

**WILTSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

**SOUTH WILTSHIRE CORE STRATEGY  
PROPOSED SUBMISSION DRAFT**

**Sustainability Appraisal/  
Strategic Environmental Assessment**

**Sustainability Appraisal Report**

**July 2009**

Prepared by:

*enfusion*



**NICHOLAS PEARSON ASSOCIATES**  
ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNERS • LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS • ECOLOGISTS



# Sustainability Appraisal Incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment of Wiltshire Council's South Wiltshire Core Strategy Proposed Submission Draft:

## SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL REPORT

<i>date:</i>	<i>July 2009</i>	
<i>prepared for:</i>	<i>Wiltshire Council</i>	
<i>prepared by:</i>	<i>Liz Payne Alastair Peattie Toney Hallahan</i>	<i>Enfusion</i>
<i>quality assurance:</i>	<i>Adam Boyden</i>	<i>Nicholas Pearson Associates</i>

*enfusion*  
environmental planning and management for sustainability



Treenwood House  
Rowden Lane  
Bradford on Avon  
BA15 2AU  
t: 01225 867112  
[www.enfusion.co.uk](http://www.enfusion.co.uk)



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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### Purpose of the SA and the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is to promote sustainable development through the integration of environmental, social and economic considerations in the preparation of Local Development Documents (LDDs). This requirement is set out in Section 39 (2) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004 and Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks, 2004. Local Development Documents must also be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment<sup>34</sup> (SEA) and Government advises<sup>5</sup> that an integrated approach is adopted so that the SA process incorporates the SEA requirements.
- 1.2 This is the SA Report that documents the SA/ SEA processes for the South Wiltshire Core Strategy Development Planning Document (DPD): Proposed Submission Document. The South Wiltshire Core Strategy DPD sets out the Council's spatial vision, key objectives and overall principles for development in the area of the former Salisbury District Council. This SA Report is being published for consultation with the Core Strategy DPD: Proposed Submission Document in accordance with SEA Regulations and SA Guidance.

### Core Strategy DPD: Contents and Objectives

- 1.3 On 1 April, 2009, Wiltshire Council formally replaced Wiltshire County Council and the District Councils of Kennet, North Wiltshire, Salisbury and West Wiltshire as the new unitary authority for Wiltshire. The South Wiltshire Core Strategy DPD covers the former Salisbury District area (excluding the part of Wiltshire that constitutes part of the New Forest National Park) and is well advanced in comparison to the Wiltshire Council Core Strategy. Its completion will enable new housing sites to be identified before the Wiltshire Core Strategy is in place and a rolling five year housing land supply to be maintained. The South Wiltshire Core Strategy will be incorporated into the Wiltshire Core Strategy once the latter is adopted.
- 1.4 The South Wiltshire Core Strategy DPD sets out the Council's spatial vision, key objectives and overall principles for development in the area of the former Salisbury District Council, including allocating development sites.

### Summary of Compliance with the SEA Directive & Regulations

- 1.5 The SEA Regulations set out certain requirements for reporting the SEA process, and specify that if an integrated appraisal is undertaken (i.e.

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<sup>3</sup> EU Directive 2001/42/EC

<sup>4</sup> Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

<sup>5</sup> ODPM, 2005 *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents*

SEA is subsumed within the SA process, as for the SA of the Wiltshire LDF), then the sections of the SA Report that meet the requirements set out for reporting the SEA process must be clearly signposted. The requirements for reporting the SEA process are set out in Appendix I and within each relevant section of this report.

### **Habitats Regulations Assessment**

- 1.6 In October 2005 a European Court of Justice ruling directed that land use plans are subject to the provisions of Article 6 (3) and (4) of the Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive)<sup>6</sup>. Land Use Plans may therefore require the undertaking of a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of their implications for European Sites. The purpose of HRA is to assess the impacts of a land-use plan against the conservation objectives of a European site and to ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity of that site, whether alone or in combination with other plans and projects. Where significant negative effects are identified an appropriate assessment (AA) is undertaken and alternative options or mitigation should be examined to avoid any potential damaging effects. It is the responsibility of the Local Planning Authority to assess whether or not an HRA is required and to carry out the HRA in the preparation of a DPD or Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) where it is required. As such the former Salisbury District Council commissioned Nicholas Pearson Associates to undertake an HRA of the Core Strategy. Following is a summary of the report, which accompanies the current Proposed Submission consultation.
- 1.7 There are six European designated Natura 2000 sites within the South Wiltshire Core Strategy area and a further ten within a 10km buffer of the former Salisbury District boundary, and therefore within the potential influence of the plan. The European sites within the Core Strategy area are as follows:

- Chilmark Quarries SAC
- Great Yews SAC
- Porton Down SPA
- Prescombe Down SAC
- River Avon SAC
- Salisbury Plain SAC/ SPA

European sites within a 10km buffer of the former Salisbury District's boundary are as follows:

- Avon Valley SPA/ Ramsar
- Dorset Heaths SAC
- Dorset Heathlands SPA/ Ramsar

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<sup>6</sup> Case C-06-/04 (Commission v United Kingdom). European Court of Justice (ECJ) .20 October 2005.

- Fontmell and Melbury Downs SAC
  - Mells Valley SAC
  - Mendip Woodlands SAC
  - Montisfont Bats SAC
  - New Forest SAC/ SPA/ Ramsar
  - Solent Maritime SAC
  - Solent and Southampton Water SPA/ Ramsar
- 1.8 The HRA included a screening process to determine which European sites had the potential to be adversely affected by policies within the Core Strategy. The sites identified for further appropriate assessment were the River Avon SAC; Salisbury Plain SAC, SPA; Porton Down SPA and New Forest SAC, SPA and Ramsar.
- 1.9 The detailed appropriate assessment stage made recommendations for where policy changes could be made to mitigate adverse effects. In particular, the HRA included recommendations to minimise/avoid:
- adverse effects from water abstraction and waste water discharges from new development on the River Avon SAC;
  - potential recreational impacts from residential development on the New Forest and Salisbury Plain;
  - the potential effects of development at Porton Down, including a requirement for further detailed assessment in the forthcoming Wildlife Management Plan DPD;
  - the potential effects of development in close proximity to the River Avon SAC; and
  - the effects of air pollution on European sites
- 1.10 The recommendations of the HRA have been adopted by Council in the Proposed Submission Draft and Natural England and the Environment Agency have confirmed they are satisfied with the HRA findings.

## 2.0 APPRAISAL METHODS

### Scoping the Key Sustainability Issues

- 2.1 A Draft SA Scoping Report was published by the former Salisbury District Council February 2006 for consultation, to help ensure that the SA covered the key sustainability issues that are relevant to the spatial and development planning system in Salisbury District. This included the development of an SA Framework of objectives (presented at the end of Section 3 of this SA Report) to comprise the basis for appraisal. Amendments were made to the Draft SA Scoping Report at the beginning of 2007 to take account of consultation and to ensure that all new plans and programmes were included. This resulted in a Final SA Scoping Report being published in June 2007, which is available on the Wiltshire Council website <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/>.

### Appraising the Core Strategy Issues and Options

- 2.2 An issues and options consultation document was prepared by Salisbury District Council in early 2007. The document set out the main issues and evidence surrounding particular topics and puts forward a range of options to tackle these issues. The Council carried out a Sustainability Appraisal of the document in July 2007, assessing the options against the SA Framework of objectives with regard to the short, medium and long term effects on the SA objectives. During this process, a number of options were discounted, as they were found likely to have a significant adverse effect on a number of sustainability objectives. The full results of the Sustainability Appraisal are reported in the document: Core Strategy Issues and Options Interim Sustainability Statement July 2007, available on the Wiltshire Council website <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/>.

### Appraising the Core Strategy Preferred Options

- 2.3 The Core Strategy Preferred Options were appraised by Salisbury District Council and the results published in the Sustainability Appraisal Report- Core Strategy Preferred Options in January 2008. The 83 preferred options were appraised against the sustainability objectives identified in the Scoping Report identifying the significant effects of the preferred options on the sustainability objectives. The SA found that the preferred options would have an overall positive effect on sustainability in the District, with positive benefits identified across the range of sustainability objectives. In addition to the SA of preferred options, the document included an evaluation of alternative options, including the options for do-nothing. These detailed appraisals are located in Appendix 3 of the Sustainability Appraisal Report, available at <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk> .

