over retirement age will increase..
- 3.6 Reflecting the national trend, there is an ageing population in Swindon Borough and consideration of this will need to be reflected within the Local Plan policies especially with regards to housing need and accessibility.

Gender

- 3.7 The Census 2011 shown in Table 2.2 illustrate that the split between males and females in Swindon Borough is equal which has not changed since 2001.

Table 2.2: Population by gender for the Borough of Swindon

	Census 2001		Census 2011	
Female	90500	50.30%	104,500	50.05%
Male	89550	49.70%	104,600	49.95%
Total	180050		209,200	

*Total does not sum due to rounding

- 3.8 The average earnings of Swindon Borough male and female residents are illustrated in Table 2.3.

Table 2.3: Average Earnings for Males and Females

	Swindon 2009 ONS	Swindon 2010 ONS	Great Britain 2010 ONS
Gross Weekly Pay			
Full-Time Workers	£493.6	£504.8	£501.8
Male	£561.4	£571.1	£541.9
Female	£385.4	£421.5	£440.0
Hourly Pay			
Full-Time Workers	£12.64	£12.58	£12.65
Male	£14.06	£14.08	£13.24
Female	£10.54	£11.01	£11.75

- 3.9 Men in Swindon Borough earn more than the national average, but women in the Borough earn less than the national average.

Sexual Orientation

- 3.10 Estimates are that 6% of the population of the Borough are gay, lesbian or bi-sexual. There is limited data available in regards to sexual orientation.

Religion & Race

- 3.11 The 2001 Census provides data to illustrate the religious break down of the population, which is illustrated in Table 2.4. The 2008 and 2009 mid-year estimates are based on the Census 2001 data.

Table 2.4: Population by religion for the Borough of Swindon

	Census 2001		Mid 2008 ONS estimate		Mid 2009 ONS estimate based on 2001 proportional breakdown	
Buddhist	500	0.28%	550	0.28%	550	0.28%
Christian	126150	70.07%	137350	70.07%	139300	70.07%
Hindu	1000	0.56%	1100	0.56%	1100	0.56%
Jewish	150	0.07%	150	0.07%	150	0.07%

Muslim	1850	1.03%	2000	1.03%	2050	1.03%
Sikh	1000	0.56%	1100	0.56%	1100	0.56%
Other	650	0.36%	700	0.36%	700	0.36%
No religion	34450	19.13%	37500	19.13%	38050	19.13%
Declined to disclose	14300	7.95%	15600	7.95%	15800	7.95%
Total	180050		196050		198800	

* Total does not sum due to rounding

- 3.12 The most common religion in the Borough is Christian with all other religions making up a relatively small proportion of the Borough's population. The needs of all religious groups should be addressed especially in relation to community facilities.

Table 2.5: Population by ethnic group for the Borough of Swindon

	Census 2001		Mid 2006 ONS experimental estimate		Mid 2009 ONS estimate based on 2006 proportional breakdown	
Asian or Asian British	3850	2.13%	5900	3.16%	6300	3.16%
Black or Black British	1250	0.70%	2000	1.07%	2100	1.07%
Mixed	2050	1.14%	2700	1.45%	2900	1.45%
Other Ethnic Groups	1500	0.83%	2300	1.23%	2400	1.23%
White Minority Ethnic	6700	3.72%	8500	4.56%	9100	4.56%

Disability

- 3.13 The Equalities Act 2010 defines a disabled person as someone who has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse affect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. Official figures for the proportion of the population with a disability are not currently available. The Census definition of long-term illness is used as a proxy measure.

Table 2.7 Population with long-term limiting illness for the Borough of Swindon

	Census 2001		Mid 2008 ONS estimate		Mid 2009 ONS estimate based on 2001 proportional breakdown	
Disabled	27500	15.26%	29900	15.26%	30350	15.26%
Non	152600	84.74%	166150	84.74%	168500	84.74%

Disabled						
Total	180050		196050		198800	

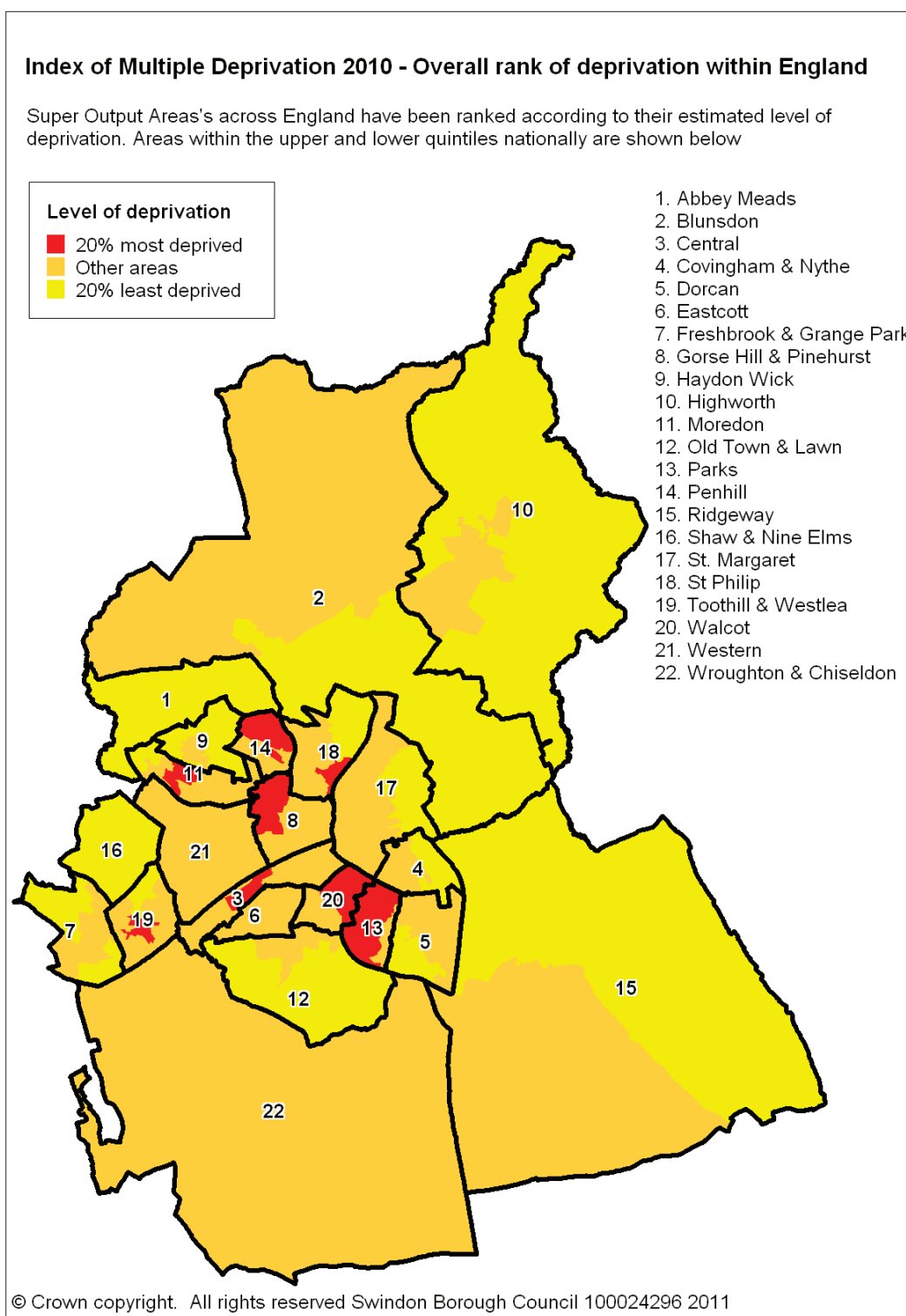
*Total does not sum due to rounding

The Local Plan needs to take into account the needs of the disabled population in areas such as access of employment, housing provision, service provision and accessibility.

Social Deprivation

- 3.14 Social deprivation is a form of inequality. The Index of Multiple Deprivation is a nationally recognised measure of social deprivation, Figure 1 shows the IMD 2010 for Swindon. The measure is applied spatially and is only an indication based on the statistics for the given area. It does not mean that the entire population in the area is experiencing that level of deprivation.
- 3.15 Figure 1 shows that there are areas of deprivation in a number of wards located within the Swindon Urban area. The policies in the Local Plan should work to try to alleviate areas of deprivation. This can mainly be addressed through policies related to housing provision, access to employment opportunities, service provision and accessibility. Area policies could be used to target aid where it is needed.

Figure 1: Index of Multiple Deprivation for Swindon



4. Impact

How will this service be successfully delivered to a diverse group of people?

- 4.1 This stage of the Diversity Impact Assessment has been undertaken using a matrix to assess the impacts of all the policies individually and

this matrix can be found in Appendix 2. The matrix includes which equality groups will benefit from the policies and whether the dimensions of equality are being met. There is also explanation on the key impacts each policy will have on the equalities agenda and what action is required both now and on any future work which is undertaken. The matrix also includes the relationship with the policies within the previous version of the Local Plan as to ensure consistency and to assist in identifying whether there are any additional impacts.

What consultation has taken place?

- 4.2 The Local Plan has been evolving over a couple of years, including a number of consultation periods enabling the community to provide their views and influence the development of Swindon.

How has consultation influenced this service?

- 4.3 The policies in the Local Plan have been amended at the various stages of the Local Plan in light of the comments received through consultation.
- 4.4 Through the Local Policy Forum and Community Planning Forum, community groups have had a chance to influence planning policy.
- 4.5 During the autumn of 2010 a range of cluster participation events took place based on 'Connecting Places, Connecting People' to understand what communities like, dislike and what their aspirations are for the future of Swindon and the outcomes of these events have been fed into the Local Plan.

5. So What?

Summary of Impacts

- 5.1 The DIA has assessed whether the Local Plan will have either a positive or negative impact upon equality groups in particular in relation to the dimensions of equality and can be seen in Appendix 2.
- 5.2 The overall outcome of the assessment has shown that the majority of policies are not likely to have a negative impact as previous recommendations have been integrated into the Plan however many of the policies will provide a positive impact. Most of the policies are broad and benefits will be provided for all of the population. There are some uncertain impacts relating to the new community policies as due to the scale of the development, it is unknown what the impacts will be.

What changes have you identified and how can we bring about any necessary change?

- 5.3 The impact assessment in Appendix 2 explains if actions and changes are required in light of the equalities assessment regarding each

individual policy. This includes various actions such as changes to the policy and if a DIA is required if further work is undertaken. These changes will be integrated into the Local Plan to ensure future development promotes equality and also if there are any potential negative impacts these have been removed, mitigated or justified within the Local Plan.

What will you do now and what will be included in future planning?

- 5.4 Future actions are identified in the matrix in Appendix 2. Any future changes to the Local Plan in light of consultation or new guidance will led to a review of this DIA.
- 5.5 The matrix highlights whether subsequent planning documents including Supplementary Planning Documents and Neighbourhood Plans based on certain policies will require a separate DIA in the future. Overall the majority of further work which is based on the policies within the Local Plan will not require a DIA as the overarching policy has been assessed within this DIA. An explanation will accompany the relevant documents identifying why a DIA is not required along with the outcomes of this DIA. However the Eastern Villages Supplementary Planning Document will require a DIA due to the potential significant impact on existing and new communities.

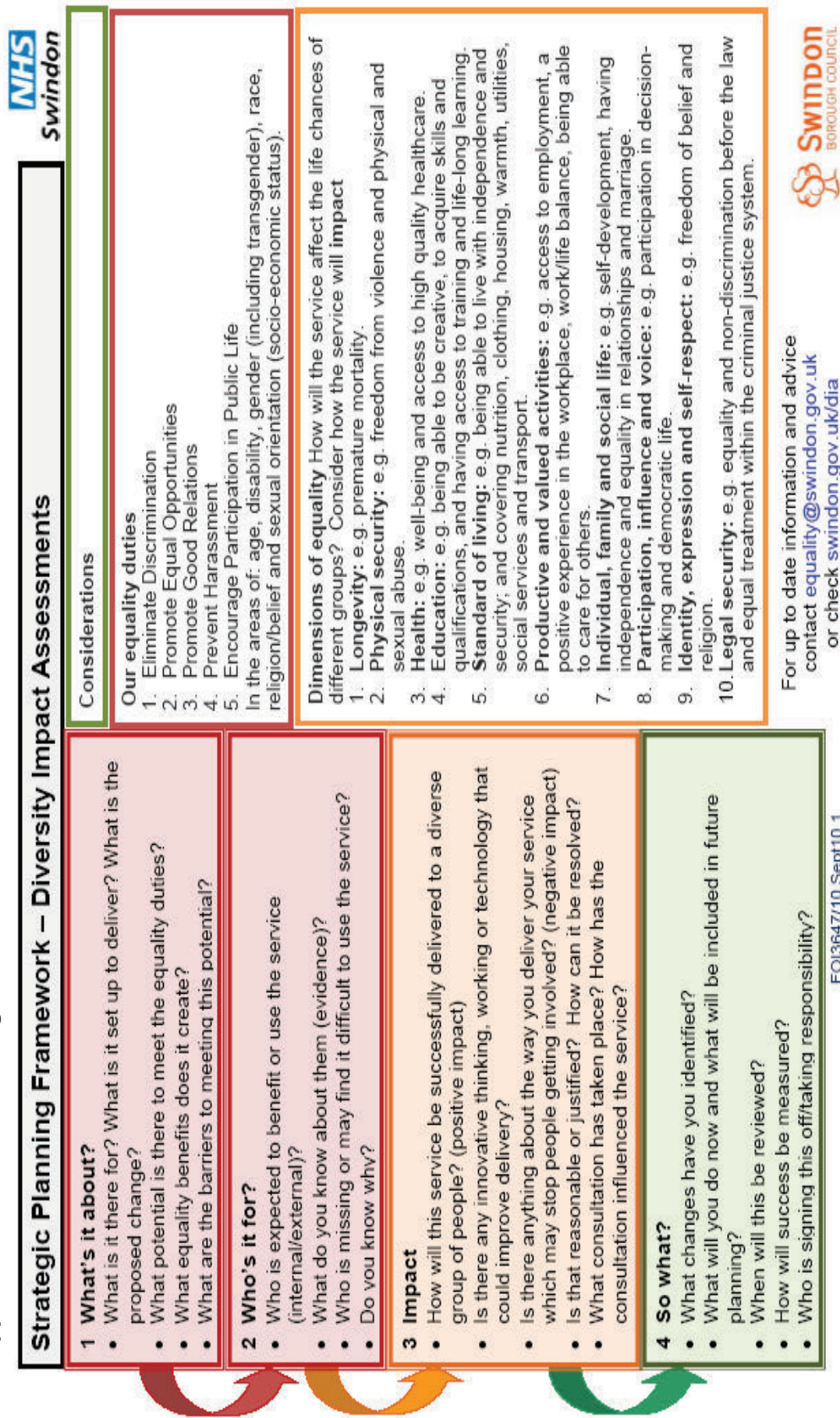
When will this be reviewed?

- 5.6 The implementation of the Local Plan will begin once the document is adopted in 2014. The implementation of the Local Plan will be delivered and reviewed through the Infrastructure Delivery Plan which sets out how and when the Local Plan will be delivered, and the methodology for measuring if it is being delivered and is successful in meeting the Strategic Objectives. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan is a live document and will be updated when required.

How will success be measured?

- 5.7 The Local Plan includes a range of monitoring indicators which measure the performance of the policies and will be reported in an Annual Monitoring Report. The outcome of the DIA has fed into establishing theses indicators.

Appendix 1: Swindon Borough Council's DIA Framework



Appendix 2: Equality Assessment Matrix

Policy	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2012 Policies	Who will Benefit? (Equality Groups)	Key Impacts	Does it meet the Equality Dimensions?	Action
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY					
DS1: The Sustainable Development Principles	CT1 (part) RA3 (part)	All Equality Groups	Ensuring all developments comply with a range of sustainable principles will deliver a built environment which is accessible for all, promotes healthy lifestyles and provides a safe environment. Positive Impacts Recommendation: <i>Potentially more emphasis within the supporting text on the delivery of a healthy and inclusive community</i>	3 4 5 6	No action required. Consideration of amending supporting text.
DS2: The Sustainable Development Strategy	DS1 CT2 (part)	All Equality Groups	Focussing development within existing settlements, in the most accessible locations close to services should reduce the need to travel and benefit all, particular those without access to a car e.g. those with disabilities, older and younger people and those on a lower income. The design of the urban extensions will need to ensure all of the population have equal opportunities. Allowing local need and development to be identified and/or allocated through neighbourhood plans is giving local communities the opportunity to improve the built environment and reflect the equality needs of its community. Positive Impacts	3 4 5 6	No action required.

Policy	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2012 Policies	Who will Benefit? (Equality Groups)	Key Impacts	Does it meet the Equality Dimensions?	Action
DS3: Managing Sustainable Growth and Change	CT2 (part) NC1	All Equality Groups	Promoting the presumption in favour of sustainable development will ensure all proposals comply with sustainable development including delivering a built environment which is accessible for all, promotes healthy lifestyles and provides a safe environment. Timely delivery of infrastructure is essential as to ensure all sectors of the community are not socially excluded. Comprehensive design codes and frameworks will need to ensure master plans reflect the needs of all of the population including equality groups. Promoting a DIA to accompany major developments will ensure the built environment meets the needs of all of the population. Significant Positive Impacts	6 8 9	No action required.
ENABLING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT					
Theme 1: High Quality Design	CT1 (part) CT3 (part) DMP1 DMP2	All Equality Groups	Ensuring development respects key design principles especially inclusiveness will ensure the built environment is accessible for all including those with disabilities. It will also ensure the built environment is safe and secure as to reduce fear of crime which will reduce social exclusion. Delivering sustainable design will have long-term cost benefits in particular related to heating the home thus benefits for the older population and those on lower incomes who are likely to suffer from fuel poverty. However the cost of implementing sustainable design may increase house prices thus having an impact on lower incomes households which	3 4 5 6	No action required. This assessment has highlighted the possible cost implications of sustainable design and construction upon lower income groups

Policy	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2012 Policies	Who will Benefit? (Equality Groups)	Key Impacts	Does it meet the Equality Dimensions?	Action
			some of the equalities groups fall within. Positive Impacts & Uncertain Impacts		however flexibility in terms of viability has been included in the policy to overcome this.
Theme 2: Economy	CT1 (part) CT2 (part) DMP5 DMP6 DMP13	All Equality Groups	The Central Area is the most accessible location for office development for all transport modes thus will provide employment opportunities for all. Delivering a university will provide opportunities for all ages to develop their skills. The sequential approach to site selection prefers sites which are accessible by public transport than other sites which will, again, provide employment opportunities for all. Development of a range of sectors will provide a range of employment opportunities however it is key that all equality groups and population have access to these opportunities.. Policy EC3 ensures the provision of services and facilities will be provided within existing centres or new accessible locations promoting social inclusion. Positive Impacts	4 5 6	No action required.
Theme 3: Housing	CT2 (part) DMP7 DMP8 RA3 (part)	All Equality Groups	Policy HA1 provides flexibility for a range of housing types to be delivered however they will need to reflect the needs of equalities groups. High densities in the Central Area do not necessarily provide appropriate accommodation for some equality groups who would	5 6	No action required.

Policy	Relationship with Revised Submission 2012 Policies	Who will Benefit? (Equality Groups)	Key Impacts	Does it meet the Equality Dimensions?	Action
			<p>benefit greatly from living in such an accessible location. The provision of affordable housing will help to meet the needs of those on lower incomes and will ensure a choice of affordable homes to address requirements of the community. Dwellings built to wheelchair housing standards will ensure that there is a housing stock to meet the diverse and changing needs of wheelchair users and the multiplicity of impairments that some wheelchair users experience. Policy HA4 will ensure a better environment and accommodation of HMOs thus benefitting those on lower incomes in need of this type of accommodation. Gypsies and Travellers are a recognised ethnic minority therefore providing adequate and permanent sites will be beneficial to all residents through having access to educational, health care and other facilities. The delivery of development will need to be supported by appropriate infrastructure as to not restrict access for equality groups to housing and employment opportunities.</p> <p>Positive Impacts</p>		

Policy	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2012 Policies	Who will Benefit? (Equality Groups)	Key Impacts	Does it meet the Equality Dimensions?	Action
Theme 4: Transport	CT1 (part) CT3 (part) CT7 DMP10	All Equality Groups	<p>To reduce social inequality, the provision of good access to the town centre and key destinations will need to be made possible through all transport modes as to aid accessibility for those with disabilities, the older and those on lower incomes. Promoting equality of opportunity and access to services through a number of measures will benefit all equality groups in particular those on lower incomes and with disabilities. Better public transport and safer transport connections and routes will provide a better standard of living for all equality groups however there needs to be a balance for providing for all transport modes as various equality groups rely on various methods.</p> <p>The parking levels and standards should also include reference to disabled parking.</p> <p>Positive Impacts</p>	3 4 5 6	No action required.
Theme 5: Infrastructure Needs	CT1 (part) CT3 (part) DMP4	All Equality Groups	<p>Mitigating the impact of development on infrastructure and addressing cumulative impacts will ensure the appropriate infrastructure is in place to meet the needs of the existing and new communities. Policy IN2 ensures adequate supply of water will be delivered which will be essential and beneficial to all of the population. Delivering a low carbon and renewable energy infrastructure including a modular district energy network will provide cost benefits in the long terms.</p> <p>Positive Impacts</p>	3 4 5 6	No action required.

Policy	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2012 Policies	Who will Benefit? (Equality Groups)	Key Impacts	Does it meet the Equality Dimensions?	Action
Theme 6: Education, Community And Health Facilities	CT4 CT5 DMP12	All Equality Groups, in particular Age (young people)	<p>Provision of education for early year, primary, secondary and post 16 will provide educational opportunities for the young population and will be accessible as the policy states these facilities should be located within the heart of communities. A university will provide opportunities for life-long learning providing benefits for all adults. Special education provision will benefit those who have a disability. Creating inclusive communities, safe and healthy environments will provide services and facilities meeting the needs of all of the population, benefitting all equalities groups as long as the correct needs have been identified. Locally and integrated services will ease accessibility for equality groups with all services being located in one location especially for those with disabilities. Creating an environment which encourages healthier and more active lifestyles will improve the well-being of all of the population. Meeting the needs of the ageing and vulnerable population will provide many benefits for those equality groups including access to facilities and housing. Catering for young people's needs will also provide positive impacts. Provision of enhanced health care facilities will improve the health of equality groups.</p> <p>Positive Impacts</p>	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	No action required.

Policy	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2012 Policies	Who will Benefit? (Equality Groups)	Key Impacts	Does it meet the Equality Dimensions?	Action
Theme 7: Natural and Built Environment	CT3 (part) DMP3 DMP11 DMP14 RA3 (part)	All Equality Groups	Providing a green infrastructure network can provide a range of benefits for all groups including health and well-being, community cohesion, social inclusion, personal development and civic pride. Minimising flood risk, ensuring adequate supply of water and protecting historical assets will be beneficial to all of the population. Protecting and enhancing heritage assets will provide a range of benefits for all groups including health and well-being, community cohesion, social inclusion, and a sense of pride. Positive Impacts	3 5	No action required.
MANAGING SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND CHANGE					
Swindon's Central Area	SC1	All Equality Groups, in particular Age (young people)	The Central Area will provide various facilities for all to enjoy. The provision of new and enhanced facilities in particular health, retail, education and leisure will improve inclusion and accessibility for all equalities groups. The provision of housing needs to reflect the requirements of the population and deliver appropriate housing types. Focus and redevelopment of this area should not disadvantage equality groups elsewhere. The policy does provide a number of improvements to transport network which will only improve and provide easier access. Providing a leisure destination within easy access of the Town Centre will provide opportunities for physical activity for all and social inclusion. Positive Impacts	3 4 5 6 8	No action required.

Policy	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2012 Policies	Who will Benefit? (Equality Groups)	Key Impacts	Does it meet the Equality Dimensions?	Action
Swindon's Existing Communities	SC2-SC9	All Equality Groups	Protection and enhancement of a green space network will indirectly improve wellbeing and health of residents. Further provision of education will help meet the growing demand and improve accessibility for all in particular the young population. Delivering a network of sports centres across the Borough will improve wellbeing and health of residents. Improving emergency services will improve the level and access to health facilities. Improving transport corridors and gateways and delivering strategic transport priorities will improve access for all. Positive Impacts	3 4 5 6 8	No action required
Wichelstowe	NC2	All Equality Groups in particular age (young people)	Providing a mix of homes including affordable will provide for a variety of needs thus benefiting those on lower incomes. To maximise the benefits and promote social inclusion, the location of local centres will need to provide accessibility for all. Provision of education will benefit the young. Providing buildings which the community can use is encouraging social inclusion. It also provides for the needs of religious groups by providing a place for worship. Provision of a walking and cycling network will provide opportunities for physical activity and provide access for those who do not have access to a car. Integration with the existing community is essential as so all of the population can benefit from the new facilities. Positive Impacts	3 4 5 6 9	No action required

Policy	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2012 Policies	Who will Benefit? (Equality Groups)	Key Impacts	Does it meet the Equality Dimensions?	Action
Commonhead	NC3	All Equality Groups in particular age (young people)	<p>Providing a mix of homes including affordable will provide for a variety of needs thus benefiting those on lower incomes. To maximise the benefits and promote social inclusion, the location of the local centre will need to provide accessibility for all. Provision of education will benefit the young. Provision of a walking and cycling network, protection of Coate Water, development of green infrastructure and provision of sport and leisure facilities will provide many opportunities for physical activity for all ages. Walking and cycling links and provision of public transport will provide access to services and facilities for those who do not have access to a car. Safeguarding land for future expansion of the Great Western Hospital will provide further health services and hopefully meet the growing demand. Integration with the existing community is essential as so all of the population can benefit from the new facilities.</p> <p>Positive Impacts</p>	3 4 5 6	No action required.
Proposed Eastern Villages	NC4	All Equality Groups in particular age (young people)	<p>The provision of housing will need to incorporate a mix of affordable housing as to meet the needs of those on lower incomes. To maximise the benefits and promote social inclusion, the location of local centres will need to provide accessibility for all. Providing buildings which the community can use is encouraging social inclusion. It also provides for the needs of religious groups by providing a place for worship. The large amount of employment land and district centre will provide a variety</p>	3 4 5 6 9	<p>No action required.</p> <p>Some impacts can not be determined due to the size of the development thus any further</p>

Policy	Relationship with Revised Submission 2012 Policies	Who will Benefit? (Equality Groups)	Key Impacts	Does it meet the Equality Dimensions?	Action
			<p>of employment opportunities however the location will need to be accessible. The provision of a range of education will benefit the young and those with disabilities. Better transport links will improve accessibility. Minimising flood risk will benefit all of the population particular those who are vulnerable. Integration with the existing community is essential as so all of the population can benefit from the new facilities.</p> <p>Positive Impacts and Uncertain Impacts</p>		work will require a DIA.
Tadpole Farm	NC5	All Equality Groups	<p>The provision of housing will need to incorporate a mix of affordable housing as to meet the needs of those on lower incomes. To maximise the benefits and promote social inclusion, the location of the local centre will need to provide accessibility for all. Minimising flood risk will benefit all of the population particular those who are vulnerable. Better transport links will improve accessibility. Provision of education will benefit the young. Improvements' to walking connections, cycling network, development of green infrastructure and provision of sport and leisure facilities will provide many opportunities for physical activity for all ages. Integration with the existing community is essential as so all of the population can benefit from the new facilities.</p> <p>Positive Impacts</p>	3 4 5 6	No action required
Kingsdown	N/A	All equality groups	<p>The provision of housing will need to incorporate a mix of affordable housing as to meet the needs of those on lower incomes. To maximise the benefits and promote</p>	3 4 5 6	No action required

Policy	Relationship with Revised Submission 2012 Policies	Who will Benefit? (Equality Groups)	Key Impacts	Does it meet the Equality Dimensions?	Action
			<p>social inclusion, the location of the local centre will need to provide accessibility for all. Minimising flood risk will benefit all of the population particular those who are vulnerable. Better transport links will improve accessibility and will be essential for the new community to access the rest of Swindon across the A419. Provision of education will benefit the young. Improvements' to walking connections, cycling network, development of green infrastructure and provision of sport and leisure facilities will provide many opportunities for physical activity for all ages. Integration with the existing community is essential as so all of the population can benefit from the new facilities.</p> <p>Positive Impacts and Uncertain Impacts</p>		
Highworth	RA1 (part)	All Equality Groups	<p>Involving the community in settling the local agenda is promoting social inclusion and enabling the community to participate and have an influence upon what happens in their community. Supporting the identity and rejuvenating the town centre will enhance services available in an accessible location. Support for strengthening the town's economy will provide a range and further employment opportunities for all. Ensuring local facilities are retained will ensure local services and facilities are provided for rural communities.</p> <p>Positive Impacts</p>	3 4 5 6	No action required

Policy	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2012 Policies	Who will Benefit? (Equality Groups)	Key Impacts	Does it meet the Equality Dimensions?	Action
Wroughton	RA1 (part)	All Equality Groups	<p>Involving the community in settling the local agenda is promoting social inclusion and enabling the community to participate and have an influence upon what happens in their community Supporting rural transport initiatives and strengthening links by sustainable modes of transport to Swindon will increase access for all. Supporting the identity and rejuvenating the town centre will enhance services available in an accessible location.</p> <p>Positive Impacts</p>	3 4 5 6	No action required
South Marston	RA2	All Equality Groups	<p>Ensuring development at South Marston will contribute towards its identity and character and ensuring non-coalescence with Swindon could potentially enhance community pride. Providing community and recreational facilities and retail provision will provide benefits for the local population and improve access for all to such facilities. Provision of education will benefit the young. Minimising flood risk will benefit all of the population particular those who are vulnerable.</p> <p>Positive Impacts and Uncertain Impacts</p>	3 5 6 8	No action required

Policy	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2012 Policies	Who will Benefit? (Equality Groups)	Key Impacts	Does it meet the Equality Dimensions?	Action
Swindon's Neighbourhoods	CT6 (part) RA3 (part)	All Equality Groups	<p>Enabling communities to participate in planning is allowing the community to influence the future development of Swindon and is encouraging participation in public life. However some equality groups are hard to reach and do not necessarily speak up therefore it will be essential to reach these groups to ensure we are meeting their needs.</p> <p>Allowing local need and development to be identified and/or allocated through neighbourhood plans is giving local communities the opportunity to improve the built environment and reflect the equality needs of its community.</p> <p>Positive Impacts</p>	3 4 5 6 7 8 9	No action required

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)
Update Note 2012
Pre-Submission Local Plan

Introduction

Swindon Borough Council is currently developing its Local Plan formally known as the Core Strategy. When adopted, this document will provide the planning framework that guides development in the Borough over the period to 2026. In line with the Habitats Regulations¹ the Local Plan has been subject to an HRA to determine if the policies and development proposed has the potential to adversely affect European sites. The HRA process has informed the development of the Local Plan and has included the following key stages:

- HRA Screening Report February 2008
- HRA Report July 2009

The first stage of the HRA was an initial screening exercise which was undertaken on the Preferred Options in February 2008. The HRA Screening Report concluded that the policies had the potential to result in significant effects at three European sites within a 15km radius of Swindon. Following on from this, an Appropriate Assessment was undertaken on the Proposed Submission in July 2009. The HRA Report concluded that the policies would not have adverse effects on the integrity of European sites.

Since the publication of the HRA Report (July 2009) the Local Plan has evolved in response to governmental and major national planning policy changes. An HRA Update Note was produced in March 2011 to take account of changes to the Plan since the Proposed Submission (July 2009) and consider how these changes affect the findings of the HRA Report published in July 2009. The Update Note concluded that the changes to the Plan did not significantly affect the findings of the HRA Report (July 2009).

Subsequently, there have been further changes to the Local Plan through the Pre-Submission Document. This note seeks to outline the changes made to the Plan since the publication of the Revised Proposed Submission Document (March 2011) and consider how these changes affect the findings of the HRA Report (July 2009).

Requirement for Habitats Regulations Assessment

The European Directive (92/43/EEC) on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna (the Habitats Directive) protects habitats and species of European nature conservation importance. This Directive requires an HRA to be undertaken on proposed plans, which are likely to have a significant effect on one or more Natura 2000 sites either individually, or in combination with other plans or projects. Swindon Borough's Local Plan provides the spatial expression for the Borough including the overall level of development and its general geographic distribution thus it is determined an HRA is required.

¹ The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (as amended) 2010

Evolution of Swindon Borough's Local Plan

Swindon Borough's Local Plan has been evolving for many years and due to governmental and major national policy changes taking place throughout the process, the form of policies have been continually emerging as well as variations to the proposed level of growth. Table 1 provides a brief outline of the variations to the level and location of growth with further explanation provided below.

Table 1: Summary of the evolution of the spatial strategy

Stage	Preferred Options March 2008	Proposed Submission July 2009	Revised Proposed Submission March 2011	Pre- Submission December/ January 2012
Level of growth	34,200 homes (plus additional 3,000 in Wiltshire to the West of Swindon)	34,200 homes (plus additional 3,000 in Wiltshire to the West of Swindon)	25,000 homes	29,000 homes
Evidence	Regional Spatial Strategy	Regional Spatial Strategy	Local Derived	Local Derived Economic Strategy
Strategic Allocations	Wichelstowe Commonhead Tadpole Farm Eastern Development Area Kingsdown West of Swindon	Wichelstowe Commonhead Tadpole Farm Eastern Development Area Kingsdown (reserve site) West of Swindon	Wichelstowe Commonhead Tadpole Farm Eastern Villages	Wichelstowe Commonhead Tadpole Farm Eastern Villages and South Marston Kingsdown

The Preferred Options document published in March 2008 identified the preferred spatial options for the Borough based on the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West 2006-2026 (RSS). These preferred spatial options were considered the best option to meet the RSS housing target and were taken forward in the Proposed Submission document, which was published in July 2009. This document developed the preferred options into a Spatial Strategy and was generally consistent with the level and location of growth expressed in the Preferred Options document.

The Revised Proposed Submission document, published in March 2011, proposed a reduced level of growth in light of major governmental changes particularly the government's intent to abolish Regional Spatial Strategies which subsequently led to the requirement for locally derived housing targets. The result of this led to a reduction in the number of proposed strategic allocated sites with the sites to the West of Swindon and the proposed reserve site at Kingsdown being removed from the Plan.

Since the Revised Proposed Submission document was published, major national policy changes have led to further modifications to the proposed level of growth and consequently changes to the strategic allocations. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), published March 2012 amalgamates all national planning policy statements and planning policy guidance notes into one national planning policy document. The NPPF advocates returning to a Local Plan style led document which is reflected in the Pre-Submission document through a restructure of the policies. The Neighbourhood Planning Regulations were also published in April 2012 which has led to the need to introduce a neighbourhood planning policy with the community based policies being removed however this information is still included within a key evidence base study.

Local evidence base work has also been undertaken in the interim period and has influenced the level of growth in the Pre Submission document. This is mainly due to the formulation of the Swindon Economic Strategy which recommends an economically driven Plan including a higher level of job creation over the plan period. Therefore to ensure an equal balance between employment and housing, the level of housing proposed has increased from the Revised Proposed Submission and as a result of this, a previously proposed strategic allocation has been reintroduced at Kingsdown however this allocation is larger than previously proposed.

In summary, the strategic theme policies have remained fairly consistent with some amendments in light of changes to national policy and guidance. The level of growth and spatial strategy began at a high level, as Table 1 illustrates, following firstly the RSS targets, and has decreased since due to the need for locally derived targets based on local evidence. Also the proposed strategic allocations within the Pre-Submission document are similar locations to what was originally proposed with one less allocation, which can be seen in Table 1.

