Local Plan 2032
Planning for the future

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL SCOPING REPORT

Bedford Borough Council

September 2013

Contents

1 Introduction

<u>Background</u>

1.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 introduced the statutory requirement for Local Plans to be subject to a sustainability appraisal. As part of its planning framework, the Council has produced a number of local plan documents, such as the Core Strategy and Rural Issues Plan, the Bedford Town Centre Area Action Plan and the Allocations and Designations Local Plan. All three documents were subject to a sustainability appraisal.

1.2 The Council has now started work on the Bedford Borough Local Plan that will set out the Council's policies and proposals to guide the future development of the Borough for the period up to 2032. This Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report is the first step in the sustainability appraisal process for the new Local Plan.

<u>The new Local Plan</u>

1.3 The new Local Plan will set out the overarching strategy for housing and employment development in the borough and provide broad directions for locations of growth. It will also deal with site allocations and land designations in the borough, apart from those already identified in the Allocations and Designations Local Plan and sites for minerals and waste development which are allocated through a separate Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

1.4 It is intended that the new Bedford Borough Local Plan will replace old and out of date policies contained in the Core Strategy and Rural Issues Plan 2008, the Bedford Town Centre Area Action Plan 2008 and the saved policies of Bedford Borough Local Plan 2002.

1.5 With the formal revocation of the Regional Spatial Strategy, the government has abolished the regional tier in the planning system and the new Local Plan must no longer conform to a regional plan. However, it must be in consistency with the National Planning Policy Framework and a range of other national policies and guidance documents[1] that the government has published.

<u>Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment Guidance</u>

1.6 The EU Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (the SEA Directive) provides the legal basis for sustainability appraisal and is implemented in England through the 'Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004'. The Directive is procedural in nature and sets out a series of steps that must be undertaken as part of an assessment. Under the Directive, an 'environmental report' must be prepared which, in the case of Local Plans, is incorporated within the Sustainability Appraisal Report that accompanies the draft plan at publication. However, the sustainability appraisal covers the wider social and economic effects of plans, as well as the more environmentally-focused considerations in the Directive.

1.7 National guidance on how to carry out a sustainability appraisal was previously contained in the 'Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local

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[1] These are set out in Appendix 1.

Development Documents (ODPM, 2005). The Development Plan Document (DPD) component of this guidance was then replaced by sustainability appraisal guidance for Development Plan Documents in the CLG Plan-Making Manual that was launched in September 2009. Whilst some sections of the Plan-Making Manual have been updated in response to the recent reforms of the planning system, the sustainability appraisal sections continue to be out-of-date.

1.8   In September 2013 the government published its new online resource, the National Planning Practice Guidance, which contains advice on undertaking sustainability appraisals and takes account of recent reforms. It constitutes the most up-to-date guidance.

Purpose

1.9   The sustainability appraisal of local plan documents in the borough's planning framework plays an important part in ensuring that it is fully consistent with and helps to implement the principles of sustainable development. The results of the sustainability appraisal contribute to the reasoned justification of policies.

1.10 The purpose of this Scoping Report is to set the context of the sustainability appraisal, establish the baseline from which the appraisal will be made, identify key sustainability issues and develop a relevant sustainability appraisal framework against which the Local Plan will be assessed.

Consultation

1.11 Whilst a formal Scoping Report is not mandatory, it is considered a useful vehicle by which to consult on the scope of the sustainability appraisal. In accordance with Regulation 12 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, the Council must consult the prescribed consultation bodies when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the 'environmental report'. These are the Strategic Environmental Assessment bodies: English Heritage, Natural England and the Environment Agency.

Structure of this report

1.12 This Scoping Report covers the following key information.

- Other plans, programmes and objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 with information on synergies or inconsistencies

- Baseline information and social, environmental and economic issues identified

- The proposed sustainability appraisal framework that will be used to assess the sustainability of the Bedford Borough Local Plan, including suggested sustainability appraisal objectives and indicators

- An overview of likely options to be considered through more detailed plan preparation and appraisal

- Proposals for the structure and level of detail of the sustainability appraisal report

2 Sustainable Development

2.1   The concept of sustainable development has been widely used since the Earth Summit at Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and is commonly defined as follows.

> Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
>
> (Brundtland Report, 1987)

International level

2.2   In summer 2012, the United Nation's Rio+20 summit tackled the critical issue of how countries can grow their economies without destroying the natural resources on which they depend. On 22nd June 193 countries signed up to the outcome document *The Future We Want* which included commitments to develop Sustainable Development Goals and a global sustainability reporting framework for businesses. The UK is a member of the UN Open Working Group that is tasked with making proposals on Sustainable Development Goals by September 2014.

European Union Level

2.3   The EU Sustainable Development Strategy was launched in 2001. The aim of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy is to identify and develop actions to enable the EU to achieve a continuous long-term improvement of quality of life through the creation of sustainable communities able to manage and use resources efficiently, able to tap the ecological and social innovation potential of the economy and in the end able to ensure prosperity, environmental protection and social cohesion.

2.4   In June 2006 the European Council adopted an ambitious and comprehensive renewed Sustainable Development Strategy for an enlarged EU. In July 2009 the Commission adopted the 2009 Review of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy, which underlines that in recent years the EU has mainstreamed sustainable development into a broad range of its policies and in particular taken the lead in the fight against climate change and the promotion of a low-carbon economy, but at the same time, unsustainable trends persist in many areas and the efforts need to be intensified. Significant additional efforts are needed to curb and adapt to climate change, to decrease high energy consumption in the transport sector and to reverse the current loss of biodiversity and natural resources.

2.5   In 2010, the European Commission launched Europe 2020, a 10-year strategy for the advancement of the economy of the EU, aiming at smart and sustainable growth. Both strategies, the EU Sustainable Development Strategy and Europe 2010 provide the context for future sustainable development within the EU.

National level

2.6   In 2005 the Government produced their second sustainable development strategy 'UK Sustainable Development Strategy – Securing the Future'.   The strategy has five key principles:

> 1. Living within environmental limits

2. Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society
3. Achieving a sustainable economy
4. Promoting good governance
5. Using sound science responsibly.

These principles set an overarching approach to sustainable development in the UK.

The government also identified four priority areas for immediate action across the UK[2]

- Sustainable consumption and production – achieving more with less

- Climate change and energy – both mitigation and adaptation

- Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement – living within environmental limits

- Sustainable communities – embodying the principles of sustainable development at the local level

2.7 The National Planning Policy Framework sets out the government's view of what sustainable development in England means in practice for the planning system. It identifies three dimensions to sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. These dimensions give rise to the need for the planning system to perform a number of mutually dependent roles:

- **An economic role** – contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure;

- **A social role** – supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being; and

- **An environmental role** – contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; and, as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy.

Local level

2.8 At the local level, the Bedford Borough Partnership that brings together representatives from the Borough Council, the Police, NHS Bedfordshire, Parish and Town Councils, schools, voluntary organisations, business and community groups produced its Sustainable Communities Strategy 2009-2021. The

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[2] HM Government (2005) "Securing the Future: Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy", p.17

Sustainable Communities Strategy 2009-2021 has seven themes that reflect the Partnership's vision for the Borough:

1. A Thriving Borough – Economic development, regeneration and enterprise
2. A Greener Borough – Environment and climate change
3. An Inspiring Borough – Children and Young People
4. A Healthy Borough – Adult Health and Well-Being
5. A Safer Borough – Creating Safer Communities
6. An Inclusive Borough - Social Inclusion, Community Cohesion and Culture
7. A Growing Borough – Housing and Transport
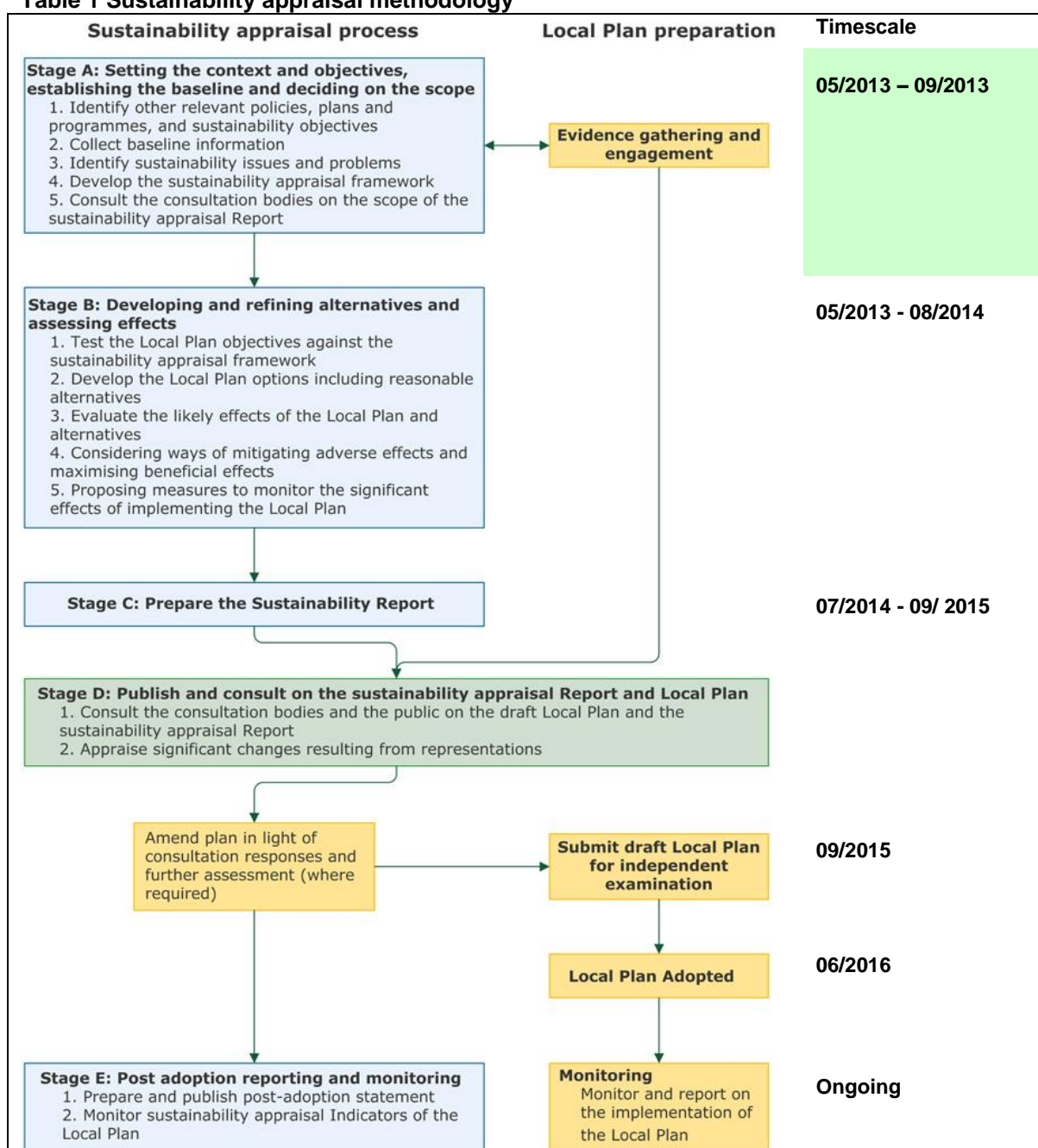
2.9 Overall, the sustainability strategies above have the following common themes:
- Environmental protection – biodiversity, landscape, historic environment
- Healthy society
- Housing provision
- Transport infrastructure
- Strong economy
- Natural resources - Water resources, land
- Skills and labour supply
- Deprivation and access to services
- Community safety
- Including everyone

3 The Sustainability Appraisal Process

3.1 Previously, government guidance *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents* (2005) set out 5 stages of the sustainability appraisal process. As the stages in the preparation of local plans have reduced, the stages of the sustainability appraisal process have been adapted to tie in with the stages in plan preparation.

3.2 The proposed appraisal methodology set out below accords with advice contained in the National Planning Practice Guidance, the Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive; and meets the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

Table 1 Sustainability appraisal methodology

Sustainability appraisal process	Local Plan preparation	Timescale
Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope 1. Identify other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives 2. Collect baseline information 3. Identify sustainability issues and problems 4. Develop the sustainability appraisal framework 5. Consult the consultation bodies on the scope of the sustainability appraisal Report	Evidence gathering and engagement	**05/2013 – 09/2013**
Stage B: Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects 1. Test the Local Plan objectives against the sustainability appraisal framework 2. Develop the Local Plan options including reasonable alternatives 3. Evaluate the likely effects of the Local Plan and alternatives 4. Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects 5. Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan		**05/2013 - 08/2014**
Stage C: Prepare the Sustainability Report		**07/2014 - 09/ 2015**
Stage D: Publish and consult on the sustainability appraisal Report and Local Plan 1. Consult the consultation bodies and the public on the draft Local Plan and the sustainability appraisal Report 2. Appraise significant changes resulting from representations		
Amend plan in light of consultation responses and further assessment (where required)	Submit draft Local Plan for independent examination	**09/2015**
	Local Plan Adopted	**06/2016**
Stage E: Post adoption reporting and monitoring 1. Prepare and publish post-adoption statement 2. Monitor sustainability appraisal Indicators of the Local Plan	**Monitoring** Monitor and report on the implementation of the Local Plan	**Ongoing**

3.3   In undertaking the sustainability appraisal of the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032, it is anticipated the following sustainability appraisal documents will be produced.

1) This Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report
2) Issues and Options Sustainability Appraisal Report
3) Local Plan for Submission Sustainability Appraisal Report
4) Sustainability appraisal of proposed modifications (if any)
5) Final Sustainability Appraisal Report of adopted Local Plan

SEA Requirements

3.4   A SEA checklist that contains the requirements of the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) as referred to in Article 5(1) is contained in Appendix 4 and will be used throughout the sustainability appraisal process of the new Local Plan to indicate the components that together form the 'environmental report' for the purpose of the SEA Directive.

The Sustainability Appraisal of Sites

3.4   As part of the process of preparing the Bedford Borough Local Plan, landowners and other interested parties will be invited to propose and submit sites for inclusion in the Plan. Site promoters will be expected to provide sufficient information to enable the Council to carry out assessments. The 'Call for Sites' will be carried out as part of the consultation on the Issues and Options Paper.

3.5   It is anticipated that not all the sites put forward will be required to meet development needs over the Plan period. Equally not all sites put forward may satisfy sustainability objectives. Therefore, all sites submitted will be subject to a robust assessment of the suitability, availability and deliverability of land for particular uses and a sustainability appraisal of sites to ensure that those carried forward for inclusion in the Plan meet sustainability objectives or that the mitigation of effects is achievable.

3.6   Sites will be assessed in three stages with the first stage involving a site appraisal that looks at the planning merits of the proposed site. The second stage will consider those site that are considered suitable in planning terms in relation to the preferred spatial strategy and the third stage forms the sustainability appraisal of those sites carried forward in the Plan for Submission to consider the social, economic and environmental impact of site development.

3.7   The sustainability appraisal of sites will be carried out separately following the Issues and Options consultation when potential sites will have been received and focus on the site specific impacts on sustainability. However, it will mirror the sustainability appraisal of the plan, using the same sustainability appraisal framework.

Appropriate Assessment

3.8   The Habitats Directive establishes a European ecological network known as Natura 2000. The network comprises special areas of conservation (SAC) designated by Member States in accordance with the provisions of the Directive, and special protection areas (SPA) classified pursuant to Directive79/409/EEC

on the conservation of wild birds (the 'Birds Directive'). There are 189 Natural habitat types of Community interest in Annex I of the Directive and 788 Animal and plant species of Community interest in Annex II. Annex IV lists animal and plant species in need of particularly strict protection.

3.9   Although there are no Natura 2000 sites within the borough, it will be necessary to screen the policies of the plan to assess whether the plan, in combination with other plans and programmes, is likely to have an adverse effect on other sites in the vicinity. This screening will be undertaken in consultation with Natural England as a separate exercise on the new Local Plan for Submission and will be made available as a background paper.

4 Relevant Plans, Policies, Strategies and Programmes

4.1   Under the SEA Directive, the relationship between the Local Plan and other relevant plans and programmes must be taken into account. There are a number of different plans, policies, strategies and guidance that influence and are of relevance to the Bedford Borough Local Plan. A review of these has been conducted which will inform the development of the Bedford Borough Local Plan and the sustainability appraisal framework. The aim of reviewing these documents is to:

- Identify relevant objectives.
- Exploit synergies and common objectives between strategies/guidance.
- Identify any possible inconsistencies, constraints and challenges to set the context for the sustainability appraisal.
- Understand the influence of these documents on the Bedford Borough Local Plan.

4.2   Appendix 1 provides a comprehensive outline of the plans, policies and programmes that influence the Bedford Borough Local Plan. The list is not exhaustive and will be refined, but contains those considered to be most relevant. The implications of the plans have been used to inform the key sustainability issues to be considered by the Bedford Borough Local Plan and the sustainability appraisal framework.

Consultation Question 1: Plans, Policies and Programmes

Are there any plans, policies and programmes that are particularly relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and not included in Appendix 1? If so, please state what plan/programme/strategy should also be considered for inclusion in Appendix 1 and state your reasons.

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5 The Baseline

5.1 The National Planning Practice Guidance defines the 'baseline' as the existing environmental, economic and social characteristics of the area affected by the plan, and their likely evolution without implementation of new policies. To undertake the sustainability appraisal, it is important to have an understanding of the state of the Borough. This is because the likely significant effects of the plan must be appraised in relation to the main characteristics of the current situation and important trends in the area of the plan. Collecting and presenting baseline information also provides an opportunity to define key issues for the local plan document and to develop plan options. This will help to ensure that potential positive effects of the Local Plan can be maximised and potential negative impacts can be minimised and mitigated where necessary.

5.2 As set out in Annex 1 of the SEA Directive, the baseline information to be provided must include 'The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme' and 'the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected'. Due to the wider the scope of the sustainability appraisal, the base line must additionally include social and economic data in line with sustainability appraisal guidance.

5.3 Updating evidence base studies and collecting baseline data in the early stages of plan preparation identifies what environmental, economic and social issues there are in the Borough and that the Plan should take account of. As the scope of the evidence required for developing the plan and undertaking the sustainability appraisal is very similar, the plan evidence and sustainability appraisal baseline can, in practice, be effectively brought together and shared.

5.4 The Council has a dedicated evidence base underpinning the plans prepared that is currently being updated. Further information will be contained in the Issues and Options Paper for the new Local Plan.

Summary of base line information

5.5 Appendix 2 identifies the data that is relevant to the sustainability of the Borough and in relation to which the emerging Local Plan will be assessed. The baseline will be updated and added to throughout the sustainability appraisal process as key evidence base studies are updated and reviewed.

5.6 A summary of the key messages emerging from the plan evidence base and sustainability appraisal baseline, including the key issues for the area are summarised in table 3 below.

Consultation Question 3: Baseline and Sustainability Issues

Have the correct sustainability issues been identified in table 2 and Appendix 2? Are there any other sustainability issues that should be included? Please provide details of the issue and data to support your statement.