- 2.4 A further consultation on the Preferred Options was undertaken in September 2008 but no further SA work was carried out as it was felt to basically be a reiteration of the earlier document.

### **Review of SA work and SA of strategic growth areas**

- 2.5 In Autumn 2008 Enfusion and Nicholas Pearson Associates were commissioned by Salisbury District Council to review and continue with the SA work for the Core Strategy. Initially this involved a review of the work undertaken to date and consultation received. From this it was identified that further consideration should be given to the adverse effects of development in the District and how the SA could help to identify ways of mitigating those adverse effects. These recommendations were taken on board in the SA work undertaken.
- 2.6 Working with Council Officers, Enfusion then undertook SA of the strategic growth areas that were included in the Preferred Options document. This was followed by detailed SA of the Core Strategy Pre-submission policies in April- May 2009, with further revision in July 2009.

### **SA of Core Strategy Proposed Submission Draft**

- 2.7 The emerging Core Strategy Proposed Submission policies were developed during early 2009 and subject to SA in April 2009. The Policies have since been amended and the document restructured as a result of recommendations made by the SA, HRA, the Planning Inspectorate and GOSW. It was determined that no further detailed SA of the revised policies would be required as there had been no significant changes to the content; therefore the previous SA carried out in April 2009 still applies. Table 4.3 outlines how the current Core Strategy Proposed Submission policies relate to those that were appraised in April 2009. In addition since the initial SA, several policies have been re-introduced based on further recommendations of the HRA.
- 2.8 The full detail of the appraisal is detailed at Appendix IV accompanying this report, and a summary of the assessment findings and recommendations is provided at Section 4. The appraisal has been undertaken in accordance with the statutory requirements set out in formal guidance for the SA of Local Development Documents which incorporates SEA.<sup>7</sup>
- 2.9 A compatibility analysis of the Spatial Vision and Strategic Objectives has also been carried out. Each Policy was assessed against the full SA Framework objectives. Where there were any potential adverse effects predicted for sustainability or opportunities identified to improve the sustainability of the Core Strategy, recommendations are made.

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<sup>7</sup> Sustainability of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents (ODPM, Nov 2005).

## Consideration of alternatives

- 2.10 The consideration of alternatives, a requirement of Strategic Environmental Assessment, has been ongoing throughout the plan-making process, and at each stage, the SA has assisted in ensuring the most sustainable options have been selected. This has occurred through the SA of the Issues and Options and Preferred Options stage, and has continued into the SA of the Proposed Submission draft, with the appraisal of strategic spatial options (strategic growth areas) then informing the site allocation process.

## Summary of SA Method

- 2.11 The method used for this Sustainability Appraisal of the Core Strategy comprises the following elements:
- Identifying relevant baseline information and other plans or programmes that influence the Core Strategy policies.
  - Using the Sustainability Appraisal Framework with professional expertise and drawing upon selected information in the Review of Plans and Programmes, and the Baseline Information.
  - Commenting on the areas where each element or policy of the Core Strategy has specific potential impacts - highlighting where possible, positive/negative effects, short/long term effects, indirect/direct effects, cumulative effects, and the reversibility, scale and likelihood of effects with recommendations for proposed mitigation or enhancement where identified.
  - Considering the sustainability of the various options available to the plan-preparation process and providing appraisals to inform the decision-making process.

## Consultation on the SA

- 2.12 The key sustainability issues were identified through the SA scoping process which was placed on public consultation by the former Salisbury District Council in February 2006. Thirty four representations to the SA Scoping Report were received and these were responded to by the Council and incorporated in the subsequent sustainability appraisal work. This includes amendments made to improve the SA Framework objectives. The Council's report detailing the representations received, their responses and the amendments made to the SA work as a result can be found at <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/>.
- 2.13 Issues and options were developed initially during early 2007 and were subject to SA carried out by staff of Salisbury District Council which was published as the Interim Sustainability Appraisal in July 2007. One comment relating to the SA was received during the public consultation period which ran from July to September 2007. Details can be found at Appendix II of this report.