Habitats Regulations Assessment of Swindon's Local Plan

Screening of Preferred Option (2008)

The first stage of the HRA process was the initial screening exercise which firstly identified the location of European sites in and around the Borough and secondly screened the policies to identify whether potential adverse impacts are likely at these sites. This established that there are no European sites within the Swindon Borough boundary, however there are five sites within the 15km buffer of the Swindon Borough boundary.

The initial screening was undertaken on the preferred policy approaches to identify whether there was potential for policies to have an effect on the European sites. The screening assessed that the policies had the potential to lead to significant effects at three of the identified European sites. It concluded that there was the potential for significant effects at North Meadow & Clattinger Farm SAC; Kennet & Lambourne Floodplain SAC; and the River Lambourne SAC as a result of urbanisation and recreational impacts, water resources and water quality and atmospheric pollution.

Appropriate Assessment of Preferred Options & Proposed Submission Policies (2009)

Following on from the screening assessment, an Appropriate Assessment (AA) was undertaken on the Proposed Submission document, July 2009. This initially involved a scoping stage which included revisiting the screening information to address any gaps and then assessing the potential significant impacts identified during the screening process and considering whether the impacts (including in-combination) are direct, indirect and/or cumulative against the site conservation objectives which is largely determined by site integrity. The findings of the Appropriate Assessment are summarised below.

Water Resources & Quality

At North Meadow Clattinger Farm SAC, the river water levels are important in order to maintain ground water conditions and vegetation thus it was identified that impacts on hydrology from increased levels of abstraction have the potential for likely significant effects. However the Environment Agency assessment of the site considered the site to be of favourable condition and indicated the level of development proposed within the Plan period would not have an adverse effect on the water levels that support the sites integrity.

Current and future levels of abstraction at Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain SAC, as a result of the proposed level of housing in the Plan has the potential to affect the hydrological conditions necessary to support site integrity in particular the wet hen habitats of the Desmoulin whorl snail. It is considered that an augmentation solution would need to be implemented which Thames Water have included in their Water Resources Management Plan. Overall it is assessed that the potential impacts have been sufficiently addressed through the Water Resources Management Plan.

The habitats and species at River Lambourn SAC are dependent on high water quality and thus the policies could lead to indirect impacts upon the hydrology through pressures on water abstraction and the water quality impacted by discharges arising from the high level of proposed development in the Borough. It is considered that the River Basin Management Plan for the Thames District includes sufficient management measures to address these potential impacts.

The assessment concluded that indirect pressures on water resources and water quality, which may lead to likely significant effects, could arise from the high level of proposed growth in the Plan. It is considered, that the Plan in part would be a cause of this, however, it was assessed that these issues are and can be addressed systematically through water resource planning, regulatory assessments and augmentation / management measures

Atmospheric Pollution

The proposed strategic allocations to the north and west of Swindon have the potential to increase traffic along the A419 which runs within 200m of the North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC, which is potentially vulnerable to air pollution. The critical loads of NOx and SOx gases as a result of the increased traffic could potentially cause adverse impacts on species however the assessment concluded that the key source of pollutions is from agricultural and not the result of transport.

The Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain SAC is sensitive to nitrogen deposition however the main source of this is from agriculture and not traffic. This site is also sensitive to acidification which the pollution from traffic can contribute to however the assessment concluded that the Whorl snail (for which this site is designated) is naturally buffered against the effects of acidification.

The assessment concluded that air pollution in particular NOx gases are a key concern if a road carrying a significant proportion of new traffic runs within 200 metres of a European Site. The extension to the north and west of Swindon could increase traffic on the A419 however, the current condition assessments for the sites indicate that air pollution is not having an adverse effect on the site, rather the primary source is agriculture, and that site level management is the key factor in maintaining site integrity.

The AA concluded that the policies would not have adverse effects on the integrity of European sites.

Assessment of Revised Proposed Submission Local Plan (2011)

The Update Note (March 2011) identified that the significant changes within the Revised Proposed Submission were a reduction in the overall level of growth and a reduction in the number of strategic allocations (sites to the West of Swindon and Kingsdown were removed from the Plan). It was considered that these changes would not lead to any additional impacts or increase the significance of those already identified. As a result of this it was concluded that the changes to the Plan did not affect the findings of the HRA Report (July 2009) and that no further assessment was required. The Update Note re-iterated the recommendations arising as a result of the HRA and illustrated how these have been incorporated into the Local Plan.

Assessment of Pre-Submission Local Plan (2012)

The Pre-Submission document proposes a higher level of growth than the Revised Proposed Submission Document. This is due to further economic assessment work as a result of the Swindon Economic Strategy. There have also been changes to the proposed strategic allocations, with Kingsdown reinstated as a strategic allocation rather than a reserve site. The level of housing at Kingsdown has also been increased in order to deliver the level of growth identified within the Economic Strategy and within the Plan period. Overall, the changes between the Proposed Submission and the Pre-Submission documents have resulted in a lower level of growth and a shift in where housing will be located in strategic allocations. The significant changes to the Plan are outlined in Table 1.

The HRA Report (July 2009) concluded that indirect pressures on water resources and quality could arise from the level of growth proposed by the Plan. However, it noted that these issues are already being addressed through management plans, resource planning etc. Therefore, as the Pre-Submission Document proposes a lower level of growth than the Proposed Submission Document, the impacts on water resources and quality will not increase or differ and the management/mitigation measures already in place are sufficient to deal with the level of proposed growth.

The HRA Report also concluded that potential impacts relating to atmospheric pollution could arise due to an increase in traffic as result of development proposed to the west and north of Swindon. The reinstatement of Kingsdown with a higher level of proposed growth could potentially contribute to this impact; however, the strategic allocation to the west of Swindon is no longer proposed within the Pre-submission document and the level of development at Tadpole Farm has now been reduced. Therefore the potential cumulative impact of traffic from the potential developments at Kingsdown and Tadpole Farm will be less than what was considered by the HRA Report (July 2009).

It is assessed that the changes to the Plan do not significantly affect the findings of the HRA Report (July 2009). It is still essential to ensure that the Pre-Submission Document incorporates the avoidance and mitigation measures recommended within the HRA Report (July 2009). Table 2 includes these recommendations and illustrates how they have been integrated into the Pre-Submission Local Plan.

Monitoring and Review

It is key that monitoring of the biodiversity interest within the plan area is undertaken given the connectivity between habitats and the overall assessment of environment condition that the monitoring of designated sites affords. It is proposed that the indicators set out within the AA, which are proposed through the SA/ SEA process, should be used to monitor the Local Plan.

Consultation Arrangements

This Update Note is presented alongside the Swindon Borough Pre-Submission Local Plan as part of the evidence base for examination. It should be read in conjunction with the HRA Report, which was published alongside the Proposed Submission Document in July 2009.

The Update Note has been undertaken by Swindon Borough Council and reviewed by Enfusion Ltd.

Table 1: HRA Recommendations

Impact	Recommendations for Proposed Submission	Incorporated into Revised Proposed Submission	Incorporated into Pre-Submission
Recreational Pressure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Core Policies to address the potential for recreational pressures to have a likely significant effect on North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC and provide specific direction for lower tier GI policy and strategy to ensure compliance with the Habitats Regulations at this site 	<p>CT3 Safeguarding our Environment</p> <p>DMP11 Green Infrastructure</p>	<p>Policy EN4: Biodiversity and Geodiversity</p> <p>Habitat Sites are identified as part of Swindon's green infrastructure network.</p> <p>In the supporting text it includes consideration of North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC.</p> <p><u>Recommended changes:</u></p> <p>Policy EN4: Biodiversity and Geodiversity includes details on the recreational impact and pressures on GI assets within the following paragraphs 4.329 – 4.330:</p>
Water Resources & Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Core Policies to identify the pressures and constraints associated with the water resources Development Management Policies to ensure that water demand and efficiency issues recognised Require Code for 	<p>CT3 Safeguarding our Environment (Part C)</p> <p>DMP2 Energy & Sustainable Construction</p>	<p>Policy IN2: Water Supply and Wastewater</p> <p>The policy includes how water supply issues will be addressed. The supporting text, includes mitigation of potential impacts of water extraction on European Sites.</p> <p>Policy DE2: Sustainable Construction</p> <p>The policy includes CSH & BREEAM requirements</p>

Impact	Recommendations for Proposed Submission	Incorporated into Revised Proposed Submission	Incorporated into Pre-Submission
	<p>Sustainable Homes (minimum level 3) where appropriate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek 'water neutral' development, use develop contributions for reductions in water usage/improve efficiency 		
Air Pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasis the requirement for sustainable transport solutions to accompany all new developments • Ensure that new developments, including proposals for new road schemes associated with new development are subject to monitoring proposals. 	<p>CT7 Keeping Swindon Moving</p> <p>DMP10 Transport Requirements</p>	<p>Policy TR1: Sustainable Transport Networks</p> <p>The policy includes how emissions will be minimised and the supporting text explains this in more detail. The policy does encourage sustainable transports modes but this is not explicit.</p> <p>Policy TR2: Transport and Development</p> <p>This policy includes how promotion of sustainable travel choices will be assessed.</p> <p><u>Recommended changes:</u></p> <p>The supporting text accompanying policy TR1 could emphasis the need to reduce the risk of adverse impacts of air pollution on North Meadow & Clattinger Farm SAC through the supporting text.</p>

Swindon Borough Local Plan 2026 Pre-Submission Draft

Health Impact Assessment

1.0 Introduction

What is a HIA?

- 1.1 A Health Impact Assessment (HIA) assesses the potential effects a plan, programme or policy can have on the health of the population and the distribution of those effects within the population (Department of Health, 2010). A HIA is not a statutory requirement of the Local Plan however because of the strategic nature of the Local Plan, it has been assessed that a HIA should be undertaken to ensure health is considered in the decision making process.
- 1.2 The HIA on the Local Plan assesses the impact policies have on identified potential health impacts. The impacts consider the effects of the Local Plan policies upon key health determinants and how the Local Plan can either mitigate adverse impacts or maximise benefits. Therefore the aim of this HIA is to aid the progression and decision making of policies within the Local Plan by identifying potential health impacts including the nature, significance and distribution of impacts.
- 1.3 There is no fixed method for undertaking a HIA however the method used in this assessment reflects the approach of the Diversity Impact Assessment undertaken on the Local Plan, as the two assessments are similar and this will provide a consistent approach.

Structure of the Report

- 1.4 The structure of this report is as follows;
 - Section 1 is a brief introduction to what a HIA is
 - Section 2 includes an overview of the Local Plan including the overarching aims, local influences and potential to create health benefits
 - Section 3 identifies the health profile of Swindon's population as to establish if there are current health issues which need to be addressed
 - Section 4 is the impact assessment, which identifies potential impacts and recommendations
 - Section 5 is the next steps. This includes a summary of the impacts and changes required and future work.

2.0 What is it about?

What is the Local Plan there for?

- 2.1 The Local Plan (formally known as the Core Strategy) is an overarching document, which sets the strategic direction and policy for Swindon Borough looking forward to 2026 and beyond. It identifies the overall strategy and framework for development including housing, employment, transport, social and green infrastructure.

- 2.2 The vision states the Local Plan aims to provide a high quality of life for its residents and visitors and encourage the community of Swindon to respond to the needs of a growing population through healthy living and creating caring and cohesive neighbourhoods. Close working with various organisations will be a major part of achieving this including continuous working with the Primary Care Trust.

Evolution and Structure of the Core Strategy

- 2.3 The Local Plan has been evolving since 2007 and due to governmental and major policy changes occurring along the process, the structure of the policies has been continually evolving. A HIA was undertaken on the Revised Proposed Submission document (March 2011), however the document has since been amended to reflect the National Planning Policy Framework, Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations and thus there has been a restructure of the document.
- 2.4 The structure of the Local Plan is split into three sections; the first includes the Sustainable Development Strategy which outlines the overarching strategy for development. The second section is Enabling Sustainable Development which includes a number of overarching themes which in turn include a number of focused policies which were previously either within the Core Policies or Development Management Policies. The third section is Managing Sustainable Growth and Change which includes the previous spatial strategy outlining where strategic development will take place.

Wider Policy Framework

- 2.5 The Local Plan will follow the guidance and principles set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). At the heart of the NPPF is a presumption in favour of sustainable development which is embedded in the Local Plan. The aim of sustainable development is to ensure that development meets current needs without compromising the needs of future generations to meet their own needs through seeking economic, social and environmental gains.
- 2.6 The presumption in favour of sustainable development has been integrated into the Local Plan through establishing a sustainable development strategy which will guide all development in the Borough. The strategy outlines sustainable principles which all development will need to conform to, the level and direction of growth and also the preferred process.

Local Policy Framework

- 2.7 The Local Plan has to integrate and deliver the priorities of the local policy framework including the overarching policies for Swindon Borough in documents such as the Sustainable Community Strategy and 'One Swindon'.

- 2.8 The Swindon Sustainable Community Strategy is a forward-looking vision for the town and borough, which outlines improvements to the social, environmental and economic well-being of the area. The Local Strategic Partnership is responsible for this Strategy and is made up of various partners from within and outside the Council.
- 2.9 This Strategy feeds into the Local Plan and will help to support and deliver the six key themes identified in the vision. Previously, to achieve this, the Core Theme Policies in the previous document were structured around the key themes however these themes have now been integrated into the revised structure.
- 2.10 One Swindon is a corporate strategy, which sets the strategic direction for Swindon over a four-year period. It will create a single plan for Swindon developed by all key delivery partners (including the PCT). Through integrated partnership working, this single plan will offer clarity and focus on the priorities, investment and disinvestments within and across the council. This plan will play an important role especially in response to fewer resources now and in the future and due to extra demand for services.
- 2.11 The priorities, which have emerged, are based on extensive consultations with public sector partners and local people. These priorities are:
- I like where I live
 - Regeneration, employment, skills and managed growth
 - Everyone is enjoying sports, leisure and cultural opportunities
 - Living independently, making a positive contribution

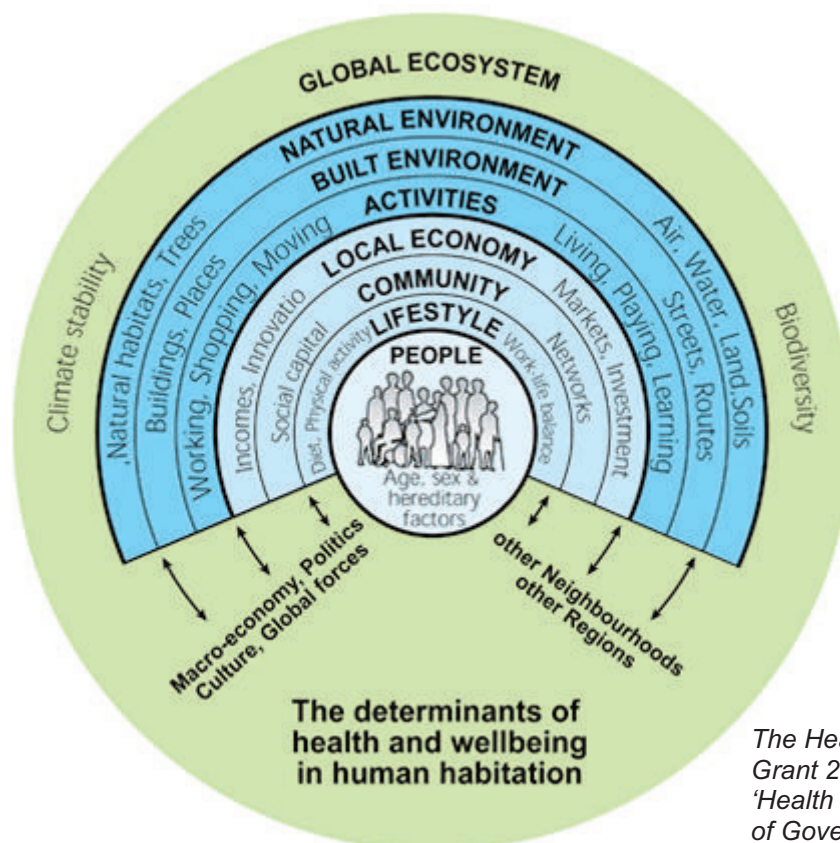
What potential is there to deliver health benefits?

- 2.12 The Local Plan can help create a healthy and sustainable community through ensuring the impacts upon the health of the population are integrated into planning. The causes of health inequalities and benefits are a result of a wide range of factors, which the majority are interlinked. The Local Plan has a major influence on these factors and how they are delivered within the Borough.
- 2.13 Spatial planning influences the shape of the built environment including factors such as access to health services and other services which help to improve health e.g. leisure centres, education etc. Also the delivery of open spaces which provide areas for physical activity, travel patterns including dependency on the motor car which contributes to air pollution and providing walkable neighbourhoods to encourage physical activity.

Health Determinants

- 2.14 To be able to assess the health impact of the Local Plan, there is a need to identify health determinants in which to assess the policies against. Health determinants are the social, economic, environmental and cultural factors that indirectly influence health and well-being (Department of Health, 2010). Figure 1 illustrates the determinants of health in relation to settlements and neighbourhoods.

Figure 1: Determinants of Health



The Health Map, Barton and Grant 2006 (published in 'Health Impact Assessment of Government Policy, 2010)

- 2.15 Some of these determinants can be influenced by the policies in the Local Plan. However to ensure the correct determinants are used in the assessment, it is essential to identify the current health issues which exist in the Borough as to assure the Local Plan is appropriately addressing them.

3.0 Swindon's Community

- 3.1 The delivery of the Local Plan will affect all of Swindon's population. To maximise the benefits and mitigate against any potential adverse impacts, it is essential to identify the profile of Swindon's community to establish the needs of the community. The following community profile provides data regarding the health of the population, local demographics, socio-economic status and lifestyle choices. (to be updated)

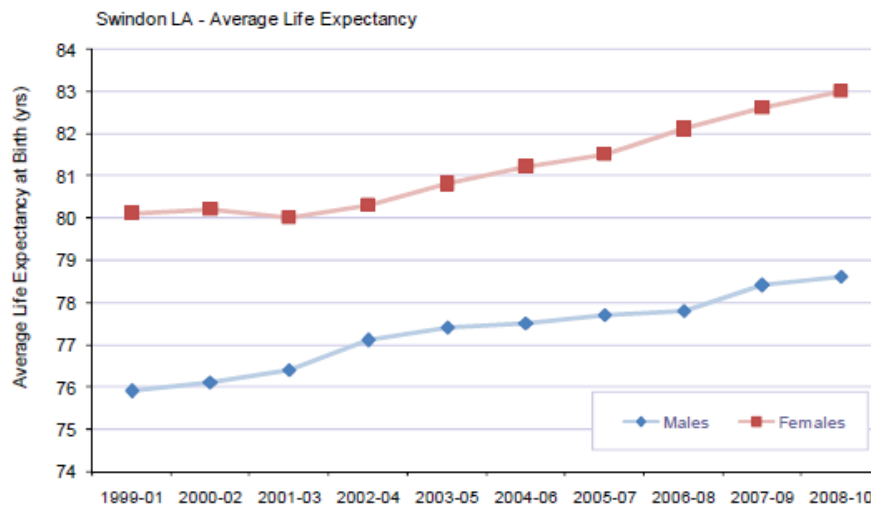
Demographics

- 3.2 Swindon Borough's population density is 864 people per square kilometre (SBC, 2010). This is much higher than the South West and England due to the urban nature of the Borough. This has been steadily increasing in line with population growth over the past 5 years. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) estimated that the population of the Borough was 201,800 in July 2010. There are slightly more males in the population than females.
- 3.3 There were 3,004 live births and 14 stillbirths in the Swindon BC population in 2010. The crude birth rate of 14.9 live births per 1,000 population in Swindon is high compared to England (13.1 per 1,000). However the general fertility rate (GFR) is a better indicator because it is based on the number of women in the usual child-bearing years (15 to 44 years) rather than the total population. The GFR for Swindon was also high at 71.8 live births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44 in 2010, compared to 65.4 per 1000 in England and Wales.
- 3.4 The percentage of Swindon Borough's population that is 60 and over has increased since 2001 and is currently just over 20%. By 2026 it is estimated to represent about 24% of the population (SBC, 2010). This reflects the national trend of an ageing population and will increase the need and pressure on health services.

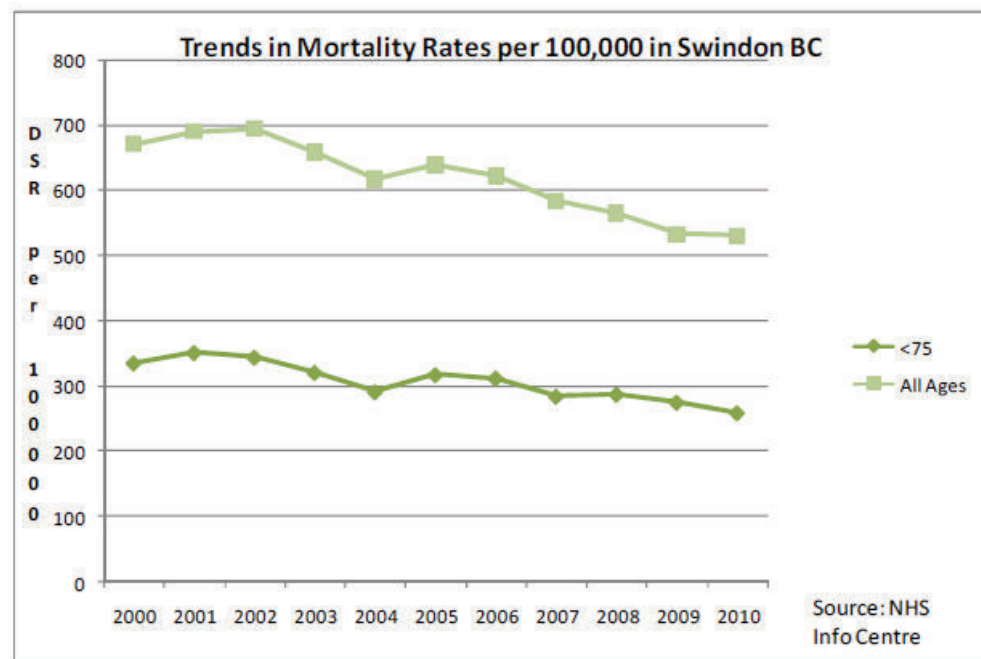
3.5

Health Status

- 3.6 The general health of Swindon Borough's population is relatively good. A higher percentage of the population think that they have good health compared to the South West and UK. 7.7% of Swindon Borough's population think that they are not in good health compared to 8.5% of the South West population and 9% of the national population (ONS, 2001). Fifteen percentage of the Borough population have a long-term limiting illness, compared to 18% of the South West and English populations (ONS 2001).
- 3.7 The life expectancy for males and females is close to the national life expectancy. Also in keeping with the national trend, females have a higher life expectancy than men.



- 3.8 The overall mortality rate and the premature (under 75 years) mortality rate have both fallen substantially in Swindon over the past decade. Figure 2.4 shows that after standardising to take account of Swindon's population structure, the local mortality rates have fallen by a fifth over the last decade (by 20.9% for people of all ages and by 22.7% for those under 75 years from the year 2000 to 2010).
- 3.9 The standardised mortality ratio for Swindon Borough is slightly lower at 97 than the expected mortality ratio (100 nationally)(ONS 2010).



Life Style

- 3.10 Health behaviour trends are actions taken by a person to achieve good health and to prevent illness. These factors are related to socio-economic factors and impact on causes of mortality.

- 3.11 The Swindon JSNA (2012) reported that in Swindon, the proportion participating in sport and active recreation increased from 19.6% in 2005-06 to 23.7% in 2009-11, a statistically significant increase in the percentage of the population leading physically active lifestyles. However, inequalities in levels of physical activity do exist. People in higher socio-economic groups are likely to be more physically active than people from lower socio-economic groups. In Swindon Borough, small area modelled information of physical activity produced by Sport England estimates that participation ranges from 13.8% in some areas to 29.8% in others.
- 3.12 There has been a reduction in alcohol consumption in Swindon, but there continues to be a rise in levels of alcohol related harm and conditions (Swindon JSNA 2009-2010).
- 3.13 Although smoking is generally declining, the latest data¹ suggest that 21.8% of Swindon's adult population still smoke, which is slightly higher than the national average of 20.7%. However people living in neighbourhood renewal areas are more likely to smoke. (Swindon JSNA 2012).
- 3.14 Synthetic estimates for local areas can provide an insight into what the prevalence of adult obesity might be locally. In Swindon, these suggest that the prevalence of obesity could be as high as 27%² which, if accurate, would be significantly higher than the average for England. (JSNA 2012)

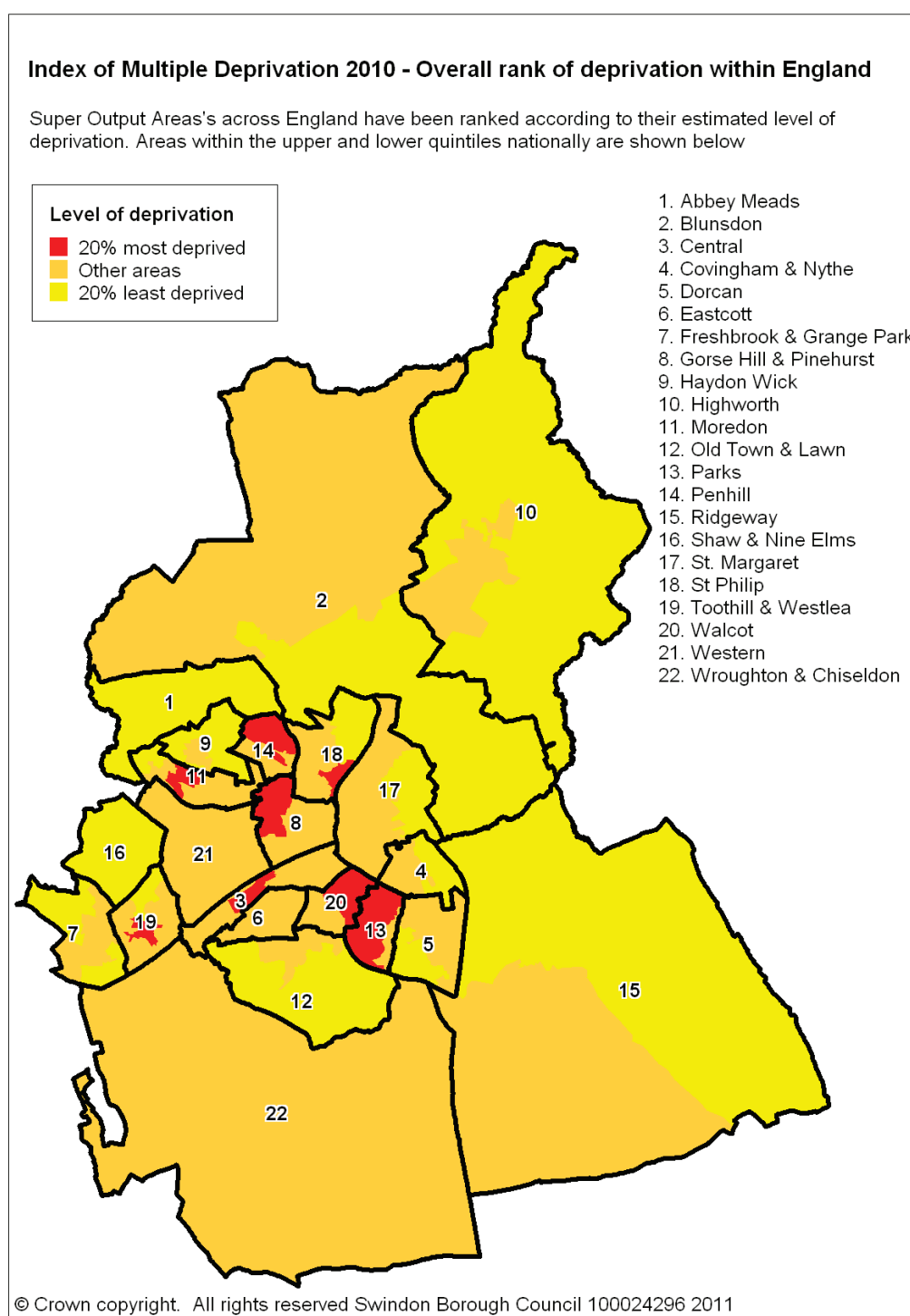
¹ London Public Health Observatory. 'Swindon UA Tobacco Control Profile' LPHO 2012.

² APHO Annual Health Profile - Swindon 2011

Socio- Economic Status

3.15 The Index of Multiple Deprivation is a nationally recognised measure of social deprivation, Figure 2, below, shows the IMD 2010 for Swindon. The measure is applied spatially and is only an indication based on the statistics for the given area. It does not mean that the entire population in the area is experiencing that level of deprivation. Figure 5 shows that there are areas of deprivation in a number of wards located within the Swindon Urban area.

Figure 2: Index of Multiple Deprivation for Swindon



4.0 Health Impact

- 4.1 The health assessment has been undertaken using a matrix to assess the health impacts of policies, which can be seen in Appendix 1. The matrix includes which health determinants will be impacted from the policy, summary of the key impacts, overall impact through using the appraisal symbols below and proposed recommendations for the Local Plan, where appropriate, in light of the findings.

Figure 3: Key to appraisal symbols

++	Significant positive contribution
+	Positive contribution
0	Little or no effects predicted
?	Predicted Effects are unknown
-	Negative contribution
--	Significant negative contribution

- 4.2 A HIA was undertaken on the Revised Proposed Submission policies therefore the matrix includes the relationship with the Pre submission policies as to ensure consistency and to assist in identifying whether there are any additional impacts. The policies within Sustainable Development Strategy and Managing Sustainable Growth and Change are assessed however for section 'Enabling Sustainable Development' the policies have been appraised and summarised within the theme.
- 4.3 A list of health determinants was developed in light of what the Local Plan is aiming to achieve and the current health condition of Swindon's community, which are explained in the previous sections. The health determinants are as follows:
- Housing
 - Employment
 - Transport
 - Accessibility
 - Education
 - Local Facilities
 - Healthy Lifestyle

- Sport & Leisure
- Safety
- Climate Change
- Environment

- 4.4 For each policy, the health determinants that are likely to be influenced and thus indirectly affect the health or well-being of the community were noted. From this the likely impacts that would arise, focusing on the health determinants, were explained.

What Consultation has taken place?

- 4.5 The Local Plan has been evolving over a couple of years, including a number of consultation periods enabling the community to provide their views and influence the development of Swindon.
- 4.6 Swindon Primary Care Trust and Public health have been consulted throughout the process of developing the Local Plan and their input has shaped the Local Plan.

5.0 Summary and Next Steps

- 5.1 The HIA has assessed whether the Local Plan will have either a positive or negative impact upon the health of Swindon's community.
- 5.2 The overall outcome of this assessment has shown that the Local Plan will have a positive impact upon the community. However where there are clear 'wins win wins' across policy areas, for example a green infrastructure network can increase physical activity and health, which can be shown to reduce health inequalities, these are not explicit in the Local Plan. Recognising and promoting these 'win win wins' through the supporting text will clearly illustrate what health benefits will arise from the Local Plan, as there are plentiful. This has been emphasised within some policies but not all.

What recommendations have been identified?

- 5.3 The impact assessment shown in Appendix 1 includes proposed recommendations for the Local Plan and whether any future work is required. These recommendations have been considered and integrated into the Local Plan where it was felt necessary.
- 5.4 There is only one recommendation in reference to future work, which relates to Policy NC3. An Eastern Villages Supplementary Planning Document will be produced which will need to consider health impacts due to the size of the proposed development and impact it will have on the existing community. The Local Plan DIA identifies a need to undertake a separate DIA on this document therefore the consideration of health impacts can be integrated into the DIA as to avoid duplication.

Next Steps

- 5.5 Consultation on the Local Plan will commence in December 2012. Any future changes to the Local Plan in light of the outcome of consultation will lead to a review of the HIA.