Table 2 Key Sustainability Issues

	Key sustainability issues identified from base line
SOCIAL	- The borough's population is ageing and increasing. Birth rates and life expectancy are increasing, which increases pressure on services, such as schools and hospitals, and the need for different types of housing. There has been a little change in household size over the past 10 years. - The provision of housing is an important issue affecting the borough. An additional 9,000 dwellings are planned for completion between 2012 and 2021 (subject to market conditions). These need to be delivered. - The gap between income and rent/house prices is increasing. The impact of housing policy changes is creating new pressures on housing stock. There is a shortage of affordable (rented / part owned) homes in the borough. - The borough as a whole is not particularly deprived, but the pockets of deprivation should be a focus for attention. - The borough is more ethnically mixed than the rest of the region; this should be taken into consideration when planning for new facilities. - Overall, levels of crime are reducing in the borough. .
ENVIRONMENTAL	- As there is a limited supply of previously developed land in the borough greenfield sites will be required for further development. However, the small proportion of high grade agricultural land remaining in the borough should be protected where possible. - Reducing energy use, water consumption and waste production should be a priority as should increasing the supply of renewable energy and waste recycling. - Traffic congestion in Bedford town centre should be managed to minimise adverse effects. Private car use continues to dominate travel patterns. - Development proposals must consider the level of flood risk. This could include the construction of additional flood defences, flood water storage and the use of porous materials for car parks and paths. The use of sustainable drainage systems (SUDS) should be considered, provided that suitable management and maintenance measures can be put in place, as they can also be of benefit for nature conservation. - Sites of importance for nature conservation (such as sites of special scientific interest, local nature reserves and county wildlife sites), protected species and open spaces should be protected from any adverse effects as a result of development. - The multi-functionality of Green Infrastructure Zones should be maximised. - The character and significance of heritage assets should be conserved and protected as part of any proposals for development.
ECONOMIC	- Over the years there has been a reduction of the local employment base particularly in the manufacturing sector. - Employment growth is seen as the key to achieving higher housing delivery rates, although past employment growth in the borough has not kept pace with housing resulting in higher levels of out commuting. - Whilst overall unemployment remains low, the pockets of higher unemployment must be recognised and addressed. Matching the skills base with existing and new employment opportunities will continue to be a challenge. A range of local employment opportunities should be encouraged. - The plan needs to consider how to ensure that local shopping facilities remain vibrant, attractive and accessible locations. New residential development should include local shopping facilities to serve local needs, thereby reducing the need to travel. The changing role of the town centre should be recognised. - Business development needs to be proactively encouraged in the borough. The plan needs to ensure that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to encourage a buoyant and resilient economy, to support growth and innovation and reduce unemployment.

6   The Sustainability Appraisal Framework

6.1   In order to help to assess the sustainability of the local policies and to monitor their success in sustainability terms, it is recommended that a framework for undertaking the appraisal is established. This includes a set of sustainability objectives against which the Local Plan 2032 can be assessed. Whilst the development of objectives is not expressively required under the SEA Directive, it is considered that they provide a useful tool for the assessment of impacts in that the degree to which the local plan is anticipated to contribute towards these objectives provides a measure of its sustainability.

Sustainability Objectives

6.2   A set of sustainability objectives is proposed to provide a benchmark against which the content of the emerging Local Plan can be assessed. The process for developing the sustainability objectives as part of the sustainability appraisal framework for the Bedford Borough Local Plan is set out in Appendix 3.

6.3   The following sustainability objectives are proposed to form part of the sustainability appraisal framework for the Bedford Borough Local Plan.

1.   Ensure resilience to and reduce the effects of climate change through effective adaptation and mitigation
2.   Promote sustainable lifestyles, use resources efficiently, maximise recycling and re-use
3.   Conserve and enhance the built and historic environment, heritage assets and their settings
4.   Create, conserve, protect and enhance the borough's natural features, distinctive local environments, habitats and species
5.   Promote strong, sustained and balanced economic growth and job creation across a range of sectors
6.   Improve the skills of the labour force, matching skill outcome with market needs
7.   Create a distinctive, attractive and multi functional town centre
8.   Meet the needs of a changing population
9.   Reduce levels of deprivation, inequalities and exclusion
10. Promote community involvement in place-shaping, promote healthy and safe communities
11. Promote a strong local identity and sense of place
12. Minimise growth in car usage, reduce the need to travel and promote the shift to more sustainable modes of transport

6.4   The proposed sustainability objectives for the Bedford Borough Local Plan set out above respond to:

- The relevant sustainability strategies identified in chapter 2.
- The objectives of the relevant plans and strategies identified in Appendix 1.
- The key issues and problems identified in chapter 5 from the review of baseline information set out in Appendix 2.

Compatibility of objectives

6.5   There may be tensions between individual sustainability objectives. Therefore, it is useful to test the internal compatibility of the SA objectives so that subsequent decisions are well based, and mitigation measures can be considered. The testing of internal compatibility between the proposed sustainability appraisal objectives was integrated into the process by which objectives were developed and is set out in Appendix 3. A number of tensions are identified, primarily between the environmental and economic objectives.

6.6   At this early stage, the Bedford Borough Local Plan does not have its own set of objectives. As the plan objectives are being developed, they should be tested for compatibility with sustainability objectives to highlight any potential conflict and help refine local plan objectives.

Indicators

6.7   In addition to the proposed objectives stated above, a set of indicators have been chosen which will enable the effect on sustainability to be measured. A limited number of indicators have been devised for each objective; where possible these draw upon national sources, to allow comparisons between local data and the wider picture.

6.8   By highlighting key aspects of environmental, social or economic performance, indicators can help with:

- Assembling the evidence base for the appraisal process.
- Identifying important issues and problems that should be addressed in future Local Plan documents.
- Monitoring the effects of policies and proposals once they are implemented.

6.9   The list of indicators will be refined through consideration of their soundness, data availability and views of key stakeholders. The outcome of this process will be reported in the next sustainability appraisal document. Some of the indicators are useful for more than one objective and have therefore been duplicated.

6.10   By definition, indicators are selective in the information they provide. While those chosen are reflective of the various appraisal objectives, it is inevitable that they capture only some dimensions of the area's environmental, social and economic conditions. In addition, some indicators may be suitable, but are difficult to monitor and have therefore not been included in the framework.

6.11   The proposed sustainability objectives and related indicators are set out in Table 3; together they constitute the sustainability appraisal framework. The framework covers the issues and problems that were identified from the baseline information and the review of relevant plans, policies and programmes.

Table 3 Sustainability Appraisal Framework

Headline Objective	Headline Indicator	Detailed decision making criteria	Detailed Indicator
1. To ensure resilience to and reduce the effects of climate change through effective adaptation and mitigation	Emissions of greenhouse gases in the local authority area	Will it reduce the risk of flooding?	Number of dwellings in the flood risk zone 3a and 3 b
		Will it contribute to improving air quality?	Nitrogen dioxide levels in the AQMA Air quality in transport corridors
		Will it provide a low carbon building?	Number of 'net zero carbon' homes
		Will it increase the amount of energy from renewable sources?	Number of planning applications for renewable energy schemes granted permission.
2. Promote sustainable lifestyles, use resources efficiently, maximise recycling and re-use	None identified	Will it increase the amount of energy from renewable sources?	Number of planning applications for renewable energy schemes granted permission.
		Will it encourage walking and cycling?	Mode of travel to work
		Will it maximise the use of previously developed land?	% of development on previously developed land
		Will it increase the % of municipal waste recycling?	% of municipal waste recycled
		Will it increase the proportion of waste re-used	None identified
		Will it minimise water use?	Water consumption
		Will it minimise energy use?	Energy consumption
3. Conserve and enhance the built and historic environment, heritage assets and their settings	Management of the Historic Environment	Will it reduce the number of listed buildings, SAMs and conservation areas at risk?	Number of listed buildings, conservation areas and scheduled monuments at risk
		Will it protect or enhance non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest?	None identified
		Will it protect or enhance a conservation area?	Number of conservation area management plans in place in the Borough.
		Will it improve knowledge and recording of the historic	Number of new HER records added

Headline Objective	Headline Indicator	Detailed decision making criteria	Detailed Indicator
		environment?	
		Will improve the quality of the built environment?	Number of planning applications permitted referencing BE30 High Standard of Design
4. Create, conserve, protect and enhance the borough's natural features, distinctive local environments, habitats and species	None identified	Will it help to halt the decline in condition of any SSSI?	SSSI in favourable condition
		Will it protect/enhance priority habitats and species?	Local sites in positive conservation management
		Will it contribute to the objectives of the Marston Vale Community Forest?	New woodland in the community forest
		Will it maintain and enhance the multifunctionality of green infrastructure networks?	Number of planning applications with green infrastructure conditions attached.
		Will it protect areas of biodiversity importance?	Changes in areas of biodiversity importance
5. Promote strong, sustained and balanced economic growth, stimulating job creation across a range of sectors	Economic growth	Will it provide more employment opportunities?	Number of jobs in the borough
		Does it encourage business growth?	Number of company registrations
		Does it regenerate older industrial stock?	None identified
		Will it facilitate the provision of infrastructure?	Level of infrastructure provision through S106/CIL
		Will it increase employment land supply?	Overall amount of employment land (B1,B2, B8) developed
6. Improve the skills of the labour force, matching skill outcome with market needs	Qualification levels	Will it improve skill levels and qualifications young people?	Number of young people not in work, education or employment (NEET)
		Will it narrow the gap between skills base and market needs?	Skills and qualification levels
7. Create a distinctive, attractive and multi functional town centre	None identified	Will it reduce town centre vacancy	Town centre vacancy rates
		Will it support business growth	Number of new company registrations

Headline Objective	Headline Indicator	Detailed decision making criteria	Detailed Indicator
		Does it improve the public realm within the town centre	Number of town centre regeneration projects started and completed
		Does it help to deliver the Townscape Heritage Initiative?	Number of grants issued for repairs, reinstatement of traditional shop fronts and bringing vacant units back into use
8. Meet the needs of a changing population	Housing provision to meet local need	Will it provide needed services and facilities?	Level of infrastructure provision through S106/CII (Education/Affordable housing)
		Will it meet the accommodation needs of Travellers?	Number of traveller pitches/plots granted permission.
		Will it increase the provision of housing?	Housing units completed per year
		Will it meet affordable housing needs?	Number of affordable dwelling completions
		Will it provide a range of homes to meet needs?	Size of dwellings completed per year
		Will it meet the needs of the ageing population?	Number of beds in residential care homes (communal) completed/Number of apartments in specialist accommodation for the elderly
		Will it meet the needs of smaller households?	Size of dwellings completed per year
9.Reduce levels of deprivation, inequalities and exclusion	Indices of deprivation by local authority	Will it increase access to services and facilities?	New residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of services
		Will it reduce deprivation in the wards of Castle, Cauldwell and Queens Park?	Deprivation levels by ward
		Does it take account of the needs of the elderly and disadvantaged?	None identified
10. Promote community involvement in place-shaping, promote healthy and safe communities	None identified	Will it encourage walking and cycling?	% of people travel to work by walking and cycling

% of population cycling for any purpose regularly (3+ times a week), frequently (once a week) and cycling at all (more than once a month) |
| | | Will it minimise crime? | Crime rates |

Headline Objective	Headline Indicator	Detailed decision making criteria	Detailed Indicator
		Will it minimise the fear of crime?	Fear of crime levels
		Will it promote community involvement from ethnic minority groups?	Number of representations on policy documents received from ethnic minority groups
		Will it improve drinking water quality	Drinking water quality
		Will it provide sufficient recreation and leisure facilities?	Range of recreation and leisure facilities
11. Promote a strong local identity and sense of place	Number of developments that meet CABE Building for Life standards	Will it enhance the townscape?	Number of grants issued for repairs, reinstatement of traditional shop fronts and bringing vacant units back into use
		Will it provide a strong local identity and sense of place?	(none identified)
12. Minimise growth in car usage, reduce the need to travel and promote the shift to more sustainable modes of transport	Overall travel pattern	Will it support infrastructure needs?	Level of infrastructure provision through S106 (Highways, public transport, Right of Way) /CIL
		Will it encourage walking and cycling?	% of total defined strategic urban cycle network completed and signed

Number of cyclists into the town centre |
		Will it encourage the use of modes of transport other then the private car?	Mode of travel to work
		Will it improve accessibility?	Services within 30 minutes public transport time (GP, hospital, schools, employment area, retail centre)
		Will it reduce traffic congestion?	Traffic levels in the town centre

Consultation question 4: Sustainability Appraisal Framework

Do you agree with the sustainability objectives and indicators that have been identified in Appendix 3 and Table 3? If you disagree, please state the objective or indicator and give your reasons.

Consultation question 5: Sustainability Appraisal Framework

Is the proposed sustainability appraisal framework appropriate in its level of detail? Does it capture all important sustainability issues relevant to the new Local Plan 2032?

7   The Identification of Different Options

7.1   There is not necessarily one single way of planning to meet the needs of existing and future residents in the Borough and the plan-making should generate well thought out and clearly articulated options. These should be the focus of the sustainability appraisal. Some of the different options may be more sustainable than others and, in order to ensure that the planning framework contributes to sustainable development as far as possible, the different options for the Local Plan 2032 need to be assessed and evaluated with reference to the baseline.

7.2   There is more than one kind of option that must be considered in relation to the Bedford Borough Local Plan. These are as follows:-

- *Discrete Options*: These are alternatives that involve a choice between options. For example, should development be located on one site or another.

- *Alternative Approaches*: These are different ways in which an issue can be approached and objectives achieved. For example, the Issues and Options Paper will set out a range of spatial options for accommodating future growth in the borough. The role of the sustainability appraisal at this stage will be to assist with the identification of the appropriate option by highlighting the sustainability implications of each and by putting forward recommendations for improvement.

- *Do nothing/Business as usual*: Under the SEA Directive, the implications of the business-as-usual for the area must be established. 'Business as usual' usually means a continuation of an existing plan or programme, as an alternative to preparing a new one. The Business-as-usual option may not present a genuine option as national policy has changed and for example housing provision must now be based on objectively assessed local need, rather than be guided by regional parameters. However, it will be possible to consider the sustainability implications of carrying forward the current spatial strategy over the life-time of the new Local Plan.

7.3   Whilst the issues and options for the Plan are currently being developed, the range of key issues and options is likely to be limited and primarily relate to elements of the overarching development strategy to be contained in the new Local Plan. Accordingly, plan options are currently being developed around levels and distribution of growth and the role neighbourhood plan should play in achieving levels of growth.

8 Where Next?

8.1   This Scoping Report has set out the results of the preliminary stages of the sustainability appraisal of the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032. Baseline information has been identified together with sustainability issues that the Borough is facing and specific sustainability objectives. The results from the consultation on this Scoping Report will be taken into account as the sustainability appraisal process develops.

8.2   As a next step, it is anticipated that emerging options for the Local Plan will be assessed against each of the sustainability objectives. For each option the likely effect on the existing baseline will need to be determined. An assessment will be made as to whether any change will occur and if so whether the effect will be a positive, negative or neutral effect. This assessment will need to be made in the short (next 5 years), medium (next 10 years) and longer term (10 or more years). The likelihood of the effect occurring, the geographical scale and whether the effect will be permanent of temporary will also be noted. The Report should include any recommendations for the mitigation of negative effects and improvement of the sustainability of the options.

8.3   Whilst there is no formal requirement to prepare a sustainability appraisal report of the Issues and Options for the plan (see Table 1), a sustainability appraisal report will nevertheless be prepared and consulted on alongside the Issues Options Paper. The sustainability appraisal of the Issues and Option Paper will also set out how the likely significant effects that were identified as part of the appraisal process have been addressed, for example in terms of the options that were incorporated into the plan and proposed mitigation measures.

8.4   The results from the appraisal process will be used to help determine which policies and proposals are the most sustainable and should be chosen as the preferred strategy and policies for the Local Plan for Submission. The results from the appraisal will also enable the wording of the policies and detail of the proposals to be altered so that they are as sustainable as possible.

8.5   A sustainability appraisal of the Plan for Submission, which at the same time is the environmental report required by the SEA Directive, will be published for consultation alongside the Local Plan for Submission and be considered at the examination. This will outline the reasons for selecting the preferred plan option in light of the alternatives. Once the Local Plan is adopted, both the Local Plan and its likely significant effects identified in the sustainability appraisal report must be monitored in accordance with the SEA Directive to identify at an early stage unforeseen adverse effects and be monitored in the Monitoring Report.

9.9   The sustainability appraisal report published at submission stage is anticipated to be structured as follows:

Summary and Outcomes – non-technical summary, likely significant effects of the Local Plan for Submission, how the SA process has affected the Local Plan for Submission, how to comment
Appraisal Methodology – approach adopted to the SA, when the SA was conducted, who carried out the SA, who was consulted (when and how), difficulties encountered

Background – Purpose of SA and the Report, plan objectives and outline of contents, compliance with the SEA Directive

SA objectives, baseline and context – Relevant plans, policies and SA objectives, baseline information, main issues and problems identified, limitations of the information and assumptions made, the SA Framework

Plan issues and options – main strategic options considered and how they were identified, comparison of the effects of the options, how social, environmental and economic issues were considered in choosing the preferred options, other options and why they were rejected, proposed mitigation measures

Plan policies – significant effects of the preferred policies, how social, economic and environmental effects were considered in developing policies and proposals, proposed mitigation measures, uncertainties and risks

Implementation – links to other tiers of plans and programmes, proposals for monitoring

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Consultation Question 6: Report Structure

5. Do you agree with the proposed structure of the sustainability appraisal report? If you disagree, how do you think the structure should be changed?

Appendix 1   Outline of plans and strategies influencing the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2033

This appendix summarises the plans and strategies identified in the report as being relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2033. They are grouped under the subject area they cover. The table indicates the level at which the plan has been prepared (i.e. national, regional or local) and provides an explanation of the aims and requirements of the plan or programme and the implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2033.

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
GENERAL			
National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012) – National Level			
Establishes a presumption in favour of sustainable development together with core planning principles to deliver sustainable development through – • Building a strong, competitive economy • Ensuring the vitality of town centres • Supporting a prosperous rural economy • Promoting sustainable transport • Supporting high quality communications infrastructure • Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes • Requiring good design • Promoting healthy communities • Protecting Green Belt land • Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change • Conserving and enhancing the natural environment • Conserving and enhancing the historic environment • Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals.	There are no targets or indicators within this document.	Policies in local plans should follow the approach of the presumption in favour of sustainable development.	Be aware of the effect of the NPPF on the borough when undertaking the SA
National Planning Practice Guidance (Draft online resource) – National Level			
Constitutes a revision and update to national planning practice guidance to support the National Planning Policy Framework and	There are no targets or indicators within this document.	Sets out the requirements for the local plan process	Contains most up-to-date guidance on the

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
make it more accessible.			sustainability appraisal process.
National Infrastructure Plan 2010 – National Level			
Sets out the Government's vision for major infrastructure investment in the UK and plans for infrastructure investment in energy, transport, digital communications, flood management water, waste and intellectual capital in order to: maximising the potential of existing road and rail networks; • Transform energy and transport systems to deliver a low carbon economy; • Transform the UK's strategic rail infrastructure; • Meet future challenges in providing sustainable access to water for everyone; • Protect the economy from the current and growing risk of floods and coastal erosion; • Reduce waste and improving the way it is treated; • Provide the best superfast broadband in Europe; and • Ensure that the UK remains a world leader in science, research and innovation.	There are no targets or indicators within this document.	Infrastructure planning underpinning the new Local Plan should take account of the government's objectives for infrastructure.	Take account of when developing SA framework.
Securing the Future – UK Sustainable Development Strategy (March 2005) – National Level			
• Living within environmental limits • Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society • Achieving a sustainable economy • Promoting good governance • Using sound science responsibly	The strategy includes 68 indicators and several Public Service Agreement national targets (greenhouse gas emissions, household waste, farmland birds, wildlife sites, crime reduction, increase employment, employment of disadvantaged groups, reduce young people not in training, level		• Take account of these objectives and targets for the SA Framework • Consider using the indicators/targets of the strategy

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
	2 and 3 qualifications, reduce adult smoking, public transport, road accidents, air quality, decent housing, fuel poverty)		
Planning for a Sustainable Future: White Paper (May 2007) – National Level			
The paper lists the challenges as: • Climate Change • Supporting sustainable economic development • Increasing the supply of housing • Protecting and enhancing the environment and natural resources • Improving our local and national infrastructure • Maintaining security of energy supply The vision is for: • More and better jobs as a result of sustainable economic development • Better infrastructure so people have access to reliable transport, clean and secure energy, clean water supplies and better local amenities • Continued protection and enhancement of the natural and historic environment • Places shaped by their communities where people are proud to live	• Reduction in carbon emissions from new commercial buildings within the next 10 years • 20% energy from renewable sources by 2020	Ensure the challenges and vision of the White Paper are considered where appropriate.	Take account of these objectives and targets for the SA Framework
Bedford Borough Sustainable Community Strategy (November 2009) – Local Level			
A number of aims are set within 7 key themes. <u>Thriving</u> • Encourage high value added inward investment, the retention and development of local companies and the establishment of new start-up enterprises. • Create a highly attractive, safe and successful town centre	Detailed targets are not set as this is an overarching strategy to guide the more detailed plans and programmes of its partners. Progress is measured against national indicators.	The key themes and objectives of the Sustainable Community Strategy will feed into the Plan.	The Sustainable Community Strategy themes should feed into the objectives of the SA Framework.