- 2.14 The Core Strategy Preferred Options were appraised by the former Salisbury District Council and published for consultation in Feb 2008. An accompanying SA report was also published for consultation and can be found at <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/>. Two responses were received that specifically related to the SA, although a number of comments that were made relating to the Preferred Options document are also of relevance to the SA. Specific comments included concerns that particular sites being suggested at the Preferred Options stage required further detailed SA. These comments have now been addressed through the detailed SA undertaken of the Strategic Growth Areas in December 2008.
- 2.15 Further concerns were raised by English Heritage about the SA of Preferred Options omitting to detail the negative consequences of the plan, for example through proposed development at Old Sarum. This has been noted, and further SA work, as detailed in this report, has ensured that the negative effects of the plan have been identified. Where possible, mitigation measures have been recommended and changes made to policies to minimise negative effects arising from the Core Strategy.

### 3.0 SUSTAINABILITY CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

#### Review of Relevant Plans and Programmes

- 3.1 In order to establish a clear scope for the SA of the LDF it is necessary (and a requirement of SEA) to review and develop an understanding of the wider range of "*policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives*"<sup>8</sup> that are relevant to the LDF. This includes International, European, National, Regional and local level policies, plans and strategies. Summarising the aspirations of other relevant policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives (hereafter referred to as 'relevant plans') promotes systematic identification of the ways in which the LDF could help fulfil them.
- 3.2 A thorough review of relevant plans was undertaken as part of the SA and SEA of the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy, including relevant International, National, Regional and Sub Regional plans. A broader range of plans and programmes were then considered as part of the SA Scoping for the LDF. This Plans and Programmes review was reported in Appendix 2 of the Final SA Scoping Report published in June 2007 and is available on Wiltshire Council's website: (<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/>). Further relevant plans for the LDF and SA were also compiled by the former Salisbury District Council, as part of the development of the evidence base for the LDF.

#### Description of the Baseline Conditions

- 3.3 Collection of baseline information is required under SEA legislation, and is fundamental to the SA process to provide a background to, and evidence base for, identifying sustainability problems and opportunities in South Wiltshire, and providing the basis for predicting and monitoring effects of the South Wiltshire Core Strategy DPD. To make judgements about how the emerging content of the Core Strategy will progress or hinder sustainable development, it is essential to understand the economic, environmental and social circumstances in South Wiltshire today and their likely evolution in the future. The aim is to collect only relevant and sufficient data on the present and future state of South Wiltshire to allow the potential effects of the Core Strategy to be adequately predicted.
- 3.4 The SA Guidance provided by Government proposes a practical approach to data collection, recognising that information may not yet be available, and that information gaps for future improvements should be reported as well as the need to consider uncertainties in data. Collection of baseline information should be continuous as the SA process guides plan making and as new information becomes available. The Baseline is available on Wiltshire Council's website

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<sup>8</sup> *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents*  
ODPM, November 2005

(<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/>) as part of the Final SA Scoping Report published in June 2007.

- 3.5 SA Guidance advises that, where possible, information should be collated to include:
- 'comparators' - (i.e. the same information for different areas) - as points of reference against which local data may be compared
  - established targets, which will highlight how far the current situation is from such thresholds
  - trends - to ascertain whether the situation is currently improving or deteriorating
- 3.6 The key issues that arose from the baseline profile within the SA Scoping Report were:
- The house price to income ratio is greater in Salisbury than for the South West and England.
  - Salisbury has more large dwellings and fewer smaller dwellings than the South West and the UK
  - Salisbury is underperforming against its housing completion target, however, this shortfall is expected to be overcome during the next few years
  - Renewable energy production is low in comparison to the national targets.
  - Car ownership is higher in Salisbury than in the South West and the rest of the UK
  - People within Salisbury District commute further to work than elsewhere in the country
  - The number of cars parked at Park and Ride is substantially less than the target.
  - The District contains part of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB.
  - A lower % of SSSIs are in favourable condition than in Wiltshire and the UK.
  - There is a smaller percentage of the population on jobseekers allowance than the rest of the country.
  - The overall level of educational attainment in the district is high
  - The population of Salisbury is growing at a much faster rate than that of the UK
  - There are seven European Designated Natura 2000 sites within the former Salisbury District boundary
  - The Stonehenge World Heritage Site and numerous areas of archaeological importance are within the district boundary