Appendix 1: Health Impact Assessment Matrix

Policy	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2011 Policies	Health Determinants	Key Impacts	Overall Impact
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY				
DS1: Sustainable Development Principles	CT1 (part) RA3 (part)	All	<p>Ensuring all developments comply with a range of sustainable principles will deliver a built environment which promotes healthy lifestyles especially through having an individually principle on creating and promoting an inclusive, healthy and safe environment. Ensuring proposals are accessible by walking and cycling will create an accessible environment for all.</p> <p>Positive impacts</p> <p><i>Recommendation: Potentially more emphasis within the supporting text on the delivery of a healthy and inclusive community especially indirectly through delivering green infrastructure and sustainable transport.</i></p>	+
DS2: The Sustainable Development Strategy	DS1 CT2 (part)	All	<p>Ensuring development takes place within Swindon and appropriate surrounding settlements will ensure employment opportunities, local facilities, transport and services are accessible reducing social exclusion and associated health impacts. There is mention of how growth will benefit new and existing communities, which will facilitate a balanced community however the design of the strategic allocation sites will need to be accessible and promote healthy lifestyles. Allowing local need and development to be identified and/or allocated through neighbourhood plans is giving local communities the opportunity to improve the built environment in particular accessible and provisions of a range of facilities.</p> <p>Positive Impacts</p>	+

Appendix 1: Health Impact Assessment Matrix

Policy	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2011 Policies	Health Determinants	Key Impacts	Overall Impact
DS3: Managing Development	NC1		<p>Promoting the presumption in favour of sustainable development will ensure all proposals comply with sustainable development including delivering a built environment which is accessible for all, promotes healthy lifestyles and provides a safe environment. Timely delivery of infrastructure is essential as to ensure sectors of the community are not socially excluded or do not have access to essential services which could be detrimental to health. The creation of Design Codes & Frameworks should in particular consider designing out crime and accessibility to services in relation to health.</p> <p>Positive Impacts</p>	+
ENABLING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT				
Theme 1: High Quality Design	CT1 (part) CT3 (part) DMP1 DMP2	Safety Transport Accessibility Healthy Lifestyles Climate Change Environment	<p>DE1 ensures good design principles are integrated into every development ensuring the community develop or keep a sense of pride of their area. It will allow easy navigation, access, safe and secure environments which indirectly brings associated health benefits</p> <p>Designing out crime and providing more local and integrated facilities will increase social inclusion and potentially community involvement. Policy DE2 will minimise the impact buildings and developments have on climate change which will indirectly bring health benefits through improved air quality and reduced costs of living in the long-term. Supporting and encouraging sustainable energy sources will, in the long-term, provide financial gain which can reduce potential stress and anxiety. Also sustainable energy sources will reduce air pollution improving physical health</p> <p>Positive Impacts</p>	++

Appendix 1: Health Impact Assessment Matrix

Policy	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2011 Policies	Health Determinants	Key Impacts	Overall Impact
Theme 2: Economy	CT1 (part) CT2 (part) DMP5 DMP6 DMP13	Employment Education Accessibility Local Facilities	<p>This policy aims to focus large office development in the Central Area through adopting a sequential approach. This approach directs large office developments to accessible locations which will increase access to employment for all, which can indirectly improve self-containment and mental well-being. Allowing other class uses than B on appropriate employment sites, with the appropriate restrictions, will diversify the range of employment opportunities at existing accessible locations. Policy EC3 ensures retail development is focused within existing centres. This will lead to further provision and enhancement of retail facilities within existing accessible locations. Ensuring communities have access to retail facilities including food and drink which are crucial to maintaining a good standard of health.</p> <p>Positive Impacts</p>	+
Theme 3: Housing	CT2 (part) DMP7 DMP8 RA3 (part)	Housing Safety	<p>Providing a range of types and sizes of housing including affordable homes is fundamental to meeting a variety of needs and providing a good standard of health. Delivering affordable homes and wheelchair accessible homes will help to meet local need. It will also provide decent and safe homes for those in need, which is fundamental in providing a range health benefits. Policy HA4 allows HMOs to be implemented to an appropriate and adequate standard. This will lead to decent HMOs being provided which will ensure a good standard of living and thus health of residents.</p> <p>Positive Impacts</p> <p>Recommendation: <i>Emphasis in the supporting text could be placed in the importance of delivering decent, safe and affordable homes.</i></p>	+

Appendix 1: Health Impact Assessment Matrix

Policy	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2011 Policies	Health Determinants	Key Impacts	Overall Impact
Theme 4: Transport	CT1 (part) CT3 (part) CT7 DMP10	Transport Accessibility Local Facilities Healthy Lifestyles Safety Climate Change Environment	Improving the transport network to create a safer environment and providing healthier choices will improve actual and perceived level of crime and physical well-being. Supporting an active and healthy lifestyle through developing walkable neighbourhoods and encouraging walking and cycling is increasing the potential of physical activity which will provide many physical and mental health benefits. Making sustainable modes of transport safer will improve the actual and perceived level of crime and encourage social inclusion and physical health. Reducing the emissions from traffic will improve air quality and subsequently health. Positive Impacts	+
Theme 5: Infrastructure Needs	CT1 (part) CT3 (part) DMP4	Accessibility Environment Healthy Lifestyles Climate Change	This policy ensures the appropriate infrastructure and services are provided to support new and existing communities. This will prevent the possibility of social and physical exclusion and ensure access to health, employment and other local services. Ensuring there is an adequate water supply is crucial to maintaining good health. Positive Impacts	+
Theme 6: Education, Community And Health Facilities	CT4 CT5 DMP12	Education Healthy Lifestyles Local Facilities Safety Accessibility	Providing higher and further education will increase the potential for the population to develop skills and increase self-confidence. Improving and providing education for the young, for all capabilities and life-long learning will enable the population to develop skills to obtain employment which can provide a sense of well-being and self-containment. Ensuring schools are accessible through walking and cycling will encourage physical activity. Supporting an active and healthy lifestyle is increasing the potential for physical activity that will provide a range of physical and mental health benefits. Protecting and supporting community facilities will provide the community with local services such as health care, retail, food etc, which are key to maintaining a good standard of health. The restriction on the loss of community facilities reflects whether the facility is required will ensure no essential facility is lost. Further and	++

Appendix 1: Health Impact Assessment Matrix

Policy	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2011 Policies	Health Determinants	Key Impacts	Overall Impact
			enhanced provision of health care facilities will help meet the growing demand and ensure an adequate service is provided. Developing a network of sports centres promoting sport participation will encourage physical activity. Positive Impacts	
Theme 7: Natural And Built Environment	CT3 (part) DMP3 DMP11 DMP14 RA3 (part)	Environment Accessibility Healthy Lifestyles Sport and Leisure	Ensuring the delivery and enhancement of the Green Infrastructure network will encourage and promote physical activity and a healthier lifestyle. Increasing access to open space will also encourage physical activity. Encouraging community involvement can help develop community spirit which can bring associated mental health benefits. Reducing the likelihood of flooding will reduce the potential of social exclusion and associated health impacts. Protecting and enhancing historical assets is maintaining the culture and history of Swindon which plays a crucial part in community spirit and sense of pride in a place. These aspects contribute to the social well-being of the community which can influence the mental health of the population. Positive Impacts	+
Managing Sustainable Growth And Change				
SC1 Swindon's Central Area	SC1	Housing Employment Local Facilities Education Environment Climate Change Transport Accessibility	Developing a variety of uses within the Central Area will provide a diverse range of employment opportunities and potential to increase self-containment and well-being. Regenerating the central area to provide a diversity of facilities including sport, leisure and education will increase accessibility and increase, social cohesion and provide physical and mental health benefits. Providing a green spine and a walking and cycling network is encouraging physical activity. Increasing the health care facility will help to meet growing demand whilst delivering a good, accessible service Positive Impacts	+

Appendix 1: Health Impact Assessment Matrix

Policy	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2011 Policies	Health Determinants	Key Impacts	Overall Impact
Swindon Existing Communities	SC3-SC9	Housing Employment Local Facilities Education Environment Climate Change Transport Accessibility Healthy Lifestyle Sport and Leisure	Protection and enhancement of a green space networks will encourage physical activity. Further provision of education will help meet the growing demand and improve accessibility. Delivering a network of sports centres across the Borough will provide opportunities for a range of physical activity and led to increased self-motivation. Improving transport corridors and gateways and delivering strategic transport priorities will improve access across Swindon. Improving emergency services will improve the level and access to health facilities. Positive Impacts	+
Wichelstowe	NC2	Housing Employment Local Facilities Education Environment Climate Change Transport Accessibility	The delivery of a mix and type of housing and affordable homes is fundamental to providing essential health benefits. Provision of local centres, health care facilities, buildings for community use and schools will meet the needs of the growing and existing population and will provide opportunities for community spirit to develop and also provide health facilities within walking and cycling distances. Creation of walking and cycling links and further, enhanced provision of leisure facilities is encouraging the community to have a more active lifestyle. Enhancing and protecting open space and environmental assets is encouraging physical activity and social cohesion but also providing mental health benefits. Reducing the likelihood of flooding will reduce the potential of social exclusion. Improving access to key destinations and transport corridors will improve chances of gaining employment and undertaking education which can improve self containment and other mental health benefits.	+

Appendix 1: Health Impact Assessment Matrix

Policy	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2011 Policies	Health Determinants	Key Impacts	Overall Impact
			Positive Impacts	
Commonhead NC3		Housing Employment Local Facilities Education Sport & Leisure Environment Transport Accessibility	The delivery of a mix and type of housing and affordable homes is fundamental to providing essential health benefits. Provision of a local centre and primary school will meet the needs of the growing and existing population and will provide opportunities for community spirit to develop and also provide facilities within walking and cycling distances. Enhancing, integrating and protecting open space and environmental assets is encouraging physical activity and social cohesion but also providing mental health benefits. Safeguarding land for the Great Western Hospital will ensure the hospital will be able to develop in line with demand. Creation and integration of walking and cycling links is encouraging the community to have a more active lifestyle Positive Impacts	+

Appendix 1: Health Impact Assessment Matrix

Policy	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2011 Policies	Health Determinants	Key Impacts	Overall Impact
Eastern Villages	NC4	Housing Employment Local Facilities Education Climate Change Environment Sport & Leisure Transport Accessibility	<p>Delivering a large amount of employment land will develop employment opportunities which, depending on design, will allow the community to live and work in the same location which can provide a range of health benefits. The provision of a district centre, local centres, health care facilities, buildings for community use and schools will meet the needs of the growing and existing population and will provide opportunities for community spirit to develop and providing health facilities within walking and cycling distances, depending on design. Creation of walking and cycling links and further, enhanced provision of leisure facilities is encouraging the community to have a more active lifestyle. Enhancing and protecting open space and environmental assets is encouraging physical activity and social cohesion but also providing mental health benefits. Reducing the likelihood of flooding will reduce the potential of social exclusion and associated health impacts. It will be essential that a development of this size is integrated with the existing urban area as to not cause physical and social exclusion which can have indirect impacts on health.</p> <p>Positive Impacts and Uncertain Impacts</p> <p>Proposed Recommendation: <i>Due to the size of this development, the majority of the health benefits are unclear and dependent on design. The Core Strategy DIA has highlighted a need to undertake a DIA on the Eastern Villages SPD. This DIA will need to consider and integrate potential health impacts.</i></p>	+

Appendix 1: Health Impact Assessment Matrix

Policy	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2011 Policies	Health Determinants	Key Impacts	Overall Impact
Tadpole Lane	NC5	Housing Employment Local Facilities Education Environment Sport & Leisure Climate Change Transport Accessibility	Provision of a local centre and primary school will meet the needs of the growing and existing population and will provide opportunities for community spirit to develop and provide facilities within walking and cycling distances. Enhancing, integrating and protecting open space and environmental assets is encouraging physical activity and social cohesion but also providing mental health benefits. Creation of walking and cycling links and further provision of leisure facilities is encouraging the community to have a more active lifestyle. Positive Impacts	+
Kingsdown	N/A	Housing Employment Local Facilities Education Environment Sport & Leisure Climate Change Transport Accessibility	Crucial to delivering Kingsdown will be accessibility to the rest of Swindon across the A419. There will need to be walking and cycling links and links to the provision of leisure facilities as to encourage the community to have a more active lifestyle. Provision of a local centre and primary school will meet the needs of the growing and existing population and will provide opportunities for community spirit to develop and provide facilities within walking and cycling distances. Enhancing, integrating and protecting open space and environmental assets is encouraging physical activity and social cohesion but also providing mental health benefits. Positive Impacts	+

Appendix 1: Health Impact Assessment Matrix

Policy	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2011 Policies	Health Determinants	Key Impacts	Overall Impact
Highworth	RA1 (part)	Local Facilities Employment Healthy Lifestyle Environment Transport Sport & Leisure	Supporting the identity of Highworth and encouraging involvement from the community in planning matters will enhance social cohesion and sense of pride. Ensuring local facilities are retained and enhanced and supporting business opportunities and diversification and further provision of employment land will ensure the needs of the local population are met and provide employment opportunities. This can bring a range of health benefits including positive changes to lifestyle. Protecting and providing spaces such as Pentylands will encourage physical activity. Positive Impacts	+
Wroughton	RA1 (part)	Local Facilities Employment Healthy Lifestyle Environment Transport Sport & Leisure	Supporting the identity of Wroughton and encouraging involvement from the community in planning matters will enhance social cohesion and sense of pride. Ensuring local facilities are retained and enhanced and supporting business opportunities will ensure the needs of the local population are met and provide employment opportunities. This can bring a range of health benefits including positive changes to lifestyle. Protecting and providing sports, leisure facilities, providing facilities for the young and protecting recreational spaces will encourage physical activity. Strengthening links to employment areas will provide further opportunities for employment. Strengthening links to the Great Western Hospital will increase accessibility to health care facilities. Positive Impacts	+
South Marston	RA2	Environment Local Facilities Sport & Leisure Education Transport Climate Change	Supporting and preserving the identity and character of South Marston will enhance social cohesion and sense of pride which can provide a range of mental health benefits. Ensuring the needs of the community are met, including education, community uses and retail are essential. Incorporating existing recreational spaces into the GI network and providing recreational facilities will ensure and encourage opportunities for physical activity. Providing traffic management will aim to reduce volume of traffic through South Marston thus mitigate against possible increase in air	+

Appendix 1: Health Impact Assessment Matrix

Policy	Relationship with Revised Proposed Submission 2011 Policies	Health Determinants	Key Impacts	Overall Impact
			pollution and associated health impacts. Reducing the likelihood of flooding will reduce the potential of social exclusion and associated health impacts. Positive impacts	
Swindon's Neighbourhoods	CT6 (a) RA3 (a, e, f)	All	This policy ensures the community have the opportunity to participate in the planning process and influence the future development of Swindon. Enabling the community to influence the future of Swindon will give the community a sense of pride and ownership. Allowing local need and development to be identified and/or allocated through neighbourhood plans is giving local communities the opportunity to improve the built environment in particular accessible and provisions of a range of facilities. Positive Impacts	+

References

Health Impact Assessment of Government Policy, Department of Health (2010)

Infrastructure Requirements in Swindon Borough to 2026

DRAFT INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY PLAN

OCTOBER 2012



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section	Content	Page No
1	Introduction	1
2	Policy Background Guidance and Studies	4
3	Growth During the Plan Period to 2026	11
4	Appraisal of Infrastructure Requirements	13
5	Delivery Mechanisms	13
6	Funding	15
7	Strategic Infrastructure Requirements: <u>Physical</u> Transport Water and Sewerage Water Supply Wastewater (sewerage and sewer treatment works) Electricity Gas Waste Sustainable Energy Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Air Quality <u>Green Infrastructure</u> Open Space Biodiversity Cemetery <u>Social and Community Infrastructure</u> Education – Primary and Secondary Education – Post 16 Further Education Early Years – Children’s Centres and Nurseries Youth Clubs Community Hubs including Health, Police and Libraries Fire and Rescue Service Ambulance Service Housing – Extra Care Economic Development Leisure – Sports Culture – Central Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Theatre - Library - Public Art 	19
8	Overview of New and Existing Communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swindon Central Area (SC1) • Boroughwide (SC2) • Existing Communities (SC2) • Wichelstowe (NC1) 	48

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commonhead (NC2)• Eastern Villages (NC3)• Tadpole Farm (NC4)• Kingsdown (NC4)	
7	Infrastructure Delivery Plan Schedule	66
8	Review / Monitoring	88
9	Glossary of Terms	89

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) forms part of the evidence base for the Swindon Local Plan 2026. The Local Plan will guide future development of the Borough to 2026, setting out a long term spatial vision and the overall strategy for delivery that vision.
- 1.2 The production of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) has been a collaborative effort, with the Local Planning Authority (LPA) engaging with a wide range of key stakeholders involved in delivering infrastructure associated with the strategic aims and objectives of the Local Plan.

Purpose of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP)

- 1.3 Swindon Borough Council is required to demonstrate that the policies in the Swindon Local Plan will be delivered in a sustainable way. To this end, there is now an increased emphasis on the need to identify infrastructure required to support future growth, resulting from additional housing and employment allocations during the Plan period to 2026. The IDP focuses on those infrastructure items which will require capital expenditure, i.e. largely in the form of physical works.
- 1.4 The IDP helps to identify
 - types and costs of infrastructure
 - delivery timetable
 - gaps in funding; and
 - critical pieces of local and strategic infrastructure
- 1.5 The IDP will also help ensure delivery of the Swindon Local Plan by:
 - Co-ordinating coherent and timely delivery with key partners
 - Recognising funding opportunities and providing the baseline for identifying investment through subsequent work
 - Identifying responsible delivery agents, delivery mechanisms and overcoming barriers to successful delivery
 - Measuring how well the Strategy is being implemented, acting as an evidence base and providing an effective response
- 1.4 In addition, the IDP is used as an evidence base for the infrastructure requirements used to inform the development of the Borough's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule.
- 1.6 Against the background of the current recession, alternative, smarter methods of delivery which achieve greater value for money have been considered, for example the co-location of services and alternative infrastructure solutions to ensure that the monies, funding and opportunities available are utilised efficiently to deliver more.

Structure and Content of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan

- 1.7 The IDP addresses the issue of infrastructure provision by identifying infrastructure requirements and issues regarding deliverability (a where, when and how approach). This process involves understanding future service delivery models, business plans, asset management and estates rationalisation for a wide range of internal and external partners and stakeholders and ensuring they do not duplicate or prejudice each other. Furthermore, it exists to promote colocation and joint working to minimise future revenue burdens going forward.
- 1.8 The IDP is broken down into chapters relating to different sectors of infrastructure, see paragraph 7.1. Each chapter identifies the elements of infrastructure required to support growth in the borough, a justification for this requirement and information regarding deliverability. This is summarised in a detailed Infrastructure Delivery Programme at the end of each chapter.
- 1.7 The Local Plan will cover the period from 2011 to 2026; however, it is inevitable that timescales for delivering development and infrastructure will be subject to change due to both local and national factors and the re-emergence of the market following recession. Consequently, the IDP will evolve over time to reflect change.
- 1.8 The IDP is a 'live' document that will be updated throughout the life of the plan period (2011-2026) to accurately reflect current and future infrastructure requirements. Reviews of the IDP will be programmed in accordance with reviews of the CIL and Comprehensive Spending Review funding allocation processes, plus the wider Swindon Development Framework timetable.

2. Policy Background, Guidance and Studies

- 2.1 This section sets out the relevant policy background, guidance and studies relevant to infrastructure planning.

National Policy Context

- 2.2 Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development (ODPM, 2005) sets out the Government's aims and principles for achieving sustainable development. As part of achieving sustainable economic development local planning authorities should 'ensure that infrastructure and services are provided to support new and existing economic development and housing.'¹
- 2.3 The production of the IDP is in accordance with Planning Policy Statement 12: 'Creating Strong Safe and Prosperous Communities through Local Spatial Planning' (PPS12, 2009), which states that:

"The Local Plan should be supported by evidence of what physical, social and green infrastructure is needed to enable the amount of development proposed for the area, taking account of its type and distribution. This

¹ PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development (ODPM, 2005), para. 23(viii)

evidence should cover who will provide the infrastructure and when it will be provided. The Local Plan should draw on and in parallel influence any strategies and investment plans of the Local Authority and other organisations (page 8, para. 4.8).²

- 2.4 PPS12 states that infrastructure planning should identify, as far as possible, Infrastructure needs and costs, timescales and responsibilities for delivery and funding sources.
- 2.5 Since the conception of the document PPS12 has been superseded by the introduction on the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) however the requirement to plan for infrastructure has, if anything, been given greater importance to the plan making process. Amongst other infrastructure related requirements, the NPPF requires local planning authorities to consider the quality and capacity of existing infrastructure and assess its ability to sustain future growth.
- 2.6 On 27th March 2012, the Coalition Government published the **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**³, which replaces all Planning Policy Statements and Guidance Notes. Infrastructure Delivery Plans were required under the now deleted PPS12 to sit alongside and support the growth identified within Core Strategies. The NPPF now requires LPAs to produce Local Plans that are supported by a proportionate evidence base and carries forward the need for infrastructure planning as stated in paragraph 162, as follows:

“Local planning authorities should work with other authorities and providers to:

- assess the quality and capacity of infrastructure for transport, water supply, wastewater and its treatment, energy (including heat), telecommunications, utilities, waste, health, social care, education, flood risk and coastal change management, and its ability to meet forecast demands; and*
- take account of the need for strategic infrastructure including nationally significant infrastructure within their areas⁴.*

The Community Infrastructure Levy

- 2.7 The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a new charging mechanism that local authorities can choose to levy on new developments in their area to fund necessary infrastructure. CIL came into force on 6 April 2010 through the CIL Regulations 2010, with additional amendments in April 2011. CIL will largely replace Section 106 developer contributions as the means to fund off-site infrastructure made necessary by development. In order to continue to require contributions to off-site infrastructure requirements, local authorities must have a CIL in place by April 2014. A local planning authority is the charging authority for its areas. Wycombe District Council is

² PPS12: Creating strong, safe and prosperous communities through local spatial planning (DCLG, 2008) para. 4.8

³ National Planning Policy Framework:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/2116950.pdf>

⁴ NPPF, page 40, para. 162.

proposing to bring a CIL into effect by the summer of 2012, which will replace the existing developer contributions regime.

- 2.8 CIL Guidance⁵ states that information on the charging authority area's infrastructure needs should, wherever possible, be drawn directly from the infrastructure planning that underpins their Development Plan. In the case of Wycombe district this is this IDP.
- 2.9 The IDP can then be used by the charging authority to identify a selection of indicative infrastructure projects or types of infrastructure that are likely to be funded by the levy and a total infrastructure cost. The charging authority should consider known and expected infrastructure costs and the other sources of funding available, or likely to be available, to meet those costs and thus illustrate that their intended CIL target is justifiable given local infrastructure need and is based on appropriate evidence.⁶

Best Practice Guidance

Best practice guidance and further guidelines on infrastructure planning and implementation of CIL have been published by the Planning Advisory Service (PAS)⁷, Planning Officers Society (POS)⁸ and the Planning Inspectorate⁹. The Council also participated in Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) CIL Practitioners Working Group. The Council has had regard to this guidance in writing the IDP.

Local Policy Context

- 2.10 The IDP sits alongside a suite of other corporate and partner strategies, all designed to identify service and/or infrastructure need and the delivery outcomes associated with that need. It is informed by a rich picture of supply and demand across Swindon. These strategies are outlined below at Figure 1.

⁵ Community Infrastructure Levy Guidance: Charge setting and charging schedule procedures (DCLG, 2010)

⁶ CIL – Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule Consultation (SBC, [August 2012](#))

⁷ A Steps Approach to Infrastructure Planning (POS, June 2009)

⁸ Section 106 Obligations and the Community Infrastructure Levy (POS, April 2011)

⁹ Local Development Frameworks – Examining Development Plan Documents: Learning from Experience (The Planning Inspectorate, September 2009)

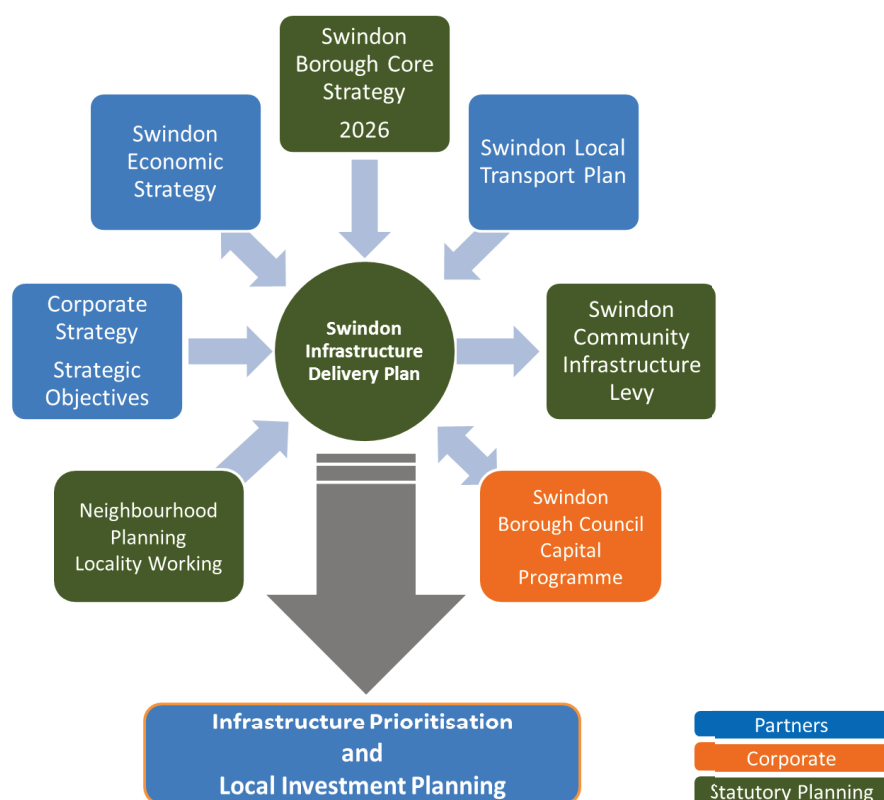


Figure 1

2.11 The collaborative process used to inform the production of the IDP allows us to raise awareness of the infrastructure implications arising from future development and to broaden ownership of the delivery of that infrastructure both internally and externally. This recognises the fact that the statutory planning process can only ever act as a facilitator.

Swindon Borough Local Plan 2011 (2006)

2.11 The extant planning policy framework is the Swindon Borough Local Plan 2011 (2006). It's status was confirmed via 'saved policies' under transitional arrangements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, subsequent direction from the Secretary of State via Government Office South West and the provisions set out in the National Planning Policy Framework for a year's grace for adopted Local Plans in lieu of an adopted Local Plan.. Its saved policies are valid until March 27 2013.

Swindon Local Development Framework

Swindon Borough Local Plan – Revised Proposed Submission Draft 2011

2.12 The emerging Swindon Borough Local Plan¹⁰ presents the spatial vision and development strategy for Swindon Borough to 2026. The importance of successful

¹⁰ Swindon Borough Local Plan:
[http://www.swindon.gov.uk/ep/ep-planning/forwardplaning/ep-planning-localdev/Documents/core_strategy_web\[1\].pdf](http://www.swindon.gov.uk/ep/ep-planning/forwardplaning/ep-planning-localdev/Documents/core_strategy_web[1].pdf)

infrastructure planning is highlighted throughout the document to ensure that the planned level of growth can be sustained. In particular, Strategic Objective 2 of the emerging Swindon Borough Local Plan states, *“By 2026 the infrastructure needs for and arising from the growth of Swindon will have been provided in a timely and co-ordinated manner, including having been adequately funded”*¹¹.

- 2.13 The emerging Swindon Local Plan also identifies the key infrastructure items required for regeneration areas and proposed new communities at Wichelstowe, Commonhead, Tadpole Farm and at the proposed Eastern Villages. The IDP comprises infrastructure items necessitated by specific sites and for the Borough as a whole.

Implementation and Monitoring Plan

- 2.14 The Implementation and Monitoring Plan (March 2011) (IMP) was produced to sit alongside the Swindon Borough Local Plan Revised Proposed Submission Document (March 2011). The purpose of the Implementation and Monitoring Plan was to set out the required infrastructure items required to deliver sustainable development. This IDP updates and replaces the Implementation and Monitoring Plan.
- 2.15 The monitoring section of the IMP has been incorporated into the Pre Submission Swindon Local Plan and sits alongside the Annual Monitoring Report.

Swindon Central Area Action Plan (2009)

- 2.16 The Central Area Action Plan (CAAP) provides a planning framework that will guide the future development of Central Swindon to 2016 with strategic policies which look to 2026. It identifies strategic aims across 4 themes, including design, public realm, sustainability and transport. It also details major regeneration projects and the key players in their delivery with a focus on the private investment and expertise necessary to bring them forward.

Local Transport Plan (LTP3)

- 2.17 The Local Transport Plan was adopted in March 2011 and covers the period from 2011- 2026. It sets out an overarching strategy for the delivery of the Council's transport programme. Its mission is to create

“a safe, effective and fit for purpose transport network that supports Swindon's ambitions for town centre regeneration and economic growth whilst protecting and enhancing quality of life and the environment for the benefit of local residents, visitors and businesses”

- 2.18 While LTP3 covers maintenance and small schemes which do not figure in the IDP, it also incorporates larger, more strategic transport schemes.

¹¹ Swindon Borough Local Plan Revised Proposed Submission Document March 2011, page 19, 'Strategic Objective 2'.

Swindon Economic Strategy

- 2.19 At a time when private and public sector partners in Swindon face the twin challenges of recession and constraints on public sector funding, agreeing shared objectives and priority actions is the best way of ensuring that the Borough secures the maximum benefit from their investments.
- 2.20 The main purpose of the Economic Strategy is to set out the practical measures that stakeholders will need to take to encourage recovery and a return to growth. In some cases, this means completing or building on activity that is already taking place. In other cases, it requires new ideas and new action. Some actions are identified as immediate priorities (1-2 years), while others are for the medium (3-5 years) or long term (5 years +). The emphasis is on actions that will deliver economic benefit, but that are also realistic and deliverable given the resources available to partners.

Swindon Corporate Strategy

- 2.21 The Corporate Strategy translates One Swindon into a single set of Council priorities which provide a clear sense of purpose and directions against which decisions can be made and commissioning, financial and delivery actions planned, implemented and reviewed.
- 2.22 Decisions around infrastructure provision will be informed by One Swindon principles around a growing economy, a good place to live, cultural and leisure opportunity and promoting independent living.

Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership

- 2.23 The Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership (SWLEP) is a business-led public/private partnership tasked with driving economic growth in the area. Approved by government in July 2011, their role is to formulate the Partnership's strategic direction and commission projects to drive growth, part of which will be achieved by influencing funding to deliver key infrastructure.
- 2.23 The SWLEP four year Business Plan includes a challenging target for job creation and retention. Initial targets are to:-
- create 10,000 New Private Sector jobs;
 - Safeguard a further 8000 jobs within our business base.
- 2.24 This can only be achieved by making Swindon an attractive place in which to invest, both in terms of new businesses coming to the area and supporting those already here.
- 2.24 The four elements needed to attract and retain businesses are:-
- A stable and certain infrastructure planning and investment environment;
 - Deliverable sites for new business/business expansion;

- Access to a skilled and motivated workforce;
- A great place to live and work

2.25 The LEP revolving infrastructure fund is one potential means of funding infrastructure in Swindon and is discussed in more detail at 6.19.

|

3. Growth during the Plan Period to 2026. The Demand for Infrastructure

- 3.1 This section provides a brief summary of the main housing, employment and demographic changes that the Borough is expected to undergo over the lifetime of the Local Plan. It is these changes which impact upon the demand, supply, type and location of infrastructure, within and adjoining the Borough. The Swindon Infrastructure Delivery Plan details the necessary infrastructure required to support this anticipated housing and employment growth to 2026.

Population and Jobs Borough Wide

- 3.2 The population of Swindon Borough increased from 181,000 in 2001 to an estimated 209,000¹² in 2011 and is expected to rise by 36,000 by 2026.
- 3.3 The Local Plan is based on a higher growth scenario which represents an additional 19,000 jobs in the Borough to 2026.

Location and nature of changes

- 3.5 The Swindon Borough Local Plan sets out the development strategy to guide sustainable growth within the Borough. The most sustainable pattern of development is expressed in Policy SD2: The Sustainable Development Strategy, which concentrates development primarily at Swindon's Urban Area and allocated sites including Wichelstowe, Commonhead, and Tadpole Farm and at the proposed Eastern Villages.

Housing (allocated housing numbers)

- 3.6 Policy SD2 of the Swindon Local Plan states that 22,000 homes will be provided between 2011 and 2026 at an annual average rate of 1470 dwellings a year. The delivery of housing is to be phased as follows:
- 1,150 dwellings per annum between 2011 and 2016
 - 1,625 dwellings per annum between 2016 and 2026
- 3.7 Between 2006-2011, 6852 dwellings were completed; the remaining are to be distributed, as follows:

	Area	No. dwellings completed 2006-2011	Local Plan Provision 2011-2026
Existing Urban and Rural Areas	Swindon Central Area (incl. Town Centre)	287	1000
	Existing Urban Area	2328	4000
	Rural Settlements	410	450
Strategic Urban Extensions	Northern Development Area	3381	589
	Wichelstowe	446	4064
	Commonhead	0	890
	Proposed Eastern Villages	0	7500

¹² 2011 Census, First Release (July, 2012)

	Tadpole Farm	0	1695
	Kingsdown	0	1800
	Total	6852	21,988

3.9 At April 2011, there are 6500 dwellings with planning permission yet to be constructed. In addition, there were 601 dwellings under construction.

Employment

3.10 Policy SD2 of the Swindon Local Plan states that 77.5 hectares of additional employment land will be provided between 2011 and 2026. The above employment land is to be distributed, as follows:

Area	Additional Employment Land
Wichelstowe	12.5 hectares
Commonhead	15 hectares
Proposed Eastern Villages	40 hectares
Tadpole Farm	5 hectares
Hlghworth (Blackworth)	5 hectares
Total	77.5 hectares

3.11 In addition, the Local Plan makes provision for 90,000 sq metres of employment in Swindon Central Area on brownfield sites.

4. Appraisal of Infrastructure Requirements

- 4.1 The scope of infrastructure requirements is covered in more detail at Section 5 of the IDP.
- 4.2 The criteria for including items in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan are;
- The infrastructure contributes to the delivery of 1 or more of the Local Plan Objectives and/or the delivery of infrastructure is directly related and essential to the delivery of a strategic site
 - The infrastructure is required to address the demands of growth (housing, employment and population)
- 4.2 It is not the role of the IDP to prioritise the delivery of infrastructure or what funds should be allocated to the delivery of that infrastructure. These decisions will be informed by other processes including Service Area Business and Delivery Plans and more strategically, work on a Local Investment Plan for the Borough. In relation to CIL decisions will be taken through the governance arrangements established to allocate CIL monies.
- 4.3 While best endeavours have been made to identify realistic timing for delivery it should not be expected that all the infrastructure detailed will be delivered within the timeframes identified.

5 Delivery Mechanisms

- 5.1 The successful delivery of Swindon's strategic growth and regeneration requires the Council to lead and manage the delivery programme through strong project management and effective partnership working. It has been critical to seek to identify all necessary infrastructure requirements to deliver the vision of the Local Plan and to ensure that in the context of a much reduced financial envelope, Swindon is well positioned to bid for public funding streams and to promote private sector investment in infrastructure.
- 5.2 With this in mind, and given the current economic environment, development economics and viability are more critical than ever when considering the delivery of development and its associated infrastructure. This is reflected in the robust viability analysis and sensitivity testing which underpins our CIL charging schedule.
- 5.3 The Council's role in delivery is to: -
- identify opportunities for investment
 - broker investment
 - monitor delivery
 - unlock barriers to investment and delivery

Delivery through Partnership Working

- 5.4 The IDP and the processes and relationships behind its production represent a new strategy for coordinating public and private investment.

Private Sector

- 5.5 It is no longer enough to prudently manage and prioritise public capital investment in infrastructure; places need to use all the tools at their disposal to facilitate the private investment that will finance the majority of the Boroughs infrastructure as it grows.

Government Agencies

- 5.6 Clearly identifying our infrastructure needs and coordinating the conversations we have with a collection of government agencies is key in accessing limited public sector funding, tightly linked to the delivery of growth. This includes our relationships with the Environment Agency (EA), Highways Agency (HA), Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) the Arts Council (AC).

Adjoining Authorities

- 5.7 It will also involve close working relationships with adjoining authorities, in particular Wiltshire reflecting the duty to cooperate and the likelihood that development on the Borough boundary will utilise the Boroughs infrastructure. For strategic infrastructure, conversations must reflect our location at the edge of the Thames Valley and Oxfordshire.

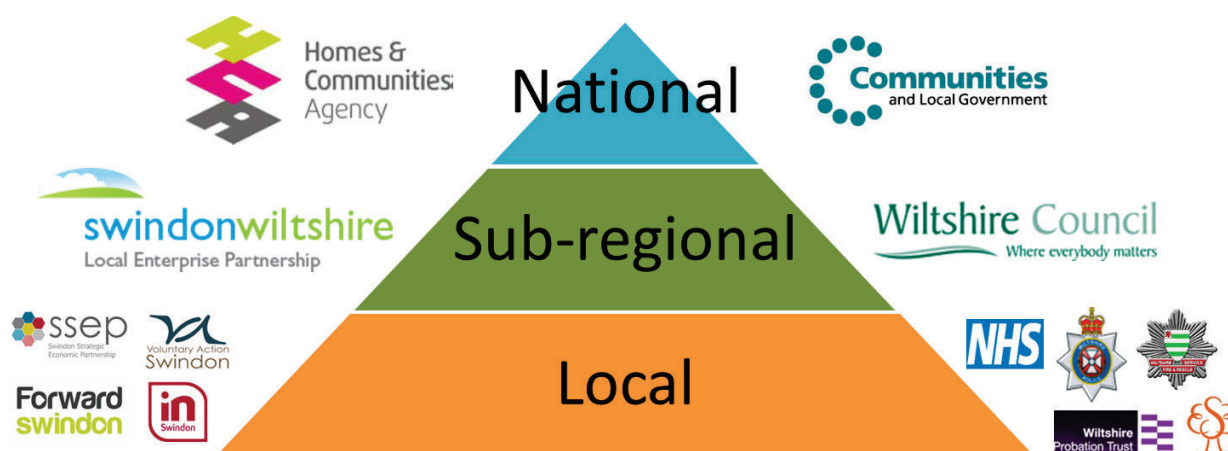


Figure 2

- 5.8 The IDP is the first step in formulating a clear joint message to government that Swindon knows what infrastructure needs funding over the plan period. It is an exercise in coordinating, collating and interpreting physical service delivery needs across the Council and our partners, allowing us to put forward strong case to government departments like CLG and HCA for funding and to inform Local Investment Planning and other bidding activity. This approach is detailed in Figure 3 below.