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
providing a distinctive and excellent range of activities and facilities which can be used and enjoyed by all. • Market the Borough as a prime investment location, raising its profile and image and promoting investment opportunities. • Support and work in partnership with the local tourism industry to expand what it has to offer and market the Borough as a tourist destination. • Encourage economic participation and support people into jobs within urban and rural communities, by maximising employment opportunities for local people and promoting skills development. • Improve the general business environment (the supply and quality of infrastructure, premises and services), in order to foster enterprise, encourage investment and sustain economic growth. <u>Greener</u> • Minimise carbon emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change focussing on transport, business and homes. • Minimise domestic and commercial waste production and maximise reuse and recycling. • Develop a strong green infrastructure network through protecting, extending and linking landscapes, biodiversity sites, heritage sites, green spaces and paths. • Improve the understanding, enjoyment and care for the natural and built environment. • Protect and enhance our natural resources including air, soil and water to minimise the impacts of flooding, climate change and pollution. • Reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. • Protect and enhance the rich biodiversity of the Borough <u>Aspiring</u>			

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
- Help all children and young people to achieve their full potential through high quality teaching and learning in schools that have accessible community activities and facilities. - Prioritise preventative services for children in their early years to help families stay together and thrive. - Ensure vulnerable children and young people at risk of abuse and neglect are safeguarded and supported to a better life. Healthy - Increase healthy life expectancy for all across the Borough. - Reduce health inequalities by focussing effort on deprived areas and increasing opportunities for healthier lifestyles. - Improve help and advice to vulnerable adults and older people to enable them to continue living in their own homes and so maintain their independence for as long as possible. - Transform adult social care services by improving access, choice, control and advocacy for users and carers through the provision of self directed care. - Improve dementia services by raising awareness and understanding, and providing earlier diagnosis, intervention and higher quality of care. - Improve the safeguarding and well-being of vulnerable adults and older people. Safer - Reduce burglary, robbery and other serious acquisitive crime and criminal damage. - Tackle the issues which increase the likelihood of re-offending and target prolific offenders. - Tackle anti-social behaviour - Reduce incidents of domestic violence. - Tackle crime and disorder by reducing drug dependency and			

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
alcohol misuse. • Tackle the fear of crime. • Increase public confidence in the Partnership's delivery of community safety. Inclusive • Reduce the proportion of people living in poverty and so make a positive difference to communities. • Promote activities that bring people and communities closer together. • Encourage and support more people, particularly from under-represented groups, to take on civic roles and volunteer within their communities. • Create more opportunities, and provide support and advice, to enable people to influence local decisions. • Encourage and enable more people to participate in local arts, culture and sporting activities. • Ensure that marginalised and vulnerable people receive effective support, advice and advocacy, and can access key services. Growing • Promote the construction of sufficient energy efficient new homes, transport and infrastructure to support the growing economy and population and which can adapt to climate change. • Improve the transport, community and public infrastructure of the whole Borough to support the economy, population and housing. • Improve housing and transport for vulnerable people to promote their independence. • Maintain and improve the condition of all existing housing and transport, including its energy efficiency and adaptability to climate change. • Tackle the problems of air quality in the Borough.			

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
Bedford Borough Local Plan (October 2002) – Local Level			
9 aims are stated: • to move towards more sustainable forms of development • to protect and enhance the existing built and natural environment and the landscape • to meet the needs of the borough's residents • to maintain and enhance the economic and social well being of the borough • to protect and enhance Bedford's role within the sub-region • to improve the quality of life for the borough's residents • to improve the quality of new development within the borough • to improve communications and movement in and out of the borough • to promote equal opportunities	Appendix B of the plan sets out indicators for each policy. Targets are: • 11,700 dwellings in the period 1991-2006 • 30% affordable housing on qualifying sites • 80 ha of additional employment land	Ensure the plan replaces policy where appropriate	Consider whether the plan's objectives are still relevant to the Borough
Core Strategy and Rural Issues Plan (April 2008) – Local Level			
Objectives: 1. Deliver the planned growth in Bedford, Kempston and the northern Marston Vale (Local Plan 2002 commitments – see Figure 2) to achieve a step change in the Borough's role in the region. 2. Ensure future development is based upon sustainable development principles. 3. Provide guidance on where any future growth should occur (in the period up to 2021). 4. Provide quality housing to meet current and future needs of all sectors of the community. 5. Foster significant employment growth. 6. Direct retail development to the most appropriate locations. 7. Foster the regeneration of Bedford town centre to enable it to fulfil a greater role within the region. 8. Support the delivery of coordinated transport improvements with	Targets and indicators are set out in Appendix F Table 2. • Housing development of 16,270 in the Growth Area between 2001-2021 • Minimum of 16,000 jobs to be provided in the borough by 2021 • Increase of 1300 net dwellings in the Rural Policy Area 2001-2021 • Up to 75 has of employment land to be provided in the borough by 2021. • Capacity of 6,000 m² net	Ensure the plan updates and replaces policy where appropriate	Existing spatial strategy to be appraised as status quo alternative.

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
the emphasis on non-car modes, improving east-west communications and achieving greater transport interchange. 9. Encourage key rural communities to become more sustainable places to live and work. 10. Achieve high quality design that takes account of character, local distinctiveness and sustainable design principles, enables access and promotes community safety. 11. Protect and enhance the countryside, biodiversity and geodiversity, and the quality and connectivity of green infrastructure in the borough with particular emphasis on enhancing the Marston Vale. 12. Minimise the use of energy and encourage greater use of energy from renewable sources. 13. Provide a mechanism for the delivery of infrastructure (including health, education, transport, community, leisure and recreation facilities) in tandem with new development. 14. Protect and enhance the Borough's built, cultural and community assets and the character of settlements and foster the development of the Borough as a destination for heritage and cultural tourism. 15. Protect the environment by minimising the risk of flooding and the effects of climate change and facilitating improvements in air quality. 16. Involve the community in the decisions about the planning of the Borough so they can influence and shape such decisions.	convenience goods floorspace by 2011 and 30,000 m² net comparison goods floorspace by 2011 increasing to 47,000 m² by 2016. (The Town Centre Area Action Plan allocates 31,200 m² of retail floorspace, the delivery of which will be monitored by that plan). • C7: Zero planning permissions granted contrary to Environment Agency advice.		
Core Strategy and Rural Issues Plan Sustainability Appraisal (July 2006) – Local Level			
SA objectives: • to ensure that energy and water consumption is as efficient as possible, thereby reducing overall consumption • to encourage the use of renewable resources and the provision of renewable energy within the area	• A series of indicators are used in the SA Framework (pages 4-5) • Further indicators and available data is presented in		Consider the use of the SA objectives for the SA where appropriate

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
- to reduce car journeys can congestion - to minimise waste production and support the recycling of waste products - to maintain a high quality environment in terms of air, soil and water quality - to reduce the risk of flooding - to conserve and enhance biodiversity - to maintain and enhance the diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character - to conserve and enhance the historical and cultural environment - to create or enhance spaces, places and buildings that wear, look and work well - to ensure that everyone has access to a good quality affordable home that meets their needs - to reduce crime and the fear of crime - to maintain and enhance human health - to make opportunities for culture, leisure and recreation available to all - to encourage a high performing and stable economy - to help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to their skills and potential - to maintain and enhance the vitality of the town centre - to help reduce poverty and social exclusion	Appendix 3 (pages 145-152)		
Bedford Town Centre Area Action Plan 2008 – Local Level			
Plan objectives include: • To provide a framework for the regeneration of the town centre. • To sustain and enhance the vitality and viability of the town centre as a whole whilst promoting reinvestment in the existing retail centre including the High Street.	• Up to 47,000 sqm. net additional comparison goods retail floorspace by 2016 (30,000 sqm. net by 2011) • Provision for up to 47,000 sqm	Update and replace Town Centre Area Action Plan policies where necessary.	Take account of when developing SA objectives.

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
• To create a more diverse and vital mix of uses including a major increase in the town's retail offer. • To achieve the successful integration of new development with the existing town centre. • To strengthen the economy of the town centre and its role as an employment, administrative and educational centre. • To improve access to the town centre through the provision of new public transport interchanges, new highway infrastructure, public transport priority when feasible, the use of park and ride facilities and improved facilities for pedestrians, cyclists, taxis and private hire vehicles. Where and when highway capacity can be increased, priority should be given to modes other than private cars. • To improve the number and quality of the connections within the town centre, and between the centre and the river and railway station. • To achieve a significant growth in town centre living in order to enhance the vitality and viability of the centre. • To provide affordable housing in a managed town centre reflecting the needs of the community with the aim of securing a mixed and balanced town centre community. • To protect, promote and enhance Bedford's natural and built heritage, cultural attractions and role as a tourist destination as an integral part of the strategy to regenerate the town centre. • To achieve high quality urban design with high quality materials and finishes. • To create a town centre which is safe, attractive and in which people will want to live, shop, work and spend their leisure time. • To achieve high quality public realm improvements including provision for management and maintenance.	net additional comparison goods retail floorspace by 2016 (30,000 sqm. net by 2011) and up to 6,000 sqm net additional convenience goods retail floorspace by 2011 within the town centre • Provision of up to 30,000 sqm net retail floorspace at Bedford Town Centre West by 2015/16 Provision for up to 47,000 sqm net additional comparison goods retail floorspace by 2016 (30,000 sqm. net by 2011) and up to 6,000 sqm net additional convenience goods retail floorspace by 2011 within the town centre Indicator: Amount of completed retail, office and leisure development.		

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
● To ensure that new development and other partner agencies contribute to the delivery of the Council's strategy for the town centre as a whole, including the provision of infrastructure.			
Central Bedfordshire Council - Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD (November 2009) – Local Level			
Strategic objectives - ● To deliver the regional and sub regional spatial planning requirements of the East of England Plan, the emerging South East Plan and the Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-Regional Strategy. ● To maintain the existing Green Belt. ● To plan for the highest quality sustainable development in the most sustainable locations whilst ensuring that new development has a positive impact on communities and is supported by necessary infrastructure. ● To identify a hierarchy of settlements and concentrate development in the larger settlements, while seeking opportunities to direct growth to one or two key locations. In particular to: i. deliver planned growth in the identified Major Service Centres and consolidate and develop their role ii. deliver planned growth in the identified Minor Service Centres and allow development to serve the needs of their population and their rural catchment areas iii. Provide limited development outside of the identified Major and Minor Service Centres. ● To make Mid Bedfordshire a more environmentally, economically and socially sustainable place that positively responds to the challenges of climate change but is prepared for its effects. ● To support the role of towns and villages as locations for accessible services by the retention and enhancement of existing facilities and the provision of appropriate new ones.		Be aware of the effect of these objectives on the borough when preparing the Plan	Be aware of the effect of these objectives on the borough when undertaking the SA

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
• Taking account of the rural nature of Mid Bedfordshire, reduce the need to travel, promote more sustainable transport modes, maximise capacity of the existing transport network and add additional capacity and new infrastructure where needed. • To provide the right mix of new high quality homes, including enough affordable homes to meet identified needs. • To strengthen the local economy, providing new employment opportunities that help reduce the level of out-commuting. • To ensure development respects and contributes to the district's diverse local character. • To enhance and manage natural resources of the district in a sustainable and integrated way to bring about an increase in biodiversity, a net gain in green infrastructure, and the retention and enhancement of landscape character.			
Central Bedfordshire Council – Site Allocations DPD (April 2011) – Local Level			
Allocates sites for housing, employment and other uses.		None	None
Central Bedfordshire Council – Development Strategy – Pre-Submission Draft (January 2013) – Local Level			
Strategic objectives - • 28,700 new homes will be delivered between 2011 and 2031 to meet the housing needs of all our existing and future residents, ensuring the efficient use of land to provide safe, sustainable communities and development, promoting sustainable forms of transport and encouraging healthy lifestyles. Emphasis will be placed upon the regeneration needs of the Dunstable & Houghton Regis area as well as the wider urban conurbation. • A variety of housing types and sizes will be provided, including larger family homes. Up to 30% of the homes delivered will be affordable and will be provided across a range of tenures to facilitate social inclusion. All new housing will be located so as to offer good accessibility to jobs, services and facilities.		Be aware of the effect of these objectives on the borough when preparing the Plan.	Be aware of the effect of these objectives on the borough when undertaking the SA

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
27,000 new jobs will be delivered across a variety of sectors so as to ensure the economic potential of both the urban and rural area is achieved and to reduce the level of out-commuting. An appropriate mix of sites will be provided of sufficient scale to ensure the right balance between new homes and jobs, and to promote Central Bedfordshire as a location for economic growth and success. - Development will promote our unique identity and maximise the potential of our habitats and natural environment by respecting and enhancing our green spaces, our natural, historic and cultural heritage and our landscape designations. Other than in very special circumstances, the newly defined Green Belt within Central Bedfordshire will be respected, protected and maintained. - Development will maximise the potential for creating strong, vibrant, healthy and inclusive communities, enhancing a sense of place and delivering social and economic benefits for all our communities and businesses. - The town centres will be regenerated, promoted and enhanced, and their viability and vitality will be supported, building upon their own unique characteristics and attributes to meet their economic, retailing, leisure and social potential. High quality, well designed development which is sensitive to our existing heritage, buildings, landscapes and townscapes will contribute to the quality of our town centres. Within the urban areas, the use of previously developed land will be promoted and important recreation facilities and open spaces will be protected, enhanced. - The distinctive and individual characteristics of Central Bedfordshire will be reflected across all new development at the same time as incorporating new, and innovative designs.			

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
High quality, well designed, sustainable development will take account of the need to adapt to climate change as well as the need to be energy efficient by incorporating standards such as the Code for Sustainable Homes. • Central Bedfordshire will enable the delivery of appropriate infrastructure to facilitate and complement the delivery of housing and economic growth required by our residents, communities and businesses to meet their needs, such as new educational establishments, healthcare services, social and religious venues, roads, rail, public transport, utilities and broadband facilities. This will be secured through financial contributions from a variety of sources as well as through planning conditions.			
Milton Keynes Core Strategy (July 2013) – Local Level			

Strategic objectives -
• To deliver land for at least 28,000 new homes within the Borough between 2010 and 2026. This will comprise:
  • An allocation of a maximum of 2,500 homes in the areas identified as Strategic Reserve Areas south east of the city in the Local Plan.
  • Completion of development on existing Local Plan sites and land with planning permission comprising approximately 24,000 homes.
  • 1,200 homes in sustainable settlements in the rural area.
• To work jointly with neighbouring authorities and other key organisations on the planning of any development located on the edge of Milton Keynes (but outside the current MK boundary) so that these areas are integrated with the city and contribute to its role and character.
• To allocate and manage the development of employment land and pursue a vigorous economic development strategy
		Be aware of the effect of these objectives on the borough when preparing the Plan	Be aware of the effect of these objectives on the borough when undertaking the SA

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal

sufficient to deliver a minimum of 1.5 jobs for every house build in Milton Keynes so that the business sector and local economy are supported, existing firms can expand, new firms are attracted, the level of working skills among the local population is enhanced and the area's resident population can find work locally.
• To assist greater economic prosperity by improving the local opportunities for learning and to increase the local level of knowledge and skills through the establishment of a MK university, and support the development of MK College and the Science and Innovation Initiative.
• To promote the development of Central Milton Keynes as the vibrant cultural centre of the sub-region by making it the main location within the city for retail, leisure, cultural and larger office developments (around 12,000m^2 of office floorspace per year) and for up to 5,000 homes by 2026.
• To seek the protection of existing key services and facilities in sustainable rural settlements and to encourage the development of further provision, including shops, education, community and health services.
• To aim to reduce health inequalities, deprivation and improve housing quality and access to services for those living in the areas targeted by the suite of documents that form the Regeneration Strategy, as well as any other areas identified during the plan period.
• To facilitate the delivery of housing that meets the needs of all sections of the community through:
  • Providing sufficient developable land for new housing.
  • Construction of viable levels of diverse housing including affordable, supported and specialist housing.
  • Taking account of the need for houses in multiple			

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal

occupation.
• To manage increased travel demands through:
  • Promoting improvements to public transport and supporting the development of an East - West rail link between Oxford and Cambridge.
  • Encouraging an increased number of people to walk and cycle by developing an expanded and improved Redway network.
  • Extending the grid road pattern into any major new development areas.
  • Utilising demand management measures to reduce the growth of road congestion, whilst upgrading key traffic routes such as the A421 and the A509.
• To mitigate the Borough's impact on climate change and reduce CO_2 emissions through:
  • Implementing higher than national requirements for sustainable homes and buildings.
  • Locating development away from areas of flood risk.
  • Promoting community energy networks and strategic renewable energy developments.
  • Reducing waste generation and increasing the amount of recycling.
  • Sustainable transport initiatives.
• To require that the layout and design of new development creates safe, healthy, sustainable built environments with easy access to open space, public transport and everyday facilities, delivering a high quality of urban design, architecture and public realm and creates places with identity.
• To protect, maintain and enhance the important features, character and assets of the New Town and the towns and			

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
villages throughout the Borough. • To encourage healthy lifestyles with the provision of recreation facilities and biodiversity by enhancing the linear park network and extending it into new developments while conserving and protecting key landscapes and important habitats. • To develop Milton Keynes as an International Sporting City. • To manage mineral extraction, safeguarding reserves and processing facilities, restoring worked sites, and maximising use of secondary and recycled materials. • To work with public service and infrastructure providers (principally via the Milton Keynes Partnership Local Investment Plan) to ensure that the social and economic growth planned in the Borough and neighbouring local authorities is facilitated by the timely provision of appropriate new and improved facilities such as public transport, schools, community halls, sport and recreation facilities, transport interchanges, health services (including MK General Hospital), emergency services, highways and rail improvements, and a residual waste treatment plant.			
North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy (June 2008) – Local Level			
Objective One – Green Living Ensure that development in North Northamptonshire becomes a benchmark for 'green living' and makes it easy for people to live in an environmentally friendly way through using the highest standards of design (including energy efficiency/renewable energy, sustainable construction methods and green technologies), promoting green industries and ensuring sustainable transport choice. This will maximise environmental performance and community safety and encourage healthy lifestyles. Objective Two – Environment Enhance and manage the built and natural resources of North	Performance indicators and targets are set out in table 7	Be aware of these objectives when developing the plan.	Be aware of these objectives when undertaking the SA.

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
Northamptonshire in a sustainable and integrated manner and in the context of major growth and the challenges of climate change. To bring about a step change in biodiversity management and a net gain in Green Infrastructure; retaining and enhancing landscape and townscape character and distinctiveness, through the opportunities afforded by development and investment. Objective Three – Network of settlements Create a sustainable urban-focused development framework based on maintaining distinctive and separate settlements and on optimising the use of the existing structure of a north-south urban core with a spine of rural service centres in the east. Ensure the scale and location of growth is shaped by the role and character of settlements in this network, supporting greater self-sufficiency for the area as a whole. Objective Four – Town Centre focus Ensure that services and facilities, including cultural provision, are located in town centres and other areas of focus in North Northamptonshire, and that opportunities to maximise and enhance the provision of leisure, retail and cultural facilities are taken, making these places more self-sufficient and real hearts for their communities. Objective Five – Connectivity and modal shift Increase transport choice to enable modal shift and enhance North Northamptonshire's national, regional, sub-regional and local connections through improvements to public transport and road corridors to meet the future role expected of them, and support the development of a strong network of settlements. Objective Six – Infrastructure and services Secure provision of the infrastructure, services and facilities needed to sustain and enhance existing communities and support the development of North Northamptonshire, including establishing the			

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
priorities for future public and private investment and collaboration, to build confidence in North Northamptonshire for investors and others. Objective Seven – Economy Build a more diverse, dynamic and self reliant economy, which is not overly dependent on in or out commuting to make it reach its potential, through providing the workplaces, jobs, skills and sites to bring this about. Objective Eight– Quality of life Strengthen the quality of life throughout North Northamptonshire by supporting initiatives that build stable, safe, healthy and strong communities; respecting cultural diversity and distinctiveness; planning new development to help reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime; promoting well-being and health; ensuring that development is of local character; and supporting area based renewal. Objective Nine – Regeneration Ensure the regeneration of Corby and the other areas of North Northamptonshire that need it, through maximising the use of brownfield land for new development, providing the necessary supporting infrastructure and inspiring community confidence in the need for positive change. To build on the distinctive features and assets of each settlement to support and facilitate this, including the promotion of art in the public realm. Objective Ten– Housing Needs Deliver the quantity and mix of housing to meet identified needs in North Northamptonshire, ensuring that a sufficient proportion is affordable and accessible to all. Maximise the use and regeneration of brownfield land in meeting these target, and through using high quality design that makes best use of land without compromising the quality of the local environment.			