### **The Sustainability Characteristics of South Wiltshire**

- 3.7 It is important to distil the key sustainability issues, problems and objectives relevant to South Wiltshire from the collated information and consideration of the particular character of the area. These issues are

considered to be priorities for consideration through the SA, and the SA Framework of sustainability objectives (detailed later in this Section) seeks to attend to them.

- 3.8 The total area of South Wiltshire - the former Salisbury District - is 388 square miles and the estimated population is 115,800<sup>9</sup>. The focus of South Wiltshire is the historic City of Salisbury which provides many of the services for the surrounding area and is therefore an important commercial centre. Amesbury is the second largest settlement in South Wiltshire and offers a range of services and facilities. A number of smaller settlements provide local services. The majority of the area is however, rural, varying in character from the New Forest in the south-east to the extensive, sparsely populated area of Salisbury Plain in the north and the remote rolling countryside of Cranborne Chase to the south west, all linked by lush valleys of the River Avon and its tributaries. There are many attractive villages and these, together with the countryside, historic towns, sites of European nature conservation importance and archaeological remains of international significance (including Stonehenge) form an area of exceptional environmental quality.
- 3.9 The population age profile is comparable to the averages of the South West and the population is generally well educated with lower levels of unemployment than the South West average. The area has a specific economic niche in the biotechnology, advanced engineering and medical sectors. As in many areas the ratio between income and house prices is making it difficult for young people to buy homes and there is a significant need for affordable housing.

**Key Sustainability Issues, Problems and Opportunities**

- 3.10 The following key sustainability issues are considered to be priorities for sustainability, arising from the particular characteristics, pressures and opportunities currently affecting the South Wiltshire area:

Table: 3.1: Key sustainability Issues/ opportunities identified for the South Wiltshire Area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ While there is demand for housing of all types, there is a particular need at the lower end of the market, where the gap between wages and house prices make it particularly difficult for first time buyers to purchase their own home.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Issues of water supply and quality.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Accommodating the level of development required by the SWRSS without adverse effects.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The protection of the South Wiltshire's biodiversity and landscape qualities; particularly the European designated sites and the New Forest National Park which fall within and around the area.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ High levels of car ownership and commuting distances.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The need to protect and enhance the extremely high historic,</li> </ul>

<sup>9</sup> Office for National Statistics. Neighbourhood Statistics. Salisbury.

archaeological and architectural quality of the area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Opportunity to support and reinforce the biotechnology, advanced engineering and medical sector of the local economy, whilst also providing a diverse range of employment opportunities.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Opportunities to incorporate good practice sustainable design into new development and minimise the carbon footprint of South Wiltshire.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Opportunities to improve Park and Ride services and address air quality issues in the city centre.</li> </ul>

3.11 The SA Framework presented in the next section sets out objectives to address these issues.

### The SA Framework

3.12 The SA Framework (Table 3.2) prepared by the former Salisbury District Council provides the basis by which the sustainability effects of emerging LDDs will be described, analysed and compared. The sustainability objectives seek to address and progress the main sustainability issues and opportunities identified as important in South Wiltshire. The decision-aiding questions detailed in table 4.1 assist by clarifying the detail of the issues, improving objectivity, ensuring that the appraisal is relevant to land use planning, and making the SA Framework more locally specific.