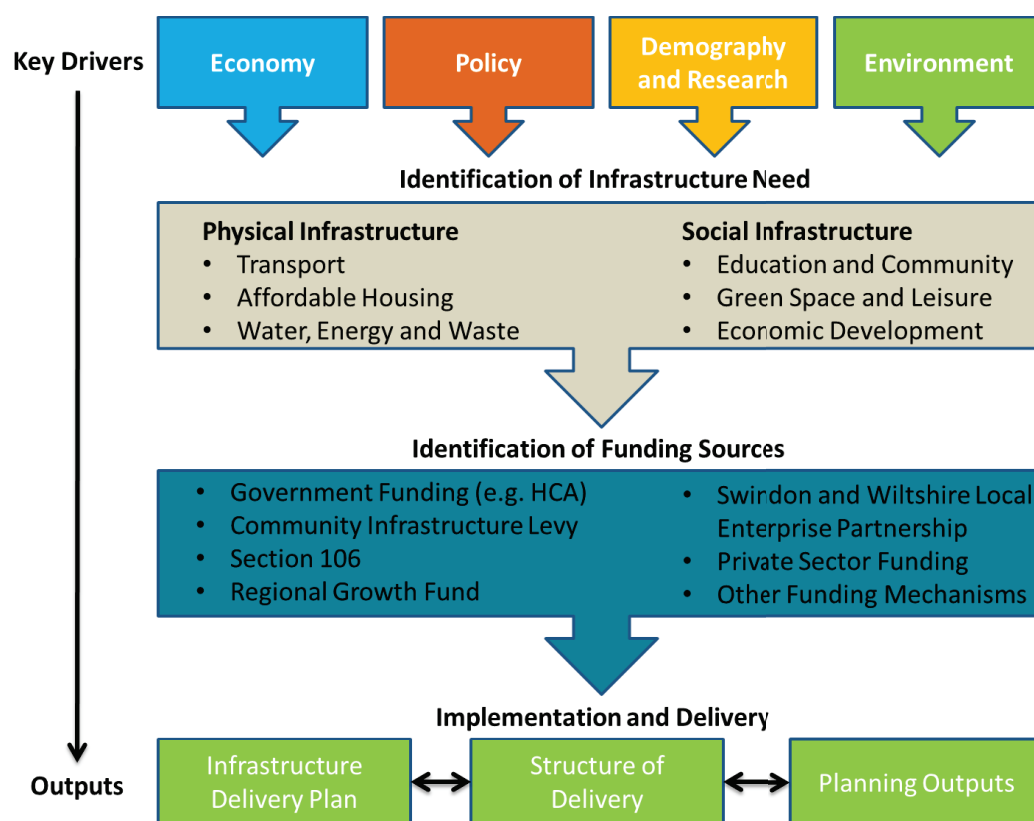


Figure 3

5.9 Local investment needs and priorities may change over time and are likely to be influenced by changes in:

- the local economic context
- the focus of economic development through Local Enterprise Partnerships
- the availability of public and private finance,
- in policy
- institutions and organisations

6 Funding

6.1 Lack of funding or an unbridgeable funding gap is a barrier to growth. Funding is critical to enable delivery of our vision for Swindon. Infrastructure planning is a continuous process and a valuable tool. Infrastructure planning is central in bidding for public funds. Partners and providers need to be involved in this process, sharing information about their own plans and future requirements. Swindon's funding requirements to support strategic growth are communicated to government through the 'Local Investment Plan'. The Swindon Local Investment Plan is a high level, strategic, 15 year plan. It is an evolving document and sets out the investment required to deliver the vision for growth and regeneration in Swindon. It is the product of a continued dialogue between Swindon Borough Council, the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), other partners and our local community.

6.2 The list of funding opportunities outlined below is not exhaustive, there will be other funding opportunities or mechanisms which may be used / utilised or which may come about during the lifetime of the Local Plan and IDP.

Private Sector

- 6.3 Much of the on-site infrastructure for the Boroughs urban extensions will be delivered through site specific Section 106 Agreements which will ensure the developments mitigate their own infrastructure need. The Council sees developer contributions as playing a vital role in securing the funding necessary to facilitate the provision of essential infrastructure to support the future growth of Swindon. It is imperative that new development should not detract from the quality of services and facilities made available to the Borough's existing population, and that additional provision is created to meet the increased demand for such services.
- 6.4 New development should also be seen to provide enhancements to the wider environment. More strategic infrastructure, which benefits more than one development can be funded from a mixture of sources including existing S106, CIL monies, grant and Council funded capital. The Council have adopted Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPGs) and Development Control Guidance Notes (DCGNs) that seek to secure contributions from developers towards infrastructure, and are involved in the Department for Community and Local Government's (DCLG's) working group to bring forward the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

Planning Obligations and the Community Infrastructure Levy

- 6.5 The draft Swindon Borough Local Plan requires development to make contributions to infrastructure, and identifies the Community Infrastructure Levy as a suitable mechanism for achieving this. Swindon Borough Council intend to adopt the Levy as a fairer, faster, more certain and transparent means of funding infrastructure than the system of planning obligations. The CIL charging schedule would apply to most new buildings and charges are based on the size and type of new development. The CIL payments will be directed to pay for the infrastructure required to serve the new development. The type of infrastructure that the contributions would fund will be decided by the Council who will publish a list of infrastructure proposals known as the Regulation 123 list. The CIL regulations have also introduced limits to the future use of S106 developer contributions from 2014.
- 6.6 The preparation of a CIL charging schedule has been informed by a Viability Assessment carried out by the Council's appointed independent consultants GVA Grimley. The level of the CIL rate must be set such that it does not put at risk the overall viability of new development within the Swindon Borough area. The Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations (2010) state that in publishing and adopting a Charging Schedule, the Council as Charging Authority must strike what appears to the charging authority an "appropriate balance" between:
- a) the desirability of funding from CIL (in whole or in part) the actual and expected estimated total cost of infrastructure required to support the development of its area, taking into account other actual and expected sources of funding; and
 - b) the potential effects (taken as a whole) of the introduction of the CIL on the economic viability of development across its area.

- 6.7 The Council has carefully assessed and weighed up an appropriate balance between the requirement to fund infrastructure through CIL and the potential effect of the implementation of the CIL on the economic viability of the development across the Borough. The CIL will encourage greater confidence and encourage inward investment to Swindon.

Future use of S106 and pooling of contributions

- 6.8 Section 106 agreements and other legal agreements (for example S278 of the Highways Act) will continue to be used by the Council in some circumstances. However the implementation of the CIL will ensure that there is no double counting or double charging for infrastructure contributions and development proposals will not be asked to pay twice. The Council has identified the specific large strategic sites as allocated in the Local Plan, where on-site requirements for infrastructure for example education, health transport and flood prevention works, mean that it would be more appropriate to use S106 obligations rather than the CIL. In such cases where a S106 planning obligation is proposed, to deliver specific infrastructure it must meet the 3 statutory tests in the CIL Regulations (Reg 122).
- 6.9 As only a maximum of five individual S106 contributions may be pooled for a particular infrastructure project, the decision to implement the CIL locally in Swindon reflects the national strategy to use the CIL as the preferred mechanism for collecting pooled financial contributions for funding infrastructure. The limit of five S106 agreements applies to types of general infrastructure contributions, such as education and transport. The Council as local planning authority will retain a database of all agreements that have been entered into since 6 April 2010 and monitor and check that there are no more than five in total to ensure that no more than five separate planning obligations have already been entered into (for a specific infrastructure project or a type of infrastructure).
- 6.10 The Council published the preliminary draft charging schedule for consultation on 30th July 2012. It is anticipated that the CIL Examination will take place later in the summer of 2012 and that the CIL levy will be implemented by September 2013.

Government Funding and New Homes Bonus

- 6.11 Council's will increasingly need to bid smarter as central monies reduce over time. The IDP will be the starting point for investment decisions in Swindon, helping to coordinate funding or bidding activity. It will also inform investment decisions around the Growing Places Fund allocated to the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership, future Get Britain Building money and other government funding initiatives.
- 6.12 The New Homes Bonus (NHB) is a means to incentivise sustainable development by rewarding the building of new homes. The un-ring fenced NHB pot, made up of a £250 million departmental budget and topped up by formula grant, will be equal to the national average for Council Tax for a property, payable for 6 years, with an additional £350 on top for affordable homes. Swindon will receive 100% of NHB

funding. The NHB is outside of the main grant allocation and its future is less certain lending it to one off initiatives and infrastructure as opposed to on-going projects.

- 6.13 Crucially, while it is intended to be a permanent fixture of the Local Government finance system, it is unclear whether the NHB initiative will extend past the Comprehensive Spending Review period to 2015. Furthermore, it remains a subject of much debate if the money is in fact additional to Council's grant settlement.
- 6.14 Other public funding sources include Big and Heritage Lottery Funding, Arts Council, Sport England funds, Sports Governing Bodies including, Lawn Tennis Association, Football Foundation. Regional Growth Fund, Get Britain Building, Regional Growth Fund, other special infrastructure revolving funds e.g. for renewables / low carbon energy, all of which will be targeted where appropriate for full, part, match funded or repayable funding for infrastructure.

Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and the Local Investment Plan (LIP)

- 6.15 The IDP is the foundation from which the Swindon Local Investment Plan (LIP) is derived. The LIP sets out strategic investment requirements to deliver growth and regeneration for Swindon over the next 15 years and seeks to prioritise essential infrastructure outlined in the IDP according to deliverability, timing and need. The LIP is produced in partnership with the local community and key partners including the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and seeks to bridge funding shortfalls.
- 6.17 Local investment plans provide a basis for local authorities to identify and prioritise the investment needs of their places and communities. They are also a means to allocate resources and manage delivery across local partnerships over a long period of time. The priorities identified by local authorities in their local investment plans shapes the HCA's business planning, delivery of our investment programmes and the enabling support to local partners.
- 6.18 The Commissioning arm of the Council is responsible for co-ordinating, monitoring, driving and reviewing the Local Investment Plan.

Local Enterprise Partnership

- 6.19 Currently the guardian of the Growing Places fund, the LEP will be the preferred government investment vehicle for sub regions who share a functional economic geography. Currently considering the first tranche of funding, the fund is expected to be a revolving infrastructure fund with a payback period of no more than 4 years.
- 6.20 Bids are assessed against criteria including, direct job creation, safeguarding of existing jobs, other investment leveraged, outputs including commercial floorspace delivered, new homes built. These are then considered against four LEP priorities
- Inward Investment
 - Stimulating Growth
 - Job Creation, Education and Skills
 - Economic Infrastructure

7 Strategic Infrastructure Requirements

- 7.1 The infrastructure required to support housing and employment growth in the Borough to 2026 is presented within this plan under the following categories:

Physical infrastructure, including:

- Transport
- Water and Sewerage
- Water Supply
- Wastewater (sewerage and sewer treatment works)
- Electricity
- Gas
- Waste
- Sustainable Energy
- Information and Communications Technology (ICT)
- Air Quality

Green Infrastructure, including:

- Open Space
- Biodiversity
- Cemetery

Social and Community Infrastructure, including:

- Education – Primary and Secondary (including Special Educational Needs)
- Education – Post 16 Further Education
- Early Years – Children’s Centres and Nurseries
- Youth Clubs
- Community Hubs including Health, Police and Libraries
- Fire and Rescue Service
- Housing – Extra Care
- Economic Development
- Leisure – Sports
- Culture – Central Area
- Theatre
- Library
- Public Art

- 7.2 The total infrastructure cost associated with the growth and regeneration of Swindon Borough is £1.38 billion inclusive of Affordable Housing. Without Affordable housing the figure is calculated at **£822 million**, of which some £140 million is anticipated from future S106 receipts associated with urban extensions, with a further £320 million being funded through the private sector.
- 7.3 This leaves a funding gap of **£345 million** where funding is yet to be identified or secured. The Council is not committed to meeting this funding shortfall in full. The allocation of monies to infrastructure will be a combination of prioritisation of infrastructure, central grant allocations, New Homes Bonus, Community Infrastructure Levy, bidding to other public sector funding streams, including those promoted by Government to support growth and the private sector where the infrastructure is

viewed as a commercial investment. More detail about the array of funding opportunities is outlined at Section 6.

- 7.4 This plan sets out the key infrastructure required to support the sustainable growth of Swindon, although it does not list every infrastructure item required for all sites that are developed during the plan period. The infrastructure items detailed in this plan are founded on an evidence base, in the form of strategies, studies and other documents produced for, or by Swindon Borough Council and external partners. All items are incorporated into the Schedule of Infrastructure Items presented within Section 6. Specific infrastructure items required to deliver the strategic allocated sites are summarised within Section 5.

PHYSICAL

Transport

The WSP Swindon Transport Strategy (2009) sets out Swindon's transport aspirations to 2026. The third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) 2011-2026, which was informed by the 'Delivering a Sustainable Transport Strategy for Swindon' (DASTS) sets out priorities for implementation.

Policy E of LTP3 is to deliver a high quality public transport network that is accessible, easy to use and supported by appropriate priority measures.

Rapid Transit

The Northern Rapid Transit link will deliver the first arm of Swindon's Rapid Transit scheme connecting Tadpole Farm and the Northern Development Area with Swindon town centre, meeting not only the aspirations of Swindon's Transport Strategy, but also assisting with Swindon's aim to become a truly sustainable town. The transport proposals for Tadpole Farm are based upon Swindon's Bus Strategy and developed further by working in close partnership with Thamesdown Transport (the local bus operator) and the Highways Agency. The rapid transit routes from Wichelstowe and the Eastern Villages development will provide fast and reliable journey times for new communities to Swindon town centre and complete the rapid transit network. The rapid transit network will complement the Park and Ride Strategy – additional sites are proposed at Wichelstowe, Eastern Villages and Commonhead.

Town Centre

The new Town Centre bus exchange and improved bus stops will support economic growth by providing a viable and attractive alternative to the private car for everyday journeys. As Swindon town centre is regenerated and more people wish to access the area, it is essential that a reliable, good quality bus service is provided to prevent deterioration of journey time reliability and the environmental impact of increased car use.

Improvements on the existing highway network, for example Great Western Way and the Magic Roundabout will optimise capacity and improve journey time reliability for all forms of transport, thereby supporting economic growth and regeneration. They will also improve road safety.

Eastern Villages

The Eastern Villages will deliver a new district centre, not just to serve the new community but also the existing residential areas at Covingham, Dorcan and Parks. The District Centre will be the heart of east Swindon and feel like a place where people want to live and visit and therefore must be accessible to all.

The main route from the proposed Eastern Villages into Swindon's Central Area will be via Oxford Road (A420) and White Hart Roundabout. The intention is to deliver an improved

junction at White Hart that establishes strong linkages between the Eastern Villages and the rest of Swindon, prioritises access into Swindon Town Centre and improves the public realm.

The timely implementation of the 'Diamond Interchange' (JMP Transport Study 2011) will help secure sustainable travel patterns in the EDA, maximise the benefits of development for existing residents in Swindon, create a new gateway into the town and complement the new District Centre.

A Green Bridge is proposed that will provide access across the A419 – part of the Strategic Road network and a significant physical barrier – for public transport, walking and cycling. It will deliver the early phase of the eastern rapid transit link, linking new and existing communities and prioritising access into Swindon town centre.

The Commonhead Link (and associated Junction 15 improvements) will provide direct access to the Strategic Road Network (A419 and M4). Junction improvements will also be required on the A420.

Other Major Transport Schemes

From Swindon's first Local Transport Plan and into LTP2 the Council pursued the idea of a Major Scheme bid around increasing highway capacity on the Purton Road to Iffley Junction (Great Western Way) corridor in the north and north west of Swindon. Substantial S106 developer contributions were secured from the Northern Sector urban extension in order to mitigate the traffic impacts of the development. The scheme that was identified provided increased capacity from Thamesdown Drive through to Great Western Way either through a new road on one of a number of alignments or by upgrading the existing link provided by Mead Way. To reflect changes in the transport policy background during LTP2 the potential Major Scheme bid was re-focussed as the "North Swindon Transport Strategy" which combined a public transport priority corridor between the Northern Sector and the town centre with measures to address the traffic issues on the Purton Road to Iffley Junction corridor.

The delivery of the Purton Road to Iffley Junction relief road remains a long-term ambition of the Council which is likely to extend beyond the time horizon of the Swindon Local Plan 2026. It is, however, important that development proposals do not prevent its construction and that the route is safeguarded. At present there is not sufficient funding to deliver the relief road which could cost in the region of £100m to deliver.

Water and Sewerage

Thames Water is the UK's largest water and wastewater services company. They serve over 13.5 million customers in London and the Thames Valley area, supplying an average of 2,600 million litres of drinking water and treating around 2,800 million litres of sewage every day.

Thames Water have strategic management plans for managing Water Supply and Waste infrastructure, including the Swindon Water Cycle Strategy (2007), their 25 year plan for 2010 to 2035 – 'Taking Care of Water' (2009), and a five year funding plan 'Our Plans for

2010-15' (2010), the appropriate details of which are outlined in more detail below under their separate headings.

Thames Water are funded in 5 year planning periods. The money they have available to spend on infrastructure is determined by OFWAT in consultation with government.

Once funding has been obtained for new or upgraded infrastructure, there can be a significant lead in time for planning and construction before the infrastructure can be used. Therefore Thames Water requires detailed information on likely housing developments well in advance to plan and provide the infrastructure required to meet those levels of growth.

Where the infrastructure is not available Thames Water may require an 18-month to three-year lead in time for provision of extra capacity to drain new development sites. If any large engineering works are needed to upgrade infrastructure the lead in time could be up to five years. Implementing new technologies and the construction of new treatment works could take up to ten years.

Regarding the funding of water and sewerage infrastructure, it is essential to ensure that such infrastructure is in place to avoid unacceptable impacts on the environment such as sewage flooding of residential and commercial property, pollution of land and watercourses plus water shortages with associated low pressure water supply problems.

Water and sewerage undertakers have limited powers under the Water Industry Act to prevent connection ahead of infrastructure upgrades and therefore rely heavily on the planning system to ensure infrastructure is provided ahead of development either through phasing or the use of Grampian style conditions.

It is essential that developers demonstrate that adequate capacity exists both on and off the site to serve the development and that it would not lead to problems for existing users. In some circumstances this may make it necessary for developers to carry out appropriate studies to ascertain whether the proposed development will lead to overloading of existing water & sewerage infrastructure. Where there is a capacity problem and no improvements are programmed by the water company, then the developer needs to contact the water authority to agree what improvements are required and how they will be funded prior to any occupation of the development.

It is therefore essential that the Local Plan makes reference to the provision of adequate water and sewerage infrastructure to service development to avoid unacceptable impacts on the environment (such as sewage flooding of residential and commercial property, pollution of land and watercourses plus water shortages with associated low pressure water supply problems). Thames Water has submitted representations to this effect to the Local Plan.

Water Supply

The preparation and approval of a Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) is now a statutory requirement for all water companies, it sets out how the water company plans to ensure that there will be sufficient water available to meet our customers' needs over the next 25 years, taking into account factors such as climate change and population growth. It

considers ways to reduce the demand for water and then sets out how they plan to provide any shortfall using additional water resource schemes.

Thames Water's WRMP, approved by the Secretary of State, was issued in 2011, named Taking Care of Water: The Next 25 years: Our Plan for a Sustainable Future gives details of how water supply will be maintained over the next 25 years. In brief it includes a programme of extensive and enhanced management aimed at reducing leakage, improving water efficiency and increasing metering. In addition a plan to develop new resource throughout the Thames Water region including proposals for an additional reservoir and a desalinisation plant in East London. Further details can be found at:

<http://www.thameswater.co.uk/cps/rde/xchg/corp/hs.xsl/5372.htm>

Within Thames Water's 5 year Plan: 'Our plans for 2010 – 2015' it states that the works will include providing an extra 21 million litres per day from new underground sources of water in the Swindon and Oxfordshire areas.

Wastewater (sewerage and sewer treatment works)

The Swindon Water Cycle Strategy (2007) produced by Halcrow in partnership with the Environment Agency, Thames Water, Wiltshire County Council, South West Regional Assembly, Thames Water Utilities Limited and Bureau Veritas identified headroom at the current Sewage Treatment Works at Rodbourne until 2016. It also mentions that further investigations were being undertaken by Thames Water, at that time, into the capacity of Swindon's waste water network.

Correspondence received from Thames Water on the 2nd March 2012, in response to consultation response on the draft workings of the IDP, state that the intention of Thames Water is to now provide the necessary waste water treatment infrastructure capacity to support forecast growth to 2026 by upgrading Swindon (Rodbourne) Sewage Treatment Works (STW).

The Swindon STW project is currently at the tendering stage. It is forecast that work will begin sometime in 2013 with construction currently anticipated to be complete by 2015. The reference solution involves upgrading the existing Swindon STW to accommodate forecast growth up to 2026 by building a new Inlet Works, new Storm Water management and site power upgrade.

The cumulative effect of the development provided for in the LDF will necessitate the need for some significant infrastructure upgrades to the sewer network to convey sewage to Swindon STW. The exact size and nature of the upgrades cannot be fully determined until the development sites are determined.

Electricity

Southern Electric Power Distribution (SEPD) is responsible for maintaining the networks to deliver electricity supplies to 2.8 million customers across Central Southern England, a region, which includes Swindon.

The first priority of SEPD is to provide a safe and reliable supply of electricity to domestic, commercial and industrial customers with the objective of matching the network infrastructure development to the growth in demand for electricity.

To ensure that the distribution system has adequate capacity to meet demand, voltage and current flows are regularly monitored and adequacy of the network is checked. Capacity is benchmarked to estimated loads.

In terms of future requirements within Swindon these are outlined within the Scottish and Southern Electric Power Distribution PLC's Electricity Distribution System – May 2011. The main purpose of the LTDS is to provide sufficient information which will assist existing and prospective new users who contemplate entering into distribution arrangements to identify and evaluate opportunities.

At this time, following the reinforcement of the Swindon-Cirencester 132KV and 33KV networks plus the addition of a Transformer on the 33KV network, the existing network and infrastructure in Swindon is sufficient to accommodate the anticipated electrical demand arising from future development and growth for the Local Plan 2026 period. This takes into consideration the normal extensions and alterations to the existing network to provide supplies.

In order to allow distribution of electricity to the 7500 homes allocated to the Eastern Villages expansion area a suitable land allocation of 30m x 30m will be required in a central location for the siting of a Primary Substation for the 33-11KV network.

The cost of any required electrical infrastructure would be dependent upon the additional loading and layout of the development, however for connections this would be provided by the developer.

Should existing infrastructure be required to support the increased demands from new development the costs of any necessary upstream reinforcement required would typically be apportioned between the Developer and DNO (Distribution Network Operator) in accordance with the current statement of charging methodology agreed with the industry regulator (OFGEM).

Where overhead lines cross development sites, these will, with the exception of 400KV Tower lines, normally be owned and operated by Southern Electric Power Distribution. In order to minimise costs existing overhead lines can remain in place where appropriate. Uses such as open space, parking, garages or public highways are generally permitted in close proximity to the overhead lines.

Where this is not practicable or where developers choose to layout their proposals otherwise, then agreement will be needed as to how these will be dealt with, including agreeing costs and identifying suitable alternative routing for the circuits. The existing customer base should not be burdened by any cost arising from new development proposals. To ensure certainty of delivery of a development site, any anticipated relocation of existing overhead lines should be formally agreed with Southern Electric Power Distribution prior to a submission of a planning application.

The maximum timescales for any improvements will not normally exceed two years from the acceptance of a firm quotation and should not therefore impede upon the delivery of housing and growth.

Gas

Wales and West Utilities (WWU) distribute gas to around 2.5 million homes in Wales and the South West of England. They own and manage a gas network of over 35,000km of pipework – an area covering one sixth of the UK.

Annually, WWU publish their Long Term Development Statement, which provides an indication of the system usage of their pipeline system and likely developments. Companies that are contemplating connecting to our system or entering into transportation arrangements can use the statement to help identify and evaluate opportunities.

The Statement contains information on actual volumes, the process for planning the development of the system, including demand and supply forecasts, system reinforcement projects and associated investment.

Operating under the Gas Act 1986 (as amended 1995), WWU have an obligation to develop and maintain an efficient and economical pipeline system and, subject to that, to comply with any reasonable request to connect premises, provided that it is economic to do so. In many instances, specific system reinforcement may be required to maintain system pressures for the winter period after connecting a new supply or demand.

Dependent on scale, reinforcement projects may have significant planning, resource and construction lead-times and that as much notice as possible should be given. In particular, they will typically require two to four years' notice of any project requiring the construction of high pressure pipelines or plant, although in certain circumstances, project lead-times may exceed this period.

It is unusual for there to be significant reinforcement needed for new gas connections, however where reinforcement is needed these costs will be charged to the developer. Other capital expenditure on gas infrastructure is funded by the Distribution Operator and as such comes from their consumers.

If reinforcement of WWU's network is required to facilitate additional demand it is put through an economic test to determine the level of customer contribution that is required. This eco-test may also determine if it is in WWU's interest to fund the reinforcement entirely. This is ascertained on a case-by-case basis once potential demand has been identified or a specific request received. Where new infrastructure into a new development is required there are a number of independent companies who can connect to WWU mains and supply the site if a request to do so is received. These connections and infrastructure will then be adopted by WWU as network owners as per the conditions of our license.

As far as long-term network planning is concerned, (which is more appropriate to the LDP), WWU will expand or grow large areas of the network to ensure minimum capacity in anticipation of developments which are normally phased over many years and have already been approved and committed to by the local authority. On this basis WWU would see this

need for large-scale network expansion as a condition set out in our license and so it would be funded by us as part of our investment procedure.

WWU will always endeavour to meet the timelines set by the customer and will plan accordingly to ensure that by the time gas is required the network will be able to maintain minimum pressures for its existing customers as well as the new ones. Our ability to do this is substantially enhanced by the provision of accurate information regarding the size, usage and phasing details of any local authority works.

Waste

Managing waste will become more of a challenge as the population grows along with an increase in the use of convenience goods, which are often 'disposable' and require more packaging. The authority is also obliged to meet targets to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.

Swindon Borough Council published the Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Swindon 2006 to 2020 in 2006. Municipal waste includes household waste, household recyclable waste, waste from Council parks and gardens and commercial waste collected by the Council. The strategy details the waste management strategy in detail to 2011 and briefly to 2020. The strategy is due for an update in order to provide further detail up to and beyond 2020.

Within this strategy, there is acknowledgement that an additional Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) will be needed to support the growth of Swindon, which could be provided to the eastern side of Swindon. The existing HWRC is operating at 95% capacity which only leaves capacity for a 5% increase in the number of households. The proposed growth within Swindon Borough to 2026 would increase the number of households by approximately 20%, which would generate the requirement for the additional HWRC. The estimated cost of providing an additional HWRC is approximately £1.5 million, including the land purchase cost.

The existing HWRC is used by residents from Swindon and approximately 5% of waste is received from surrounding settlements within Wiltshire including Royal Wotton Bassett and Purton. The level of waste received from non-Swindon residents could increase due to external factors. For example, Wiltshire Council has recently moved from a weekly to fortnightly kerbside waste collection service, which could potentially increase the waste received at Swindon's HWRC.

Measures to increase the capacity at the existing HWRC are currently in progress. For example, enforcing against traders and commercial waste tipping at the Swindon HWRC could release an additional 10% capacity. This could accommodate the short-term demand but would not negate the need for an additional HWRC within the Local Plan plan period.

Sustainable Energy

Businesses, organisations and residents of Swindon all face the prospect of rising energy costs, mandatory targets to reduce CO₂ emissions and all will be affected by wider uncertainty over energy security issues. Crucially, energy is a mainstay of economic growth

and securing a sustainable supply of affordable, low carbon energy is therefore crucial to Swindon's economic future.

On 8th June 2011, Swindon Borough Cabinet members adopted the Swindon Sustainable Energy Framework as a local response to energy issues.

The purpose of this Delivery Plan is to provide the next, more practical, level of detail on the way forward through the proactive co-ordination and linking of key projects related to energy and CO₂ reduction for maximum business and community benefit.

This Delivery Plan has been prepared in close co-operation with key businesses and stakeholders in Swindon including Forward Swindon, BMW Group, Honda UK, Honda Trading, Kilbride, Network Rail and the Great Western Hospital. The success of the plan will depend on on-going cooperation with these and other stakeholders as the project progresses. In a fast moving market place, important business decisions need to be taken on appropriate renewable energy technologies to employ. By working together, these decisions can be made in a more informed way with greater impact, and utilising the full benefit of shared expertise of the partners involved to bring forward model renewable energy projects in Swindon.

Delivering Energy Infrastructure

The benefits of a move to more sustainable forms of energy are clear. However, delivering new renewable energy infrastructure will be a major challenge. The Council has a key facilitation role to play here and the Delivery Plan focuses on the following areas of activity:

Ensuring the regulatory regime (planning etc.) is proactive, whilst providing a robust approach to assessing and addressing local impacts.

Exemplar energy management of Council assets.

Facilitating early community involvement and support for community driven energy schemes.

Promoting the energy hierarchy to ensure a focus is maintained on energy efficiency measures before renewable energy projects are considered.

Facilitating an energy partnership to bring forward strategic renewable energy projects and share expertise among businesses and communities.

Developing a plan for a district energy network which links strategic renewable projects through detailed feasibility studies of specific areas in Swindon and exploring a business model which maximises local benefits.

Swindon District Energy Network – a key opportunity

The Council has brought together an informal Energy Partnership, involving large local energy users and developers, to pursue this opportunity. There are four strands to the work on the district energy project. Aligning strategic projects to integrate with a district heating system, detailed feasibility of a short term start-up nodes, defining a business model which

most benefits communities and businesses in Swindon, and testing the proposal through informally engaging with the market.

Aligning strategic projects

The focus of the Energy Partnership is on ensuring strategic energy projects move forward in a co-ordinated way – with the aim of linking them up to form a district energy system which utilises excess production of heat and possibly electricity. Naturally, such projects will be subject to the usual planning and permitting process which involve a rigorous assessment of impacts.

Acting as facilitator of the Energy Partnership, the Council can ensure a co-ordinated approach to bringing forward renewable energy schemes, influence them for maximum community benefit, highlighting opportunities to match supply and demand and benefit from the combined expertise and experience of sharing in the Energy Partnership.

Detailed feasibility

The first step to realising a linked up strategic district heating network is the identification and delivery of small scale projects which provide the best opportunities to grow the network. Through feasibility work already undertaken for the Local Plan, a number of these opportunities have been identified and are as follows:

North Star (potential to start a small district energy network)

Shaw Farm (potential to develop renewable energy generation opportunities)

Wichelstowe (potential to integrate a district energy network into new development)

South Marston industrial area (potential to develop a small district heating network)

The strategic route along the railway corridor will also need to be assessed in detail with Network Rail.

Business modelling

Moving the district energy project forward will involve defining the most appropriate business model and funding arrangement for Swindon. This is a complex area and there are a number of basic business models which can be used. Such business models are frequently referred to as Energy Service Companies or ESCos. There is no single, clear definition of an ESCo. However, it generally refers to a business providing a broad range of energy and carbon management solutions, including the design and implementation of energy-saving projects, energy conservation, power generation and energy supply.

“Soft” market testing

Once feasibility work and business modelling has taken place, these will need to be tested to determine if they are correct and if there is an appetite in the market to bid for the project as it has been defined. The market for energy services is evolving rapidly and it is proposed that soft market testing is carried out which contains details of the project, including key documents such as the technical feasibility studies.

Funding

As much of the infrastructure associated with sustainable energy infrastructure can be linked to revenue generation, it is envisaged that private investment will fund the majority of the project works, however feasibility studies identify areas of the network as unviable, opportunities for top up funding through CIL or Government grants/loans will be investigated.

Information and Communications Infrastructure (ICI)

Superfast Broadband

The National Planning Policy Framework highlights that advanced, high quality communications infrastructure is essential for sustainable economic growth. The development of high speed broadband technology and other communications networks also plays a vital role in enhancing the provision of local community facilities and services.

As outlined within the Wiltshire, Swindon and South Gloucestershire Councils' Superfast Broadband State Aid Consultation (2012) Broadband is often described as the fourth utility, after gas, electricity and water. The internet increasingly impacts every aspect of our lives, and access to superfast broadband speeds is becoming more important and for some critical.

Swindon is well served in terms of Broadband accessibility however work is currently underway by numerous service providers to improve the network and introduce Superfast Broadband to the Town in order to cope with future demand.

BT Openreach, look after the UK's communications network. On behalf of the communications providers (CPs), who supply phone, broadband and even TV services to homes and businesses.

As of 2012 Openreach are beginning the upgrading the existing network, by laying fibre optic cables over the current copper lines. £2.5 billion has been committed nationwide by BT Group to make superfast fibre broadband available to two-thirds of the homes in Britain by 2014.

Fibre can carry massive amounts of information over much longer distances than copper and faster too. In speed terms 100Mbit/s and uploads of up to 30Mbit/s are currently available with up to 300Mbit/s downloads becoming available during 2012. As it is anticipated that people will soon be demanding even faster speeds a 1Gbit/s fibre service is already being tested.

In Swindon three exchanges, Blunsdon, Toothill and Swindon Town Centre are currently earmarked for upgrading to be able to offer superfast broadband and the homes and businesses served by them will soon be able to benefit from the services. Other exchanges will come forward in the near future although these are likely to serve highly populated urban areas in the first instance due to commercial viability reasons.

Virgin Media also provide fibre broadband within Swindon, however in terms of future roll outs and expansion of their network no information has been forthcoming at the time

writing. It is likely that any expansion of their fibre infrastructure would be provided by private investment.

Wireless Broadband Services

UKBroadband are currently working in partnership with Swindon Borough Council to provide a wireless Long Term Evolution (LTE) Broadband service throughout the town. Initially it will be to provide services to the Council's communications network, however it is anticipated that in the future residential households and businesses will be able to subscribe to the service, bringing in a revenue to the Council.

The benefits of an LTE system are that it is relatively easy to upgrade the infrastructure to expand the service. Subject to suitable sites and contracts it will be possible to rollout superfast broadband services to Swindon's future growth areas with minimal disruption and relatively short timescales.

Remaining Areas

In addition to the market led Broadband providers Wiltshire, Swindon Borough and South Gloucestershire Councils are working together on a project to improve access to broadband services in areas which would otherwise miss out.

The councils are securing £23m of gap funding for the project. Gap funding is where a subsidy is provided by the councils alongside the private sector's investment to make the build and operation of the broadband network financially viable. . For Swindon the pot that will be generated is about £960,000 of public grants and private funding.

The targets for coverage are for all premises to be able to access a standard (2Mbps) service by 2015 and within the same timescales at least 90% of all premises being able to access superfast broadband (24Mbps). It is intended this will go a long way towards eliminating the 'digital divide' across communities.

The main objectives of the project are:

- To ensure that the best possible solution, i.e. broadband performance and coverage across our area can be achieved within the available funding
- To ensure that the project only invests in areas where there is a market failure to provide standard and superfast broadband
- To achieve equity of the services provided to both rural and urban customers in terms of cost, retail choice and performance.

As can be seen from above due to there being a healthy revenue available from Broadband in most cases, such infrastructure is generally self-funding and will be supplied as demand dictates.

Air Quality Management Area's and Action Plans

The Local Air Quality Management process as set out in part IV of the Environment Act (1995) places an obligation on all Local authorities to regularly review and assess air quality in their areas and to determine whether or not air quality objectives are likely to be achieved. Where breaches of the acceptable limits for air pollution are considered likely, the Local Authority must then declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and prepare an Air Quality action Plan (AQAP) setting out the measures it intends to put in place in pursuit of the objectives.