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
Wellingborough Site Specific Proposals Development Plan Preferred Options (November 2010) – Local Level			
Allocates sites for housing, employment and other uses.		None	None
East Northamptonshire Four Towns Plan Scoping and Issues Consultation (November 2012) – Local Level			
Allocates sites for housing, employment and other uses.		None	None
Huntingdonshire Local Plan 2036 – Draft Plan (May 2013) – Local Level			
Strategy and principles for development The Council will support proposals which contribute to the delivery of new housing, economic growth and diversification and infrastructure provision through the following development strategy: • 3 strategic expansion locations will make provision for approximately 12,450 new homes giving a range of accommodation to meet the needs of all sectors of the community and to facilitate growth of the local economy, in particular through the designated enterprise zone at Alconbury Weald • market towns and key service centres will make provision for approximately 7,850 new homes and support economic and community development that serves needs in the most sustainable locations, promotes the vitality and viability of established communities and maintains their character and identity • the Ouse valley, Great Fen, Grafham Water/ Brampton Woods area and the Nene valley will be priority areas for strategic green infrastructure enhancement of public access Development proposals will be expected to: a. prioritise the use of previously developed land in accessible locations; b. contribute to the creation or maintenance of mixed and socially inclusive communities by integrating development of homes, jobs, services and facilities;	Huntingdonshire Council will monitor the supply of land and implementation and effectiveness of policies through its Annual Monitoring Report.	None	None

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
c. make efficient use of land, buildings and infrastructure within existing settlements whilst preserving local character and distinctiveness; d. promote healthy, active lifestyles by protecting and enhancing green space, sport and recreation facilities e. maximise opportunities for use of public transport, walking and cycling; f. provide appropriate infrastructure to meet the needs generated by the proposed development; g. support the local economy by providing a mix of employment opportunities suitable for local people; h. minimise greenhouse gas emissions, oxides of nitrogen, fine particles and other forms of pollution; i. reduce water consumption and wastage, minimising the impact on water resources and quality and managing flood risk; and j. protect and enhance the historic environment and the range and vitality of characteristic landscapes, habitats and species. Sites are allocated for housing, employment and other uses.			
AIR			
Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland and Northern Ireland (July 2007) – National Level			
National air quality objectives are listed in Table 2 pages 20-22. UK standards are set out for: • Particles (PM10) • Particles (PM2.5) • Nitrogen Dioxide • Ozone • Sulphur Dioxide • Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons • Benzene • 1,3-butadiene	National targets for the UK are set out in Table 2 pages 20-22. • Nitrogen Dioxide $200\mu g.m^3$ not to be exceeded more than 18 times a year (1 hour mean) • Nitrogen Dioxide $40\mu g.m^3$ (annual mean) • Sulphur Dioxide $226\mu g.m^3$ not to be exceeded more than 35	Ensure the plan takes account of the UK air quality standards	Take account of the objectives, targets and indicators when developing the SA Framework

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
• Carbon monoxide • Lead • Nitrogen Oxides • Sulphur Dioxide • Ozone: protection of vegetation and ecosystems	times a year (15 minute mean) • Sulphur Dioxide $350\mu g.m^3$ not to be exceeded more than 25 times a year (1 hour mean) • Sulphur Dioxide $125\mu g.m^3$ not to be exceeded more than 3 times a year (24 hour mean)		
Air Quality Management Area Order (November 2009) – Local Level			
The Town Centre AQMA 5 was declared on 6th November 2009 for Nitrogen Dioxide, the order also revoked AQMQ 1 (Stewartby for Sulphur Dioxide), AQMA 2 and 3 (High Street and Prebend Street as the new AQMA encompassed these areas) and AQMA 4 (Great Barford for Nitrogen Dioxide). An Action Plan is to be produced with specific measures.	Indicators contained in a separate document.	Ensure that future development in the area considers air quality	Take account of the AQMA in this area
BIODIVERSITY, FLORA AND FAUNA; CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE			
A Better Life: Cultural Strategy for the East of England (September 2006) – Regional Level			
Four key themes: • embedding culture in growth and regeneration: increase investment in culture led growth and regeneration to make the East of England a leading light for the rest of the country • developing creativity: become the creative workshop of the UK by offering the best opportunities to creative people and businesses in the country • growing cultural tourism: become recognised as a premier cultural tourism destination in England by 2020 • Capturing the benefits of the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games: maximise the positive impacts of the games coming to London in 2012	Indicators from the Living East Action Plan 2006-08: • Level of investment in culture • Increase in the size of the cultural sector as a proportion of the regional economy • Number of people taking part in cultural activities • Number of Quality Assured Visitor Attractions and Welcome to Excellence • Visitor numbers • Cultural activity planned	Take account of the cultural targets and objectives	Take account of the objectives and indicators when developing the SA Framework

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
	around the Olympics		
Regional Woodland Strategy EERA/Forestry Commission (November 2003) – Regional Level			
Objectives of the strategy: • enhanced awareness raising and education • management of the existing trees and woodlands of the region focussed on the benefits they provide, and • continued tree planting and woodland expansion Three spatial planning objectives: • SP1 Promote sustainable developments set within well designed green space of which trees and woodland play a functional part. • SP2 Improve protection of existing woodland and trees. • SP3 Create greener road corridors integrated into the wider landscape.	There are no targets or indicators in the document.	The objectives of the strategy should be reflected in the Plan.	Take account of the objectives when developing the SA Framework.
Green Infrastructure Strategy, Cambridgeshire Horizons (2003)– Regional Level			
The section of the plan of relevance to Bedford Borough is Existing Green Corridor 1 – the Ouse Valley. It has the objectives of connectivity, accessibility and landscape/biodiversity enhancement.	None specific to Bedford Borough.	The plan should be aware of the wider priorities in the region.	Take account of the objective when developing the SA Framework.
Bedfordshire and Luton Biodiversity Action Plan (2001) – Local Level			
Wildlife Priority Areas are identified and objectives for habitats within each of them put forward as follows. Objectives for farmland habitats are – • Enhance and increase the extent and wildlife value of farmland habitats, by encouraging positive management with reference to priorities identified in this action plan. • Promote the creation and linking of new and existing habitats through advice services and available incentive schemes. • Increase the populations of declining farmland species, in particular national priority species, by providing advice,	Each Action Plan has its own targets. Farmland: • Sympathetically manage 50% of ponds by 2010 • Achieve the favourable management of 50% of ancient/species rich hedgerows by 2010 • All hedgerows to be locally	Seek to achieve the objectives and targets of the Plan.	Take account of the objectives and targets and when developing the SA Framework

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
promoting appropriate management and undertaking ecological research with regard to the effects of global climate change. • Encourage more community involvement in and raise awareness of the conservation of farmland biodiversity. • Encourage the agricultural communities to take positive action for wildlife. Objectives for lowland calcareous grassland habitats are - • Maintain or enhance the wildlife value of existing calcareous grassland. • Prevent the loss of calcareous grassland in Bedfordshire and Luton. • Promote the restoration of downland landscape through the creation and linking new and existing habitats. • Maintain or increase the populations of declining chalk species where possible in particular national priority species. • Encourage more community involvement in and awareness of the issues surrounding calcareous grassland management and biodiversity. • Monitor the extent and quality of key habitats and the population of key species to improve the basis for decision making. Objectives for woodland habitats are - • To conserve and enhance all ancient semi-natural woodland. • Encourage the creation of new woodland with due attention to local distinctiveness. Landscape, history, soil types etc and the objectives of the landowners. • To conserve and enhance other existing woodland with due attention to local distinctiveness, landscape, history, soil types etc and the objectives of landowners. • To encourage the implementation of management strategies	sourced by 2010 • Halt loss of ancient/species rich hedgerows by 2010 • Create 50ha of species rich grassland using local seed sources by 2010 Heathland: • 105ha of heathland on the greensand ridge by 2010 • Maintain and increase population of a range of heathland species and habitats Lowland acid grassland: • 125ha of acid grassland on the greensand ridge by 2010 • acid grassland-related habitats maintained, conserved, improved Lowland calcareous grassland: • favourable management of all county wildlife site calcareous grasslands by 2010 • create 50ha of chalk grassland by 2010 Woodland: • restore 2 sites to favourable by 2010 • create by natural colonisation 10ha of native species wet woodland		

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
that include economic viability and improved biodiversity as key aims. • To encourage broader public understanding and public awareness of the value of woodland to the community and the importance of the process and management strategies that lead to the conservation and enhancement of the woodland biodiversity. • To monitor and review the implementation and impact of the BAP for woodland habitat. Objectives for waterways and wetlands habitats are - • Maintain or enhance the quality of existing habitats. • Ensure water quality and quantity is sufficient to benefit biodiversity. • Create new habitats and links between habitats where appropriate. • Restore or repair damaged and degraded habitats. • Survey and monitor key habitats and species to determine the success of the biodiversity action plan. • Increase populations of national and local priority species. • Promote public understanding, awareness and involvement in the conservation of waterways and wetlands. • Promote and improve relationships and understanding between all those who use waterways and wetlands. Objectives for urban habitats are – • Enhance the extent and biodiversity value of urban habitats through appropriate and long term sustainable management. • Promote the creation of new habitats and the linking of habitats. • Identify and protect important sites within the urban area for people and biodiversity. • Monitor and evaluate the success of the actions in this plan in	• further 40ha of wet woodland to positive management by 2010 • increaser by 100% the semi ancient woodland in management schemes • increase woodland in the county to 1500ha by 2015 • no reduction in ancient semi-natural woodland • increase by 10 number of woods with public access by 2010 Waterways and wetlands: • 80ha by 2010 • establish self sustaining river fisheries by 2010 • Maintain ecological quality of River Great Ouse by 2010 • Establish pollarding system in 50% of riverside willows by 2010 • Establish 3 wetland projects by 2010 Urban habitats: • Accessible informal greenspace less than 300m from home • LNR of 1ha per 1000 population		

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
meeting its targets. • Increase accessibility to greenspace and use by local people. • Increase community involvement in and raise awareness of the value of urban biodiversity. Species Action Plans are available for: • Bats • Dormouse • European Otter • Water Vole • Broad-fruited cornsalad • Field Cow-wheat • Greater broomrape • Grey mouse-ear • Ground-pine • Adder • Black hairstreak • Song thrush • Spined loach • Truncatellina cylindrical (a snail) • White-clawed crayfish	• 1 20ha site within 2km of home, 1 100ha site within 5km of homes, 1 500ha site within 10km of home • 60% of schools to have wildlife area by 2010 • 50% of churchyards managed for biodiversity by 2010 • 1 tree per 100 population by 2010 • All county sites to become LNR by 2010		
Marston Vale Forest Plan (2000) – Local Level			
Corporate aims of the Community Forests: • To regenerate the environment of the Green Belt and equivalent areas, where it is public policy to keep it open, and help to ensure that it is permanently green and open • To improve the landscape of the area, including reclamation of derelict land, to create a visually exciting and functionally diverse environment • To increase opportunities for sport and recreation, including artistic and cultural events, and access	No indicators or targets are included in the document.	Take account of the aims of the community forest	Take account of the aims when developing the SA Framework

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
- To protect areas of high quality landscape or historical or archaeological interest - To protect sites of nature conservation value and create new opportunities for nature conservation - To provide new opportunities for educational use of the area, and ensure the mosaic of habitats in the forest can be used for the full range of environmental education needs of the surrounding schools. Also to ensure that urban schools are not disadvantaged in meeting the needs of the National Curriculum - To protect the best agricultural land and increase opportunities for farm diversification elsewhere in accordance with Government agricultural and local planning policies - To establish a supply of timber and other woodland products - To achieve a high level of local community commitment to the concept and involvement in its implementation - To give public and private sector confidence in the long-term prospects for the area and to provide a proper base for investment. To improve the environment near housing and local industry and to increase the value of properties and business - To seek private sector support to implement the forest and to invest in leisure and other relevant services - To create jobs in the new woodland industries, both management of woodland and use of the raw materials. To create jobs in the leisure industry developed in and around the Community Forest. To sustain other local jobs by providing an outstanding environment as a comparative economic advantage over competitor areas - To complement the Government's priorities for inner cities, by providing for associated leisure and open space needs at the physically closest locations			

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
• To remain flexible in the light of changes, such as in the leisure market			
Bedfordshire and Luton Strategic Green Infrastructure Plan (February 2007) – Local Level			
The objectives and detailed requirements that the Green Infrastructure Consortium set out for the Plan can be summarised as the following: • To define strategic green infrastructure, assess existing provision and identify deficiencies in strategic provision; • To bring together and map available data and information on existing strategic landscape, historic environment, biodiversity, accessible greenspace and access route assets; • To integrate opportunities for strategic enhancement of landscape, historic environment, biodiversity, accessible greenspace and access route resources, identified in consultation with stakeholders through workshops; • Using the analysis, to develop an integrated strategic green infrastructure network that links in with similar strategic networks in adjacent counties at the sub-regional scale.	Recommendation for implementation are included in section 3.8 (pages 117-118).	The objectives of the plan and the recommendations for implementation should be taken into account in the production of the Plan.	Take account of the objectives when developing the SA Framework.
Bedford Green Infrastructure Plan (November 2009) – Local Level			
Complements the strategic green infrastructure plan, identifies more detailed spatial priorities across Bedford Borough and provides detailed background information to support policies and proposals in the LDF. Objectives: • To protect and where possible enhance the rich landscape, biodiversity and the historic environment of Bedford Borough. • To provide new green infrastructure assets for both existing and new communities • To improve access and links for people and wildlife between existing and proposed green infrastructure assets. • To manage the green infrastructure network to high standards	Information given on assets and opportunities.	Take objectives and opportunities into account in producing the Plan.	Take account of the objectives when developing the SA Framework.

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
of environmental quality and sustainability. • To deliver integrated social, economic and environmental benefits that contribute to the quality of life in Bedford Borough. • To minimise and mitigate the impacts of climate change.			
Bedford Borough Landscape Character Assessment (August 2009) – Local Level			
Sets detailed guidelines for landscape management in relation to new development for individual landscape character areas.	There are no targets or indicators in the Assessment.	Take opportunities into account in producing the Plan.	
The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England 2010 – National Level			
That the value of the historic environment is recognised by all who have the power to shape it; that Government gives it proper recognition and that it is managed intelligently and in a way that fully realises its contribution to the economic, social and cultural life of the nation.		Take objective into account in producing the Plan.	Take account of objective in developing SA framework
PPS5 Practice Guide: Practice Guide			
Although PPS 5 Planning for the Historic Environment is now superseded by the NPPF, the practice guide that accompanied it is still in force for now. A Guide is to assist local authorities, owners, applicants and other interested parties in implementing the national historic environment policy. Sets out requirements for local authorities in collating evidence base for plan-making. No objectives contained	Suggests Heritage at Risk information an effective means of assessing whether protection policies are achieving success.	Keep abreast of up-to-date information on the efficiency and sustainability of historic buildings and the best means of improving their performance.	Take account of the positive role the historic environment can play in delivering wider sustainability objectives.
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT			
Plan for Growth (March 2011) – National Level			
The Government is announcing a plan to put the UK on a path to sustainable, long-term economic growth. Ambitions include the following. • To create the most competitive tax system in the G20	Measurable Benchmarks include the following. A The lowest corporate tax rate in the G7 and among the lowest in	Ensure the plan supports the achievement of objectives with spatial implications, such as regulatory requirements for zero carbon homes	Ensure the economic objectives are reflected in the economic sustainability appraisal objectives.

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
• To make the UK one of the best places in Europe to start, finance and grow a business • To encourage investment and exports as a route to a more balanced economy • To create a more educated workforce that is the most flexible in Europe	the G20 B The best location for corporate headquarters in Europe C A simpler, more certain tax system D Improving the UK's ranking in major international indices of competitiveness E A lower domestic regulatory burden F More finance for start-ups and business expansion G An increase in the proportion of planning applications approved and dealt with on time H Ensure the UK remains one of the top destinations for foreign direct investment (FDI) I An increase in exports to key target markets J An increase in private sector employment, especially in regions outside London and the South East K Increased investment in low carbon technologies L Supporting more apprenticeships than any previous government M Home to more of the world's top universities than any other	that apply from 2016, the provision of sufficient employment land to support business growth.	

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
	country except the USA N An increase in the participation of 16-24 year olds in employment or learning O Narrowing the educational attainment gap, allowing everyone to meet their potential N Lowest burdens from employment regulation in the EU		
Bedford Local Economic Assessment (November 2010) – Local Level			
Core objectives - to: • Provide a sound understanding of the economic conditions in the area and how they affect residents and businesses; • Identify the comparative strengths and weaknesses of the local economy and the nature of challenges and opportunities; • Identify the local economic geography, including the economic linkages between the area and the wider economy; and • Identify the local constraints to economic growth and employment, and the risks and opportunities from sustainable economic growth.	The assessment does not contain targets or indicators.	Consider the assessment when developing the Plan	
Shaping Bedford Borough's Economy – Economic Development Strategy 2011-2014 – Local Level			
Strategic objectives - • Increase the Borough's profile and image by marketing it as a prime location and investment opportunity. • Support business by encouraging high value added inward investment, the retention and development of local businesses and the establishment of new enterprises. • Improve the town centre by delivering new investment and	Local 'economic snapshot' indicators • Resident and business perception of location. • Net job growth. • Key sector growth. • Employment land developed.	Consider the strategy when developing the Plan	Take account of the indicators when developing the SA Framework

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
maximising its townscape and heritage quality. • Increase economic participation and develop a quality and competitive workforce through education, skills development and removing barriers to employment. • Improve infrastructure in order to foster enterprise, encourage investment and sustain economic growth.	• Planning applications received and approved. • Housing completions. • Business and industry CO2 emissions per capita. • Sites and premises enquiries received and satisfied. • Journey time indicator in peak hour (congestion management). • Retail vacancy rate. • Town Centre footfall. • Tourist Information Centre visitor numbers. • 16-19 year olds Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). • Apprenticeship performance. • Local area deprivation.		
Bedford's Growth Plan: Stimulating Economic Growth (consultation draft June 2013) – Local Level			
Focuses on 5 priority areas: • Increasing the Borough's profile and image by marketing it as a prime location and investment opportunity; • Supporting business by encouraging high value added inward investment, the retention and development of local • businesses and the establishment of new enterprises; • Improving the town centre by delivering new investment and maximising its townscape and heritage quality; • Increasing economic participation and developing a quality and competitive workforce through education, skills • development and removing barriers to employment; and	30 Key actions are set out in order to target and stimulate private sector growth for business rates' maximisation and associated economic benefits, aiming to: • Support growth of start up and existing businesses • Bring forward employment sites faster • Promote vitality of Bedford's	Taking forward the actions with spatial planning implications, the Plan should support the aims of the plan action, including to • Support growth of start up and existing businesses • Bring forward employment sites	Take account of actions when developing the SA Framework

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
• Improving the infrastructure in order to foster enterprise, encourage investment and sustain economic growth.	Town Centre • Regenerate older industrial estates • Attract inward investment	faster • Attract inward investment • Promote vitality of Bedford's Town Centre • Regenerate older industrial estates	

ENERGY

National Policy Statements for Energy EN-1 – EN-6 (2011) – National Level

Sets out the need for all types of new energy infrastructure and gives guidance on how to assess the impacts of energy infrastructure development.	There are no targets or indicators within this document.	Take account of the guidance when developing the Plan	Take account of the guidance when developing the SA Framework.