**Table 3.2: SA Framework**

SA OBJECTIVES	
1	To promote social inclusion for all, ensuring a fully inclusive environment, and addressing the needs of the young and old, those with disabilities, and diverse groups
2	To ensure that everybody has the opportunity of living in a decent and affordable home
3	To improve the health and well-being of the population
4	To improve community safety and reduce crime, including perceptions of the fear of crime
5	To improve and protect accessibility to all services and facilities
6	To improve the availability and accessibility to open space, including accessible natural greenspace, within and around communities
7	To increase energy efficiency including that of buildings, and promote the generation of energy from renewable resources
8	To reduce waste generation and increase levels of reuse and Recycling
9	To improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions
10	To promote sustainable transport choices by improving affordable and accessible solutions
11	To make efficient use of land and, where appropriate, maximise the use of previously developed sites
12	To respond to the threats posed by flooding and promote efficiency in the use of water resources

13	To improve safety and reduce congestion on roads
14	To maintain and improve the quality and quantity of the district's rivers including those protected under the Special Area of Conservation
15	To conserve and enhance the district's biodiversity and geodiversity, including downland habitats and those protected under Special Protection Areas
16	To conserve and enhance the district's landscapes
17	To facilitate sustainable economic growth, development and competitiveness of new and existing businesses
18	To provide suitable infrastructure to promote business growth and encourage investment in the district
19	To raise educational attainment and improve workforce skills
20	To harness the economic benefits that arise from tourism and cultural activities
21	To maintain and enhance the viability and vitality of new and existing services and facilities and re-emphasise the 'town centre first' objective in respect to retail development
22	To promote development of the highest standard that responds to its setting and is appropriate to its function
23	To protect, maintain and improve the recognised built heritage and cultural assets of the district, including Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Archaeology

## 4.0 SA OF CORE STRATEGY PROPOSED SUBMISSION DRAFT

### SA of Core Strategy Spatial Vision and Strategic Objectives

- 4.1 Strategic compatibility analysis of the 2009 Core Strategy Spatial Vision and Strategic Objectives was carried out using the SA framework and is presented in Appendix III. On the whole, the Core Strategy Vision and Objectives perform well against the majority of SA objectives and some key sustainability issues are addressed, such as protecting and enhancing the quality of the built heritage, providing decent homes for all and the need to facilitate and support the local economy. Since the appraisal has been undertaken in May 2009, further improvements have been made to the vision and strategic objectives, including enhancements made as a result of the SA. This is detailed in Appendix III.

### SA of Strategic Growth Areas

- 4.2 In accordance with PPS12, broad locations for strategic growth should be identified in the Core Strategy to meet the need for strategic growth in housing and employment. To do this, the former Salisbury District Council carried out a constraints mapping exercise in Autumn 2008 to identify suitable locations, i.e. the least constrained available land for development to meet the projected housing needs of the District. This exercise is documented in the report: Salisbury District LDF Core Strategy Preferred Options: Identification of Strategic Growth Areas - Paper 1.
- 4.3 Working alongside Council Officers, who have detailed knowledge of individual sites, Enfusion undertook a Sustainability Appraisal of the Areas of Search which were identified as having potential to accommodate strategic sites. This section of this report summarises the results of that appraisal and illustrates how SA has been an integral part of the site selection process, helping to develop strategic spatial alternatives for development.
- 4.4 In discussion with Wiltshire Council, (at that point Salisbury District Council) it was decided to follow the Sustainability Threshold Assessment (STA) methodology.
- 4.5 A key factor in the methodology is the SA Framework of objectives. It was agreed with SDC that for the assessment of individual sites, the framework should be adapted to take into account issues relating to the sustainability of potential sites. Accordingly site specific decision-aiding questions were added to provide greater depth of response. The headline objectives remain the same as in the original SA Framework which has been the subject of public consultation. The SA Framework tailored to meet this task is provided in Table 4.1 below. The detailed matrices can be found in Appendix V to this document. The full report can be found at [www.wiltshire.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk).