Pollutant	Air Quality Objective		Date to be achieved by
	Concentration	Measured as	
Benzene	16.25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Running annual mean	31.12.2003
	5.00 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Running annual mean	31.12.2010
1,3-Butadiene	2.25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Running annual mean	31.12.2003
Carbon monoxide	10.0 mg/m^3	Running 8-hour mean	31.12.2003
Lead	0.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Annual mean	31.12.2004
	0.25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Annual mean	31.12.2008
Nitrogen dioxide	200 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ not to be exceeded more than 18 times a year	1-hour mean	31.12.2005
	40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Annual mean	31.12.2005
Particles (gravimetric) (PM_{10})	50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year	24-hour mean	31.12.2004
	40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Annual mean	31.12.2004
Sulphur dioxide	350 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, not to be exceeded more than 24 times a year	1-hour mean	31.12.2004
	125 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, not to be exceeded more than 3 times a year	24-hour mean	31.12.2004
	266 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year	15-minute mean	31.12.2005

The air quality objectives applicable to LAQM in England are set out in the Air Quality (England) Regulations 2000 (SI 928), The Air Quality (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2002 (SI 3043). The table below illustrates the objectives in units of micrograms per cubic metre $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (milligrams per cubic metre, mg/m^3 for carbon monoxide) along with the permitted number of allowed breaches of the acceptable limits for each pollutant per year set out, where applicable.

Table: Air Quality Objectives included in Regulations for the purpose of LAQM in England

As increased pollution levels can be attributed to development and urbanisation, the financial burden of providing such zones and action areas can be reasonably mitigated and secured through developer contributions and/or planning conditions. This is particularly appropriate in already densely populated and developed areas where there is a higher risk that further development may tip the balance unacceptable air quality levels, which may require remedying.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Swindon Borough published a Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy for consultation in 2009 with a revised draft for consultation in March 2011. Prepared by the Great Western Community Forest team the strategy seeks to support and connect existing open spaces along Swindon's green corridors and highlights the way in which organisations, communities and partnerships can work to deliver the GI network and sets out the priorities for the planning, development and investment of GI to 2026. The key aims and objectives of the Strategy include ensuring that GI plays a central role in the sustainable and economic growth of Swindon.

GI consists of the strategic networks of accessible, multifunctional sites both within the town and reaching into the countryside surrounding the town and villages. GI includes a wide range of open spaces including parks, woodland, informal open spaces, nature reserves and historic sites. It also includes green corridors that serve important linkages, through the Borough and beyond, such as river corridors and floodplains, wildlife corridors and green ways.

Woodland

Trees and woodlands have a particularly important role to play as they create a strong landscape framework for GI networks, provide a range of functions and benefits to wildlife and provide wood products, biomass and climate control. Woodland generally comprises of broadleaf tree species although there is some commercial growing of poplar and cricket bat willow.

Tree cover is gradually increasing across the Borough however total coverage still remains relatively low compared with the national average as woodland across the Borough of Swindon covers approximately 4% of the land area, compared with 7% for neighbouring Wiltshire and 7.7% nationally. The Great Western Community Forest initiative seeks to provide opportunities for local communities to be involved in the planning, creation, care and enjoyment of woodlands and open spaces across Swindon and into the wider countryside.

The vision for landscape change captured within the Great Western Community Forest Plan, is for rich mosaic of habitats set within a strong framework of woodland planting. The target of 30% woodland cover across the extent of the GWCF territory is consistent with, and provides a basis for, a landscape scale approach to nature conservation.

To maximise the benefits from woodland, the appropriate species should be planted at appropriate densities and be subject to a good management plan. Adequate vehicle access is also important to ensure that wood can be transported from the woodland.

Open Space

Swindon is home to a wealth of open spaces and community consultation has highlighted the importance of such spaces to the Borough's residents. There is relatively good access to open spaces, however quality and quantity varies throughout the Borough. Furthermore, the connection between open spaces is a particular issue which will be addressed through the delivery of the GI strategy.

For the purposes of the Local Plan, open space is separated into 4 distinct categories:

General Recreation

These are areas of public open space, which have a significant recreational function, but do not fall into the below categories, for example, parks and gardens, amenity areas and accessible wildlife areas.

Children and Teenager's Play Areas

All equipped children's play areas, skateboard parks, outdoor basketballs goals and similar facilities. There is a lack of play areas in the Borough and quality does vary.

Outdoor Sports Facilities (including playing pitches)

These are outdoor sports facilities whether naturally or artificially surfaced, for example, playing pitches, bowling greens and tennis courts.

Allotments

The demand for allotments in Swindon is high where a majority of sites are heavily oversubscribed with a several year waiting list. The Council therefore need to plan for allotments to cater for the existing community and the new communities within planned expansion areas.

The Council will consider the future requirement for smaller allotment sites, comprising of approximately 50 plots, with good vehicular access that are located preferably on the edge of recreational open space within the urban area.

Growing spaces and communal kitchen gardens have also become popular as an alternative to providing allotment space, particularly where there is limited land available, for example, in the urban area, to meet the needs of future plot holders and local residents;

Open Space Requirements

New development will be required to provide open space to meet the needs of new residents; the provisions of which are already set out as part of the Proposed Development Areas identified in the Revised Proposed Submission Draft of the Local Plan. There are also existing open spaces that could benefit from significant investment to improve the quality of open space provision throughout the Borough. There are two projects that will deliver significant improvements to the following parks in Swindon:

Queen's Park (Town Centre)

Queen's Park is a historical garden and registered as a Grade II site on the 'Register of Parks and Gardens'. Queen's Park is an important open space within the town centre and various works are required to improve the facility.

These works include:

Improvements to the entrances

Improvements to the landscaping throughout the park

Works to the Rose Garden and creation of children's play garden

Works to the Glass House and surrounding area

Reduce the lake levels and strengthen/improve lake sides

Creation of tea rooms

Installation of various street furniture throughout the park

The total cost of the works are approximately £1.5 million, however there is potential to bid for lottery funding.

Coate Water Country Park

A number of improvements are required to improve Coate Water Country Park. These include works to the nature reserve, the SSSI, improvements to the visitor centre/parking facilities and the provision of a new building to provide classrooms and changing rooms for the Sailing Trust. The cost of this project is estimated at around £1 million.

Biodiversity

Biodiversity includes habitat creation and the management and maintenance of habitats. Biodiversity can also present an income opportunity for the Council from hay production and renting out land for grazing, which could be successfully incorporated into new developments. However, the land must be of a sufficient size and have adequate vehicle access.

Cemetery

Swindon's only fully operating municipal cemetery is Kingsdown Cemetery, which is on the same site as the crematorium. The other two Council managed cemeteries are the Radnor Street cemetery, which has no availability and Whitworth Road cemetery, which has very few plots remaining for purchase.

The ratio of cremations to burials in Swindon Borough is as follows:

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Cremation	91%	92%	91%	91%	92%	92%	91%
Burial	9%	8%	9%	9%	8%	8%	9%

The above figures do not take into account churchyards or Town / Parish Council facilities so once these reach their capacities, it is expected that the proportion of burials will increase to 30%, in line with the national average. This will further increase the demand for burial plots within Council managed cemeteries.

The Kingsdown Cemetery will reach capacity within the next 10 years or so and it is therefore crucial that the Council plan for a new 6 to 7 hectare site to accommodate the needs for the next 20 to 25 years.

Identifying the site for the new cemetery would involve assessing the geology and hydrology to ensure the ground is suitable as well as ensuring that surrounding uses are compatible. The cost of providing a new cemetery on a new site is estimated at around £2 million, but this does not include the cost of purchasing the land.

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Education – Primary and Secondary

Academies

The Academies Act 2010 introduced to ability for all schools to apply for Academy status to give them the freedoms and flexibilities they need to continue to drive up standards. Academies are independent state funded schools, free from Local Authority control. Academies are funded directly from the Department of Education (DfE) and have the opportunity to bid separately for capital funding for maintenance or expansion projects. The first port of call for expansion or new provision is the Local Authorities Basic Need Allocation for school places.

Free Schools

Free Schools are all-ability state-funded schools, independent of the Local Authority set up in response to what local people say they want and need in order to improve education for children in their community.

Local Authorities are not able to open or run an Academy or Free School. There is potential in Swindon for Free Schools to provide places with funding available directly from central government. Visibility of Free School bids is limited.

Primary and Secondary Provision

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure that sufficient school places are available within their area for every child of school age whose parents wish them to have one, to promote high educational standards, to ensure fair access to educational opportunity, and to help fulfill every child's educational potential. It must also ensure there are sufficient schools in their area and promote diversity and parental choice.

North Swindon

There are already significant pressures for primary and secondary school places in north Swindon. Completion of developments at Oakhurst, Redhouse and Haydon End and growth at Tadpole Farm will add to existing pressure in the north.

(a) Primary

Temporary places are provided at existing schools to manage primary school pressures. Options include Bridlewood, Orchid Vale, Red Oaks, Moredon, Haydon Wick, Haydonleigh, Rodbourne Cheney and Greenmeadow. A new primary school will be provided at Tadpole Farm and if a second primary school and permanent expansion of Haydonleigh Primary School are needed to manage existing pressure elsewhere in north Swindon.

(b) Secondary

It is recommended that secondary school places be met by utilising surplus places and transportation to Swindon Academy and Highworth Warneford and by the provision of an additional 8FE of secondary school places.

Central and South Swindon

(a) Primary

There is already pressure on primary school places in Old Town and Swindon town centre, which will transfer to secondary school pressures in due course. Development at Wichelstowe will also increase demand for places and pressure in this area.

East Wichel primary school is opened in September 2011 and a permanent school is proposed to open at Croft in September 2012. A further 2 primary schools will be provided at Wichelstowe. Establishing at least one new school and expanding an existing primary school in the Central South area will meet the remaining pressure. Possible options for new primary school(s) include, Broad Green, County Road and Euclid Street.

(b) Secondary

Expansion at The Ridgeway and a new secondary school in central or south Swindon are required to manage secondary school pressure and retain surplus and flexibility in the secondary school network. Options for delivering a new secondary school include North Star and Wichelstowe. Other secondary school sites have been assessed, but are not recommended for consideration, these include Mannington (flood risk), Civic Campus (site availability and size) and North Wroughton (impact on Wroughton and proximity to demand).

If establishing a new secondary school in central Swindon is not feasible then an alternative solution to meet secondary school pressures through expansion and transportation does exist. This could include numerous construction projects for expansion of Ridgeway, Churchfields, St, Joseph's, Dorcan and possibly Greendown. This would, however, remove almost all of the surplus capacity from the network in combination with the recommendations for north Swindon. This would impact on parental choice and expose the Council to a high degree of risk if school place pressures arise in the future that have not been foreseen, schools convert to Academy status or patterns of parental choice change, particularly in west Swindon.

East Swindon

There are surplus places in east Swindon at present. However, the potential development east of Swindon and the proposed development at Commonhead will be far in excess of surplus places available.

(a) Primary

To meet primary school place needs, a new primary school will need to be established at Commonhead. It is recommended that South Marston primary school is extended and 4 new primary schools created east of Swindon. The new primary schools will be capable of expansion to accommodate a temporary peak in pupil numbers.

(b) Secondary

A new secondary school on-site, as part of a learning campus, is recommended as a pre-requisite to development east of Swindon. However surplus places and expansion at Dorcan is proposed to manage pressure in the short term and assist with the peak in the longer term.

Education – Post 16 Further Education
--

A bid has been submitted for the establishment of a University Technical College in Swindon to cater for 800 14-19 year olds with a specialism for engineering.

Although there is an overall surplus of places at post 16, there is a strong demand for post-16 education provision in Swindon and strong interest in the north and west of the borough in the possible provision of a local solution to this demand.

Early Years – Children’s Centres and Nurseries

3 & 4 Year Old Early Education Places

The Childcare Act 2006 requires local authorities to secure the provision of fifteen hours per week of free early education places for all three and four year olds living in the area. Places may be provided by private, voluntary and maintained sectors by pre-schools, nurseries, schools and accredited child-minders.

Although across Swindon as a whole there are sufficient places, in North Swindon (Abbey Meads and Greenmeadow Children’s Centre areas), there is a growing and significant shortage of places. Based on current supply, by summer 2014 there is forecast to be 959 children for 619 places.

Extension of free nursery education for two year olds

On 29th November 2011 the Chancellor announced the extension of provision of free early year’s education entitlement to a much greater proportion of disadvantaged 2 year olds and to extend entitlement from 10 hours per week to 15 hours per week. New statutory guidance is to be introduced in September 2012 arising from consultation feedback.

Community Hubs Including Community Centres, Libraries, Health and Police

Community Centres

New community centres will be built around the principle of flexible, multi-use space which can accommodate a wide range of users and enable the community to take responsibility for management. This ensures the sustainability of the centres in the longer term. To this end they will often be the key to colocation of services and facilities.

Libraries

Swindon has the fourth highest number of libraries for its population with 11,347 residents per library. Swindon Borough Council has produced the 'Library Strategy 2011: Access for All' to address a number of challenges and aims to improve Swindon's library service by putting the Community at the heart of the service. In recent years, Swindon Borough has had considerable success in bucking the national trend by increasing library usage.

Currently, the library service is provided by Swindon Borough Council and other partner organisations. Service provision can be improved through strengthening these partnerships and aligning the library service with other strategies in Swindon to reduce costs. Future libraries will be developed as community hubs, delivering a wide range of council and partner services (such as schools, health, leisure and cultural facilities and community centres) and working with local communities to develop a strong community focus.

Future library service will have a tiered structure, as follows:

Central Library – Full range of services will continue to be provided within the current level of opening hours. The number of visits has increased 53% between 2007 and 2010, which has led to a 75% increase in the number of issues during the same period. The Central Library will incorporate a centralised enquiry service for all of Swindon and deliver other Council services to provide information, for example, the Visitor Information Centre.

Area Libraries at Highworth, North Swindon, West Swindon, Moredon, Park, Wroughton and Upper Stratton – Full range of book lending stock will continue to be provided plus sound and vision stock. Opening hours will be extended to 6 or 7 full days a week within the three larger libraries at Highworth and North and West Swindon. Capital investment is required for building work and updated self-service terminals. Community groups could enable extended opening hours through joint working. The four smaller libraries at Moredon, Upper Stratton, Park and Wroughton will be open 6 days a week but not in the evening if not supported and used by the community. Library opening hours could be extended if other partners use the buildings, enabling the library to operate at the same time.

Neighbourhood Libraries at Pinehurst, Penhill, Walcot, Liden, Covingham, Even Swindon and Old Town – Each Neighbourhood Library provides a defined range of book lending stock (not including sound and vision) and will remain open with a core of staffed hours each week. Extra hours will be provided by partnership working and co-location of services.

Mobile Libraries, Library Access Points and Library Service to older people's homes – The number of people using mobile libraries is decreasing and the Council would like to offer the service in a more effective way. This involves working towards the possibility of introducing library access points in community locations where there is a known demand for a library service. This would also improve the number of hours the book stock can be used by library users and ensures everyone in the community has access to the library service for longer hours. The location, choice of stock and how library access points are funded would be agreed after consultation with the local community through Clusters and Parish Councils. The service could range from a minimum of a collection point for reservations to a full self-service library space.

A policy will be developed for the library service to older people's homes and sheltered accommodation, establishing guidelines for deposit collections that takes into account local demands, location of nearest library and established levels of service provided to users.

Home Library Service – This service is successful and will continue to be offered.

Future Plans

A further strategy will be developed to define how capital investment can be used in each of the established libraries and for new libraries as follows:

Refurbishment and renewal of existing libraries to ensure buildings are attractive, accessible and fit for purpose to attract users.

New libraries will only be provided where there is a substantial increase in population, for example, in the growth areas such Wichelstowe and the Proposed Eastern Villages. Co-location of other Council and Partner services must be explored at the early stage of these developments to minimise revenue costs and increase levels of use.

Where the size of the community does not justify a new library then monies will be used to improve other libraries in Swindon or provide services that enable the promotion of library use to those communities.

Health

The Swindon Primary Care Trust has an overall responsibility for ensuring the health and well - being of its local residents, although it has integrated and joint working with Swindon Borough Council. Swindon PCT is responsible for the commissioning, planning and securing of health services for their local populations. The PCT must ensure there is sufficient primary care capacity to provide for the population it serves and that its health services are accessible to all patients. While acute services are generally commissioned from mainstream acute or community hospitals, the first point of patient contact with primary care is their GP practices. Swindon PCT uses a target average of 1700 patients per WTE GP.

It is the role of the PCT to ensure that there are appropriate facilities for patients enabling access and choice. Where the development of new housing is likely to increase the demand for these services, we will be looking to the council to seek, through the use of its planning powers, to require applicants to provide financial contributions (or otherwise help) to secure sufficient service provision to meet identified needs.

Contributions towards health care provision will normally be expected from all qualifying residential development proposals whether new build, change of use, conversions or extensions. Contributions will be expected from all types of new residential accommodation.

The reason for levying developer contributions for health care is that new development brings additional people into an area, i.e. creates a direct impact on services. However, in the case of social rented and other affordable housing, the council usually has 'nomination rights' to any such housing built in Swindon. This means that the tenants who will eventually occupy such affordable housing have moved within Swindon, and will already access healthcare in the borough through local GPs or dentists.

The following number of GPs is required for the new communities at Wichelstowe and Proposed Eastern Villages:

Wichelstowe (Policy NC2) – Health care facility for 6 GP's.

Proposed Eastern Villages (Policy NC4) – 12 GP surgery or two smaller surgeries are required and should be located at the district centre.

Police

Wiltshire Police do not require sole occupancy buildings for their service and are currently working with Swindon Borough Council and other agencies regarding collaboration opportunities.

Wiltshire Police may be interested in the shared use of a consultation room and welfare facility in a community building within developments that are of a sufficient size to warrant a Neighbourhood Policing Service. Such services have been successful in community centres as the police service relies on being in the heart of the community.

Fire and Rescue Service

Under the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, the Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service (WFRS) have a duty to provide a suitable and sufficient operational provision to mitigate the risk from fire and other emergencies. The Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service published their Community Risk Strategy for Swindon Borough for 2006 to 2026 in March 2011.

The infrastructure requirements detailed within this document include the provision of adequate water supplies for effective fire fighting, fire fighting appliances, building and land costs and associated operational IT infrastructure, personnel recruitment and set up salaries for the initial period, training, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). To secure the delivery of the strategy, it requires receipt of the proportionate contribution from all applicable development. In the event that only partial amounts of development are delivered, then Wiltshire FRS will, at its discretion, re-plan its infrastructure to provide the most effective services that are achievable based on reduced developer contribution receipts and/or restrictions placed upon it as a consequence of limited availability of alternative funding sources.

The infrastructure required to 2026 has been identified by area:

Northern – Whole of the Northern Development search area

Following the mapping of response times, a requirement for a new 3-bay fire station to the north of Swindon has been identified. The station would be crewed by personnel providing an immediate response. From this location crews would provide the response to some of the identified new developments. Should there be further development to the North or North East of Swindon, a station in this location would be ideally placed to deal with the increased risk. In the longer term, this location would also offer the opportunity for an RDS section, should the expansion of Swindon dictate.

Southwest - Westlea

A fire station will need to be maintained on the current site at Westlea or close by.

Westlea crews give an immediate response during the daytime but with a longer response time at night due to the day-crewed system, which is currently operating there. Due to the

proposed new developments, Westlea will need to become an immediate response station (24/7). The current fire station will require extensive remodelling to adapt the existing premises into suitable accommodation for the new arrangement. Alternatively, a new fire station at a location in the immediate vicinity could be provided. It would be hoped that this investment would also bring an enhanced community facility to the area.

In the medium term, there will be an opportunity for an RDS section to be formed. This should be achievable at this location due to the mature nature of the surrounding housing stock and the proximity of commercial premises. This opportunity for operational growth gives greater flexibility and resilience.

Operational response modelling indicates that if this site is moved either to Wichelstowe or Moredon Bridge, it has a detrimental effect on operational cover in one of the Northern or Southern development areas.

In line with our phased approach (Appendix D) for the implementation of this plan,

Westlea Fire Station would need to be at the forefront of receipt of early funding in order that it can be developed into a 24/7 immediate response station to pave the way towards future demands on the Service.

South-eastern

Looking to the long term future operational response requirements for Swindon, it is envisaged that a South-eastern fire station site may be required towards the end of the period covered by this Community Risk Strategy.

Other Resource Requirements

To maintain an appropriate level of management and support of Community Safety (CS), Technical Fire Safety (TFS) and operational response, additional personnel will be required.

Costs identified so far:

£500,000.00 to upgrade the Westlea Fire Station. Priority: HIGH – money required by end of 2012.

£2-3million (not including land cost) to build a new station near the Blunsdon Developments.

Ambulance Service

Swindon Borough is served by the Great Western Ambulance Service (GWAS). The GWAS currently deliver their services from the Swindon Ambulance Station in Queen's Drive and standby points at the Link Centre and North Orbital ASDA. A standby point is a small space (usually 15 x 15 sq. m floor space with associated parking for one ambulance and one car within an existing building (i.e. GP Surgery). This can be used by ambulance staff (potentially a crew of 3) whilst they await a call. The standby points are strategically located to better serve the population of an area that might be some distance from the main ambulance station.

Local Plan

Theme 4 (Healthy, caring, safe and supportive communities) - The GWAS notes the contents of Policy CT4 (Healthy, caring, safe and supportive communities) which identifies the requirement for service provision across Swindon. A number of references are made to 'health' facilities and criteria B specifically refers to the requirement "to share and integrate police, fire and ambulance facilities". We note that criteria D requires "health, social care and emergency service needs to be met and provided" with specific reference to Great Western Hospital, enhanced and new social care and local healthcare facilities, a reorganisation of existing fire infrastructure and provision of new fire stations. However, in light of the issues we raise below with regards to the requirement for standby points, the Ambulance Service request that this criteria is amended to include additional reference to "the provision of ambulance standby points".

Future requirements

The growth in population will result in an increase in calls to the service which will have implications for staff and vehicle resources within the area. The initial assessment demonstrates that a growth in population of 30,692 (2012 – 26) or 16,877 households (2012 – 26) within the Swindon area (according to the Council's Housing-led forecast 25,000 trajectory – adjusted to mid-year) will generate an additional average 21 extra calls per day. This is same size as Trowbridge town and therefore would need additional resourcing to match the current Trowbridge resource levels. The GWAS will need to further assess the exact spatial implications of the new growth and the requirement to serve the existing and new population through an enhanced provision of standby points. However, the initial assessment notes a potential requirement for 2 Standby points in the Eastern areas of Swindon. Currently the costs of providing a standby point varies significantly as this depends largely on the leasehold agreement, but it is suggested that a broad figure of £86,000 is used per standby point for the initial set up costs and lease period to 2026. This does not include the increase in staffing levels, response vehicles and Ambulances. Early indications based on the Trowbridge solution would indicate that this would potentially be up to 46 staff members and 10 vehicles.

Therefore, in light of the potential levels of growth within Swindon and the recognised need for an evidence base to justify requests for infrastructure provision, the GWAS is currently undertaking a modelling exercise which will provide more detailed information relating to required future standby points including the estimated capital cost and the anticipated delivery time. The findings of the modelling work are expected to be available later in 2012, following which a more thorough assessment can be provided.

Housing – Extra Care

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) 2009-2010 was produced by the NHS and Swindon Borough Council. The JSNA identifies the health needs of the local population in order to improve health outcomes and reduce inequalities. The JSNA advises of both the short-term (3-5 years) and longer-term (5-10 year) priorities.

There is currently no up-to-date strategy in place that identifies future infrastructure requirements for social care. However, the service could be delivered within integrated community hubs and the refurbishment of existing housing stock to provide sheltered style accommodation for adults.

Leisure – Sports

Sports Participation in Swindon

Swindon's population in the 14-39 year age group will grow. This group is more likely to participate in sport.

Swindon has some of the most deprived areas in the country.

Only 1 in 5 of Swindon's adult population take part in the recommended 3 occasions of 30 minutes physical activity per week.

Female non-participation 3 x per week is high at 82%.

Sports club membership is lower than the national average.

Swindon's existing population in the core age groups for sports participation in indoor sports for both sexes, which is 15 – 44 years of age, is anticipated to grow over this period.

Satisfaction levels with existing facilities are 74.7%.

There are a significant number of children leaving schools in Swindon who are unable to swim 25 metres. It is a requirement of the National Curriculum that at Key Stage 2 all children aged 11 can swim 25 metres.

Key facts - Sports Facilities

28% of Swindon's population do not live within the 20-minute/1 mile walk-to catchment areas of any swimming pool.

Whilst Swindon has a good number of swimming pools location restricts accessibility and choice.

Existing local authority provision of both swimming pools and sports halls is generally old. In order to meet future demand these facilities will need to be refurbished and enhanced where appropriate.

Opportunities to develop specialist sports provisions should be identified and delivered in partnership with local sports clubs.

There is an under-provision of local authority pay-and-play health and fitness facilities.

Active Swindon Strategy

Swindon aims to enhance the lives of individuals, families and communities through their success and achievement in sport.

Neighbourhoods' will be designed with opportunities for everyone to be more physically active.

It aims to increase the range and scope of opportunities for all sectors of our community to be actively engaged in sport and physical activity.

Competition and sporting excellence will be used to boost individual and community morale, enhancing pride and teamwork.

Swindon is home to two major leisure destinations at the Link, West Swindon and the Oasis. As of June 2012 it is anticipated that in the future the Oasis will be run by a private provider who will upgrade and add to the facilities over time. Further plans for the wider site at North Star include a Ski slope and concert arena accompanied by appropriate investment in transport infrastructure with a focus on how best to address the severance caused by the railway. Total investment at North Star will exceed £70million pounds. The Council will continue to invest in and operate The Link, including the ice skating rink. Local Plan Policy provides for new sports provision as an integral part of new development. It will be delivered through S106 in growth areas such as Eastern Villages and Wichelstowe. Sport facilities are a key community need.

The following overviews summarise the main thrust of the Council's Leisure Strategy in the period to 2026. More detailed information is provided in the evidence base document Strategy for Major Sports Facilities Provision, Swindon 2009-2026.

Overview Sports Halls

The main issue over the period up to 2026 will be one of quality and investment in upgrading or replacement whilst retaining the existing overall level of supply and capacity.

Future provision should be considered in the light of planned population growth areas and any redevelopment of the two larger facilities at both Link and Oasis. Provision of new facilities on education sites will help meet demand and ensure daytime and evening use is maximised when combined with community use agreements.

Focus should also be to seek to protect and invest in existing sports halls where there is an identified need to meet current and projected increases in demand and participation. This investment in existing supply should also consider opportunities to provide specialist sports facilities.

Overview Swimming Pools

The balance of supply and demand for swimming in Swindon is good and should be maintained. Issues going forward relate to the accessibility to a swimming pool, 28% of the population do not live within 20 minute walk time of a pool. Also access for schools and clubs place particular demands on supply, as private sector providers do not accommodate them. The other main concern is the quality of the existing swimming stock. Focus should be on replacement and slight expansion of existing stock with some facilities relocated to better meet the needs of the growth in population.

'Soccer Hubs'

Soccer hubs (or Outdoor Sports Hubs) provide several pitches on one site and changing facilities. There is a requirement for a soccer hub to the east to support east of Swindon Communities and new development at the Eastern Villages. There is an opportunity for the pitches to be located near schools so that they double up for school and general public use.

Sports Governing Bodies

Post the London 2012 Olympics the Council will actively pursue opportunities to deliver new and improved facilities for all sports at its recreational sites utilising grant funding made

available through collaboration with Sports Governing bodies, including Football, Rugby, Sailing, Rowing, Cycling among others.

Culture – Central Area

Since the publication of the New Swindon Company Framework in 2004 aspirations to improve the cultural offer in Swindon have been growing with particular emphasis of culture being a key driver of Town Centre regeneration. The Local Plan now amplifies this desire alongside an evolving Cultural Strategy.

A cultural quarter was originally envisaged for the town centre, which later developed into an area known as The Promenade, which stretches between Regent Circus and the existing Law Courts on Prince's Street. The purpose of this area was to encourage cultural development and activities to be focussed around the existing Central Library and Wyvern Theatre and to provide:

“A C21st Cultural Quarter embracing the visual arts, music and entertainment and providing a forum for its growing resident, working and visitor populations for the decades to come” (The Promenade SPD 2008).”

Building slowly over the last couple of years, the area, currently being called CQ1 (Cultural Quarter 1st Phase) has now become home to a huge number of cultural activities, including: Create Studios; a number of arts organisations and creative industries based above the Wyvern; Post Modern Gallery and Artsite studios; the Museum of Computing; film nights in Cafe Ambience; Wilts & Berks Canal Trust; public art in the library; Music Entertainment Cultural Arena (MECA); Swindon Dance National Dance Academy; and, of course, the Wyvern Theatre and the Central Library. Furthermore the area is boosted by a number of shops as well as bar/cafe provision (www.forwardswindon.co.uk).

To improve upon this offer there have several key facilities identified to serve Swindon's growing population and to make the town centre a destination of choice these include a replacement theatre and the relocation of Swindon's Art Museum and Museum to the area further details are provided below.

Theatre

Within the Promenade SPD (2008) the existing Wyvern Theatre was recognised as an important local and regional facility, which unfortunately is unable to maximise its potential due to its current size and poor setting. The existing Wyvern theatre was opened in 1971 and although the auditorium was refurbished as a result of the asbestos issue in 2006/7 the rest of building has deteriorated badly. Due the nature of construction at the time it's not aged well as is beyond economic repair. Also it is 620 seater theatre and for a town the size of Swindon and growing, you would expect a theatre of at least 1,200 seats, with stage and backstage areas large enough to accommodate full scale opera, ballet and West End touring none of which are feasible in the current facility – hence the audiences go outside Swindon to access that particular cultural experience.

Museum and Art Gallery

The Art Gallery is described within The Promenade SPD as having a nationally important modern art collection, of which only a fifth is on display, and needs a new modern facility to

maximise its potential. In addition there is also the opportunity to revamp and relocate the museum, which shares a building with the Art Gallery in Old Town.

The promenade area is identified as being a suitable location, with much of the land under the ownership of the Borough Council, for such facilities to complement the existing and proposed uses already completed or ear marked for Regent Circus including a multiplex cinema, bars and restaurants.

At the time of writing a new Cultural Strategy is being progressed for the Borough, however the facilities mentioned above will remain a priority for Swindon's cultural aspirations as per the Swindon Economic Strategy. It is anticipated that funding for such facilities will be delivered through a combination of public funding, grants and developer contributions where applicable.

8. New and Existing Communities

This section provides an overview of the strategic development sites in Swindon Borough including the description of each development, the planning status and list of infrastructure secured or required for each site. The infrastructure items listed below for each development are included within the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and specified where necessary, within the schedule.