Planning practice guidance for renewable and low carbon energy – National Level

Sets out requirement to consider what the local potential for renewable and low carbon energy is when drawing up plans, including, the range of technologies that could be accommodated and the policies needed to encourage their development in the right places. It also sets out guidance on how to identify suitable areas, criteria-based policies and buffer zones/separation distances.	There are no targets or indicators within this document.	Energy policies are included in the Allocation and Designations New Local Plan.	Take account of the guidance when developing the SA Framework.

HOUSING

Delivering Affordable Housing (November 2006) – National Level

• providing quality homes in mixed sustainable communities for those in need • widen the opportunities for home ownership • offering greater quality, flexibility and choice to those who rent	No targets or indicators are included in the document.	Take account of the guidance when producing the Plan	Take account of the objectives when developing the SA Framework

Planning for Traveller Sites (March 2011)) – National Level

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
This document sets out the Government's planning policy for traveller sites. Key aims include: • That local planning authorities should make their own assessment of need for the purposes of planning • To ensure that local planning authorities, working collaboratively, develop fair and effective strategies to meet need through the identification of land for sites • To encourage local planning authorities to plan for sites over a reasonable timescale • That plan-making and decision-taking should protect Green Belt from inappropriate development • To promote more private traveller site provision while recognising that there will always be those travellers who cannot provide their own sites • That plan-making and decision-taking should aim to reduce the number of unauthorised developments and encampments and make enforcement more effective • For local planning authorities to ensure that their Local Plan includes fair, realistic and inclusive policies • To increase the number of traveller sites in appropriate locations with planning permission, to address under provision and maintain an appropriate level of supply • To reduce tensions between settled and traveller communities in plan-making and planning decisions • To enable provision of suitable accommodation from which travellers can access education, health, welfare and employment infrastructure • For local planning authorities to have due regard to the protection of local amenity and local environment.	No targets or indicators are included in the document.	Plan needs to address traveller accommodation needs in line with guidance contained in this document to meet local need.	Take account of the objectives when developing the SA Framework

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
Housing Strategy 2012-17 (2012) – Local Level			
• Gather and evaluate evidence about housing needs within the Borough including housing conditions and the needs of different age cohorts, vulnerable groups, household types, rural and urban households, black and minority ethnic households, both now and in the future. • Develop a robust approach to allocations and tenancies that meets the needs and priorities of the borough and maximises the use of available resources. • Work to deliver a range of housing that offers quality and choice and in particular to deliver additional affordable housing that meets identified needs within sustainable communities including working to deliver affordable housing through the planning system. • Work collaboratively with developers, RSLs, funding agencies and other partners to bring forward the development of strategic sites. • Ensure that the Borough responds to changes to the funding of affordable housing, maximises access to available funding and uses resources effectively. • Encourage rural communities to identify housing needs and work with them to deliver local needs housing. • Work with partners to improve the fabric of the existing stock in particular to improve energy efficiency reducing the carbon footprint of the existing stock, increasing adaptability to climate change and reducing fuel poverty. • Target long term empty homes and bring these back into beneficial use.	Key actions are identified.	Take account of objectives and key actions when developing the Plan	Take account of the objectives when developing the SA Framework

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
• Prevent homelessness through the provision of housing advice and through identifying housing options for persons at risk of homelessness. • Plan for the implications of an aging population including supporting people in their existing homes and providing specialist accommodation. • Support the adaptation of existing homes and the provision of new homes that are accessible to people with different abilities.			
Empty Homes Strategy 2013-2017 – Local Level			
Forms an important element of the Council's overarching Housing Strategy along with other Strategies and policies for preventing homelessness, allocations and tenancies and private sector housing. Key objectives: 1. Reduce the number of long term empty homes in the Borough 2. Raise awareness of empty property as a wasted resource 3. Improve the supply of decent affordable private sector rented homes available to people in housing need. 4. Consider whether enforcement action is appropriate and value for money 5. To improve and maintain the data collected on empty homes	Reduction in long term empty homes	Take account of the strategy when developing the Plan	Take account of the objectives when developing the SA Framework
Bedford Borough Homelessness Strategy 2007-10 (February 2007) – Local Level			
1. Prevent homelessness 2. Work effectively with all agencies to deliver solutions to housing problems 3. Maximise available accommodation and support in all sectors 4. Improve information about homelessness and housing options 5. Reduce rough sleeping 6. Improve services to homeless people	Various best value indicators. Targets: • Reduce use of temporary accommodation by 50% nationally by 2010 • Maintain no families in bed & breakfast • Reduction in use of temporary accommodation	The plan should take account of the objectives and findings of the strategy.	Take account of the objectives when developing the SA Framework.

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
	• Reduce rough sleeping • Provide up to 10 additional pitches for Gypsy & Traveller households • Reduction in statutory homeless applications		
Bedfordshire and Luton Strategic Housing Market Assessment (August 2010) – Local Level			
Represents an update to the original study considering • Existing housing stock • Property prices and affordability • The role of private rented sector in meeting housing need • The impact of government policy changes since 2010 • Current housing need; and • Future housing requirements 2011-2031 including scenario testing	No targets or indicators are included in the document.	Take account of information in assessment of housing need.	None
Cambridge sub-region Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2012 – Local Level			
Represents an update to the original study by the Cambridge housing sub-region in light of planning reforms, changes to the government's housing strategy and the revocation of regional strategies. Seeks to: • Develop a long-term view of housing need and demand. • Develop a sound approach to planning for the mix of different sizes and types of households in a market area. • Identify a required level of affordable housing and decide how evidence of housing need translates into different sizes and types of affordable housing. • Make decisions on issues like social housing allocation	No targets or indicators are included in the document.	Take account of information in assessment of housing need.	None

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
priorities, private sector renewal options and the valuation of new-build home ownership schemes such as shared ownership. • Build an understanding of the different housing markets operating in a geographic area. • Strengthen the links between housing demand and land availability through use of Strategic Land Availability Assessments.			
POPULATION AND HUMAN HEALTH			
Noise Policy Statement for England (March 2010)			
Sets out the long term vision of Government noise policy, which is supported by the following aims: Through the effective management and control of environmental, neighbour and neighbourhood noise within the context of Government policy on sustainable development: • Avoid significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life; • Mitigate and minimise adverse impacts on health and quality of life; and • Where possible, contribute to the improvement of health and quality of life.	No targets or indicators are included in the document.	Ensure Plan reflects the aims of the Noise Policy Statement.	Take account of the objectives when developing the SA Framework.
Bedford Borough Public Health Strategy 2013/14 – 2014/15 – Local Level			
Sets outs 3 strategic priorities: • Helping people to live longer and more healthy lives • Protecting the population from infectious diseases and environmental hazards	Operational objectives only	Seek to support the achievement public health priorities in developing the Plan	Take account of the objectives when developing the SA Framework

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
• Reducing Inequalities			
Bedford Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2012 -2016 – Local Level			
Outlines top priorities for improving the health and wellbeing of all people living in the Borough, including to • Reduce the number pregnancies in young women aged under-18 and improve outcomes for teenage mothers. • Improve the health and educational outcomes of looked after children through high quality health, and social care support • Improve mental health in children and adults by providing high quality, effective services which identify mental disorders and intervene early • Further reduce smoking prevalence by preventing people from starting to smoke and helping people to stop smoking • Promote sensible drinking and increase the number of people receiving effective and timely support for alcohol related problems • Maintain or increase the number of people who are a healthy weight, by providing a range of evidence based interventions • Keep children safe by introducing multiagency early interventions, and continue to safeguard children at risk through multi-agency child protection plans • Will safeguard adults through elimination of maltreatment, neglect and abuse, including prevention of avoidable pressure ulcers • Address wider determinants of health focusing on educational attainment, reducing the number of people who are fuel poor, and those young people who are not in education, employment or training	Overall measure of progress • Life Expectancy at birth • All age, all cause mortality • Premature mortality: Mortality from all causes under the age of 75 • Slope index of inequality for life expectancy	Seek to support the achievement public health priorities in developing the Plan	Take account of the objectives when developing the SA Framework

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
• Maximise independence in older people by improving stroke care and rehabilitation services, preventing falls and reducing preventable hospital admissions • Provide high quality care and support for people at the end of their lives and their carers, including increasing choice and control over where people wish to die			
RURAL ISSUES			
The rural frontrunners: research and case studies April 2013 – National Level			
• Presents research and a series of case studies that communities considering neighbourhood planning can consult as they develop their own neighbourhood plans and development orders. • Identifies concerns with regard to the provision of affordable housing, protecting and retaining shops and community facilities, and the need to diversify and grow the economy but, at the same time, retaining the very character and qualities that define our rural communities. • Argues in essence that planning policies and the interpretation of them has often resulted in villages and rural areas being identified as inherently unsustainable locations. This has denied them of the potential growth they need, such as locally affordable housing, to enable people to remain living and working in those areas. Without this growth it is difficult to sustain shops, schools and other services. If these close or contract, the area becomes even less sustainable. The result is that 'rural communities have slowly but become less and less sustainable and less and less self-sufficient. This can give rise to social exclusion: if lower income households are excluded from rural communities, because of a lack of affordable housing and access to jobs and services, the social and economic vitality of these areas is weakened.	None	Take account of in local plan approach to the development of the rural areas.	Take account of the objectives when developing the SA Framework
The Rural Statement 2012 (Defra) – National Level			

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
The Rural Statement recognises that local government, the voluntary sector and the private sector each have a crucial role in delivering the services that rural people depend upon, and it highlights the policies and good practice that are helping people to take local action to meet their own needs	Affirms the Government's overarching commitment to rural communities, setting out a vision of successful rural businesses and thriving rural communities in a living, working countryside	Ensure plan contributes to achieving the vision and take account of in SA framework.	Take account of the objectives when developing the SA Framework.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND SOCIAL INCLUSIVENESS

A New Approach to Fighting Crime (Home Office 2011)– National Level			
Sets out the government's new approach to fighting crime that involves a shift of power from central government to local communities and seeks: Local accountability Increased transparency Engaged and active communities Local, professional discretion Improved efficiency in the police Prevention and cure A criminal justice system reform A new focus on serious and organised crime	No target or indicators are contained in this document.	The plan should take account of the objectives of the Home Office Plan.	Take account of the objectives when developing the SA Framework.

Community Safety Plan 2012-2014 – Local Level			
The strategic priorities are identified as follows for the next 2 years and will be refreshed annually: • Reduce Anti-social behaviour (including speeding vehicles); • Reducing repeat offending (including metal theft), and • Domestic abuse. Further objectives are contained in the Action Plan	A range of targets and indicators are identified. Number of incidents: -3% Number of criminal damage offences: -3% Number of reoffending	Take account of priorities and objectives when developing the Plan	Take account of the priorities and targets when developing the SA Framework

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
• Reduce anti-social behaviour experienced by residents in Bedford Borough. • Ensure victims of ASB receive an appropriate support and prevent individuals from becoming repeat victims. • Prevent violence and abuse from happening in the first place by challenging the attitudes and behaviours which foster it and intervening as early as possible to prevent it. • Provide adequate levels of support where violence and abuse occurs. • Work in partnership to obtain the best outcomes for victims, perpetrators and their families. • Take action to reduce the risk to victims of these crimes and to ensure that perpetrators. • To reduce the number of metal theft offences whilst reducing the volume of materials stolen. • Provide advice and support to organisations that are impacted by metal theft. • Discourage scrap metal merchants from willingly (or dishonestly) handling stolen metals • To reduce the number of offences committed by those who have offended previously by using a multi-agency approach as exemplified by IOM and YOT. • To explore the ability to identify those that do not fit the IOM criteria and redirect to appropriate single service.	individuals: TBC Number of all crimes: Reduction Percentage reduction in offences committed by IOM offenders: -18% Number of Individuals on the IOM caseload: 250 (Beds) Number of offences Serious Acquisitive Crime (former NI 16): -5% Number of burglary dwelling offences: -3% Number of robbery offences: -5% Number of offences theft of motor vehicles: -5% Number of offences Theft from motor vehicles: -5% Average count of cases referred to Bedford MARAC per month: 20 Number of referrals from agencies other than the police to MARAC: 8 Number of offences Most Serious Violent Crimes: A Reduction Number of offences Gun Crime: A Reduction Number of offences Knife Crime: A Reduction Rate of Hospital admissions per 100,000 for alcohol related harm:		

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
	A Reduction Number of offences assault with less serious injury: -5%		
Bedfordshire Strategic Policing Plan 2012-16 – Local Level			
Aims - protection of life; protection of people from violence; protection of property; and protection of people from disorder. Priorities - • Reducing Crime We will continue the success of the last year, by focussing on repeat victims and offenders and effectively managing crime and disorder hotspots. We will also introduce a range of prevention measures. • Reducing Disorder We will work with local partners and the community to reduce persistent anti-social behaviour and safeguard vulnerable communities and residents. • Reducing Re-offending We will work with criminal justice partners to target prolific offenders and direct them away from a life of crime. • Communicating more effectively We will ensure that we listen to you in order to get our service right first time and we will keep you informed of progress. Improved call handling and risk assessment of problems will be paramount. • Value for Money We will give residents a better return for their investment in us by ensuring effective use of resource and reducing costs while still cutting crime.		Take account of the plan when developing the Plan.	Take account of the plan when developing the SA Framework

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
TRANSPORT			
Door to Door: A strategy for improving sustainable transport integration (DfT March 2013) – National Level			
Strategy focuses on four core areas to be addressed so that people can be confident in choosing sustainable transport: • Accurate, accessible and reliable information about the different transport options for their journeys • Convenient and affordable tickets, for an entire journey • Regular and straightforward connections at all stages of the journey and between different modes of transport • Safe, comfortable transport facilities.	Action Plan to be published later this year	The Local Plan should: • Support delivery of sustainable transport measures by setting out policies which developers should include in their planning applications • Contribute to the creation of a high quality cycling and walking environment, increasing accessibility • Ensure that new developments are located at the best place to make use of public transport, • Ensure that local amenities such as schools, work and leisure facilities should be within walking and cycling distances where possible to reduce congestion	Take account of the plan when developing the SA Framework
The Strategic Road Network and the Delivery of Sustainable Development (DfT 2013) – National Level			

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
Sets out guidance for plan-making and development management in relation to the strategic rod network. Particularly requires local authorities to identify and support a pattern of development that minimises trip generation at source and encourages the use of sustainable modes of transport, minimises journey lengths for employment, shopping, leisure, education and other activities, and promotes accessibility for all.	None.	Local plan to take account of national policy in relation to A1 and A421 and promote sustainable transport solutions.	Take account of when developing SA Framework.
Local Transport Plan 2011-2021 – Local Level			
- To provide a reliable and efficient transport system, in order to support a strong local economy and facilitate sustainable growth. - To deliver improvements that encourage a reduction in transport emissions and greenhouse gases, in order to tackle climate change and develop a low carbon community capable of adapting to the impacts of climate change. - To promote greater equality of opportunity by providing opportunities for all residents to access key services and facilities. - To contribute to better safety, security and health by reducing death, injury or illness from transport and promoting travel modes that are beneficial to health. - To encourage and support a sustainable transport system that contributes to a healthy natural and urban environment. - To gain a better understanding of travel behaviour in and out of the Borough, in order to make informed decisions on how people can be encouraged to make "smarter" sustainable travel choices.	The most relevant indictors include the following - Local authority estimate of road lengths - Rolling 3 year average of number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions - Rolling 3 year average of number of people slightly injured in road traffic collisions - Rolling 3 year average of number of adult cyclists killed or - seriously injured in road traffic collisions £ spent on Public Transport per head of population £ spent on Public Transport information per head of population	Take account of the plan in developing the Plan	Take account of the objectives and indicators when developing the SA Framework
Bedford's Active Travel Strategy 2011-2021 (December 2010) – Local Level			
Seeks to create an environment and culture in which walking and	Performance Indicators and	Take account of the plan	Take account of the

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
cycling are seen as the natural choices of travelling because they are convenient, safe, comfortable, healthy and attractive'.	targets will be developed from the objective, guided by the Delivery Plan	in developing the Plan	objectives and indicators when developing the SA Framework
WASTE			
Reducing and managing waste – Draft - National Level			
Sets out government policy for a zero waste economy in response to the review of waste policy in 2011	• Preventing waste and food waste • Making it easier for people to recycle more • Improve the quality of recycled material • Making businesses responsible for what they produce • Developing more voluntary responsibility deals • Working with the waste industry • Improving recycling and waste collection from households • Helping businesses reduce and manage waste • Supporting energy from waste where appropriate • Getting the right infrastructure in place to deal with waste • Reviewing landfill restrictions • Reduce the amount and level of hazardous waste produced • Recycling ships	Take account of the plan in developing the Plan.	Take account of the objectives and indicators when developing the SA Framework.

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
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Government Review of Waste Policy in England 2011			

• Sets out the government's vision for a zero waste economy" in which material resources are re-used, recycled or recovered wherever possible, and only disposed of as the option of very last resort.
• Sets out key challenges to be overcome in order to realise the longer-term vision of a green, zero waste economy including:
  - Preventing waste wherever it occurs
  - Helping local communities to develop and deliver fit for purpose local solutions for collecting and dealing with waste from households & businesses.
  - Continuing to increase the recycling of waste collected from both households and businesses, including meeting the revised Waste Framework Directive target to recycle 50% of waste from households by 2020.
  - Ensuring that our approach to extracting recyclables, such as paper and plastic, from our waste generates material of
  - Sufficiently high quality to meet the needs of reprocessors here and abroad and to comply with the international rules on waste shipments.
  - Establishing the right interface between energy from waste policies, renewable energy targets and delivering on climate and broader environmental needs.
  - Continuing to drive waste away from landfill and ensuring
	The commitments set out in a separate Action Plan.	Ensure the plan contributes to achieving a zero-waste economy.	Take account of when developing the SA Framework.

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
that the UK meets the EU Landfill Directive targets for diverting biodegradable municipal waste from landfill in 2013 and 2020. - Ensuring an effective approach to tackling waste crime, reducing harm caused to the environment, human health, local communities and legitimate business.			
Waste Strategy for England (May 2007) – National Level			
Key objectives: • decouple waste growth (in all sectors) from economic growth and put more emphasis on waste prevention and re use • meet and exceed the Landfill Directive diversion targets for biodegradable municipal waste in 2010, 2013 and 2020 • Increase diversion from landfill of non-municipal waste and secure better integration of treatment for municipal and non-municipal waste • Secure the investment in infrastructure needed to divert waste from landfill and for the management of hazardous waste and • Get the most environmental benefit from that investment, through increased recycling or resources and recovery of energy from residual waste using a mix of technologies	• Reduce household waste not re-used, recycled or composted (22.2 million tonnes in 2000) to 15.8 by 2010 and to 12.2 by 2020 • Recycling and composting of household waste 40% by 2010, 45% by 2015 and 50% by 2020 • Recovery of municipal waste 53% by 2010, 67% by 2015 and 75% by 2020	Seek to contribute to the national waste targets and objectives	Take account of the objectives when developing the SA Framework
Bedfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Strategic Sites and Polices (submission draft) (August 2012) – Local Level			
The Core Strategy is prepared jointly by Bedford Borough Council, Central Bedfordshire Council and Luton Borough Council. Objectives – • Manage as much as possible of wastes arising from within the Plan area, and the agreed apportionment of London wastes. • Promote the reduction of waste arising. • Move away from dependence upon landfilling. • Provide greater capacity for the recovery of materials and energy.	• Aim to end landfill of untreated waste by 2010. • Establish sufficient infrastructure to enable self-sufficiency for treatment of waste arising in county. • Make provision for 250,460 tonnes of recovery capacity at 2027/2028 and 7.2 m tonnes of	The locations of waste management facilities are included in the Waste Core Strategy. The interaction of these with proposals in the Allocations and Designations Plan should be considered.	Secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects should be considered.