**Table 4.1: SA Framework tailored to assessment of sites**

	<b>SA OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Decision-Aiding Questions for Strategic Growth Areas. Could the site ?</b>
1	<b>To promote social inclusion for all, ensuring a fully inclusive environment, and addressing the needs of the young and old, those with disabilities, and diverse groups</b>	Provide for community facilities that meet demands of development? Improve access to/from existing development Provide/be accessible to business/employment space?
2	<b>To ensure that everybody has the opportunity of living in a decent and affordable home</b>	Provide mixed types and tenures? Provide affordable (and intermediate) homes? Promote housing for special needs?
3	<b>To improve the health and well-being of the population</b>	Provide/be accessible to healthcare facilities? Provide/be accessible to space for formal & informal recreation? Provide for allotment space? Provide an environment that does not suffer from pollution from existing uses?
4	<b>To improve community safety and reduce crime, including perceptions of the fear of crime</b>	Incorporate 'safety by design' through discussion with Police Architectural Liaison Officers?
5	<b>To improve and protect accessibility to all services and facilities</b>	<i>Already covered under 1</i>
6	<b>To improve the availability and accessibility to open space, including accessible natural greenspace, within and around communities</b>	Provide links with existing/new Green Infrastructure? Provide access to existing and proposed open/greenspace? Provide pitches and play areas?
7	<b>To increase energy efficiency including that of buildings, and promote the generation of energy from renewable resources</b>	Sites will be subject to policy which requires CSH/ BREEAM standards which include energy efficiency. All sites capable of meeting this objective
8	<b>To reduce waste generation and increase levels of reuse and Recycling</b>	All sites will be required to meet SPG requirements on community recycling facilities, and accord with waste management plans.
9	<b>To improve air quality and</b>	Have easy/convenient access to

	<b>reduce greenhouse gas emissions</b>	public transport, and safe walking /cycling routes? Provide for ways of reducing existing poor air quality e.g. in town centres? Have access to renewable energy sources?
<b>10</b>	<b>To promote sustainable transport choices by improving affordable and accessible solutions</b>	Ensure good integration with the public transport network? Is it within 400m of a train station or bus stop? Provide for cyclists and pedestrians? Rural sites are large enough to fund transport improvements?
<b>11</b>	<b>To make efficient use of land and, where appropriate, maximise the use of previously developed sites</b>	Is the site on Previously Developed Land? What is the agricultural land classification? Suitable for high-density development?
<b>12</b>	<b>To respond to the threats posed by flooding and promote efficiency in the use of water resources</b>	At risk from flooding? Is there sufficient water supply and sewage treatment capacity?
<b>13</b>	<b>To improve safety and reduce congestion on roads</b>	Provide improvements to highway safety and reduce congestion through new infrastructure? Improve goods movement? Incorporate 'home zones'?
<b>14</b>	<b>To maintain and improve the quality and quantity of the district's rivers including those protected under the Special Area of Conservation</b>	Help comply with the WFD? Have significant negative effects on the N2k network?
<b>15</b>	<b>To conserve and enhance the district's biodiversity and geodiversity, including downland habitats and those protected under Special Protection Areas</b>	Have significant negative effects on the N2k network? Have negative impacts on locally valuable flora and fauna? improve/enhance biodiversity? Contribute to GI? Provide opportunities to improve connectivity of wildlife corridors? Is it subject to a conservation designation?
<b>16</b>	<b>To conserve and enhance the district's landscapes</b>	Have impacts on designated landscapes? Provide opportunities for enhancing landscape? Could development be effectively accommodated within the existing landscape?

17	<b>To facilitate sustainable economic growth, development and competitiveness of new and existing businesses</b>	Encourage local people to work close to home? Provide mixed-use opportunities? Avoid adverse impacts upon existing centres? Is there net loss of employment sites? Provide a range of employment opportunities?
18	<b>To provide suitable infrastructure to promote business growth and encourage investment in the district</b>	Provide attractive living environment to retain / draw a diverse labour supply? Provide a range of employment sites?
19	<b>To raise educational attainment and improve workforce skills</b>	Provide educational facilities as necessary?
20	<b>To harness the economic benefits that arise from tourism and cultural activities</b>	Impact upon the historical or archaeological landscape? Maintain or enhance local qualities that attract to S Wilts?
21	<b>To maintain and enhance the viability and vitality of new and existing services and facilities and re-emphasise the 'town centre first' objective in respect to retail development</b>	Has the sequential test been applied to retail allocations?
22	<b>To promote development of the highest standard that responds to its setting and is appropriate to its function</b>	Can be applied to all sites through policy implementation.
23	<b>To protect, maintain and improve the recognised built heritage and cultural assets of the district, including Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Archaeology</b>	Have any adverse effect on these designations? Could development improve the setting of listed buildings or CAs?