8.1 Swindon Central Area (SC1)

Name	Swindon Central Area
Scale and Type of Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Around 1,000 homes • Regeneration of Central Swindon • At least 53,700m² net comparison retail floorspace • At least 90,000m² of new office floorspace • Focus for higher order civic, cultural, education and leisure facilities • 2 new primary schools • Tertiary education campus • University Campus • Public Transport interchange • High quality design, improved public realm and access for all • High quality safe and continuous pedestrian routes and cycling networks • A new 1,000 space car park to the north of the railway line
Planning Application	Various requirements
Key Infrastructure Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Centre Regeneration and public realm improvements • University Technical College • Railway Crossing Linking North Star and the Town Centre • New Theatre and Museum and Art Gallery • A new bus interchange (includes regarding Fleming Way) • 1000 space MSCP north of Swindon Railway Station • 2 new primary schools (or 3 forms-of-entry) if required • A district heating system with decentralised energy source • 3x Waste to Energy modules • Redevelopment of Oasis and refurbishment of Health Hydro • Relocation of Carfax Street Health Centre • 'Green Spine' – a north-south green route connecting Swindon's Green Infrastructure corridors
Milestones: RAG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Area Action Plan, adopted February 2009 • First tranche of town centre public realm complete (Wharf

	<p>Green, Canal Walk, Regent Street, Station Forecourt, Great Western Underpass)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second tranche subject to funding (Temple Street, The Parade, Regent Circus South, Havelock Square, Commercial Road) • New Library open, October 2009 • Strategic building purchase of properties to support regeneration on-going • Regent Circus on site. Demolition of old College complete • Phase 1 Union Square commenced • Regional leisure destination at North Star, Oasis handover complete, outline application expected January 2013 • Feasibilities commenced on railway crossing linking North Star with the central area • Local Enterprise Partnership – Growing Places, bid outcomes for Union Square Bus Exchange
Risks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government grant reduced, cut completely, CIL limited • Slow growth and suppressed economy impact on demand for office space • Timing of the Local Plan • New Rail Franchise

8.2 Overall Borough Wide Growth (SC2)

Name	Boroughwide
Scale and Type of Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 29,000 homes in total at Swindon and within the Borough • 77.5ha of additional employment land and at least 90,000m² of office space • Major shopping, cultural and regeneration improvements • 11 new primary schools (or 22 new forms-of-entry in total) • 3 new secondary schools (22 new forms-of-entry in total) • A new university and expansion of tertiary education facilities including University Technical College • Transport investment - Improved pedestrian and cycle routes, and public transport links to key non-town centre locations • Green infrastructure improvements • Expansion of Great Western Hospital and emergency service provision • High quality and sustainable design, particularly in the Town Centre, District Centres and key corridors and gateways • District Heating Network • Renewable and low-carbon energy generation • Investment in a network of leisure, community and health facilities • Further employment development at established employment sites
Planning Application	Various requirements
Key Infrastructure Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand Rodbourne Sewage Treatment Works and potential additional works at Eastern Villages (if required) • Expand the Great Western Hospital • 11 new primary schools • 3 new secondary schools • Green infrastructure • District Heating Network • M4 Junction 15 and 16 Improvements • Town Centre Regeneration including Railway Crossing • Rapid Transit Network • Urban Traffic Management • White Hart Junction Improvements • Great Western Way improvements • New fire station (North Swindon) and upgrade of

	Westlea Fire station
Milestones: <div>RAG</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Plan Proposed Submission Document • Transport Strategy adopted as a Council Strategy • Water Cycle Study complete • Local Enterprise Partnership – Growing Places, bid outcomes • Fire Service Community Risk Strategy including costs
Risks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth Point funding cut • Timing of the Local Plan

8.3 Existing Communities (SC2)

Name	Swindon's Existing Communities
Scale and Type of Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4480 homes in the Swindon Urban Area • Transport linking existing communities to the town centre and growth areas • Social and community infrastructure • 5 New primary school facilities (9 forms-of-entry) • 2 New secondary schools and extensions to existing secondary schools (23 forms-of-entry) • Facilities to support locality and community based working • Intensification and redevelopment of employment areas • Strengthening the connections along and extending Swindon's existing green corridors • Establishing a District Heating Network • Develop capacity at local sports centres in order to establish a sporting specialism • Regeneration of local and district centres
Planning Application	Various requirements
Key Infrastructure Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable Housing • 5 new primary schools (9 forms-of-entry) • 2 new secondary schools and extensions to existing secondary schools (23 forms of entry) • A 0-19 Special Education Needs facility and expansion of existing schools where necessary • Rapid Transit Network, Orbital Bus Routes • Bus Exchange • Urban Traffic Management control • Delivering a comprehensive Parking Strategy • Completing strategic cycling and pedestrian networks • District Heating Network • Green Infrastructure
Milestones: RAG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment prepared • Site Allocation DPD to identify sites • Significant number of committed planning permissions • Developer Contributions DCGN in place to secure contributions to service the cumulative impact of social infrastructure • Building Schools for the Future expression of interest submitted
Risks:	Funding to secure a secondary school within the existing urban

	area needs to be further explored
--	-----------------------------------

9. New Communities

9.1 Wichelstowe (NC1)

Name	Wichelstowe
Scale and Type of Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 309 Hectare site • Sustainable transport links to the existing urban area and Swindon town centre • District Centre meeting needs of Wichelstowe • Sports, recreational and leisure areas • Local retail facilities within local centres at East Wichel and West Wichel • District Centre, including Supermarket at Middle Wichel District Centre (up to 2500sq m) • 4,500 homes mixed use community • 12.5 hectares of employment land • 3 primary schools • A secondary school (or contributions towards the delivery of 6 forms-of-entry off-site) • Green infrastructure that links urban areas to the adjacent countryside • Community facilities • District Heating system
Planning Application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline planning application granted in May 2005 • Primary infrastructure construction commenced spring 2006
Key Infrastructure Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site access from M4 J16, Wharf Road, Redposts Drive and Croft Road • Green Infrastructure • Affordable Housing • 3 primary schools: East, Middle and West Wichelstowe • Contributions towards 6 forms-of-entry of secondary school facilities • 2 Neighbourhood Centres: West and East Wichelstowe • District Centre, including supermarket • Park and Ride at West Wichel • Pedestrian and Cycle paths • Community facilities including leisure centre, health and knowledge provision in shared buildings • District Heating and Waste to Energy • Canal and SUDs network • Rapid Transit • Public Realm
Milestones: RAG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary Infrastructure complete and first residents in occupation (April 2009) • Supermarket on site 2013 • Project Review (2012)
Risks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slowdown of development

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Infrastructure costs• Impact of recession
--	--

9.2 Commonhead (NC2)

Name	Commonhead
Scale and Type of Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a buffer between Coate Water Country Park and new development • Sustainable transport links to the existing urban area and Swindon town centre • Neighbourhood centre including retail facilities appropriate to meet local need • 890 home mixed use community • 15 hectares of employment land (B1 and B2) • A primary school (1 form-of-entry) and contributions to 1 form-of-entry off-site • Green infrastructure that links urban areas to the adjacent countryside (incl. 15 ha. Public Open Space and Biodiversity habitat creation) • Sport, leisure and community facilities • Safeguard around 5.5 hectares of land for a future expansion of the Great Western Hospital • Pedestrian and cycle links to the existing communities, Coate and Great Western Hospital
Planning Application	Granted planning permission by the Secretary of State on 19 th March 2012.
Key Infrastructure Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works to M4 J15 • Highway improvements to Marlborough Road A4259, A419, Commonhead Roundabout • 1 Primary school • Affordable Housing • Contribution to Secondary School places • Contribution to Sport, leisure and community facilities • Improved Transport links to existing urban area and town centre including Commonhead Park and Ride • Extension to Great Western Hospital (land reservation) • Provision of undeveloped buffer to Coate Water Country Park and improvements to active leisure facilities. • 2 x LEAP and 1 x NEAP play areas • Allotments
Milestones: RAG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning permitted at Appeal, April 2012 • Site commencement
Risks:	Employment land brought forward at end of development

9.3 Eastern Villages (NC3)

Name	Eastern Villages
Scale and Type of Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Transport infrastructure linking the EDA to east Swindon and Swindon's Central Area</i> • <i>Renewable energy and waste facilities</i> • Around 7,500 homes in a mixed community • 35 hectares of employment land • A district centre including an anchor foodstore of up to an additional 4,550m², 35,000m² of office floorspace, • A learning campus consisting of a secondary school (8 forms-of-entry), a primary school (2 forms-of-entry), a 0-19 special school, children's centre and early years facilities • An additional 4 primary schools (or 8 forms-of-entry) with nursery / early years facilities, and 0.5FE extension to the existing school at South Marston • District heating network • Green infrastructure including a Landmark Park linking Eastern Villages to east Swindon and the countryside • Sports and leisure facilities • Sustainable transport links including Rapid Transit
Planning Application	Outline planning application anticipated to be submitted spring 2010
Key Infrastructure Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports and leisure facilities • a multi-purpose community building, • a 10 GP Healthcare facility • A minimum of 3 local centres, one of which at South Marston. • A420 Transport corridor improvements / new link under the railway line connecting the development north and south • A Green Bridge across the A419 • Enhancements of White Hart Junction • A new link across the A419 at Dorcan • A new link to the Commonhead Roundabout • Rapid Transit • Park and Ride site • Learning Campus, including Special Needs provision • 4 primary schools plus 0.5FE at South Marston • Green infrastructure
Milestones: RAG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masterplan produced • Draft Supplementary Planning Document- Second round Public consultation February 2013
Risks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing of LDF documents in relation to planning application being submitted • Separate planning applications submitted, making

	coordination of infrastructure provision more difficult
--	---

9.4 Tadpole Farm (NC4)

Name	Tadpole Farm
Scale and Type of Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary school • Contributions towards provision of a new secondary school to meet needs at Tadpole Farm • Transport link between north and west Swindon and Swindon town centre to accommodate cumulative impact of development at Tadpole Lane and Wiltshire sites • Mixed use Neighbourhood centre • Sports, recreational and leisure areas • Green Infrastructure links and to enhance the role of Cricklade Country Way Corridor • Mixed-use community of 1,695 homes • 5 hectares of employment land • Sport, leisure and community facilities • Rapid transit link between Tadpole Farm and Swindon Town Centre • Vehicular access routes from Oakhurst Way, Tadpole Lane and a new route north to Blunsdon • Pedestrian and cycle links to Oakhurst, Redhouse and the National Cycle Route • Green infrastructure that links urban areas to the adjacent countryside
Planning Application	Planning permission granted on the 11 th September 2012
Key Infrastructure Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal Access Roads, Footpaths and Cyclepaths • A 2FE Primary School • Local Centre • District Heating Network and Renewable energy facility • Links to the Rapid Transit Network • Links to the Strategic Cycle Network • Green Infrastructure links to Blunsdon Hill and River Ray corridor • Sports and leisure facilities
Milestones: <div>RAG</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Granting of planning permission • Site commencement
Risks:	Market slows and commencement delayed

9.5 Kingsdown (NC5)

Name	Kingsdown
Scale and Type of Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixed-use community of approximately 1,650 homes • Primary school facility with temporary accommodation • Contributions towards provision of a new secondary school to meet needs at Kingsdown • Community wide approach to renewable energy facilities • A mixed use local centre • Sport, leisure and community facilities • Vehicular access routes from Cold Harbour Junction and the B4109 east of Broad Blunsdon • New vehicular bridge across A419 • Contributions towards mitigation on highway network • Public transport links • Measures to avoid through traffic through Broad Blunsdon village and Cold Harbour junctions • Pedestrian and cycle links to Swindon and Broad Blunsdon • Green infrastructure connecting with Broad Blunsdon and the wider countryside • Landscape mitigation to the north and east of Kingsdown
Planning Application	At pre application stage
Key Infrastructure Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal Access Roads, Footpaths and Cyclepaths • A 2FE Primary School • Local Centre • District Heating Network (delete?) and Renewable energy facility • Transport links with Cold Harbour Junction and B4109 east of Broad Blunsdon • Vehicular access bridge • Green Infrastructure links • Landscape mitigation • Sport, community and leisure facilities
Milestones: RAG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Granting of planning permission • Site commencement
Risks:	Viability precludes provision of essential infrastructure meaning planning permission cannot be granted

10. Infrastructure Delivery Plan Schedule

The following schedule sets out the infrastructure items identified to support future growth in Swindon Borough. The estimated capital costs included have are from various sources, for example, feasibility studies, viability studies and experiences from dealing with previous projects. The anticipated delivery time included within the schedule provides a timeframe or specific year for delivery of the infrastructure. These are grouped within timescales as follows:

Short Term Present to 2016
Medium Term 2017 to 2020
Long Term 2021 to 2026

Project Title	Project Description	Local Plan Project Location	Estimated Capital Cost	Cost Source	SBC Funding	S106 Funding	Other Funding Sources	Other Funding Amount (£)	Shortfall	Delivery Agency	Timing of Delivery	Term
Transport												
Union Square Phase II	Re-grading Fleming Way	Central Swindon	2,000,000	Union Square Viability Assessment	0	0	Developer	2,000,000	0	Developer	2014-15	Short
Urban Traffic Management System/ Great Western Way	Part of the bus rapid transit route, identified in the Swindon Transport Strategy	Boroughwide	12,000,000	WSP Swindon Transport Strategy	0	12,000,000	N/A	0	0	SBC	2014-2016	Short
Magic Roundabout	Resurfacing and Public Realm Works	Central Swindon	5,500,000	Halcrow Feasibility Study	0	0	N/A	0	5,500,000	SBC	2015	Short

Project Title	Project Description	Local Plan Project Location	Estimated Capital Cost	Cost Source	SBC Funding	S106 Funding	Other Funding Sources	Other Funding Amount (£)	Shortfall	Delivery Agency	Timing of Delivery	Term
Railway Crossing	Railway Crossing linking Town Centre and North Star	Central Swindon	6,200,000	Parsons Brinkerhoff Swindon Town Railway Crossing Outline Design Report (July 2010)	0	0	LEP, CIL, S106	0	6,200,000	SBC	2013-2015	Short
Multi-storey Car Park	1000 space car park north of Swindon Railway Station	Central Swindon	13,000,000	Cost per parking space	0	0	Transport Partners	0	13,000,000	SBC	2016	Medium
Off-site traffic calming	Traffic calming Improvements to surrounding roads	Wichelstowe	400,000	Service Area informed S106	0	400,000	N/A	0	0	SBC	2012-2020	Medium
West Wichel Park & Ride	Provision of Park and Ride site at West Wichel	Wichelstowe	4,000,000	WSP Swindon Transport Strategy	0	0	N/A	0	4,000,000	SBC	2026	Medium

Project Title	Project Description	Local Plan Project Location	Estimated Capital Cost	Cost Source	SBC Funding	S106 Funding	Other Funding Sources	Other Funding Amount (£)	Shortfall	Delivery Agency	Timing of Delivery	Term
Kingsdown Bridge over A419	Bridge over A419	Kingsdown	6,000,000	Developer Planning Consultant	0	0	0	6,000,000	0	Developer	2016-2017	Medium
Green Bridge	New public transport, walking and cycling link across the A419 to integrate the new District Centre with the existing communities in East Swindon	Eastern Villages	7,500,000	WSP Transport Strategy / Materplanning and Viability Framework /JMP Transport Study	0	7,500,000	N/A	0	0	Developer	2014-2017	Medium
White Hart Junction improvement s (Diamond Interchange)	Delivery of a high quality junction improvement to provide segregation of the local and strategic road networks and improve public realm	Eastern Villages	23,000,000	WSP Transport Strategy / Materplanning and Viability Framework /JMP Transport Study	0	670,000	N/A	0	22,330,000	SBC	2014-2017	Medium

Project Title	Project Description	Local Plan Project Location	Estimated Capital Cost	Cost Source	SBC Funding	S106 Funding	Other Funding Sources	Other Funding Amount (£)	Shortfall	Delivery Agency	Timing of Delivery	Term
Bus Interchange	Bus Interchange	Eastern Villages	1,500,000	WSP Transport Strategy / Materplanning and Viability Framework /JMP Transport Study	0	1,500,000	N/A	0	0	Developer	2020	Medium
Internal Roads, Footpaths and Cycleways	Development	Eastern Villages	30,000,000	WSP Transport Strategy / Materplanning and Viability Framework /JMP Transport Study	0	0	Developer	30,000,000	0	Developer	2020	Medium
J16 Improvements	J16 Improvement	Wichelstowe	5,500,000	Gardiner and Theobald Viability Assessment (Remaster planning)	0	0	Developer	5,500,000	0	Developer (SBC)	2017-2018	Medium

Project Title	Project Description	Local Plan Project Location	Estimated Capital Cost	Cost Source	SBC Funding	S106 Funding	Other Funding Sources	Other Funding Amount (£)	Shortfall	Delivery Agency	Timing of Delivery	Term
Off-site footways	Off-site footpath/cycleway/bridle way	Wichelstowe	1,400,000	Gardiner and Theobald Viability Assessment (Remaster planning)	0	1,400,000	Developer	0	0	Developer	2015-2020	Medium
Rapid Transit 1 Wichelstowe	Sustainable transport links that integrate with the existing urban area (cost includes land purchase)	Wichelstowe	10,000,000	WSP Swindon Transport Strategy	0	0	N/A	0	10,000,000	SBC	2021	Medium
East of Swindon Park and Ride	Provision of a 1000 Car Park and Ride Site	Eastern Villages	4,000,000	WSP Transport Strategy / Materplanning and Viability Framework /JMP Transport Study	0	4,000,000	N/A	0	0	Developer	2018-2020	Long
Rapid Transit 2 Tadpole Farm	Sustainable transport links that integrate with the existing urban area (cost includes land purchase)	Tadpole Farm	10,000,000	WSP Swindon Transport Strategy	0	0	N/A	0	10,000,000	SBC	2014-2021	Long

Project Title	Project Description	Local Plan Project Location	Estimated Capital Cost	Cost Source	SBC Funding	S106 Funding	Other Funding Sources	Other Funding Amount (£)	Shortfall	Delivery Agency	Timing of Delivery	Term
Rapid Transit 3 Eastern Villages	Sustainable transport links that integrate with the existing urban area (cost includes land purchase)	Eastern Villages	10,000,000	WSP Swindon Transport Strategy	0	0	N/A	0	10,000,000	SBC	2014-2021	Long
Commonhead Park & Ride	Provision of Park and Ride site at Commonhead	Commonhead	4,000,000	WSP Swindon Transport Strategy	0	0	N/A	0	4,000,000	SBC	2026	Long
Junction Improvement S	Junction improvements on existing road network (A420) to mitigate growth to the east of Swindon	Eastern Villages	17,000,000	WSP Transport Strategy / Materplanning and Viability Framework /JMP Transport Study	0	17,000,000	N/A	0	0	Developer	2019-2021	Long
Commonhead Link (or Dorcan)	Highway link to the strategic road network (A419)	Eastern Villages	5,000,000	WSP Transport Strategy / Materplanning and Viability Framework /JMP Transport Study	0	5,000,000	N/A	0	0	Developer	2019-2021	Long

Project Title	Project Description	Local Plan Project Location	Estimated Capital Cost	Cost Source	SBC Funding	S106 Funding	Other Funding Sources	Other Funding Amount (£)	Shortfall	Delivery Agency	Timing of Delivery	Term
On-site roads	On-site drainage / tunnel under M4	Wichelstowe	106,000,000	Gardiner and Theobald Viability Assessment (Remaster planning)	0	0	Developer	106,000,000	0	Developer	2014-2026	Long
Utilities												
Upgrade to Rodbourne STW	Upgrade of existing STW, inc. new Inlet Works, new Storm Water management and site power upgrade.	Boroughwide	60,000,000	Thames Water 5 Year Plan	0	0	Thames Water	60,000,000	0	Thames Water	2013-2015	Short
Additional Household Waste Recycling Centre	Additional site for Household Waste Recycling Centre to support Swindon's growth	Preferred site - East Swindon	1,500,000	Municipal Waste Management Strategy (p. 34)	0	0	N/A	0	1,500,000	SBC	2022	Long
Sustainable Energy Projects												

Project Title	Project Description	Local Plan Project Location	Estimated Capital Cost	Cost Source	SBC Funding	S106 Funding	Other Funding Sources	Other Funding Amount (£)	Shortfall	Delivery Agency	Timing of Delivery	Term
Tadpole Farm District Heating Network	District Heating Network at Tadpole Farm.	Tadpole Farm	3,500,000	Bizcat Pre-Feasibility Study	0	0	Energy Company	3,500,000	0	SBC	2012-2015	Short
Waste to Energy	Refuse derived fuel at Waterside	Central Swindon	6,500,000	Municipal Waste Management Strategy	6,500,000	0	N/A	0	0	SBC	2013-14	Short
District Heating Town Centre	District Heating Network in the Town Centre.	Town Centre	5,000,000	Bizcat Pre-Feasibility Study	0	0	Energy Company	5,000,000	0	SBC	2014	Short
District Heating Wichelstowe	District Heating Network at Wichelstowe.	Wichelstowe	5,000,000	Bizcat Pre-Feasibility Study	0	0	Energy Company	5,000,000	0	SBC	2014	Short
Stratton District Heating Network	District Heating Network at Stratton.	Existing Communities	3,300,000	Bizcat Pre-Feasibility Study	0	0	Energy Company	3,300,000	0	SBC	2016	Short
South Marston District Heating Network	District Heating Network at South Marston.	Existing Communities	1,600,000	Bizcat Pre-Feasibility Study	0	0	Energy Company	1,600,000	0	SBC	2016	Short

Project Title	Project Description	Local Plan Project Location	Estimated Capital Cost	Cost Source	SBC Funding	S106 Funding	Other Funding Sources	Other Funding Amount (£)	Shortfall	Delivery Agency	Timing of Delivery	Term
Eastern Villages District Heating Network	District Heating Network at the Eastern Villages.	Eastern Villages	10,400,000	Bizcat Pre-Feasibility Study	0	0	Energy Company	10,400,000	0	SBC	2016	Short
DHN Pipe Connecting Town Centre to Stratton	Pipe connecting District Heating Networks at Town Centre and Stratton	Existing Communities	2,850,000	Bizcat Pre-Feasibility Study	0	0	Energy Company	2,850,000	0	SBC	2015-2026	Long
DHN Pipe Connecting Stratton to South Marston	Pipe connecting District Heating Networks at South Marston and Stratton	Existing Communities	2,850,000	Bizcat Pre-Feasibility Study	0	0	Energy Company	2,850,000	0	SBC	2015-2026	Long
Air Quality												
Emission Reduction Zones	Setting up of 3 Air Pollution Monitoring Units	Boroughwide	72,000	EnviroTech nology Services Plc	0	0	N/A	0	0	SBC	2016	Short
Green Infrastructure												
Green Infrastructure at Tadpole Farm	Green Infrastructure	Tadpole Farm	3,350,000	Developer	0	0	N/A	3,350,000	0	Developer	2012-2015	Short

Project Title	Project Description	Local Plan Project Location	Estimated Capital Cost	Cost Source	SBC Funding	S106 Funding	Other Funding Sources	Other Funding Amount (£)	Shortfall	Delivery Agency	Timing of Delivery	Term
The Green Spine	Key North South pedestrian and cycle routes (central Swindon)	Central Swindon	8,200,000	Cost per sq m	0	0	Funding options being considered : potential EU Life+, S106	0	8,200,000	SBC	2011-2016	Short
Moulden Hill	Country Park	Boroughwide	850,000	Feasibility and Landscape Design	0	850,000	N/A	0	0	SBC	2012-2014	Short
Green Infrastructure	Green Infrastructure	Eastern Villages	12,500,000	EDA Masterplan ning and Viability Framework / Green Infrastructure Strategy	0	12,500,000	N/A	0	0	SBC/Developer	2020	Medium
Biodiversity	Habitat Creation	Eastern Villages	3,500,000	EDA Masterplan ning and Viability Framework / Green Infrastructure Strategy	0	0	N/A	3,500,000	0	Developer	2020	Medium
Green Infrastructure and Leisure at Coate	Green Infrastructure	Commonhead	1,000,000	Persimmon and Redrow	0	1,000,000	N/A	0	0	SBC	2017	Medium

Project Title	Project Description	Local Plan Project Location	Estimated Capital Cost	Cost Source	SBC Funding	S106 Funding	Other Funding Sources	Other Funding Amount (£)	Shortfall	Delivery Agency	Timing of Delivery	Term
Green Infrastructure	Open space, pitches and changing facilities	Wichelstowe	5,150,000	Gardiner and Theobald Viability Assessment (Remaster planning)	0	5,150,000	N/A	0	0	Developer	2013-2026	Long
Cemetery	Cemetery	Boroughwide	2,000,000	Based on Kingsdown works 2008	0	0	N/A	0	2,000,000	SBC	2025	Long
Social and Community Infrastructure												
Education - Primary and Secondary												
North Primary School	2FE primary School - North	Tadpole	5,078,000	Negotiated S106	0	5,078,000	N/A	0	0	SBC	2014	Short
Central Primary School 2	1 FE primary to serve the needs of the urban area	Existing Communities	4,250,000	School Place Planning Study	5,500,000	0	N/A	0	-1,250,000	SBC	2014	Short
North Primary School	1 FE primary school - North	Existing Communities	4,250,000	School Place Planning Study	0	4,250,000	N/A	0	0	SBC	2014	Short

Project Title	Project Description	Local Plan Project Location	Estimated Capital Cost	Cost Source	SBC Funding	S106 Funding	Other Funding Sources	Other Funding Amount (£)	Shortfall	Delivery Agency	Timing of Delivery	Term
North Secondary School	8FE Secondary School (north)	Existing Communities	21,500,000	School Place Planning Study	0	2,000,000	DfE Free School Programme	0	19,500,000	SBC	2016	Short
North Primary School	2FE Primary	Kingsdown	5,000,000	School Place Planning Study	0	5,000,000	N/A	0	0	SBC	2016-18	Medium
Central Primary School 3	1 FE primary to serve the needs of the urban area	Existing Communities	4,250,000	School Place Planning Study	0	0	N/A	0	4,250,000	SBC	2016-2018	Medium
Wichelstowe Primary School	2FE primary School	Wichelstowe	5,000,000	Croft Tender Return	0	2,900,000	N/A	0	2,100,000	SBC	2015-2017	Medium
Wichelstowe Primary School	2FE primary School	Wichelstowe	5,000,000	Croft Tender Return	0	0	N/A	0	5,000,000	SBC	2017-2019	Medium
Central & South 8FE secondary school places	Contribution towards secondary school provision including sports hall	Wichelstowe /Existing Communities	21,500,000	School Place Planning Study	0	7,070,000	N/A	0	14,430,000	SBC	2017-2022	Medium

Project Title	Project Description	Local Plan Project Location	Estimated Capital Cost	Cost Source	SBC Funding	S106 Funding	Other Funding Sources	Other Funding Amount (£)	Shortfall	Delivery Agency	Timing of Delivery	Term
Eastern Villages Primary School (1)	2FE Primary School	Eastern Villages	6,500,000	School Place Planning Study	0	6,500,000	N/A	0	0	SBC	2016-2017	Medium
Eastern Villages Primary School (2)	2 FE primary school	Eastern Villages	6,500,000	School Place Planning Study	0	0	N/A	0	6,500,000	SBC	2017-2018	Medium
Eastern Villages Primary School (3)	2 FE primary school	Eastern Villages	6,500,000	School Place Planning Study	0	0	N/A	0	6,500,000	SBC	2019-2020	Medium
South Marston Primary School	Expansion of South Marston Primary	Eastern Villages	2,000,000	School Place Planning Study	0	2,000,000	N/A	0	0	SBC	2019-2020	Medium
Eastern Villages Primary School (4)	2 FE primary school	Eastern Villages	6,500,000	School Place Planning Study	0	0	N/A	0	6,500,000	SBC	2021-2022	Long
Eastern Villages Secondary School	Delivery of a new 8FE Secondary School (East)	Eastern Villages	21,500,000	School Place Planning Study	0	0	N/A	0	21,500,000	SBC	2020-2022	Long
Education - Post 16FE												

Project Title	Project Description	Local Plan Project Location	Estimated Capital Cost	Cost Source	SBC Funding	S106 Funding	Other Funding Sources	Other Funding Amount (£)	Shortfall	Delivery Agency	Timing of Delivery	Term
North Swindon Post 16 Provision	North Swindon 350 pupils	Existing Communities	10,000,000	Cambridge Education (2009)	0	0	Colleges	0	10,000,000	Colleges	2017	Medium
Early Years Childrens Centres and Nurseries												
Early Years Provision	Early Years Provision 0-4 years	Boroughwide	2,000,000	Cambridge Education (2009)	0	0	N/A	0	2,000,000	SBC	2020	Medium
Special Provision	Secondary ASD unit	Boroughwide	700,000	Cambridge Education (2009)	0	0	Bid Lodged	0	700,000	SBC	2013	Short
Special Provision	Relocation of Crowdy's Hill	Boroughwide	11,000,000	Cambridge Education (2009)	0	0	Bid Lodged	0	11,000,000	SBC	2014	Short
Special Provision	Relocation of EOTAS provision	Boroughwide	3,000,000	Cambridge Education (2009)	0	0	Bid Lodged	0	3,000,000	SBC	2014	Short
Special Provision	Relocation of St Lukes and Post 16	Boroughwide	11,000,000	Cambridge Education (2009)	0	0	Bid Lodged	0	11,000,000	SBC	2017	Medium
Special School	New Special School in East Swindon	Existing Communities	10,000,000	Cambridge Education (2009)	0	0	N/A	0	10,000,000	SBC	2016	Short
Youth Clubs												
Community Centres												

Project Title	Project Description	Local Plan Project Location	Estimated Capital Cost	Cost Source	SBC Funding	S106 Funding	Other Funding Sources	Other Funding Amount (£)	Shortfall	Delivery Agency	Timing of Delivery	Term
North Swindon Community Centre	Redhouse Community Centre	Redhouse	800,000	Feasibility	0	800,000	N/A	0	0	SBC	2014	Short
East Wichel Community Centre	East Wichel Community Centre	Wichelstowe	600,000	Feasibility	600,000	0	N/A	0	0	SBC	2013	Short
Wichelstowe Community Centre	Middle Wichel Community Centre including Library, Emergency Services Touchdown & Children's Centre	Wichelstowe	800,000	Pinetrees (£2.3 million)	0	800,000	N/A	0	0	SBC	2015	Short
Tadpole Community Centre	Tadpole Community Centre	Tadpole	400,000	S106 negotiated	0	400,000	N/A	0	0	SBC	2018	Medium
Kingsdown Community Centre	Kingsdown Community Centre	Kingsdown	400,000	Tadpole S106	0	400,000	N/A	0	0	SBC	2019	Long

Project Title	Project Description	Local Plan Project Location	Estimated Capital Cost	Cost Source	SBC Funding	S106 Funding	Other Funding Sources	Other Funding Amount (£)	Shortfall	Delivery Agency	Timing of Delivery	Term
Eastern Villages District Centre Community Centre	Eastern Villages Community Building and Library	Eastern Villages	2,000,000	Pinetrees (£2.3 million)	0	2,000,000	N/A	0	0	SBC	2022	Long
Eastern Villages Community Centre	Eastern Villages Local Centre Community Centre	Eastern Villages	500,000	Baseline - Tadpole and Redhouse stand alone Community Centre	0	500,000	N/A	0	0	SBC	2022	Long
Eastern villages Community Centre	Eastern Villages Local Centre Community Centre	Eastern Villages	500,000	Baseline - Tadpole and Redhouse stand alone Community Centre	0	500,000	N/A	0	0	SBC	2022	Long
Eastern Villages Community Centre	Eastern Villages Local Centre Community Centre	Eastern Villages	500,000	Baseline - Tadpole and Redhouse stand alone Community Centre	0	500,000	N/A	0	0	SBC	2022	Long
Health												

Project Title	Project Description	Local Plan Project Location	Estimated Capital Cost	Cost Source	SBC Funding	S106 Funding	Other Funding Sources	Other Funding Amount (£)	Shortfall	Delivery Agency	Timing of Delivery	Term
Walk in Health Centre	Relocation of Carfax Medical Centre	Central Swindon	3,000,000	PCT	0	0	PCT	3,000,000	0	PCT	2013-14	Short
Wichelstowe Health Facilities	7GP Surgery	Wichelstowe	1,400,000	PCT	0	0	PCT	1,400,000	0	PCT	2015-18	Short
Eastern Villages Health Facilities	2 10GP Health Centres	Eastern Villages	4,000,000	EDA Masterplan ning and Viability Framework	0	0	N/A	0	4,000,000	PCT	2026	Long
Extension to Great Western Hospital	land reservation for extension	Commonhea d	6,000,000	Great Western Hospitals Trust	0	0	Hospital Trust	6,000,000	0	Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	2026	Long
Police												
Police Points	Touch down for police in Community facilities in expansion areas	Boroughwide	0	Wiltshire Police	0	0	N/A	0	0	SBC/ Developer	Various	Long
Fire & Rescue												

Project Title	Project Description	Local Plan Project Location	Estimated Capital Cost	Cost Source	SBC Funding	S106 Funding	Other Funding Sources	Other Funding Amount (£)	Shortfall	Delivery Agency	Timing of Delivery	Term
Upgrade of Westlea Fire Station	Accommodation required on site for altered shift patterns (immediate response required to mitigate additional development)	Westlea	500,000	Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service's Community Risk Strategy 2006-2026 (March 2011 Update	0	0	N/A	0	500,000	Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service	2012	Short
New Fire Station in North Swindon	Need to secure site for a new fire station in North Swindon to support housing growth	North Swindon	3,000,000	Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service's Community Risk Strategy 2006-2026 (March 2011 Update	0	0	N/A	0	3,000,000	Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service	2015-2026	Long
Ambulance												
Eastern Villages 2 ambulance standby Points	Eastern Villages 2 ambulance standby Points	Eastern Villages	172,000	GVA Letter on behalf of Great Western Ambulance Service	0	0	N/A	0	172,000	Great Western Ambulance Service	2020-2026	Long
Leisure - Sports												

Project Title	Project Description	Local Plan Project Location	Estimated Capital Cost	Cost Source	SBC Funding	S106 Funding	Other Funding Sources	Other Funding Amount (£)	Shortfall	Delivery Agency	Timing of Delivery	Term
St Marks Recreation Ground	Tennis Courts and landscaping	Boroughwide	660,000	Contracted works	0	660,000	N/A	0	0	SBC	2006-2014	Short
Indoor Bowls	Provision of an indoor bowls facility to complement existing leisure offer County Ground or Haydon Centre	Central Swindon	1,500,000	Sport England Facilities Cost Calculator	0	0	N/A	0	1,500,000	SBC	2011-2012	Short
Spa at Health Hydro	Set up of spa and beauty facilities at the Health Hydro	Central Swindon	3,000,000	Architect Feasibility Study	0	0	N/A	0	3,000,000	SBC	2011-2012	Short
Tadpole Sports and leisure facilities	Infrastructure plus green pitches	Tadpole Farm	2,000,000	S106	0	0	N/A	0	2,000,000	SBC	2012-2015	Short
Eastern Villages Sports Facility	Leisure centre, including swimming pool, to meet the local needs of residents in the EV that does not compete with the facilities identified in the leisure strategy	Eastern Villages	7,000,000	Sport England Facilities Cost Calculator	0	7,000,000	N/A	0	0	SBC	2014-2015	Short

Project Title	Project Description	Local Plan Project Location	Estimated Capital Cost	Cost Source	SBC Funding	S106 Funding	Other Funding Sources	Other Funding Amount (£)	Shortfall	Delivery Agency	Timing of Delivery	Term
Rebuild / refresh Croft Centre -	Phase 1 - stp and grass pitches Phase 2 Rebuild / refresh to provide sports hall facilities and cricket	Existing Communities	1,000,000	Sport England Facilities Cost Calculator	0	0	Ph1 - Football Foundation	375,000	625,000	SBC	2014-2016	Short
Sports and Leisure - Link Centre	Leisure Centre Redevelopment	Existing Communities	20,000,000	Capita Feasibility	0	0	N/A	0	20,000,000	SBC	2026	Long
Culture and Tourism												
New Theatre	Provision of New Town Centre Theatre to replace existing	Central Swindon	35,000,000	Capita Feasibility Study - The Promenade (August, 2008)	0	0	N/A	0	35,000,000	SBC	2016	Short
Museum & Art Gallery	Provision of New Town Centre Museum and Art Gallery 2100 sqm	Town Centre	7,000,000	Barker Langham Feasibility (2009)	0	0	N/A	0	7,000,000	SBC	2017-2026	Long

Project Title	Project Description	Local Plan Project Location	Estimated Capital Cost	Cost Source	SBC Funding	S106 Funding	Other Funding Sources	Other Funding Amount (£)	Shortfall	Delivery Agency	Timing of Delivery	Term
Town Centre Regeneration												
Public Realm Works												
The Parade	Public Realm Scheme	Central Swindon	2,000,000	Based on Regent Street cost per sqm	0	0	N/A	0	2,000,000	SBC and UKCPT	2013-14	Short
Wellington Street	Public Realm Scheme	Central Swindon	750,000	Based on Regent Street cost per sqm	0	0	N/A	0	750,000	SBC	2013	Short
Havelock Square	Public Realm Scheme	Central Swindon	1,600,000	Based on Regent Street cost per sqm QS costs	0	0	N/A	0	1,600,000	SBC	2013-14	Short
Regent Circus North	Public Realm Scheme	Central Swindon	2,800,000	Based on Regent Street cost per sqm	0	0	N/A	0	2,800,000	SBC	2014-2017	Medium
Commercial Road public realm	Public Realm and related traffic improvements to Commercial Road	Central Swindon	5,200,000	Edwards Partnership (QS) Costing	0	0	N/A	0	5,200,000	SBC	2014-2017	Medium
Major Regeneration Projects												

Project Title	Project Description	Local Plan Project Location	Estimated Capital Cost	Cost Source	SBC Funding	S106 Funding	Other Funding Sources	Other Funding Amount (£)	Shortfall	Delivery Agency	Timing of Delivery	Term
Sussex Square Regeneration Scheme	Regeneration of the existing shopping centre, industrial estate and some residential areas	Existing Communities	7,000,000	Budget allocated in Housing Revenue Account. Feasibility Cost	0	0	HRA	7,000,000	0	SBC	2011-2014	Short
Major Infrastructure (Town Expansion)												
Neighbourhood Centre	Neighbourhood Centre	Tadpole Farm	4,500,000	Crest Nicholson	0	0	N/A	4,500,000	0	Developer	2012-2015	Short
Middlewich District Centre	A new district centre super market, hotel, pub and retail	Wichelstowe	20,000,000	Developer	0	0	Developer	20,000,000	0	Developer	2015	Short
Canal	Canal	Wichelstowe	3,000,000	Gardiner and Theobald Viability Assessment (Remaster planning)	0	0	Developer	3,000,000	0	Developer	2013-2015	Short
Kingsdown Local Centre	Local Centre	Kingsdown	4,500,000	Tadpole Farm	0	0	0	4,500,000	0	Developer	2017-2019	Medium

Project Title	Project Description	Local Plan Project Location	Estimated Capital Cost	Cost Source	SBC Funding	S106 Funding	Other Funding Sources	Other Funding Amount (£)	Shortfall	Delivery Agency	Timing of Delivery	Term
Eastern Village District Centre	A new district centre	Eastern Villages	25,900,000	EDA Masterplan ning and Viability Framework	0	25,900,000	N/A	0	0	Developer	2016-2018	Medium
Canal	Canal	Eastern Villages	26,650,000	EDA Masterplan ning and Viability Framework	0	0	N/A	0	26,650,000	SBC	2020	Medium
Internal Bridges	Internal Bridges	Eastern Villages	17,000,000	EDA Masterplan ning and Viability Framework	0	0	Developer	17,000,000	0	Developer	2020	Medium

TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE COSTS (Excluding Affordable Housing)

			Estimated Capital Cost	Cost Source	SBC Funding	S106 Funding	Other Funding Sources	Other Funding Amount (£)	Shortfall			
			821,882,000		12,600,000	142,828,000		321,625,000	345,257,000			

Project Title	Project Description	Local Plan Project Location	Estimated Capital Cost	Cost Source	SBC Funding	S106 Funding	Other Funding Sources	Other Funding Amount (£)	Shortfall	Delivery Agency	Timing of Delivery	Term
Affordable Housing												
900 Affordable Housing Units		Boroughwide	120,000,000	Build Costs	0	0	S.106	120,000,000	0	SBC	2013	Short
900 Affordable Housing Units		Boroughwide	120,000,000	Build Costs	0	0	S.106	120,000,000	0	SBC	2016	Medium
2400 Affordable Housing Units		Boroughwide	320,000,000	Build Costs	0	0	S.106	320,000,000	0	SBC	2026	Long
			£560,000,000		0	0	S106	560,000,000	0	SBC	2013-2026	

TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE COSTS (Including Affordable Housing)

			Estimated Capital Cost	Cost Source	SBC Funding	S106 Funding	Other Funding Sources	Other Funding Amount (£)	Shortfall			
			1,381,882,000		12,600,000	142,828,000		881,625,000	345,257,000			

11 IDP Review

- 11.1 As the IDP covers a relatively long time period, up until 2026, it is inevitable that the requirement for the delivery of certain infrastructure items will change overtime due to a whole range of influences.
- 11.2 In this respect, as the IDP is a flexible living document such changes can be accommodated through a monitoring and review process and updated accordingly.
- 11.3 In order to identify any such changes the IDP will be reviewed when appropriate to ensure that the document is up to date and accurately reflects the Borough's key infrastructure needs to deliver strategic growth and regeneration.
- 11.4 Although an annual review period would be ideal to fall in line with the Annual Monitoring Report as defined within part 5 of the Local Plan, due to resource available and also due to the uncertainty of when particular developments will be brought forward, it is likely that a strict annual regime will not necessarily be wholly appropriate. Therefore the Local Planning Authority reserves the right to review the IDP as and when deemed necessary.
- 11.5 In order to keep the process transparent and open, all key stakeholders and critical partners will be consulted during the review and due process followed prior to publication.