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
• Protect the biodiversity and landscape fabric of the Plan area. • Protect the safety of the road network in the Plan area. • Protect the cultural, social and environmental heritage of the Plan area.	void space for landfilling non-hazardous wastes.		
WATER AND SOIL			
Future water: The government's water strategy for England (Defra, March 2011) – National Level			
Sets out the Government's plans for water in the future and the practical steps that we will take to ensure that good clean water is available for people, businesses and nature. It looks ahead to 2030 and describes the water supply system the government wants to see then and how to get there.	The document does not include any indicators or targets	Take account of the strategy when producing the Plan	Take account of the objectives when developing the SA Framework
Draft Great Ouse Catchment Flood Management Plan (Environment Agency, March 2010) – Regional Level			
• Minimise flood related risks to the population. • Minimise community disruption from flooding. • Manage flood risk to critical infrastructure. • Manage flood risk to sites of cultural heritage and landscape. • Minimise the economic impacts of flooding to properties. • Minimise the economic impacts of flooding to agriculture. • Ensure future investment in the catchment is proportional to the risk. • Manage flood risk to habitats and species. • Protect and improve hydromorphology and geomorphology in accordance with the objectives of the Water Framework Directive, by seeking to reduce maintenance and utilising natural methods of flood alleviation where possible. • Protect and improve water quality in accordance with the objectives of the Water Framework Directive.	• The number of people at risk in the fluvial 1% AEP and 0.5% AEP tidal (King's Lynn and the Fens only) floods. • The percentage area of flooding during the 1% AEP fluvial and 0.5% AEP tidal (King's Lynn and the Fens only) flood events where depth exceeds one metre. Velocity of flows. • Flood warning lead times. • Flood warning coverage. • The number of properties at risk during the 1% AEP fluvial and 0.5% AEP tidal (King's Lynn and the Fens only) flood.	Take account of the management plan when producing the Plan	Take account of the objectives and indicators when developing the SA Framework

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
	• The duration of flooding (<1 day, 1 day to 5 days, > 5 days). • The number of community infrastructure at risk during the 1% AEP fluvial and 0.5% AEP tidal (King's Lynn and the Fens only) flood. • The number of people at risk with a high or very high social flood vulnerability index (SFVI) during the 1% AEP fluvial and 0.5% AEP tidal (King's Lynn and the Fens only) flood events. • Scale of disruption. • The number of critical infrastructure at risk during the 1% AEP fluvial and 0.5% AEP tidal (King's Lynn and the Fens only) flood events. • The length of motorway, A road and railway at risk where depths exceed 0.2m during the 1% AEP fluvial and 0.5% AEP tidal (King's Lynn and the Fens only) flood events. • The number of scheduled ancient monuments at risk during the 1% AEP fluvial and 0.5% AEP tidal (King's Lynn		

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Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
	and the Fens only) flood events.		
	• The percentage area of AONBs at risk.		
	• The total economic damages to properties during the 1% AEP fluvial and 0.5% AEP tidal (King's Lynn and the Fens only) flood events.		
	• The estimated damage to agriculture.		
	• Proportion Grade 1, 2, 3 and 4 agricultural land at risk during the 1% AEP fluvial and 0.5% AEP tidal (King's Lynn and the Fens only) flood events.		
	• Expenditure on flood risk management activities.		
	• Benefits to people and property compared to the undefended situation.		
	• The number Ramsar, SACs, SPAs, SSSIs at risk during the 1% AEP fluvial and 0.5% AEP tidal (King's Lynn and the Fens only) flood events.		
	• Proportion of Ramsar, SAC, SPA, SSSI at risk.		
	• Number of impoundments and control structures.		

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
	• Proportion of channel and bank side that is physically modified. • Length of channel subject to physical or hydraulic intervention as part of operations / maintenance regime. • Area of land affected by flooding where diffuse pollution is a pressure. • Number of sites that are vulnerable to flooding and could cause pollution.		
River Great Ouse Waterway Plan (Environment Agency, January 2006) – Local Level			
• Improve and promote access and information for all users (on water and land) • Improve and maintain the river infrastructure and facilities and services for all users • Contribute to enhanced biodiversity, heritage and landscape value in the waterway corridor • Increase use of the river and its corridor	• Numbers and mix of people using the river • User satisfaction • Achieving waterway standards • Enhanced biodiversity, heritage and landscape value	Take account of the plan when considering the areas of and near the River Great Ouse	Take account of the objectives and indicators when developing the SA Framework
The Surface Waters Plan – Plan for strategic management of surface waters and their local environment in the Forest of Marston Vale (June 2002) – Local Level			
Purpose of the Plan includes (paragraph 1.7): • Publicise and promote the policies of the Surface Waters Group • Identify positive solutions for dealing with the potentially adverse impact of development pressure on the watercourses and other open water bodies in the Marston Vale	There are no targets or indicators stated in the document.	The Plan sets out potential sites for Strategic Water Facilities in Appendix G.	The stated purpose of the plan should be considered developing the SA Framework.

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
• Encourage schemes that result in a range of benefits, having regard to the variety of functions of the surface waters including discharge of surface water run off, flood risk management, and environmental and recreational asset • Support adopted and emerging local plan policies dealing with flooding and surface water drainage and to assist with the consideration of development proposals • Provide guidance to landowners and developers on approaches to surface water management that the members of the Surface Waters Group would be likely to support			
Upper Ouse and Bedford Ouse Catchment Area Management Strategy (March 2005) – Local Level			
Vision – to ensure that water resources are managed sustainably for the future, with due regard for environmental, abstractors and other water users needs.	There are no relevant key targets or indicators.	The strategy sets out how much water is available in the catchment and the Environment Agency's abstraction licensing strategy for managing water resources until 2009. At the end of this period the strategy will be reviewed following a reassessment of water resource availability.	Take account of when developing the SA Framework
Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire Northern Area Detailed Water Cycle Study (April 2012) – Local Level			
Identifies the strategic water services infrastructure improvements required to meet future development.	There are no relevant key targets or indicators.	Take account of the plan when considering land requirements.	Take account of when developing the SA Framework
Upper River Great Ouse Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (June 2011) – Local Level			
Collates information on past (historic) and future (potential) floods, to identify Flood Risk Areas and enable the preparation of Flood	There are no targets or indicators.		Take account of the objectives and

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
Risk Management Plans where required for Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes Councils.			indicators when developing the SA Framework
CLIMATE CHANGE			
Climate Change Strategy 2012/13 – 2015/17 – Local level			

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
Energy Efficiency • Reduce the carbon emissions from the Council's buildings (including schools). • Support the communities and businesses of Bedford Borough to reduce energy consumption and mitigate climate change. • Advise and support residents of the Borough to help them to affordably heat their homes. Renewable Energy • Increase the use and provision for renewable energy within the Borough. Emissions from Transport • Reduce greenhouse emissions from vehicles through transport planning and the use of alternative fuels and technologies; • Improve and promote a safe and convenient walking, cycling and public transport network; and • Ensure that new developments are located and designed to encourage the use of public transport, walking and cycling. Adapting to Climate Change • Prepare and adapt the Council's services to the possible impacts of climate change. • Support the residents and businesses of the Borough to prepare and increase their resilience to the possible impacts of climate change. Waste • Minimise waste sent to landfill from the council, and the residents and businesses of the Borough. Sustainable Building Development • Promote the construction of carbon neutral building developments in the Borough.	To achieve its 40% aspirational carbon reduction target	Take account of the strategy when producing the Plan	Take account of the objectives and indicators when developing the SA Framework

In addition, the above local, regional and national plans, policies and programmes, the following international plans/directives are considered to be relevant.

General	1. Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WWSD),
	2. Johannesburg – Commitments arising from the Johannesburg Summit
	3. UN Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals
	4. Kyoto Protocol and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
	5. Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979)
	6. Ramsar Convention on wetlands of international importance especially as waterfowl habitat (1971)
	7. Bonn Convention on the Conservation of migratory species of wild animals (1979)
Economy	8. Europe 2020 Growth Strategy
Energy	9. 2015 International Climate Change Agreement: Shaping international climate policy beyond 2020 (consultation draft)
	10. Directive to promote electricity from renewable energy (2001/77/EC)
	11. Directive for the promotion of bio-fuels for transport (2003/30/EC)
Water	12. Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)
	13. Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)
	14. Water pollution caused by Nitrates from agricultural sources: Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)
	15. Bathing Water Quality Directive (Council Directive 76/160/EEC)
	16. Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC)
	17. Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC
	18. Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)
Air	19. EU Air Quality Framework and Daughter Directives (96/62/EC) (1999/30/EC) (2000/69/EC) (2002/3/EC) (2004/107/EC)
	20. Thematic Strategy on air pollution 2005
Land use	21. EU Directive 2003/35/EC (amended version of Environmental Impact Assessment – EIA Directive 85/337/EEC)
	22. Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC)
Biodiversity, flora and fauna	23. Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds
	24. Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild
	25. Our life insurance, our natural capital: An EU biodiversity strategy to 2020
	26. Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds
Waste	27. Directive 2008/98/EC on waste and repealing certain Directives
	28. Framework waste directive (Directive 75/442/EEC, as amended)
	29. Directive 99/31/EC on the landfill of waste
	30. Packaging and packaging waste directive (94/62/EC of 20 December1994).

Appendix 2 - Baseline information

Indicator	Local data	Comparator data	Trend	Expected trend if no plan	Local context and identified issues	Data source
SOCIAL INDICATORS						
Population	157,800 people 65,500 households (March 2012)	2001 148,100 people 59,500 households	increasing	population continues to increase	more dwellings required	2011 mid year estimate ONS
Household size	2011 2.42 persons	2001 2.44 persons	Little further decline contrary to forecast;	Little variation		2011 Census ONS
Distribution of population	2011 64.2% within Bedford/Kempston urban area and 35.8% in the surrounding rural area	1991 67% within Bedford/Kempston urban area 2001 64.2% within Bedford/Kempston urban area	population dispersal from urban area halted by planning policy	Continued concentration in urban area, limited dispersal to rural area	Limited land supply in the urban area , pressure to build in rural area	2011 Census ONS
Social deprivation	2010 Index of Multiple Deprivation – ranked 153 out of 326 LAs in England (1 is most deprived)	2007 Index of Multiple Deprivation – ranked 183 out of 354 LAs in England (1 is most deprived) 2004 Index of Multiple Deprivation – ranked 167 out of 354	deprivation decreasing		pockets of deprivation	Indices of Deprivation DCLG
Local deprivation levels	2010 Index of Multiple Deprivation – lower super output area rank out of 32,482	2007 Index of Multiple Deprivation – lower super output area rank out of 32,482			the most deprived areas are in the centre and south of the town	Indices of Deprivation DCLG

Indicator	Local data	Comparator data	Trend	Expected trend if no plan	Local context and identified issues	Data source
	areas in England (1 is most deprived) Castle 1445 Harpur 1447 Cauldwell 1971	areas in England (1 is most deprived) Castle 1618 Harpur 2205 Cauldwell 2593				
House prices	November 2012 average prices Bedford borough £153,100	November 2010 average prices Bedford borough £156,563 East of England £175,469 England & Wales £164,773 June 2007 Bedford borough £204,212 East of England £189,269 England and Wales £180,399	prices have decreased since 2007 Bedford prices are now lower than regional and national average but previously were higher			Land Registry
Average weekly earnings (median)	2012 Bedford borough £517.4	2012 East of England £531.0 UK £508.0 2010 Bedford £495.2 East of England £523.3 UK £501.8	earnings have increased Bedford residents earnings are lower than regional average but higher than national average			NOMIS ONS

Indicator	Local data	Comparator data	Trend	Expected trend if no plan	Local context and identified issues	Data source
		2005 Bedford £435.9 East of England £456.7 UK £432.8				
Housing affordability (ratio of median house price to median annual earnings)	2012 7.49	2010 Bedford 6.1 East of England 6.5 2009 Bedford 6.91 East of England 6.80 2005 Bedford 7.03 East of England 7.48 2001 Bedford 4.75 East of England 4.75	housing is becoming more affordable Bedford housing is now less affordable than for the region			DCLG
Homelessness	2010/11 212	2009/10 251 2008/09 442 2001/02 437 2004/05 302	Homelessness is falling again after previously rising			ONS
Ethnic origin	2011 White British 71.5% White Irish/other 9.1% Asian/Asian British Indian 5.2% Asian/Asian British Pakistani 2.1% Asian/Asian British	2001 White British 80.77% White Irish/other 6.21% Asian/Asian British Indian 4.28% Asian/Asian British Pakistani 1.59%			higher % people of Asian/Asian British (Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi) and Black/black British Caribbean origin compared to regional average	2011 Census ONS

Indicator	Local data	Comparator data	Trend	Expected trend if no plan	Local context and identified issues	Data source
	Bangladeshi 2.0% Black/black British Caribbean 1.8%	Asian/Asian British Bangladeshi 1.37% Black/black British Caribbean 1.87% East of England 2011 White British 85.3% White Irish/other 5.9% Asian/Asian British Indian 1.5% Asian/Asian British Pakistani 1.1% Asian/Asian British Bangladeshi 0.6% Black/black British Caribbean 0.6%				
Life expectancy at birth	2008-2010 males 78.9 years females 82.6 years	2000-02 males 76.5 years females 81.2 years	increasing	Continued increase	Longer life expectancy, increasing population	ONS
Number of births	2011 - 2098	2005- 1922 2001 - 1704	increasing	Continued increase	Need for more school places	ONS
People with limiting long term illness	15.59% of people	East of England 16.21% of people England 17.93% of people			lower rate of limiting long term illness than the regional and national average	2001 Census ONS
ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS						
Renewable energy capacity installed by type	permitted 2010 – 2011 (MW) wind – 0 solar – 0 biomass – 0	permitted 2009 – 2010 (MW) wind – 0 solar – 0 biomass – 0			BBC	Renewable energy capacity installed by type

Indicator	Local data	Comparator data	Trend	Expected trend if no plan	Local context and identified issues	Data source
	Note - does not include renewable energy installations that were not the subject of a planning application, either because they were permitted development or they were required as a condition of planning permission.	permitted 2008 – 2009 (MW) wind – 0.015 solar – 0 biomass – 2.65 permitted 2007 – 2008 (MW) wind – 0.008 solar – 0.006 biomass – 0				
Proportion of energy from renewable sources	n/a	UK electricity generated from renewable sources 2011 – 9.2% 2009 – 6.7% 2008 – 5.6% 2007 – 5.0% 2006 – 4.6% 2005 – 4.3%	national increase in renewable energy		DECC	Proportion of energy from renewable sources
Agricultural land quality (hectares)	Grade 1 1,156 (2.4%) Grade 2 22,937 (48.1%) Grade 3 17,513 (36.8%) Grade 4 274 (0.6%) Grade 5 0 Non agricultural 3,211 (6.7%) Urban 2,550 (5.4%)	Bedfordshire Grade 1 3.3% Grade 2 33.7% Grade 3 46.5% Grade 4 3.1% Grade 5 0 Non agricultural 8.7% Urban 4.7%	Borough has less grade 1 and more grade 2 than the county overall			DEFRA
Gas consumption	2011 - domestic sales –	2009 - domestic sales –	decreasing			DECC

Indicator	Local data	Comparator data	Trend	Expected trend if no plan	Local context and identified issues	Data source
	798 GWh no consumers – 56,200 commercial / industrial sales – 319 GWh no consumers – 800 total sales – 1,117,400 GWh total consumers – 57,000 domestic sales per consumer – 14,203 KWh commercial / industrial sales per consumer – 421,227 KWh	851 GWh no consumers – 55,300 commercial / industrial sales – 328 GWh no consumers – 800 total sales – 1,179,500 GWh total consumers – 56,000 domestic sales per consumer – 15,393 KWh commercial / industrial sales per consumer – 432,023 KWh 2005 - domestic sales – 980 GWh no consumers – 52,500 commercial / industrial sales – 376 GWh no consumers – 1,000 total sales – 1,356,000 GWh total consumers – 53,500 domestic sales per				

Indicator	Local data	Comparator data	Trend	Expected trend if no plan	Local context and identified issues	Data source
		consumer – 18,670 KWh commercial / industrial sales per consumer – 364,880 KWh				
Recycling of household waste	2011/12 – 38.2%	2002/03 – 7.81% 2003/04 – 11.44% 2004/05 – 17.52% 2005/6 – 25% 2006/7 – 27.23% 2007/8 – 30.85% 2009/10 – 38.3% 2010/11 – 39.1%	increasing			BBC
Annual average concentration of nitrogen dioxide (ug/m^3)	High St – Collins Jewellers (site 30) 2011 – 52 Prebend St (site 20) 2011 – 62 National target – nitrogen dioxide 40μg.m^3 (annual mean)	High St – Collins jewellers (site 30) 2004 – 60.1, 2005 – 53.2, 2006 – 49.7, 2007 – 45.9, 2008 – 49, 2009 - 50, 2010 - 46 Prebend St (site 20) 2004 – 50.3, 2005 – 57.3, 2006 – 58.9, 2007 – 54.8, 2008 – 57, 2009 – 59, 2010 – 54	national target exceeded		AQMA designated for Bedford town centre in 2009	BBC
River quality - chemistry	2009 Octagon Farm B Elstow Brook B Ouse The Spinney B Ouse Bromham Mill B	2004-06 Octagon Farm B Elstow Brook B Ouse The Spinney A Ouse Bromham Mill A	decline		A is very good B is good	Environment Agency

Indicator	Local data	Comparator data	Trend	Expected trend if no plan	Local context and identified issues	Data source
	Ouse New Cut B	Ouse New Cut A				
River quality - biology	2009 Octagon Farm - Elstow Brook - Ouse The Spinney – Ouse Bromham Mill A Ouse New Cut A	Octagon Farm A (2006) Elstow Brook C (2004) Ouse The Spinney B (2004) Ouse Bromham Mill B (2002) Ouse New Cut B (2005)	improvement		A is very good B is good C is fairly good	Environment Agency
River quality - nitrates	2009 Octagon Farm 4 Elstow Brook 4 Ouse The Spinney 4 Ouse Bromham Mill 4 Ouse New Cut 4	2004-06 Octagon Farm 4 Elstow Brook 3 Ouse The Spinney 5 Ouse Bromham Mill 5 Ouse New Cut 5	improvement		3 moderately low presence 4 moderate presence 5 high presence	Environment Agency
River quality - phosphates	2009 Octagon Farm 4 Elstow Brook 4 Ouse The Spinney 5 Ouse Bromham Mill 5 Ouse New Cut 5	2004-06 Octagon Farm 4 Elstow Brook 5 Ouse The Spinney 5 Ouse Bromham Mill 5 Ouse New Cut 5	improvement		4 high presence 5 very high presence	Environment Agency
Water savings through efficiency measures	Domestic consumption 2010 Unmetered - 178.63 Metered - 129.53 Total – 308.16 Non-household consumption 2010 Unmetered – 617.97	Domestic consumption 2006 Unmetered - 155.81 Metered - 126.48 Total – 282.29 Non-household consumption 2006 Unmetered – 175.44	water consumption increasing (although there has been a decrease in metered water consumption since 2008)	need to increase water efficiency	Anglian Water	Water savings through efficiency measures

Indicator	Local data	Comparator data	Trend	Expected trend if no plan	Local context and identified issues	Data source
	Metered – 2507.82 Total – 3125.79 *Note that all figures are for the Ruthamford water resource zone which includes Bedford.*	Metered – 2708.92 Total – 2884.36 Domestic consumption 2008 (litres per person per day average) Unmetered -161.28 Metered - 143.97 Total – 305.25 Non-household consumption 2008 (litres per property per day average) Unmetered – 554.59 Metered – 2815.12 Total – 3369.71				
Designated wildlife sites	SSSI 2012 166.73 hectares 30.9% in favourable condition LNR 2010 114.6 hectares	SSSI in favourable condition 2010 - 29.4% 2007 - 72.6% 2005 - 74% LNR 2008 – 55.2 ha 2004 – 54.8 ha	SSSI condition decline LNR area increase		SSSI decline due to recent resurvey of one site	Natural England
Designated and non-designated heritage assets	2013: Listed buildings – 1328 SAMs – 69 conservation areas – 27 Registered parks and					The National Heritage List for England' (English Heritage)