12 Glossary of Terms

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The Community Infrastructure Levy is a charge on new development, which local authorities are permitted to collect to fund infrastructure to support housing and economic growth. The CIL must be collected through the preparation of a Charging Schedule, supported by a range of infrastructure planning and economic viability evidence.

Local Enterprise Partnership

Joint Local Authority and business-led bodies based on natural economic geography, brought forward by Local Authorities to promote local economic development, tackling issues including planning and housing, local transport and infrastructure, employment, enterprise and business start-up support.

Local Investment Plan

Local investment plans provide a basis for local authorities to identify and prioritise the investment needs of their places and communities. They are also a means to allocate resources and manage delivery across local partnerships over a long period of time. The priorities identified by local authorities in their local investment plans shapes the Homes and Communities Agency's business planning, delivery of our investment programmes and the enabling support to local partners.

Swindon Borough Local Plan 2026

Pre-Submission Document

Duty to Co-operate Statement

October 2012

CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

CONTEXT

Introduction
Localism Act 2011
National Planning Policy Framework

FULFILLING THE DUTY TO CO-OPERATE

The Duty in the Swindon Context
Formal Consultation Processes
Evidence Base
Joint Working with Wiltshire Council
Infrastructure Delivery Plan
Co-operation with Neighbouring Local Planning Authorities,
County Councils and Prescribed Bodies
Practical Policy Outcomes from Co-operation
Moving Forward

SUMMARY

APPENDICES

1. Duty to Co-operate (Localism Act 2011)
2. Part 2, section 4 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations, 2012
3. Guidance related to the Duty to Co-operate (National Planning Policy Framework)
4. Checklist of Contact with and Involvement in Key Stages of Plan Development
5. Review of Co-operation with Neighbouring Local Planning Authorities, County Councils and Prescribed Bodies
6. Part 2, section 34 (6) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations, 2012

CONTEXT

Introduction

1.1 With Royal Assent of the Localism Act in November 2011 and subsequent Regulations which came into force in 2012 came a new statutory duty for local planning authorities to co-operate with neighbouring local authorities and other “prescribed bodies” in the preparation of development plans. An assessment of whether the “Duty to Co-operate” (the Duty) has been satisfied by Swindon Borough Council will be undertaken during the Local Plan Public Examination. This report is a statement of how the Duty has been met by the Council.

1.2 It is important to note that much of the preparation was done for this Plan under legislation introduced in 2004 (the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act) and therefore was done to develop a Core Strategy for the Borough as part of a wider Local Development Framework. Following the 2011 Localism Act, Local Plans were introduced as the replacement planning document for Local Development Frameworks. There are therefore references in this statement to both the “Core Strategy” (under which much of the evidence for this plan has been produced in the period to March 2012) as well as the “Local Plan”, which has ‘evolved’ from the work done on the Core Strategy under the ‘old’ or pre-2012 planning system.

1.3 In assessing how the Council has fulfilled the Duty, this report takes into account the Localism Act and accompanying relevant Regulations, the National Planning Policy Framework, advice issued by the Planning Advisory Service (PAS)¹ and other examples of statements prepared by local planning authorities. No formal guidance on how to meet the Duty’s requirements has issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG). Advising on the format of a statement responding to the Duty, the PAS advice suggests that whilst there is no fixed format for presentation, it should be:

“...succinct; flow from the issues that have been addressed jointly; and, highlight the practical policy outcomes that have resulted. A ‘tick box’ approach or a

¹ See <http://www.pas.gov.uk/pas/core/page.do?pageId=1795308>

collection of correspondence will not be sufficient. Councils will also need to show how they have considered joint plan-making what decisions were reached and why. Finally, councils need to report how the duty is being taking forward on an on-going basis through the Annual Monitoring Report

Localism Act 2011

1.4 Section 110 of the Localism Act introduces the duty to co-operate in relation to planning of sustainable development (as a new section 33A in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004)². In effect, for Swindon Borough Council (as the local planning authority) this means that, in preparing its Local Plan, the Council must co-operate with:

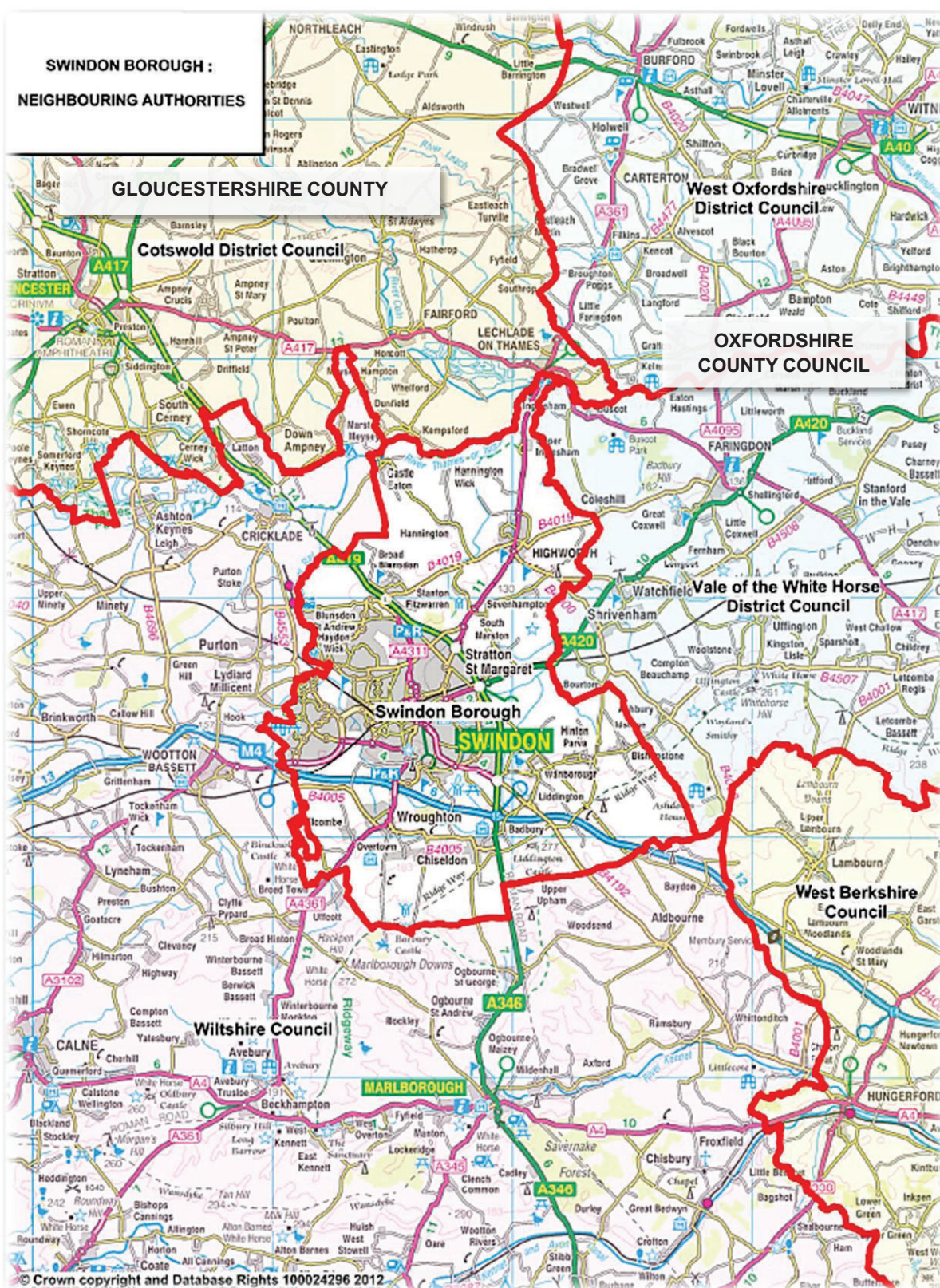
- i) neighbouring local planning authorities and county councils;
- ii) other local planning authorities and county councils where sustainable development or use of land would have a significant impact on at least two local planning areas or on a planning matter that falls within the remit of a county council, or on other strategic issues such as infrastructure which may have an impact; and,
- iii) the following “prescribed bodies” which it is considered are of most relevance to the preparation of the development plan for Swindon³:
 - the Environment Agency;
 - English Heritage;
 - Natural England;
 - the Homes and Communities Agency;
 - the Primary Care Trust;
 - the Office of Rail Regulation;
 - the Highways Agency; and,
 - Local Enterprise Partnerships (which, although not defined by statute, the local planning authority should have regard to them in satisfying the Duty).

² See Appendix 1.

³ The full list of “prescribed bodies” is defined by Part 2 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations, 2012 – see Appendix 2.

The neighbouring authorities specified in i) above are illustrated in the below map at Figure 1.

Figure 1: Swindon Borough Council's Neighbouring Local Planning Authorities and County Councils



The Act also requires the local planning authority to:

- i) “engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis” with these authorities and bodies to develop strategic policies;
- ii) set out planning policies to address issues which arise from the process of meeting the Duty; and,
- iii) consider joint approaches to plan making.

It is important to note that the duty requires “co-operation” and not “agreement”.

National Planning Policy Framework

1.5 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published in March 2012 and provides some guidance on the interpretation of the Duty. It emphasises the importance of collaborative working and sets out⁴ the strategic planning issues which could cross administrative boundaries, where co-operation might be appropriate, as:

- the homes and jobs needed in the area;
- the provision of retail, leisure and other commercial development;
- the provision of infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);
- the provision of health, security, community and cultural infrastructure and other local facilities; and
- climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including landscape.

1.6 It highlights the importance of joint working to meet development requirements that cannot be wholly met within a single local planning area, through either joint planning policies or informal strategies such as infrastructure and investment plans. Adding to the content of the legislation, it states that “Local planning authorities should take account of different geographic areas, including travel-to-work areas” and that they should “also work collaboratively with private sector

⁴ In paragraph 156 – also see Appendix 3.

bodies, utility and infrastructure providers”⁵, going on to state that there is an expectation that local planning authorities “will be expected to demonstrate evidence of having effectively cooperated to plan for issues with cross-boundary impacts when their Local Plans are submitted for examination”⁶.

FULFILLING THE DUTY TO CO-OPERATE

The Duty in the Swindon Context

- 1.7 Whilst most of the plan’s preparation came prior to the Duty being introduced, the Local Plan and its evidence base was, nonetheless, developed involving neighbouring authorities, the prescribed bodies and key stakeholders with a statutory responsibility (i.e. “statutory consultees”) or non-statutory interest in order to meet requirements of previous legislation and guidance introduced in 2004⁷.
- 1.8 This meant *at least providing the opportunity* for those bodies and local planning authorities now listed within the Localism Act as “prescribed bodies” to comment and inviting constructive representations or objections through formal planning processes. However, neither consideration of the emerging Strategy nor responses from such bodies could be guaranteed.
- 1.9 The aim then, as it is now, was to develop a robust plan with informed and appropriate policies which have been shaped by evidence, consultation and stakeholder input.

Formal Consultation Processes

- 1.10 The development of the Local Plan has involved several rounds of formal consultation and engagement with members of the public, statutory consultees and other key stakeholders including the business community, infrastructure providers and developers.

⁵ See paragraph 180 and Appendix 3.

⁶ See paragraph 181 and Appendix 3.

⁷ The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, accompanying Regulations and the now deleted Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Spatial Planning (last revised in June 2008).

1.11 These are well-documented and are not repeated in detail here. However, the following table provides a summary of the main documents consulted on, all of which (including summaries of responses received to Core Strategy and Local Plan documents) are publicly available on the Council's website⁸.

Figure 2: Summary of documents consulted upon

Document title (and hyperlink)	Date	Summary
Statement of Community Involvement	January 2007	Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) all local planning authorities were required to produce a 'Statement of Community Involvement' (SCI). The SCI sets out the Council intends to achieve continuous community involvement in the preparation and revision of all planning documents that comprise the LDF, and in the consideration of planning applications.
Core Strategy: Issues and Options Consultation	April 2007	Taking into account stakeholder responses received, together with consideration of the Evidence Base, including corporate priorities and the Draft South West Regional Spatial Strategy, the Borough Council published an Issues and Options Paper for consultation between April and May 2007.
Core Strategy: Preferred Options Consultation	March 2008	The Preferred Options document took into account the results of the Issues and Options consultation, and contained the Council's view of how to realise its vision, regeneration objectives, and aspirations for achieving communities where the social, economic and environmental components are in balance to enable residents to thrive and enjoy a good quality of life.
Core Strategy: Proposed Submission	July 2009	Taking account of the Preferred Options consultation, the Proposed Submission document provided an opportunity for people to respond to the strategy which the Council believed was "sound" and which it wished to submit to the Planning Inspectorate for Public Examination.
Core Strategy: Revised Proposed Submission	March 2011	The Revised Proposed Submission consultation raised concerns about the overall level of growth at Swindon, and in particular the provision of essential infrastructure in uncertain economic times and it was becoming evident that the housing targets were unachievable. This was at odds with the targets set through the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy. Following the May 2010 General Election, the Government announced its

⁸ All Local Development Framework documents are available via the following pages on the website here <http://www.swindon.gov.uk/ep/ep-planning/forwardplaning/ep-planning-localdev/Pages/ep-planning-localdev.aspx> and Core Strategy and :Local Plan specific documents are available here <http://www.swindon.gov.uk/ep/ep-planning/forwardplaning/ep-planning-localdev/Pages/ep-planning-localdev-corestrategy.aspx>.

Document title (and hyperlink)	Date	Summary
		intention to abolish the Regional Strategies, and allow local planning authorities to determine their own housing targets. Significant changes were proposed in This draft, in relation to overall housing numbers and the spatial distribution of these.
Swindon Borough Local Plan 2006-2026: Pre-submission	October 2012	The Pre-submission version of the Local Plan is the document which the Council intends to submit to the Planning Inspectorate for Public Examination taking into account comments made in response to the Revised Proposed Submission document and the changes made to the planning system which came about in 2012.

1.12 The Council's "Statement of Consultation" provides a full account of consultation which has taken place during the Local Plan's development, including who, how and when that consultation has occurred and is not elaborated any further here. However, Appendix 4 provides a checklist of involvement of the neighbouring local planning authorities and County Councils and prescribed bodies during the key stages of the plan's preparation and of involvement in some of the key evidence base studies.

Evidence Base

1.13 Outside of the formal consultation processes, the Council has worked in collaboration most extensively through its evidence base work, undertaken to inform the development of the Strategy at its various stages and to help ensure that the Strategy and its policies are robust. Such co-operation is not essential for every subject or topic covered by the Local Plan but there are a number of critical areas where co-operation and collaboration are key to planning effectively for Swindon Borough, particularly those topics where spatial planning requires a thorough understanding of the functional, cross-boundary, "real world" patterns of movement and influence. The following evidence base work captures the areas where significant collaboration and co-operation has taken place.

Swindon Joint Study

- 1.14 The Swindon Joint Study was undertaken by Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire County Council as “strategic authorities” and was commissioned by the Regional Planning Body (South West Regional Assembly) to inform the development of the draft Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). The study moved work forward on from that done with Wiltshire County Council on the Wiltshire and Swindon Joint Structure Plan and focused on understanding appropriate quantum and broad locations for growth in and around the Swindon sub-region, together with the infrastructure implications of such growth in the period to the year 2026. It tested to what degree three levels of housing growth could be delivered during that period: 37,890, 41,890 and 45,890. The study area was based on the Swindon travel to work area and was refined taking into account other spheres of influence such as retail and leisure catchments, assessment of how people access and use Swindon’s services and facilities, and Swindon based newspaper distribution areas (equating roughly to a 20 mile radius from Swindon’s centre). The study drew together the infrastructure, transport and facilities needs of the Borough for the levels of development tested, such as transport, education and utilities, amongst others.
- 1.15 The draft proposals in the Study underwent public consultation early in 2005 and responses were received from seven statutory consultees: the (now closed) South West Regional Development Agency, the Highways Agency, Wessex Water, Thames Water, English Nature (now part of Natural England), the Environment Agency, and British Waterways. The [Swindon Joint Study Interim Report](#) was published in May 2005 and its conclusions were considered by the Cabinet of Swindon Borough Council on 1st June 2005. Much of the evidence base which now informs the current strategy has its beginnings in or was commissioned as a result of this Study.
- 1.16 The Study was overseen by an officer working group and Steering Group comprising 70% strategic and District local authority Members and 30% social, economic and environmental partners (SEEPs). All neighbouring strategic and District local authorities were members of the group involved in developing and shaping the work. Membership of the group did not preclude

them submitting their own evidence to the Assembly during development of the draft RSS.

Figure 3: Steering Group Members for the Swindon Joint Study	
District and Strategic Authorities	SEEPs
Swindon Borough Council	Environment Agency
Cotswold District Council	Learning and Skills Council, Wiltshire and Swindon
Gloucestershire County Council	New Swindon Company
Kenet District Council	Swindon Strategic Partnership
North Wiltshire District Council	Wiltshire and Swindon Economic Partnership
Oxfordshire County Council	Wiltshire Wildlife Trust
Vale of the White Horse District Council	
West Berkshire District Council	
West Oxfordshire District Council	
Wiltshire County Council	

- 1.17 The involvement of the above local authorities ensured that all services run by local authorities had an input into the process. For example, in two tier Council areas, the District Councils represented local planning matters and County Councils represented strategic planning, education, highways, waste and minerals planning, libraries and so on. In Unitary authority areas, all of these services were represented by a single authority.
- 1.18 Whilst the RSS is due to be revoked in due course by the Coalition Government, the sub-regional joint working has proved a positive experience in engaging key responsible authorities and bodies in the debate about the appropriate level and locations for growth in and around Swindon, as well as providing a significant level of evidence behind deliverable levels of growth and change in Swindon. It has helped both to reduce and clearly highlight objections to levels and locations for growth as proposed in the Local Plan. Forming part of the evidence base behind the proposals for Swindon in the

south west RSS, opportunity was given through the Examination process for the RSS for non-neighbouring local authorities to make comments through their respective Regional Assemblies (and as authorities in their own right) if they so wished.

- 1.19 Importantly, the Study drew out a number of key strategic issues which are particularly relevant to achieving growth and change in Swindon and for which further work was taken forward as part of other evidence base studies identified below: economy; water resources and waste water; transport; and, the deliverability of strategic housing development at Swindon.
- 1.20 In addition to this sub-regional work, Swindon Borough Council officers were also active members of the South West Regional Assembly's Environment Directors Group, Planning Officers' Group and Transport Officers' Group, which comprised representatives from the region's County, Unitary and District Councils and were convened to consider sub-regional, regional and inter-regional planning and transport issues, evidence base studies and drafting of the RSS. Borough Council Councillors were members of the equivalent Member groups including the Regional Spatial Planning and Transport Group.

Strategic Housing Market Assessment

- 1.21 The [Strategic Housing Market Assessment](#) (SHMA) was undertaken in 2006. It involved working jointly with Kennet District Council, North Wiltshire District Council and Wiltshire County Council (now covered by the single unitary authority of Wiltshire Council). Supported by the South West Housing Body and in line with Government guidance, it was undertaken to: provide an overview of the housing market in the Swindon sub-region in order to inform housing and planning policies, and broader regeneration and economic development initiatives; and, to advise on how the local authorities and their partners can deliver the planned levels of new housing.
- 1.22 Integral to the SHMA was the involvement of developers represented by planning consultants, the Home Builders Federation, Housing Associations on the steering group.

Wiltshire and Berkshire Canal Restoration

- 1.23 Produced in December 2007, the study explored the restoration of the Wiltshire and Berkshire Canal. The Council is a member of the [Wilts & Berks Canal Partnership](#), which also includes the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust, Wiltshire Council, Oxfordshire County Council and Vale of the White Horse District Council. Through involvement with and the work of the partnership, the Council proposes to safeguard the route of the old canal and facilitate restoration of the canal within the Borough (in those places where it has not been built over) to obtain maximum environmental and economic benefit for the community. Two sections of the canal in the Borough have already been restored in partnership with the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust.

Swindon Small Urban Extensions Study

- 1.24 The Swindon [Small Scale Urban Extensions Study](#) (SSUES) was published in 2008 and was a response to the draft RSS identifying that provision should be made for 2,000 dwellings on small scale urban extensions to Swindon in Swindon Borough and 1,000 dwellings adjacent to the Swindon urban area in North Wiltshire District, for the period 2006-26. The study was a technical exercise to determine the most sustainable location for these dwellings to inform the Local Development Frameworks of Swindon Borough Council and North Wiltshire District Council. Whilst no public consultation was undertaken for the technical exercise, service provider and other stakeholders, such as Thames Water, the Highways Agency, the Environment Agency and Wiltshire Wildlife Trust provided data and views were sought during the process to help assess the suitability of individual or groups of sites. On balance the most sustainable development scenario to accommodate the draft RSS dwellings was identified to accommodate development within Swindon Borough at Tadpole Farm and Land south of Kingsdown Lane, and within North Wiltshire District at Ridgeway Farm and Moredon Bridge. The study recognised that although this represented the most sustainable option to deliver the required housing numbers, strategic investment would be required to accommodate development and the impact of traffic generated upon the existing community in north and west Swindon.

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (Level 1)

- 1.25 The Level 1 [Strategic Flood Risk Assessment](#) (completed in 2008) has been driven by both Government guidance but also, in Swindon, a need to understand the particular implications of flood risk on delivery of the major urban extensions proposed. The study was undertaken in close liaison with the Environment Agency and also includes an area of what was North Wiltshire District Council (now part of Wiltshire Council's administrative area) which has development implications arising from Swindon's proposed housing allocations. The requirements of a more detailed Level 2 SFRA have largely been undertaken through other work on flood risk, which has been acknowledged by the Environment Agency. Work continues, through the delivery, rather than plan-making, process on having a detailed understanding of the implications of flood risk on development sites, proposals and necessary mitigation measures. This work includes updating previous modelling of flood risk and the River Ray, a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment, Surface Water Management Plan and applying the sequential test to development sites, as well as the consideration of both Environment Agency and Thames Water plans. Any further outstanding requirement of a Level 2 SFRA will be undertaken through this continuing delivery focused work, to be drawn together in a composite SPD and guide for development management on the application of flood risk data to development proposals.

Water Cycle Strategy

- 1.26 Evidence base work cited above raised significant issues which needed further investigation in connection with the ability of the Swindon sub-region to accommodate development from a water supply and waste water treatment perspective. The [Water Cycle Study](#), produced in partnership with Wiltshire County Council, the Environment Agency, Thames Water Utilities Ltd., the South West Regional Assembly and Bureau Veritas (on behalf of the East Swindon Development Group) and published in 2007, seeks to address these issues. The study was required to ensure that proposed growth does not adversely impact on the existing water cycle environment and that new Water Services Infrastructure can be planned for and provided alongside new development in a timely, phased, sustainable and cost effective manner. The overall aim of the water cycle study was to develop a water cycle strategy for

Swindon: that all partners can commit to; show how water infrastructure (both water supply and waste water) can be delivered alongside development rather than afterwards; set out design standards for sustainable drainage; integrate urban drainage; and, build on the work done on the SFRA to prevent flooding.

- 1.27 A “phase 2” Water Cycle Strategy is in the process of being produced to take into account recently produced data and Thames Water and Environment Agency Plans, include an integrated cost benefit and sustainability assessment on strategic water cycle infrastructure options and to reduce any uncertainties raised during the phase 1 study.
- 1.28 Together with aforementioned work on flood risk, water cycle and flood risk evidence is comprehensive and has been supported throughout by the Environment Agency and other partners.

Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment

- 1.29 A [Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment](#) (SHLAA) was published in 2009 and the process has been more recently undertaken in 2011. A technical exercise, the study forms a critical part of the evidence gathering for the deliverability of housing development in the Borough, calling for landowners and developers to submit parcels of land which they feel are appropriate for development. These sites are then assessed applying constraints and opportunities to help determine which sites might move forward to a next step of considering whether they are suitable in strategy terms and viable in delivery terms. The purpose of the SHLAA is to provide an assessment of potential housing land availability, and the identification of sites should not be taken as representing either an intention to allocate these sites for housing, or as material planning consideration in the determination of a planning application. The work is based on Government [methodology](#) and was refined through dialogue with the independently facilitated Swindon Local Policy Forum which meets periodically to discuss planning matters and comprises local stakeholders, including developers, neighbourhood and parish groups, and environmental groups. Following the establishment of the

Wiltshire & Swindon Housing Market Partnership in 2009, work on the SHLAA is now steered through this group.

Great Western Community Forest and the Green Infrastructure Strategy

- 1.30 The Borough Council is a key member of the [Great Western Community Forest](#) initiative, a partnership of local and regional organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors working together to create high-quality environments for local people by diversifying land-use, revitalising derelict landscapes, enhancing biodiversity and providing new opportunities for leisure, recreation, cultural activity, education, healthy living and social and economic development.
- 1.31 The [Green Infrastructure Strategy](#) was published in 2009 and was facilitated by the Great Western Community Forest team (based at the Borough Council). It sets out to: prioritise the planning, development of and investment in green infrastructure in Swindon to 2026; present a shared vision for the development of a strategic green infrastructure network across Swindon and reach into neighbouring areas; highlight the means by which organizations, communities and partnerships, can work to create and sustain a fit for purpose green infrastructure network across the area; and, consolidate the essential role green infrastructure will play in the sustainable development of Swindon. In doing so, it has been essential to collaborate with key stakeholders within and outside of the Borough Council area and to link in with other strategies and plans. The strategy's study area extends into all neighbouring local authority areas to a distance of approximately 10km from the Borough Council's boundary and these authorities have therefore been involved in its development. The work has involved stakeholder group meetings and face-to-face discussions and meetings with the Swindon Local Policy Forum to cover the full range of green infrastructure related issues including biodiversity, health, and so on.

Figure 4: Steering Group Members for the Green Infrastructure Strategy	
Swindon Borough Council	Environment Agency
Wiltshire Council	English Nature

Cotswold District Council	English Heritage
Gloucestershire County Council	North Wessex Area Of Outstanding Beauty
West Oxfordshire District Council	Countryside Agency
Oxfordshire County Council	Wiltshire Wildlife Trust
Vale of the White Horse District Council	Cotswold Water Park
West Berkshire	Forestry Commission
	Woodland Trust
	Wilts and Berks Canal Trust
	Government Office for the South West
	South West Councils
	CABE

North Wessex Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan

- 1.32 The Council is one of a number of local authorities covering the AONB area which were involved in the development of the [North Wessex AONB Management Plan](#). The Plan covers the period 2009 – 2014 and focuses on the management of landscapes, biodiversity, historic environment and natural resources.

Relationship with Wiltshire Council

- 1.33 Due to particular cross-boundary issues Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council have a special working relationship. The history of joint working stretches back to 1997 on the formation of Swindon Borough as a unitary authority. As Wiltshire County Council it was joint strategic planning authority with the Borough for the production of the Wiltshire and Swindon Structure Plan and continues to so for Minerals and Waste Development Plans Documents.
- 1.34 Wiltshire and Swindon have worked jointly on contributing to the development of the draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the South-west, and where appropriate prepared joint papers for evidence at the Examination in Public to

the RSS in 2007. A number of joint evidence base documents have been produced to inform both Core Strategies:

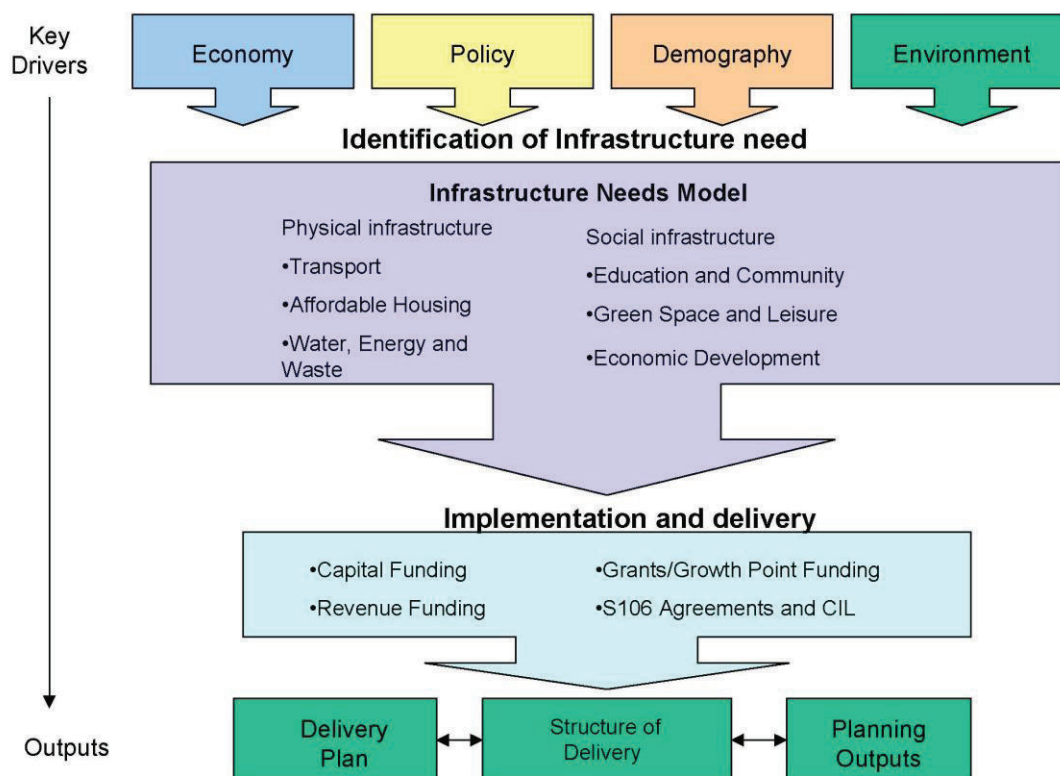
- West Of Swindon Study (2007)
- Swindon Small Scale Extension Study (2008)
- West of Swindon Update Report (2011)
- Swindon Small Scale Extension update report (2012)

- 1.35 A joint Strategic Plans Working Party exists for Member's to discuss planning issues of cross-border importance. Officers of the Councils meet regularly to discuss mutually important matters and act as a critical friend in reviewing respective evidence base.

Delivery

- 1.36 The successful delivery of Swindon's growth depends upon the capacity of the Council to manage the delivery programme, through effective and efficient project management and effective partnership working. As a first step of effective partnership working it has been critical to identify all necessary infrastructure requirements to deliver the vision of the Local Plan. The key strands are identified in figure 3.

Figure 5 - Implementation Strategy



Infrastructure Delivery Plan

- 1.37 The Infrastructure Delivery Plan was published alongside the Proposed Submission draft of the Local Plan in 2009. In effect, together with masterplanning work, it forms an implementation plan for the Local Plan, quantifying, where possible, the types and cost of service infrastructure and facilities required to support new development and new communities. The Plan required a significant level of dialogue with infrastructure providers, in both the public and private sectors, to determine requirements and needs. This dialogue was held through workshops and infrastructure focus groups as well as correspondence. The IDP could not have been developed without close co-operation with infrastructure providers. That collaboration has provided a greater understanding of the cost of delivering development to the specifications required by the evidence base and Strategy.
- 1.38 The IDP informs the developing [Community Infrastructure Levy](#) in Swindon as well as the delivery of development proposals in the Local Plan and will remain a “live” document being updated periodically to ensure infrastructure needs and costs are fully understood during the plan period.

Co-operation with Neighbouring Local Planning Authorities, County Councils and Prescribed Bodies

- 1.39 As already noted, the Council has worked extensively with its neighbouring local planning authorities, County Councils and prescribed bodies throughout the development of the Local Plan.
- 1.40 Figure 6 below captures the key issues that were raised through the consultation process of Local Development Frame Work. It shows the actions to the issues raised and the key evidence base or documents that were brought forward to resolve some of these issues. Some of the concerns raised by the neighbouring authorities are Strategic, Cross boundary and or Swindon Specific Issues. There a few of the authorities that did not comment on all of the stages of the consultation process. This includes West Oxfordshire district council and West Berkshire Council, who did not comment throughout the consultation process as they are not connected to the Swindon Borough Council boundary but they are within a distance to be affect hence why they were contacted for the consultation. Throughout all of the consultation process the evidence documents have been made available for other authorities and statutory bodies to comment on.
- 1.41 Appendix 4 illustrates the different bodies that where contacted about the different stages through the consultation process. The Local Enterprise Partnerships where not contacted through the earlier stages of the consultation process as they were not formed at this point.
- 1.42 In Appendix 5 is the table to show the consultation outcomes from the other statutory bodies that have been contacted through the development of the Local development Framework.