Indicator	Local data	Comparator data	Trend	Expected trend if no plan	Local context and identified issues	Data source
	gardens 5					
Non-designated heritage assets	2013: 1963 buildings and structures recorded on the Bedford Historic Environment Record as being of local interest 3411 archaeological find spots 4245 archaeological sites 48 place names					Bedford Borough Historic Environment Record (BBHER)
ECONOMIC INDICATORS						
Industry of employment	Bedford - 2011 Agriculture, hunting, forestry - 0.7% Mining and quarrying - 0.1% Manufacturing - 8.5% Electricity, gas and water supply - 1.5% Construction - 7.5% Wholesale and retail trade, repairs of motor vehicles - 17.1% Hotels and catering – 4.5% Transport storage and	Bedford - 2001 Agriculture, hunting, forestry - 1.33% Mining and quarrying - 0.37% Manufacturing - 13.99% Electricity, gas and water supply - 1.17% Construction - 6.6% Wholesale and retail trade, repairs of motor vehicles - 17.05% Hotels and catering - 3.63%			compared to the region, a greater proportion work in education, real estate renting and business activities; fewer people work in financial intermediation and construction.	2011 Census ONS

Indicator	Local data	Comparator data	Trend	Expected trend if no plan	Local context and identified issues	Data source
	communication - 5.7% Financial intermediation - 2.7% Real estate renting and business - 16.7% Public admin and defence - 6.5% Education - 11.6% Health and social work - 12.4% Other - 4.5%	Transport storage and communication - 7.27% Financial intermediation - 3.01% Real estate renting and business - 15.52% Public admin and defence - 5.68% Education - 9.22% Health and social work - 10.27% Other - 4.88% East of England - 2001 Agriculture, hunting, forestry - 1.90% Mining and quarrying - 0.21% Manufacturing - 14.47% Electricity, gas and water supply - 0.63% Construction - 7.62% Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles - 17.29% Hotels and catering - 4.16%				

Indicator	Local data	Comparator data	Trend	Expected trend if no plan	Local context and identified issues	Data source
		Transport storage and communication - 7.41% Financial intermediation - 5.81% Real estate renting and business - 13.31% Public admin and defence - 5.16% Education - 7.34% Health and social work - 9.68% Other - 4.99%				
Occupation groups	Bedford - 2011 Managers, senior officials - 10.9% Professional occupations - 18.1% Associate professional and technical - 12.3% Admin and secretarial - 11.2% Skilled trades - 11.0% Personal service - 9.3% Sales and customer service - 7.9% Process plant and	Bedford - 2001 Managers, senior officials - 15.99% Professional occupations - 12.94% Associate professional and technical - 13.51% Admin and secretarial - 13.23% Skilled trades - 10.89% Personal service - 6.48% Sales and customer service - 7.88%			compared to the region, there are fewer skilled trades but more professional occupations	2011 Census ONS

Indicator	Local data	Comparator data	Trend	Expected trend if no plan	Local context and identified issues	Data source
	machine operatives - 6.9% Elementary occupations - 12.4%	Process plant and machine operatives - 7.86% Elementary occupations - 11.21% East of England - 2001 Managers senior officials - 16.25% Professional occupations - 10.82% Associate professional and technical - 13.55% Admin and secretarial - 13.69% Skilled trades - 12.06% Personal service - 6.72% Sales and customer service - 7.29% Process plant and machine operatives - 8.12% Elementary occupations - 11.50%				
Economically active	July 11 – June 12 91,000 (82.3% of working age people)	July 10 – June 11 87,500 (81.8%) July 09 – June 10 82,800 (78.2%)	% of working age people who are employed is increasing			NOMIS ONS

Indicator	Local data	Comparator data	Trend	Expected trend if no plan	Local context and identified issues	Data source
		July 08 – June 09 83,200 (79.8%) July 07 – June 08 77,800 (76.1%) July 06 – June 07 83,100 (81.5%) July 05 – June 06 82,800 (81.9%)				
Local business units	March 2007 5,455 Urban 3,430 (62.9%) Rural 2,025 (37.2%)	March 2005 5,280 Urban 3,380 (64.0%) Rural 1,900 (36.0%)	local businesses increasing overall especially in rural areas			ONS
Economically inactive	Oct 11 – Sept 12 18.5%	April 09 – March 10 20.7% April 08 – March 09 21.5% April 07 – March 08 21.3% April 06 – March 07 20.5% April 05 – March 06 16.6%	% of people economically inactive is falling			ONS
Jobseeker Allowance Claimants	November 2012 4,051 (3.9%) urban 5.0% rural 2.1%	November 2011 4,067 (3.9%) urban 5.0% rural 2.1% November 2010 3,553 (3.5%) urban 4.5% rural 1.8% November 2009 3,889 (4.0%)	unemployment is rising		In November 2012 the wards with the highest unemployment were Castle, Cauldwell, Kingsbrook and Queens Park (all over 6%)	BBC

Indicator	Local data	Comparator data	Trend	Expected trend if no plan	Local context and identified issues	Data source
		urban 4.9% rural 2.3% November 2008 2,521 (2.6%) urban 3.4% rural 1.5% November 2007 1,943 (2.1%) urban 2.7% rural 1.0%				
Qualifications – no qualifications	Jan 11-Dec 11 9,000 (8.7%)	Jan 10-Dec 10 8.0% Jan 09-Dec 09 11.6% Jan 08-Dec 08 11.8% Jan 07-Dec 07 11.8% Jan 11-Dec 11 East of England 9.6% Great Britain 10.6%	improving, better than both regional and national %			NOMIS ONS

Sustainability Appraisal Framework Indicators

Indicator	Local Data	Comparators and targets	Trend	Local context and issues	Data source
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILTY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK INDICATORS					
Mode of travel to work	Resident population 2011 59.8% car 10.8 % work at home 9.7% on foot 3.9% car passenger	2001 39.8% car 6.2% work at home 6.4% on foot 3.9% car passenger	Increase in use of private car	Need to reduce traffic congestion in town centre, AQMA, active travel	ONS

Indicator	Local Data	Comparators and targets	Trend	Local context and issues	Data source
	3.8 % bicycle 4.1% bus 4.5% train 0.5% motorcycle	3.0% bicycle 2.9% bus 2.6% train 0.5% motorcycle			
% of total defined strategic urban cycle network completed and signed	Total lengths 125 km % completed and signed to be identified			Need to encourage active travel and sustainable modes of transport	BBC
Traffic levels in the town centre	2011 Pedestrians: 5453 Cyclists: 1383 Motor cyclists: 273 All cars: 29156 Large goods vehicles: 3179 Other goods vehicles: 1638	2001 Pedestrians: 4772 Cyclists: 1157 Motor cyclists: 287 All cars: 31666 Large goods vehicles: 3379 Other goods vehicles: 2096	Increase in of traffic in the town centre by all modes	Need to encourage active travel and sustainable modes of transport, reduce town centre congestion	BBC
Number of cyclists into the town centre	2012, 7am-12am (20 sites, cold clear): 1326 in total	2010 7am-12 am (20 sites, cloudy mild): 1078 2006 7am-12 am (20 sites, sunny mild): 1009	Increasing number of cyclists	Need to reduce traffic congestion in town centre, AQMA, active travel	BBC
New residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of services	2011/12 Amount of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of: GP – 96% hospital – 82% lower school – 97% upper school – 86%	2010/11 GP – 98% hospital – 93% lower school – 98% upper school – 82% area of employment – 98% major retail centre – 83%			BBC

Indicator	Local Data	Comparators and targets	Trend	Local context and issues	Data source
	area of employment – 89% major retail centre – 83%	2009/10 GP – 96% hospital – 88% lower school – 94% upper school – 78% area of employment – 73% major retail centre – 78% 2008/09 GP – 90% hospital – 73% lower school – 100% upper school – 78% area of employment – 77% major retail centre – 75%			
Nitrogen dioxide levels in the AQMA	High St – Collins Jewellers (site 30) 2011 – 52 Prebend St (site 20) 2011 – 62 National target – nitrogen dioxide 40μg.m^3 (annual mean)	High St – Collins jewellers (site 30) 2004 – 60.1, 2005 – 53.2, 2006 – 49.7, 2007 – 45.9, 2008 – 49, 2009 - 50, 2010 – 46 Prebend St (site 20) 2004 – 50.3, 2005 – 57.3, 2006 – 58.9, 2007 – 54.8, 2008 – 57, 2009 – 59, 2010 – 54	national target exceeded	high levels of nitrogen dioxide caused by high traffic volumes in town centre	BBC
Air quality in transport corridors	High St – Collins Jewellers (site 30) 2011 – 52 Prebend St (site 20) 2011 – 62 National target – nitrogen dioxide 40μg.m^3 (annual mean)	High St – Collins jewellers (site 30) 2004 – 60.1, 2005 – 53.2, 2006 – 49.7, 2007 – 45.9, 2008 – 49, 2009 - 50, 2010 – 46 Prebend St (site 20) 2004 – 50.3, 2005 – 57.3, 2006 – 58.9, 2007 – 54.8, 2008 – 57, 2009 – 59, 2010 – 54	national target exceeded in town centre	Need to reduce road traffic in town centre	BBC

Indicator	Local Data	Comparators and targets	Trend	Local context and issues	Data source
Number of zero carbon homes	0			need to increase number	BBC
Number of dwellings in the flood risk zone 3	A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (Level 1 2008, Level 2 2010) has been completed for BBC which details the extent of the flood risk zones 1 (< 0.1% probability), 2 (0.1 – 1.0% probability) and 3 (> 1% probability). Data on number of dwellings in each zone to be confirmed			Development to take account of flood risk	BBC
Water and river quality	Drinking water quality 2010 Bedford Rural (MW23) – excellent Bedford Urban (MW25, MW26) – excellent Sandy (MW46) – excellent Woburn (MW32) – excellent River quality - chemistry 2009 Octagon Farm B Elstow Brook B Ouse The Spinney B Ouse Bromham Mill B Ouse New Cut B River quality – biology 2009 Octagon Farm - Elstow Brook - Ouse The Spinney – Ouse Bromham Mill A	Drinking water quality 2009 Bedford Rural (MW23) – excellent Bedford Urban (MW25, MW26) – excellent Sandy (MW46) – excellent Woburn (MW32) – excellent River quality - chemistry 2004-06 Octagon Farm B Elstow Brook B Ouse The Spinney A Ouse Bromham Mill A Ouse New Cut A River quality – biology Octagon Farm A (2006) Elstow Brook C (2004) Ouse The Spinney B (2004) Ouse Bromham Mill B (2002) Ouse New Cut B (2005)	 decline improvement		Environment Agency

Indicator	Local Data	Comparators and targets	Trend	Local context and issues	Data source
	Ouse New Cut A River quality – nitrates 2009 Octagon Farm 4 Elstow Brook 4 Ouse The Spinney 4 Ouse Bromham Mill 4 Ouse New Cut 4 River quality – phosphates 2009 Octagon Farm 4 Elstow Brook 4 Ouse The Spinney 5 Ouse Bromham Mill 5 Ouse New Cut 5	River quality – nitrates 2004-06 Octagon Farm 4 Elstow Brook 3 Ouse The Spinney 5 Ouse Bromham Mill 5 Ouse New Cut 5 River quality – phosphates 2004-06 Octagon Farm 4 Elstow Brook 5 Ouse The Spinney 5 Ouse Bromham Mill 5 Ouse New Cut 5	improvement improvement		
Listed buildings, conservation area, registered parks or SAMs on the heritage at risk register	Listed buildings on the national at risk register 2012 – 1 entry (+35 on local register) Conservation areas at risk 2012 – Bedford Scheduled Monuments at risk 2012 – 15 entries	Listed buildings on the national at risk register 2011 – 1 entry (+36 on local register) 2010 – 1 entry (+39 on local register) 2009 – 1 entry 2008 – 1 entry 2007 – 1 entry 2006 – 1 entry	Decrease in local register entries		English Heritage
Number of new Historic Environment Records (HER) added	To be identified				BBC
Number of conservation area management plans in place in the Borough.	2012 3 (Bedford, Elstow, Bletsoe) out of a total of 28	2011 3 (Bedford, Elstow, Bletsoe) out of a total of 28	No change		BBC

Indicator	Local Data	Comparators and targets	Trend	Local context and issues	Data source
SSSI in favourable condition	SSSI 2012 166.73 hectares 30.9% in favourable condition	SSSI in favourable condition 2010 – 29.4% 2007 - 72.6% 2005 - 74%	SSSI condition decline	SSSI decline due to recent resurvey of one site	Natural England
New woodland in the community forest	2011/12 - 13 ha the figures may under-report as they only include planting by the MVT	2010/11 - 13 ha 2009/10 - 15 ha 2008/09 – 14 ha 2007/08 – 33 ha 2006/07 – 19 ha 2005/06 – 25 ha			Marston Vale Trust
Local Sites in positive management	2011/2012 123 local sites in total, 57% in positive management	208/2009 124 local sites in total, 51% in positive management	increasing	Need to conserve and enhance biodiversity and nature conservation	DEFRA
% of development on PDL	Housing and employment on PDL 2011 – 35.1%	Housing and employment on PDL 2010 – 37.2% 2009 – 74.6% 2008 – 61.3% 2007 – 60.2% 2006 – 66.3% 2005 – 54.3%	decline	Sustainably located PDL limited, allocation of green field sites commenced	BBC
% of municipal waste recycled	2011/12 – 38.2%	2002/03 – 7.81% 2003/04 – 11.44% 2004/05 – 17.52% 2005/6 – 25% 2006/7 – 27.23% 2007/8 – 30.85% 2009/10 – 38.3% 2010/11 – 39.1%	increasing	Recycling of household waste	BBC
Water consumption	Domestic consumption 2010 Unmetered - 178.63 Metered - 129.53	Domestic consumption 2006 Unmetered - 155.81 Metered - 126.48	water consumption increasing	need to increase water efficiency	Anglian Water

Indicator	Local Data	Comparators and targets	Trend	Local context and issues	Data source
	Total – 308.16 Non-household consumption 2010 Unmetered – 617.97 Metered – 2507.82 Total – 3125.79 *Note that all figures are for the Ruthamford water resource zone which includes Bedford.*	Total – 282.29 Non-household consumption 2006 Unmetered – 175.44 Metered – 2708.92 Total – 2884.36 Domestic consumption 2008 (litres per person per day average) Unmetered -161.28 Metered - 143.97 Total – 305.25 Non-household consumption 2008 (litres per property per day average) Unmetered – 554.59 Metered – 2815.12 Total – 3369.71	(although there has been a decrease in metered water consumption since 2008)		
Electricity consumption	2011 - domestic sales – 282 GWh no MPANs – 67,800 commercial / industrial sales – 389 GWh no MPANs – 5,500 total sales – 672 GWh total MPANs – 73,300 domestic sales per consumer – 4,168 commercial / industrial sales per consumer – 70,017	2009 - domestic sales – 282GWh no MPANs – 66,100 commercial / industrial sales – 409 GWh no MPANs – 5,300 total sales – 691 GWh total MPANs – 71,400 domestic sales per consumer – 4,272 commercial / industrial sales per consumer – 76,865 2005 - domestic sales – 303GWh no MPANs – 64,700	decreasing		

Indicator	Local Data	Comparators and targets	Trend	Local context and issues	Data source
		commercial / industrial sales – 450 GWh no MPANs – 5,700 total sales – 753 GWh total MPANs – 70,400 domestic sales per consumer – 4,682 commercial / industrial sales per consumer – 79,417			
Transport energy consumption	2010 (tonnes of fuel) Personal – 50,600 Freight – 25,500 Total – 76,100	2008 (tonnes of fuel) Personal – 52,300 Freight – 25,400 Total – 77,600 2005 (tonnes of fuel) Personal – 53,900 Freight – 23,200 Total – 77,100	variable		
Planning applications granted referencing BE 29 High Standard of Design	2010-2012 - Out of 1102 applications referencing BE30 890 applications permitted, 108 applications refused, 50 conservation/advertisement applications granted consent	N/A		Need to improve quality of development and promote high standards of design.	BBC
Number of planning applications referencing AD24 Green Infrastructure Opportunity Zones	Policy was adopted in July 2013 and not yet used.	None available		Development to contribute to green infrastructure enhancement	BBC
Changes in areas of biodiversity importance	No loss, no addition in 2010/2011	+ 1.1 ha in 2008/2009		need to protect areas of biodiversity	BBC

Indicator	Local Data	Comparators and targets	Trend	Local context and issues	Data source
				importance from development pressure	
Number of planning applications for renewable energy schemes granted permission	2012-2013 – 3 permissions for solar panels (totalling 42 solar panels across the applications), 2 permissions for single wind turbines, 1 permission for 3 micro wind turbines, 1 permission for an air source heat pump. 1 permission for 2 biomass boilers			Need to increase sustainable energy production.	BBC

SOCIAL SUSTAINABILTY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK INDICATORS					
Crime rates	2011/12 offences per 1000 population Bedford - 36 England and Wales - 38	2010/11 offences per 1000 population Bedford - 42 England and Wales - 41 2009/10 offences per 1000 population Bedford - 45 England and Wales - 45 2006/07 offences per 1000 population Bedford - 57 England and Wales - 61	declining	recorded crime rates are higher than for Bedfordshire and England and Wales	Home Office
Fear of crime levels	no information available				
Deprivation levels by ward	2010 Index of Multiple Deprivation – lower super output area rank out of 32,482 areas in England (1 is most deprived) Castle 1445 Harpur 1447 Cauldwell 1971	2007 Index of Multiple Deprivation – lower super output area rank out of 32,482 areas in England (1 is most deprived) Castle 1618 Harpur 2205 Cauldwell 2593			Indices of Deprivation DCLG
Number of plots for Travelling Showpeople granted permission	1 long-standing site exists at Wyboston, 1 new site has been allocated at Manton Lane through the ADLP			likely future need post 2021 to be identified	BBC
Number of pitches for Gypsy and Travellers granted permission	1 long-standing sites exists at Kempston, which was recently extended, 1 new site at Meadow Lane under development			likely future need post 2021 to be identified	BBC
Housing units completed per year	20011/12 Growth Area – 874 Rural Area – 45	20010/11 Growth Area – 580 Rural Area – 54 2009/10 Growth Area – 414			BBC

		Rural Area – 52 2008/09 Growth Area – 366 Rural Area – 41 2007/08 Growth Area – 552 Rural Area – 79 2006/07 Growth Area – 396 Rural Area – 60 2005/06 Growth Area – 285 Rural Area – 181 2004/05 Growth Area – 312 Rural Area – 324			
Affordable housing provision	2011/12 342 completions	2010/11 – 274 completions 2009/10 – 253 completions 2008/09 – 190 completions 2007/08 – 215 completions 2006/07 – 94 completions 2005/06 – 76 completions 2004/05 – 114 completions	increasing		BBC
Size of dwellings provided	20010/11 1 bedroom - 15% 2 bedroom – 29% 3 bedroom – 28.5% 4 and 4+ bedroom - 27.4%	2008/09 1 bedroom – 34.7% 2 bedroom – 42.9% 3 bedroom – 12.0% 4 and 4+ bedroom – 10.4% 2007/08 1 bedroom – 17.5% 2 bedroom - 35.4% 3 bedroom – 21.9% 4 and 4+ bedroom – 25.2% 2006/07 1 bedroom – 16.0% 2 bedroom – 36.4%	increased proportion of 2,3, 4 and 4+ bedroom dwelling, reduced 1 bedroom		BBC

		3 bedroom – 24.6% 4 and 4+ bedroom – 23.0%			
Range of recreation and leisure facilities	2009/10 informal green space - 145 ha natural green space - 507 ha parks and gardens - 166 ha recreation grounds - 26 ha Total publicly accessible open space - 844ha	2008/09 informal green space - 145 ha natural green space - 507 ha parks and gardens - 166 ha recreation grounds - 26 ha Total publicly accessible open space - 844ha			BBC
Number of representations on policy documents received from ethnic minority groups	Out of 4,035 responses to the consultation on the Draft Allocations & Designations Plan in May 2010 85 respondents completed ethnicity questionnaire White English/Welsh/Scottish/North Irish/British – 77 (91%) White Irish – 1 (1%) White other – 3 (4%) Asian Pakistani – 1 (1%) Other – 1 (1%)			Diverse community	BBC
Number of beds in residential care homes (communal) completed/	2012/2013 143 rooms competed in communal developments			Ageing population	BBC
Number of apartments in specialist accommodation for the elderly	2012/2013 55 gross and 12 net self-contained apartments for the elderly completed			Ageing population	BBC
ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILTY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK INDICATORS					
Number of jobs in the borough	2011 Full time – 48,100 (71%) Part time – 22,700 (29%) Total: 70,800	2007 Full time – 48,300 employees Part time – 21,200 employees Total: 69,500	Increasing number of jobs	Job creation, disproportionate growth in lower value jobs	NOMIS ONS

		2001 total of 65,000 employee			
Town centre vacancy rates	Ground floor vacant units in Primary Shopping Area 2011/12 – 10.6%	2009/10 – 10.0% 2008/9 – 10.8% 2007/8 – 7.5% 2006/7 – 5.4% 2005/6 – 5.0%	increasing	Low quality vacant town centre floor space	BBC
Skills and qualification levels	Qualifications – NVQ level 4 and above Jan 11-Dec 11 33,900 (32.6%)	Jan 10-Dec 10 32.7% Jan 09-Dec 09 30.6% Jan 08-Dec 08 26.3% Jan 07-Dec 07 25.9% Jan 11-Dec11 East of England 29.2% Great Britain 32.9%	improving, better than regional %		NOMIS ONS
Level of infrastructure provision through S106/CIL	S106 Finance spent 2012/13 Highways and Public Transport - £1,040,884 Education (inc. photovoltaic project) – £4,362,415 Green Infrastructure - £590,880 Footpaths/cycle ways - £0 Community - £185,438 CIL Finance received to date: £0 *Note: CIL charging anticipated to commence in April 2014.*			Need for infrastructure to support growth	BBC
Number of major town centre regeneration projects started and completed	2013 Started: Multi-storey car park (April) Bus station surface car park (July) Completed: The Higgins	2012 Started: The Higgins		Town centre improvement	BBC

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Number of grants issues for repairs, reinstatement of traditional shop fronts and bringing vacant units back into use	2 grants issues in 2013; 2-3 anticipated to be issued before end 2013			Townscape Heritage Initiative	BBC
New Company Registrations'	2012 1424	2011 1306		business growth and expansion	Companies House / Duport
Overall amount of employment land (B1, B2, B8) developed	2012/2013 B1 – 11115 sq. m B2 + 1908 sq. m B8: + 9973 sq. m. Total: 4203 sqm.	2011/2012 Total: 894	Increase in floorspace	Jobs creation, employment land supply	BBC
Number of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment and training (NEET)	2012: Out of a 5349 16-18 year olds 7.6% or 410 young people not in education, employment or training 2010: Out of a 5408 330 16-18 year olds 5.7% or 410 young people not in education, employment or training	UK 2008: 10.3% 2007: 9.7 %	Increasing proportion of NEETS	Local skillsbase, job creation	DfES

Appendix 3 Developing Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

In developing the sustainability objectives the Council has drawn on an existing set of objectives (17) that have been used in the recent appraisal of the Allocations and Designations Local Plan. It is considered appropriate to use these sustainability objectives as a starting point because they were developed for a borough-wide local plan concerned with the use and development of land and tested extensively through recent consultation and examination procedures. Further to this, there has been a minimal change in the baseline that informs the sustainability objectives.

Allocations and Designations Local Plan Sustainability framework objectives	Sustainable Communities Strategy Objective	SEA Topics	Other plans or strategies	Local context and issues identified	Action proposed
1. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	• A healthy borough, • A greener borough, aim 1 • A growing borough aim 5	• Air • Climatic factors	• Air Quality Strategy for England • NPPF • Air Quality Management Area Order	• Increasing population • Anticipated growth in new homes and businesses • AQMA designated	Merge with objective 2 and12 to formulate strategic climate change objective.
2. Reduce the risk of flooding including adapting to the impacts of climate change	• A greener borough	• Climatic factors	• Securing the Future • NPPF • Great Ouse Catchment Flood Management Plan • The Surface Waters Plan	• Over 12,000 properties at risk of flooding	Merge with objective 1 and 12 to formulate strategic climate change objective.
3. Protect and enhance the historic environment (and cultural heritage) of the borough	• A Greener Borough, aim	• Cultural heritage and landscape	• NPPF • A Better Life	• 1328 listed buildings • 69 scheduled ancient • Monuments • SSSI • Local nature reserves • Conservation areas • Important views • Locally important habitats and species • Forest Of Marston	Reword to include reference to built environment and reflect terminology used in national policy in relation to the historic environment.

Allocations and Designations Local Plan Sustainability framework objectives	Sustainable Communities Strategy Objective	SEA Topics	Other plans or strategies	Local context and issues identified	Action proposed
				Vale	
4. Create, conserve, protect and enhance the borough's natural features, distinctive local environments, habitats and species	• A greener borough, aim 2, 3, 5 and 7.	• Biodiversity, • Flora and • Fauna • Soil • Material assets • Cultural heritage and landscape	• NPPF • Marston Vale Forest Plan • Bedfordshire and Luton BAP • Bedford Borough Green Infrastructure Plan	• Conservation areas • Important views • Locally important habitats and species • Green infrastructure	No change.
5. Promote sustainable lifestyles, use resources efficiently, maximise recycling and re-use	• A greener borough, aims 2. 5 and 6	Population and human health	• NPPF • Waste Strategy for England • Minerals and Waste Local Plan for Submission • Future water • Water Cycle Strategy	• Limited supply of previously developed land will require the development of greenfield sites • Municipal waste recycling 38% • Travel to work data almost 40% by car, • Higher than average travel by bus, foot, cycle • Water consumption increasing • Energy use not increasing/static	No change.
6. Reduce levels of deprivation and exclusion, particularly for the elderly and those from disadvantaged backgrounds	• A Healthy Borough, aim 2 • An inclusive borough, aim 1	Population Human health	• NPPF • Social Inclusion/Anti-Poverty Strategy for Bedford Borough	• Pockets of significant deprivation • The borough is more ethnically mixed than the rest of the region • Health and income inequalities	Reword to take account of health and income inequalities.

Allocations and Designations Local Plan Sustainability framework objectives	Sustainable Communities Strategy Objective	SEA Topics	Other plans or strategies	Local context and issues identified	Action proposed
7. Provide a range of quality homes for all, especially affordable housing	• A Growing Borough, aim 1	Population human health	• NPPF • Housing Strategy • Planning for Traveller Sites • Empty Homes Strategy • Homelessness Strategy	• Increasing population • Decreasing household size • Shortage of affordable homes	Merge with objectives 9 and 10 to create strategic social objective.
8. Achieve healthy lifestyles and provide facilities to enable this	• A Healthy borough, aim 1 and 2	Population Human health	• NPPF • Bedford Borough Public Health Strategy • Noise Policy Statement for England	• Health inequalities	Merge with objective 17 and 11 to take account of community safety and involvement.
9. Provide social infrastructure for all ages and accessible services and facilities	• A Growing borough, aim 1 and 2	Population	• NPPF	• Increasing population • Increasingly aging population	Merge with objectives 7 and 10 to create strategic social objective.
10. Meet the needs of a changing population	• A Growing Borough, aim 1	Population Material assets	• NPPF • Planning for Traveller Sites • Housing Strategy	• Household size is declining • Aging population • Increasing BME population	Merge with objectives 9 and 7 to create strategic social objective.
11. Promote community involvement by all groups in society in place shaping	• An inclusive borough, aim 4	Population	• NPPF	• Diverse local community • Increasing BME population	Merge with objective 8 and 17 and reword to take account of community safety and health.
12. Deliver low carbon buildings, whatever their use	• A greener borough, aim 1	Climatic factors	• Planning for a Sustainable Future • NPPF	• CO2 emissions are below UK and regional average	Merge with objective 1 and 2 to formulate strategic climate change objective.
13.Support the	• A Thriving borough,	N/A	• NPPF	• Reduction in local	Reword to reflect

Allocations and Designations Local Plan Sustainability framework objectives	Sustainable Communities Strategy Objective	SEA Topics	Other plans or strategies	Local context and issues identified	Action proposed
borough's economy and specifically encourage the high value knowledge based industries	aims 1, 2, 4, 6		• Plan for Growth • Shaping Bedford Borough's Economy • Bedford's Growth Plan	employment base • Number of businesses increasing • Unemployment is falling • Strong local growth ambitions	emphasis on need for strong, sustained and balanced economic growth in the current economic climate.
14. Improve the skills of the labour force	• A Thriving Borough, aim 5	Population	• NPPF	• High % of people have no qualifications, low % have NVQ1 or NVQ2 level • Need to match skills base to new and existing employment opportunities	Reword to reflect specific need to match skills base to new and existing employment opportunities.
15. Minimise growth in car usage, reduce the need to travel and promote the shift to more sustainable modes of transport	• A Greener Borough, aim 1 • A Growing Borough, aim 1	Climatic factors	• NPPF • Door to Door • Local Transport Plan • Bedford's Active Travel Strategy	• Transport-related air quality • Travel to work data almost 40% by car, higher than average travel by bus, foot, cycle • Need increase the use of sustainable transport modes	No change.
16. Strong local identity and sense of	• An Inclusive Borough	Population	• NPPF	None	No change.

Allocations and Designations Local Plan Sustainability framework objectives	Sustainable Communities Strategy Objective	SEA Topics	Other plans or strategies	Local context and issues identified	Action proposed
place					
17. Minimise crime and the fear of crime.	• A Safer Borough, aim 1-7	Population	• NPPF • Safer Places Confident Communities in a Secure Britain	• Recorded crime rates are higher than for Bedfordshire and England and Wales	Merge with objective 8.
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Add additional economic objective to address town centre development

In order to keep the objectives manageable, their number has been reduced from 17 to 12 through grouping objectives around the key sustainability issues affecting the borough and refining wording to make objectives more up to date and strategic. An additional economic sustainability objective has been included to ensure that the breadth of sustainability issues identified through the baseline is addressed and a reasonable balance in terms of social, economic and environmental issues is maintained.

New proposed objective	Sub-objectives	SEA topic	Local context and issues identified	Sustainability pillar
1. Ensure resilience to and reduce the effects of climate change through effective adaptation and mitigation	- Reduce the risk of flooding - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions - Move towards sustainable consumption and production	- Air quality - Population	- Population increasing - Anticipated growth in new homes and businesses - AQMA designated	Environmental
2. Promote sustainable lifestyles, use resources efficiently, maximise recycling and re-use	- Promote sustainable energy use and energy efficiency - Deliver low carbon buildings	- Population - Climatic factors - Human health - Material assets	- Increasing water use in area of 'severe water stress' - Energy use increasing/static - household and municipal waste recycling - Small amount of previously developed land available - Car dependency for travel to work - Need to protect high grade agricultural land	Social/Environmental
3. Conserve and enhance the built and historic environment, heritage	Protect and enhance the historic environment (and cultural	- Material assets - Architectural and	Listed buildings, SAMs, scheduled	Environmental/Social

New proposed objective	Sub-objectives	SEA topic	Local context and issues identified	Sustainability pillar
assets and their settings	heritage) • Strong local and cultural identity	archaeological heritage • Landscape	ancient • Monuments • Important views • Conservation areas • Green infrastructure	
4. Create, conserve, protect and enhance the borough's natural features, distinctive local environments, habitats and species	• Protect sites of nature conservation and biodiversity value landscape, parks and open spaces, green infrastructure • Strong local identity and sense of place	• Biodiversity • Flora • Fauna • Soil • Material assets	• SSSI • Local nature reserves • Conservation areas • Locally important Habitats and species • Forest Of Marston Vale • Green infrastructure	Environmental
5. Promote strong, sustained and balanced economic growth, stimulating job creation across a range of sectors	• Support employment site/area proposals that deliver job growth • Encourage business growth generally (start-ups, expansions, inward investments) • Provide infrastructure (transport/broadband) that supports access to work and the distribution of goods and services	N/A	• Business/job growth • Reduction in local employment base • SEMLEP • Transport infrastructure coping with growth • Rural broadband access •	Economic
6. Improve the skills of the labour force, matching skill outcome with market needs		N/A	• High urban area unemployment • Pockets of particularly high unemployment • Local skills base	Economic

New proposed objective	Sub-objectives	SEA topic	Local context and issues identified	Sustainability pillar
7. Create a distinctive, attractive and multi functional town centre	• Improve the town centre and promote vitality and viability • Encourage new retail, protect existing retail and bring vacant units back into use • Maximising its townscape and heritage quality	N/A	• Key town centre sites/areas, including Riverside North and bus station area • Other vacant and derelict sites • Conservation area • Limited and low quality retail space availability in the town centre • General uncertainty about the future of high street retail	Economic
8. Meet the needs of a changing population	• Provide social infrastructure for all ages, accessible services and facilities • Provide a range of quality homes for all, especially affordable housing • Provide employment opportunities	• Population • Material assets	• Declining household size • Decreasing housing affordability • Increasing need for affordable housing • Traveller sites • Reuse of buildings • Increasingly aging population • Local services and facilities • Substantial BME population	Social/Economic
9.Reduce levels of deprivation, inequalities and exclusion	• Reduce social and economic deprivation • Provide sufficient affordable housing	• Population	• Substantial BME population • Income inequalities • Increasing health and	Social/Economic

New proposed objective	Sub-objectives	SEA topic	Local context and issues identified	Sustainability pillar
	• Reduce health and income inequalities • Ensure accessibility to local services and facilities		life expectancy • Deprivation pockets in three areas • Inclusive new development	
10. Promote community involvement in place-shaping, promote healthy and safe communities	• Minimise crime and the fear of crime • Achieve healthy lifestyles and provide facilities to enable this • Encourage walking and cycling • Reduce sources of pollution, including noise and light • Ensure all sections of the local community participate in place shaping	• Human health • Community Safety	• Health inequalities • AQMA designated • Accessible services • Low levels of crime compared to regional level • Substantial BME population Inclusive new development	Social
11. Promote a strong local identity and sense of place	• Promote high quality design • Enhance local distinctiveness		• Distinct local environments	Social
12. Minimise growth in car usage, reduce the need to travel and promote the shift to more sustainable modes of transport	• Encourage walking and cycling and the use of public transport • Minimise the need to travel • Deliver development in sustainable locations	• Air • Climatic factors	• Reduced local employment base • Town centre traffic congestion • AQMA designated	Environmental

Internal compatibility testing

To identify potential tensions between the sustainability objectives proposed, the below matrix tests their internal compatibility.

o = compatible, x = conflicting

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1		2											
2	o		3										
3	o	o		4									
4	o	o	o		5								
5	x	x	o	x		6							
6	o	o	o	o	o		7						
7	x	x	o	o	o	o		8					
8	x	x	o	x	o	o	o		9				
9	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o		10			
10	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o		11		
11	o	o	o	o	o	0	o	o	o	o		12	
12	o	o	o	o	x	o	o	x	x	o	o		13

Internal Compatibility testing

Objectives	Issue	Proposed solution
4&5	Economic growth and associated development can place pressure on habitats and species.	Recognise the conflict, SA process should minimise any adverse impact of development of habitats and species and provide mitigation /compensation where appropriate
4 & 8	New development may place pressure on habitats and species.	Recognise the conflict, SA process should minimise any adverse impact of development of habitats and species and provide mitigation /compensation where appropriate
5&1	Economic growth and associated development can increase greenhouse gas emissions make a contribution to climate change.	Recognise the conflict, SA process should minimise new emissions and mitigate any contribution to climate change.
5&2	Economic growth and associated development can increase resource use, energy consumption and waste production.	Recognise the conflict; SA process should identify mitigation measures to ensure efficient resource use and waste management.
7&1	Town centre development may increase emissions and make a contribution to climate change.	Recognise the conflict, SA process should minimise new emissions and mitigate any contribution to climate change
7&2	Town centre development may increase resource use, energy consumption and waste production.	Recognise the conflict; SA process should identify mitigation measures to ensure efficient resource use and waste management.
8&1	The needs of the population may be for new buildings/roads etc which may lead to increased greenhouse gas emissions.	Recognise the conflict, SA process should minimise new emissions and mitigate any contribution to climate change
8&2	Increased development will increase resource use and waste production.	Recognise the conflict; SA process should identify mitigation measures to ensure efficient resource use and waste management.
5&12	Minimal transport growth will depend upon where the employment sites are located.	Recognise the conflict; the SA process will take location into account.
8 & 12	Minimal transport growth will depend upon where the homes are located.	Recognise the conflict; the SA process will take location into account.
12 & 9	Minimal transport growth may disadvantage some groups and increase inequalities.	By ensuring access to services are maximised the SA process will minimise the potential disadvantage.

Appendix 4: Strategic Environmental Assessment Checklist

The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive Requirements Checklist		
Requirements	**Done?**	**When/Where?**[3]
Preparation of an environmental report in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated (Art. 5(1)). The information to be given (subject to Art. 5(2) and 5(3)) is in Annex 1 of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive.	✘	Stages A-C
a) An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;	✘	Stage A: SA Scoping Report
b) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme;	✘	Stage A: SA Scoping Report
c) The environment characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;	✘	Stage A: SA Scoping Report
d) 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;	✓	Stage A: SA Scoping Report
e) 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;	(✓)	Stages A and B: SA Scoping Report and SA Issues and Options Paper
f) 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, landscapes and the interrelationship between the above factors. (Footnote: These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects);	✘	Stage B: SA Issues and Options Paper
g) The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan	✘	Stages B/C: SA Plan for

or programme;		Submission
h) 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;	✘	Stages B/C: SA Plan for Submission
i) A description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10;	✘	Stages B/C: SA Plan for Submission
j) a non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	✘	Stage C: SA Plan for Submission
The report shall include the information that may reasonably be required taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme, its stage in the decision-making process and the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in the process to avoid duplication of the assessment (Art. 5(2)). Art. 5(3) of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive sets out that relevant information available on environmental effects of the plans and programmes obtained at other levels of decision-making or through other Community legislation may be useful for providing the information referred to in Annex 1 of that Directive.	✘	Stage C: SA Plan for Submission
Consultation: • Authorities with environmental responsibility, when deciding on the scope and level of detail of information to be included in environmental report (Art. 5(4)).	✓	Stage A: SA Scoping Report
• Authorities with environmental responsibility and the public shall be given an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and accompanying environmental report before the adoption of the plan or programme (Art. 6 (1), 6 (2)).	✘	Stage D: SA Plan for Submission
• Other EU Member States, where the implementation of the plan or programme is likely to have significant effects on the environment of that country (Art. (7)).	Not applicable	
• Taking the environmental report and the results of the consultations into account in decision-making (Art. (8)).	Plan adoption	
Provision of information on the decision: When the plan or programme is adopted, the public and any countries consulted shall be informed and the following made available to those so informed: • the plan or programme adopted; • a statement summarising how environmental	✘	Adoption statement / Adoption SA Statement / Final SA of

considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme and how the environmental report pursuant to Article 5, the opinions expressed pursuant to Article 6 and the results of consultations entered into pursuant to Article 7 have been taken into account in accordance with Article 8, and the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and • the measures decided concerning monitoring (Art. 9 and 10).		adopted plan
Monitoring of significant environmental effects of the plan's or programme's implementation (Art. 10).	✘	Bedford Borough Monitoring Report
Quality assurance: environmental reports should be of a sufficient standard to meet the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (Art. 12).	✘	Stages A-C