Figure 6

Consultation stage 1: Issues and Options

Prescribed Body	Type of Engagement	Key Issue	Raised through Consultation/ Consultation Stage	Cross boundary Issue?	Strategic Issue	Swindon Specific (Local) Issue?	Action	Relevant Evidence Base
Wiltshire County Council (formerly North Wiltshire DC, Kennet DC, West Wiltshire)	Regular Meetings Regular telephone conversations	Housing	There needs to be a higher development on brownfield instead of Greenfield	Y	Y	Y	At Issues and Options the Core Strategy was at a very early stage in the plan making process and various options were provided on how to address housing growth at Swindon, particularly in relation to the draft SW RSS which identified 1000 homes to the West of Swindon	West of Swindon Joint Study with former North Wiltshire District Council Emerging SW RSS
		Facilities	Villages need to become more self-sufficient, with a high amount of facilities	N	N	N	Consideration of Rural issues at next stage	Rural Facilities Study
Cotswold Council			No representation received but possible conflict with Tadpole Farm, North Meadow & Clattinger Farm and the A419	Y	Y	N	Habitats Assessment undertaken in line with EC/Ramsar regulations	Draft Eastern Development Area SPD

Prescribed Body	Type of Engagement	Key Issue	Raised through Consultation/ Consultation Stage	Cross boundary Issue?	Strategic Issue	Swindon Specific (Local) Issue?	Action	Relevant Evidence Base
								released in XXXX Draft SW RSS
Oxfordshire County Council			Consulted but did not respond					
Gloucestershire county council			Consulted but did not respond					
Vale of the White Horses		Collaborative Working	There should be increased recognition for the District council as it is close to some of the large proposed developments in the Borough. The GAPSS should be kept to protect the distance between Swindon Borough and the Vale.	Y	Y	Y	Consideration of identity of villages in formalising proposed EDA boundary	Draft EDA SPD
		Housing	Swindon Borough Housing figures do not match the RSS figures. The Eastern Development area boundaries need to be confirmed before they are defined. Brownfield	Y	Y	Y	Explanation of figures. Urban capacity work commenced. More detailed work on capacity of EDA	SHLAA

Prescribed Body	Type of Engagement	Key Issue	Raised through Consultation/ Consultation Stage	Cross boundary Issue?	Strategic Issue	Swindon Specific (Local) Issue?	Action	Relevant Evidence Base
			development before Greenfield					
		Transport	Sustainable transport methods are needed to meet sustainable growth e.g. enhancement of the A420.	Y	Y	Y	Development of policies to include public transport – including Rapid Transport	EDA Transport Modelling
		Facilities	Villages need to become more self-sufficient, with a high amount of facilities	N	N	N	Consideration of Rural issues at next stage	Rural Facilities Survey
West Oxfordshire district council			Consulted but did not respond					
West Berkshire Council			Consulted but did not respond					

Consultation stage 2: Preferred Options

Prescribed Body	Type of Engagement	Key Issue	Raised through Consultation/ Consultation Stage	Cross boundary Issue?	Strategic Issue	Swindon Specific (Local) Issue?	Action	Relevant Evidence Base
Wiltshire County Council	Regular Meetings Regular	Housing	There should be more development in the East not in the North which will lead to less piece meal development.	Y	Y	Y	Work undertaken through Small Scale Extension Study and joint work with	Small Scale Urban Extension

Prescribed Body	Type of Engagement	Key Issue	Raised through Consultation/ Consultation Stage	Cross boundary Issue?	Strategic Issue	Swindon Specific (Local) Issue?	Action	Relevant Evidence Base
(formerly North Wiltshire DC, Kennet DC, West Wiltshire)	telephone conversations		Small sites need to come forward in a reasonable time scale.				Wiltshire on contribution and timing of small sites	Study
		Transport	Swindon is a high transport location and needs policies that reflect the need to reduce this. Land needs to be safeguarded for transport links	Y	Y	Y	Work taken forward on rapid transit route	Swindon Transport Study
		Collaborative Working	There should be a joint working on the level of housing development. So development is not allocated in outer authorities boundaries	Y	Y	Y		
Cotswold Council			No representation received but possible conflict with Tadpole Farm, North Meadow & Clattinger Farm and the A419	N	N	N	Habitats Assessment undertaken	HA Report
Oxfordshire County Council		Transport	The Eastern Development area is going to increase the congestion on the A420; a new train station will reduce this and assist in the development of other train stations in the County. To assist rural villages the park and ride should be reinstated.	Y	Y	Y	Discussions with Network Rail -not feasible in timeframe of Plan. Park and Ride re-considered	Swindon Transport Study
		Housing	The Eastern development area will increase the likelihood of merging into the surrounding villages. Therefore there needs to be more integration into Swindon	Y	Y	Y	Work taken forward to make EDA inward facing	LDA work to inform EDA SPD
		Collaborative Working	Cross boundary water issues need to be recognised.	Y	Y	Y	Considered through the Water Cycle Study	Water Cycle Study
Gloucesters		Transport	Development in the borough is going	Y	Y	Y	Authorities in agreement.	Swindon

Prescribed Body	Type of Engagement	Key Issue	Raised through Consultation/ Consultation Stage	Cross boundary Issue?	Strategic Issue	Swindon Specific (Local) Issue?	Action	Relevant Evidence Base
hire county council			to impact on the A419, A417 and the Railway line to and from Swindon into Gloucestershire. Both of these need to be improved if development is to proceed				Discussions with Highways Agency and Network Rail undertaken	Transport Study
Vale of the White Horses		Collaborative Working	There needs to be an understanding of the effect that development as on the surrounding areas. Developer contributions should decrease flood risk, to benefit both authorities.	Y	Y	Y	JSA work had already considered this.	Swindon Joint Study
		Housing	The Eastern development area should be reduced and the development within the urban area and Commonhead increased.		Y	Y	Options rejected because of need to deliver infrastructure and landscape issues at Commonhead	Small Scale Urban Extension Study
		Transport	Swindon is a large transport hub and this needs to be recognised when developing.	Y	Y	Y	Work developed through the	
		Facilities	The Great Western Community Forest Should be included in the Plans. A sustainable water supply would be required for all of the new developments	Y	Y	Y	Work taken forward on GWFC Plan. Water supply considered as part of Water Cycle Study	GWFC Plan Swindon Water Cycle Study
West Oxfordshire district council			Consulted but did not respond					
West Berkshire Council			Consulted but did not respond					

Consultation stage 3: Proposed Submission

Prescribed Body	Type of Engagement	Key Issue	Raised through Consultation/ Consultation Stage	Cross boundary Issue?	Strategic Issue	Swindon Specific (Local) Issue?	Action	Relevant Evidence Base
Wiltshire County Council (formerly North Wiltshire DC, Kennet DC, West Wiltshire)	Regular Meetings Regular telephone conversations	Housing	There are some housing allocations that are required to cross boundaries.	Y	Y	Y	Work to facilitate cross-boundary deliver initiated	West Of Swindon Update Report
		Transport	Swindon is a high transport location and needs policies that reflect the need to reduce this. The canal route needs to be safeguarded	Y	Y	Y	Points already considered – continued joint working agreed	
		Collaborative Working	Traveling show people, Education, housing, Canal and GI are issues that needs to be considered by both Wiltshire County and Swindon Borough	Y	Y	Y	Points already considered – continued joint working agreed	
Cotswold Council			No representation received but possible conflict with Tadpole Farm, North Meadow & Clattinger Farm and the A419	Y	Y	Y	See above	
Oxfordshire County Council		Housing	Large scale development will affect the transport along the A420 which there are no mitigation to reduce this.	Y	Y	Y	Transport to be considered in more detail through further work	EDA Transport Modelling work
Gloucestershire county			Consulted but not replied					

Prescribed Body	Type of Engagement	Key Issue	Raised through Consultation/ Consultation Stage	Cross boundary Issue?	Strategic Issue	Swindon Specific (Local) Issue?	Action	Relevant Evidence Base
council								
Vale of the White Horses		Collaborative Working	There is the need for a strategic buffer around the EDA to reduce the impact on the Vale district.	Y	Y	Y	Issue of buffer not in accord with then gov'n't advice- but to be considered as design of the SPD and determination of application	
		Transport	The A420 will not manage with the increase of the traffic, mitigation measures needed.	Y	Y	Y	Transport to be considered in more detail through further work	EDA Transport Modelling work
West Oxfordshire District Council			Consulted but did not respond					
West Berkshire Council			Consulted but did not respond					

Consultation 4: Revised Proposed Submission

Prescribed Body	Type of Engagement	Key Issue	Raised through Consultation/ Consultation Stage	Cross boundary Issue?	Strategic Issue	Swindon Specific (Local) Issue?	Action	Relevant Evidence Base
Wiltshire County Council (formerly North Wiltshire DC, Kennet DC, West Wiltshire)	Regular Meetings Regular telephone conversations	Housing	Housing Numbers need to show if they are following or clashing with the RSS housing Numbers. And they need to be clarified in relation to Employment numbers	Y	Y	Y	Informal discussions on housing numbers with relevant officers	Housing Requirement Update Paper
		Transport	Transport issues can be mitigated through the town with more development in the West of the town.	Y	Y	Y		
		Collaborative Working	There are some issues that need to be clarified to show joint working. There is no illustration of how the development in Swindon is going to affect the surrounding areas.	Y	Y	Y	Working together on demonstrating joint working	Duty- to co-operate statements
Cotswold Council			No representation received but possible conflict with Tadpole Farm, North Meadow & Clattinger Farm and the A419	Y	Y	Y	See above	
Oxfordshire County Council		Collaborative Working	There is concern over the large amount of affordable housing being developed in the EDA which will then increase the commuting to Oxfordshire.	Y	Y	Y	Affordable Housing a gov'n't requirement. The aim is to reduce commuting by balancing housing-employment	
Gloucestershire		Transport	Development in the borough is going to impact on the A419,	Y	Y	Y	Authorities in agreement. Discussions with	Swindon Transport

Consultation 4: Revised Proposed Submission

Prescribed Body	Type of Engagement	Key Issue	Raised through Consultation/ Consultation Stage	Cross boundary Issue?	Strategic Issue	Swindon Specific (Local) Issue?	Action	Relevant Evidence Base
county council			A417 and the Railway line to and from Swindon into Gloucestershire. Both of these need to be improved if development is to proceed				Highways Agency and Network Rail undertaken	Model
Vale of the White Horses		Transport	The A420 and the Railway are going to be impacted on which are going to require improvement, some of the infrastructure may not be achievable	Y	Y	Y	Clarified through work on Infrastructure Delivery Plan	Infrastructure Delivery Plan
		Housing	The West of Swindon has not been considered as a reasonable alternative	Y	Y	Y	Clarification of site selection in respect of lower numbers	Small Scale extensions update paper
West Oxfordshire district council			Consulted but did not respond					
West Berkshire Council			Consulted but did not respond					

Practical Policy Outcomes from Co-operation

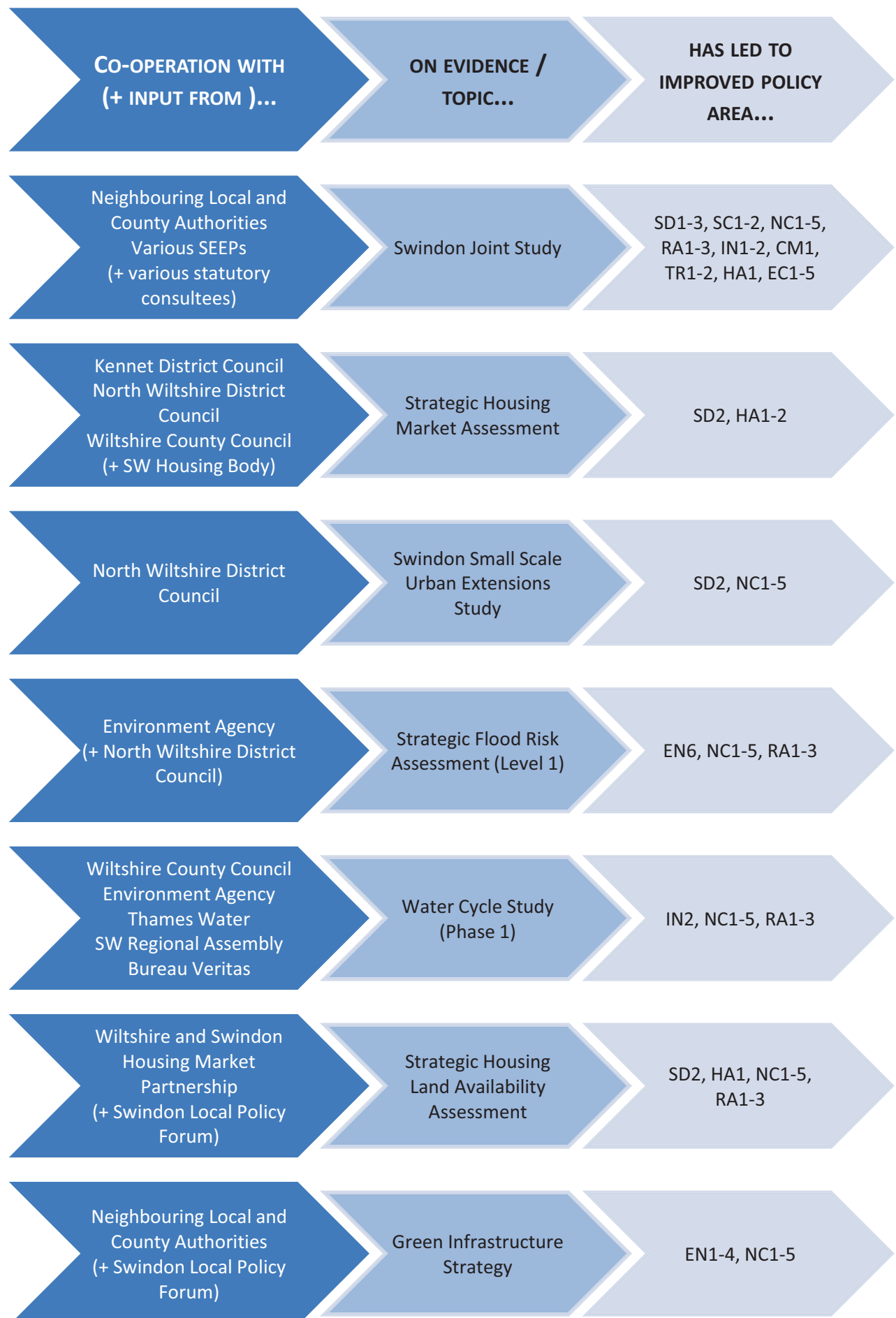
1.43 Consultation, co-operation and collaboration has been key to the development of both the evidence base behind policies and the policies themselves in the Local Plan, as sections above have suggested. The involvement and input of those local planning authorities and bodies identified by the Localism Act, statutory consultees and other key stakeholders with which the Council has engaged, has helped to ensure:

- ▶ that the appropriate level of detail, in terms of strategic and local policies, is set out to enable sustainable economic growth and development to be delivered in Swindon Borough through further stages in the development planning process (e.g. Neighbourhood Planning), masterplanning and development management;
- ▶ a significant degree of consensus between various bodies and local planning authorities on the emerging strategy, in particular, the spatial strategy;
- ▶ fewer objections to the strategy and development proposals;
- ▶ robust evidence supporting the policies;
- ▶ greater understanding of the implications of the scale of development proposed;
- ▶ greater understanding of the infrastructure and facilities required (and costs involved) to deliver the development proposed;
- ▶ a greater degree of certainty for users of the strategy through clear and unambiguous policies;
- ▶ a clear understanding of the most sustainable pattern and locations for growth;
- ▶ a clear understanding of the constraints, opportunities and challenges facing Swindon;
- ▶ a clear understanding of the implications of proposed growth and change on areas outside Swindon Borough; and,
- ▶ that objections and contentious issues are drawn out to ensure that a proper debate is held about them, considering relevant evidence through the

formal consultation processes and Public Examination following submission of the Strategy.

- 1.44 The key policy areas of the Plan which have been significantly influenced and shaped by co-operation and collaboration are illustrated in Figure 5 below. The figure is not intended to be an exhaustive list. Appendix 5 also provides a list of actions which have arisen directly as a result of dialogue and co-operation with local authorities and prescribed bodies.

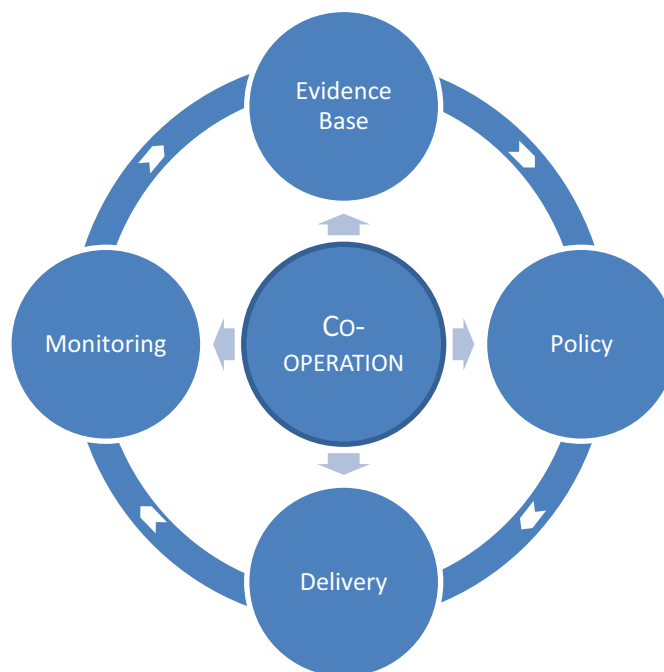
Figure 7 Linking Policies with Co-operation



Moving Forward

1.45 The Public Examination provides the key opportunity for any unresolved issues, objections and concerns raised through co-operation and previous consultation to be aired and resolved. Following the Examination and eventual adoption of the Local Plan, there will remain a need to maintain co-operation with others, both those named within the Localism Act and wider bodies with a statutory or other key role in implementation, to deliver the Strategy. This continuing dialogue is important throughout all stages of the plan making and delivery process, as shown in Figure 8 below.

Figure 8: Plan making and delivery process



1.46 The requirement to consult widely through the various stages of plan preparation (front-loading) and the need to fulfil the Duty has helped to build a good understanding of key issues and good working relationships with local authorities, other prescribed bodies and other parties key to the successful delivery of the strategy. It is important that this momentum is not lost. On-going processes which will require continuing co-operation include:

- ▶ the developing Community Infrastructure Levy;
- ▶ the “live” Infrastructure Delivery Plan;
- ▶ masterplanning work for major development;

- ▶ further work on site-specific housing allocations (including detailed understanding of flood risk issues); and,
- ▶ Neighbourhood planning process.

1.47 In terms of documenting co-operation beyond the development of the Local Plan, section 34 (6) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations, 2012⁹ requires local planning authorities to give details of the co-operation they have had and actions undertaken with local authorities and prescribed bodies in their monitoring reports (during the reporting period of that monitoring report). The Council will ensure that such reporting is completed in accordance with s34.

⁹ See Appendix 6 for s34 in full.

Summary

- 1.48 Through both the formal consultation processes, evidence base and delivery work (for example the IDP), all bodies specified in s33A of the Localism Act have had a number of good opportunities to help influence and shape the Local Plan from an early stage in its development.
- 1.49 Whilst the Duty came into effect after most of the development of the Local Plan had been undertaken (then being produced as the Core Strategy), the Council considers that it has satisfied the requirement through co-operation and joint working done since the early stage of the Strategy's development. Work such as the Swindon Joint Study provided a platform for cross-boundary and sub-regional issues to be discussed and assessed in order to help consider the needs and requirements from neighbouring local planning authorities and County Councils. The study provided a mechanism and output through which effective joint working could be undertaken and a springboard for further studies to be undertaken in close liaison with other local authorities and prescribed bodies to better understand, assess and overcome strategic issues and the impact of growth at Swindon. Such work built upon existing good working relationships built up with authorities such as (the then) Wiltshire County Council and North Wiltshire District Council, for example, through work on the Wiltshire and Swindon Joint Structure Plan.
- 1.50 The co-operation required to develop a robust and sound Local Plan will not stop after its submission, but will continue to be key to the development of other development plan documents and the successful delivery of the strategy.

Appendix 1

Duty to Co-operate (section 110, Localism Act 2011)

s110 Duty to co-operate in relation to planning of sustainable development

(1) In Part 2 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (local development) after section 33 insert—

“33A Duty to co-operate in relation to planning of sustainable development

(1) Each person who is—

- (a) a local planning authority,
- (b) a county council in England that is not a local planning authority, or
- (c) a body, or other person, that is prescribed or of a prescribed description, must co-operate with every other person who is within paragraph (a), (b) or (c) or subsection (9) in maximising the effectiveness with which activities within subsection (3) are undertaken.

(2) In particular, the duty imposed on a person by subsection (1) requires the person—

- (a) to engage constructively, actively and on an on-going basis in any process by means of which activities within subsection (3) are undertaken, and
- (b) to have regard to activities of a person within subsection (9) so far as they are relevant to activities within subsection (3).

(3) The activities within this subsection are—

- (a) the preparation of development plan documents,
- (b) the preparation of other local development documents,
- (c) the preparation of marine plans under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 for the English inshore region, the English offshore region or any part of either of those regions,
- (d) activities that can reasonably be considered to prepare the way for activities within any of paragraphs (a) to (c) that are, or could be, contemplated, and

(e) activities that support activities within any of paragraphs (a) to (c), so far as relating to a strategic matter.

(4) For the purposes of subsection (3), each of the following is a “strategic matter”—

- (a) sustainable development or use of land that has or would have a significant impact on at least two planning areas, including (in particular) sustainable development or use of land for or in connection with infrastructure that is strategic and has or would have a significant impact on at least two planning areas, and
- (b) sustainable development or use of land in a two-tier area if the development or use—
 - (i) is a county matter, or
 - (ii) has or would have a significant impact on a county matter.

(5) In subsection (4)—

“county matter” has the meaning given by paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 to the principal Act (ignoring sub-paragraph 1(1)(i)), “planning area” means—

- (a) the area of—
 - (i) a district council (including a metropolitan district council),
 - (ii) a London borough council, or
 - (iii) a county council in England for an area for which there is no district council, but only so far as that area is neither in a National Park nor in the Broads,
- (b) a National Park,
- (c) the Broads,
- (d) the English inshore region, or
- (e) the English offshore region, and “two-tier area” means an area—
 - (a) for which there is a county council and a district council, but
 - (b) which is not in a National Park.

(6) The engagement required of a person by subsection (2)(a) includes, in particular—

- (a) considering whether to consult on and prepare, and enter into and publish, agreements on joint approaches to the undertaking of activities within subsection (3), and
- (b) if the person is a local planning authority, considering whether to agree under section 28 to prepare joint local development documents.

(7) A person subject to the duty under subsection (1) must have regard to any guidance given by the Secretary of State about how the duty is to be complied with.

(8) A person, or description of persons, may be prescribed for the purposes of subsection (1)(c) only if the person, or persons of that description, exercise functions for the purposes of an enactment.

(9) A person is within this subsection if the person is a body, or other person, that is prescribed or of a prescribed description.

(10) In this section—

“the English inshore region” and “the English offshore region” have the same meaning as in the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, and “land” includes the waters within those regions and the bed and subsoil of those waters.”

(2) In section 16 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (applying Part 2 for purposes of a county council’s minerals and waste development scheme) after subsection (4) insert—

“(5) Also, subsection (3)(b) does not apply to section 33A(1)(a) and (b).”

(3) In section 20(5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (development plan documents: purpose of independent examination) after paragraph (b) insert “; and (c) whether the local planning authority complied with any duty imposed on the authority by section 33A in relation to its preparation.”

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/20/contents/enacted/data.htm>

Appendix 2

Part 2 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations, 2012 – Section 4

Duty to co-operate

4.—(1) The bodies prescribed for the purposes of section 33A(1)(c) of the Act are—

- (a) the Environment Agency;
- (b) the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (known as English Heritage);
- (c) Natural England;
- (d) the Mayor of London;
- (e) the Civil Aviation Authority (15);
- (f) the Homes and Communities Agency;
- (g) each Primary Care Trust established under section 18 of the National Health Service Act 2006 (16) or continued in existence by virtue of that section;
- (h) the Office of Rail Regulation (17);
- (i) Transport for London (18);
- (j) each Integrated Transport Authority (19);
- (k) each highway authority within the meaning of section 1 of the Highways Act 1980 (20) (including the Secretary of State, where the Secretary of State is the highways authority); and
- (l) the Marine Management Organisation.

(2) The bodies prescribed for the purposes of section 33A(9) of the Act are each local enterprise partnership.

(3) In this regulation “local enterprise partnership” means a body, designated by the Secretary of State, which is established for the purpose of creating or improving the conditions for economic growth in an area.

(14) 1971 c.80.

(15) See section 2 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982(c.16).

(16) 2006 c.41.

(17) See section 15 of the Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003 (c.20).

(18) See section 154 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 (c.29).

(19) See sections 77 and 78 of the Local Transport Act 2008 (c.26).

(20) 1980 c.66.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/767/made>

Appendix 3

Guidance related to the Duty to Co-operate (National Planning Policy Framework)

Paragraph 156

Strategic issues where co-operation might be appropriate

“156. Local planning authorities should set out the **strategic priorities** for the area in the Local Plan. This should include strategic policies to deliver:

- the homes and jobs needed in the area;
- the provision of retail, leisure and other commercial development;
- the provision of infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);
- the provision of health, security, community and cultural infrastructure and other local facilities; and
- climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including landscape.”

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/nppf>

Paragraphs 178 – 181

Guidance on planning strategically across local boundaries

“178. Public bodies have a duty to cooperate on planning issues that cross administrative boundaries, particularly those which relate to the **strategic priorities** set out in paragraph 156. The Government expects joint working on areas of common interest to be diligently undertaken for the mutual benefit of neighbouring authorities.

179. Local planning authorities should work collaboratively with other bodies to ensure that strategic priorities across local boundaries are properly coordinated and clearly reflected in individual Local Plans.³⁶ Joint working should enable local

planning authorities to work together to meet development requirements which cannot wholly be met within their own areas – for instance, because of a lack of physical capacity or because to do so would cause significant harm to the principles and policies of this Framework. As part of this process, they should consider producing joint planning policies on strategic matters and informal strategies such as joint infrastructure and investment plans.

180. Local planning authorities should take account of different geographic areas, including travel-to-work areas. In two tier areas, county and district authorities should cooperate with each other on relevant issues. Local planning authorities should work collaboratively on strategic planning priorities to enable delivery of sustainable development in consultation with Local Enterprise Partnerships and Local Nature Partnerships. Local planning authorities should also work collaboratively with private sector bodies, utility and infrastructure providers.

181. Local planning authorities will be expected to demonstrate evidence of having effectively cooperated to plan for issues with cross-boundary impacts when their Local Plans are submitted for examination. This could be by way of plans or policies prepared as part of a joint committee, a memorandum of understanding or a jointly prepared strategy which is presented as evidence of an agreed position.

Cooperation should be a continuous process of engagement from initial thinking through to implementation, resulting in a final position where plans are in place to provide the land and infrastructure necessary to support current and projected future levels of development.

36 In marine areas, local planning authorities should collaborate with the Marine Management Organisation to ensure that policies across the land/sea boundary are integrated.”

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/nppf>

Appendix 4

Checklist of Contact with and Involvement in Key Stages of Plan Development

	Engagement Yes (Y) No (N)														
	Neighbouring LPAs and County Councils						“Wider” LPAs			Prescribed bodies					
	WC	CDC	GC C	VWHD	OC C	WODC	WBC	EA	EH	NE	HCA	PCT	ORR	HA	LEP
Core Strategy:															
Issues and Options	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Preferred Options	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Proposed Submission	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Revised proposed Submission	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Local Plan:															
Pre-submission															

Notes: The next stage for the local plan will be completed before then next consultation, all of the evidence documents have not been included in this because they were all made available through the different consultation stages, either on the web site or in hard copy format. The LEP was not consulted on through the early stages of the plan this is as it is a new body to emerge.

Key:

Neighbouring LPAs and County Councils

WC	Wiltshire Council
CDC	Cotswold District Council
GCC	Gloucestershire County Council
VWHDC	Vale of the White Horse District Council

Wider LPAs

OCC	Oxfordshire County Council
WODC	West Oxfordshire District Council
WBC	West Berkshire Council

Prescribed Bodies

EA	Environment Agency
EH	English Heritage
NE	Natural England
HCA	Homes and Communities Agency
PCT	Primary Care Trust
ORR	Office of the Rail Regulator
HA	Highways Agency
LE	Local Enterprise Partnership

Appendix 5

Review of Co-operation with Statutory bodies

The Council has worked extensively with the prescribed bodies throughout the development of the Local Plan.

The following table shows the issues that were raised through the different stages of the consultation process, the actions that were taken to resolve the issues and the key documents that have come from or steered the evidence documents

Public Consultation 1: Issues and Options

Prescribed Body	Type of Engagement	Key Issue	Raised through Consultation/ Consultation Stage	Cross boundary Issue?	Strategic Issue	Swindon Specific (Local) Issue?	Action	Relevant Evidence Base
Environment Agency		GI	There should be an enhancement of the blue and green routes through the borough.	N	N	Y	To be considered through the GI Strategy	GI Strategy
		Collaborative Working	The Vale of the White Horse council should be included as they are going to be affected by water supply, flooding and biodiversity.	Y	Y	Y	Vale of White Horse consulted	
		Housing	All developments should be able to build and meet code 4 of the sustainable homes and conduct a SFRA , this and Wiltshire County Council will be able to determine the density of housing	N	N	Y	Work undertaken on Sustainable construction standards	Sustainable Policies Report
Office of the Rail Regulation		Transport	Rail needs to be included as a method of sustainable transport	Y	Y	N	Discussions with Network rail	
		Development	The Brown field site alongside the railway is available for regeneration and development.	N	N	Y	Noted	SHLAA
Highway Agency		Transport	A sustainable transport network needs to be considered on a site by site basis. Developer contributions should be used to enhance the transport network.	N	Y	Y	Considered through work on identifying allocations and formation of policy	Swindon Transport Plan

			Housing	A mixture of housing, facilities and employment will reduce the need for people to travel. Large developments will require mitigation measures so they do not affect the M4 and the A419.	N	Y	Y	To be considered as part of policy formation	
Local Enterprise Partnership				Not Formed at this point					

Public Consultation: Preferred Options

Prescribed Body	Type of Engagement	Key Issue	Raised through Consultation/ Consultation Stage	Cross boundary Issue?	Strategic Issue	Swindon Specific (Local) Issue?	Action	Relevant Evidence Base
-----------------	--------------------	-----------	---	-----------------------	-----------------	---------------------------------	--------	------------------------

Environment Agency	Flooding and Water Supply	There should be more evidence on the water supply and flooding in the borough. The SUDs and flood prevention scheme are lower than the EA would recommend, No requirement to support the reduction of flooding, biodiversity and water quality in the Borough. Risk of fluvial flooding in the EDA	Y	Y	Y	Y	Better articulation of Flood risk analysis and role of SUDS	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
	Collaborative working	There should be collaborative working with the other authorities on the flooding and water supply	Y	Y	Y	Y	Infrastructure Delivery Work Group set up	
	Mitigation	There should be mitigation measures against climate change	Y	Y	Y	N	To be taken forward in Water Cycle Study	
	Protection of the historic environment	The importance of the historic environment protection should be increased, which also requires more evidence. The historic environment should be included in the visions section. Should be examples of best practice. Historic farms also needs including buildings of local importance should be included.	Y	N	N	N	Discussions with EH. Policy re-wording	
English Heritage								

		Assets	Heritage is important to tourism and the local economy. High quality design and transport should be used throughout the plan. Assets should be included in the SHLAA to assess the effect.. Developer contributions need to be included to assist the historic environment.	N	N	Y	Taken forward in policy formation	Swindon Design Guide
		Collaborative working	Increased collaboration between the RSS, SBCCS and national policy	Y	Y	Y	Noted	

Public Consultation 3: Proposed Submission

Prescribed Body	Type of Engagement	Key Issue	Raised through Consultation/ Consultation Stage	Cross boundary Issue?	Strategic Issue	Swindon Specific (Local) Issue?	Action	Relevant Evidence Base
Environment Agency		Flooding	Flood risk areas should be subject to the sequential tests and SUD's to reduce their development.	Y	Y	Y	Sequential Food risk undertaken	Sequential Food risk Assessment
		Development	There is a need for the canal but more evidence is required to assess its impacts on the wider environment. Sustainable development and infrastructure is also required.	Y	Y	Y	Evidence sought from Canal trust	
		Collaborative working	The river ray flood plain needs more assessment with Wiltshire to ensure that the policy is strengthened.	Y	Y	Y	Modelling work updated	Update to SFRA
English Heritage		Assets	The railway heritage and other assets need protecting through development and not as an afterthought, but with more evidence. There needs to be an inclusion of the areas and the assets that are at risk. More clarity is needed on what is a meant by a special area.	N	N	Y	Discussions with EH to address point	
		Development	Would a development be refused if it did not meet the building for life criteria?	N	N	Y	Explanation	

Natural England	Development	More evidence is needed on the reinstatement of the canal and its effects on the surrounding environment. There should be a buffer between Commonhead and Coate Water. The effect of development on the health of a community should be included.	N	Y	Y	Evidence sought from Wilts& Berks. Protection zone included at Commonhead	
	Collaborative Working	Cross boundary water use should be achieved.	Y	Y	Y	On-going work with Thames Water and Water Cycle study	Swindon Water Cycle study
	Green Infrastructure and open space	GI need to be identified as essential to ensure their protection. There should be more information provided on GI and open space. The ANOB, Marston strategic nature area should be included in the plan. Clear mitigation measures on the impact of development on Biodiversity. Allotments and their provision included. Monitoring indicators do not match up with the issues that are to be measured.	N	Y	Y	Work to improve Policy text	GI Strategy

		Transport	A rapid transport route should be included to improve sustainability and management. Park and ride needs more clarity. The A419 and M4 need to be seen as strategic links for the borough. There should be adequate improvements to highways that are going to improve the existing infrastructure network. The park and ride position needs to be clarified.	Y	Y	Y	On-going work with the HA.	Swindon Transport Model
		Collaborative Working	Discussions are needed between SBC, Wiltshire and the Highways Agency to discuss development outside of SBC's boundary. Co2 needs to be reduced for development and transport.	Y	Y	Y	Joint working on highway modelling - e.g. Junction 16	Swindon Transport Model
Local Enterprise Partnership			Not Formed at this point					

Consultation 4: Revised Proposed Submission

Prescribed Body	Type of Engagement	Key Issue	Raised through Consultation/ Consultation Stage	Cross boundary Issue?	Strategic Issue	Swindon Specific (Local) Issue?	Action	Relevant Evidence Base
-----------------	--------------------	-----------	---	-----------------------	-----------------	---------------------------------	--------	------------------------

Environment Agency	Development	The canal has issues over flood risk, supply and biodiversity. A strategic approach is required to reduce piece meal development and reducing the issues raised. The sewerage development should be safe guarded. Development issues are going to have to be faced with the NPPF and Localism Bill. Coat water needs added protection. Should be more development on the Brownfield rather than Greenfield. Subdivision and infrastructure should be considered under a flood risk.	N	Y	Y	Largely explanation of policy – on going discussions	
	Flooding and biodiversity	There is a need for extra studies to protect biodiversity and reduce flooding. More habitats should be protected through the policy.	N	N	Y	Further discussions to understand points	Biodiversity action Plan
	Collaborative working	The reservoir issues need to be strengthened so there is no effect on the Thames water boundary.	Y	Y	N	Overtaken by events	
	Assets	Is there to be an Archaeology SPD? What are and where are the heritage assets that need to be protected.	N	N	Y	No. More detail through heritage assets list	
English Heritage	Site specific	The railway village is not referenced. Neolithic stone circle and the Bowl Barrow need to be included.	N	N	Y	Include on proposals map.	

		Development	High quality design needs to be included through the development of the railway village. Transport needs to be improved to enhance the view and vision of the town.	N	N	N	Y	Improved Design Policy	
Natural England		Development	Sustainable development, GI and health need to be linked.	N	Y	Y	Y	Improved policy text	
		Biodiversity and GI	Biodiversity has more issues than just development and monitoring, these need to be addressed. Some impacts are not irreversible, where is the evidence for this? Developers should address their own GI needs and effects.	N	Y		Y	Improved policy text	
Highway Agency		Development	There should be a threshold at the amount of development along a highway to ensure safety	N	N	N	N	Further guidance sought	
		Transport	Smarter choices should be increased, sustainable transport methods should be safeguarded, the A419 needs to be considered as a major transport route with improved junctions to A419 and M4	N	Y	Y	Y	Joint working with highway colleagues	
Local Enterprise Partnership			Not Formed at this point						

Appendix 6

Part 2 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations, 2012 – Section 34 (6)

Authorities' Monitoring Reports

34. - (6) Where a local planning authority have co-operated with another local planning authority, county council, or a body or person prescribed under section 33A of the Act, the local planning authority's monitoring report must give details of what action they have taken during the period covered by the report.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/767/regulation/34/made>

This page is intentionally left blank