4.6 The method uses categories of assessment that are comparable to the SA Scoping Report methodology. Colour is used in STA in order to make the comparisons between sites easier to consider. The notation used by Salisbury District Council in the earlier SA work (Issues and Options and Preferred Options) has been carried forward for consistency and to aid any readers with colour identification problems.

**Table 4.2: Growth Areas SA Key**

++	Strong and significant beneficial impact
+	Potential beneficial impact
?	Uncertain or insufficient information on which to determine base the assessment at this stage
~	1. Development has no impact; or 2. Effect is neutral
-	Development appears to conflict with the objective and may result in adverse impacts but mitigation possible
--	Potentially significant adverse impact/ mitigation less likely
X	Strong and significant adverse impact – absolute constraints to development

### Joint Workshops - Enfusion and SDC

- 4.7 Two workshops with Enfusion and members of the planning policy staff of the former Salisbury District Council were held on December 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> 2008, at the District Council Offices in Salisbury. The first day commenced with a short briefing on the statutory requirement for SA which incorporates SEA, how it relates and interacts with the LDF process and how it is applied to site appraisal. The group then worked together assessing the individual sites against the revised decision-aiding questions. This allowed Enfusion to contribute knowledge and expertise in the SA of growth areas, whilst ensuring the local and site-specific knowledge of Council Officers informed the appraisal.
- 4.8 Each site was considered against the objectives and decision-aiding questions, with a commentary provided where relevant. This is recorded in the detailed matrices provided at Appendix V.

### Summary of Findings

- 4.9 Some issues are common to all sites and have elicited the same appraisal response regardless of location, scale or individual characteristics. These are considered below.

Issue:	Response:
To improve community safety and reduce crime, including perceptions of the fear of crime.	Police Architectural Liaison Officer can be consulted on all sites.
To increase energy efficiency including that of buildings, and promote the generation of energy from renewable resources.	Sites will be subject to policies which require Code for Sustainable Homes (CSH)/ BREEAM standards which include energy efficiency and 10% requirement for energy from renewable sources. All sites capable of meeting this objective.

<p>To promote development of the highest standard that responds to its setting and is appropriate to its function.</p>	<p>Can be applied to all sites through policy implementation.</p>
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- 4.10 These objectives were rated light green on all sites as they are matters of implementation for Development Management Officers and were considered to be achievable and will progress the overall aim of sustainable development.
- 4.11 Most of the sites are greenfield sites and have consistently been assessed as appearing to conflict with the relevant SA objective (11) and may result in adverse effects, particularly cumulative. However, this must be considered against the draft South West RSS's requirement for the Salisbury Housing Market Area (HMA) to accommodate 12,400 dwellings, (6,000 of which should be located in Salisbury) and 14,000 jobs to be provided in South Wiltshire (of which 13,500 should be in the Salisbury Travel to Work Area) and the fact that the District has very little available previously developed land in appropriate locations. However, development should also avoid the best and most versatile land, as defined in planning policy, as concerns over climate change and the ability to feed an ever growing population may come increasingly to the fore.
- 4.12 Water abstraction and impact on the River Avon SAC were issues which had been highlighted by the HRA Screening and Interim Report (August 2008) produced by Nicholas Pearson Associates. Discussions during the HRA between NPA, Wiltshire Council and the HRA Steering Group (also including Natural England and the Environment Agency and other Council officers) have led to these matters being addressed through the introduction of policies 19 and 20 into the Core Strategy.
- 4.13 The area is rich in historic and archaeological sites and all sites proposed in the Amesbury area will need to be subject to detailed archaeological evaluation to ensure that no damage to sites is caused and that mitigation measures are agreed and implemented when development is considered to be acceptable.
- 4.14 The landscape quality across South Wiltshire is generally high and information was taken from the Landscape Character Assessment produced by Chris Blandford Associates to assess the landscape implications of the proposed areas for development. Coalescence of existing settlements has been given specific consideration as the impacts are not only on the landscape setting of settlements but also on their social identity and cohesion. Whilst few of the sites considered would bring about coalescence if developed alone, the cumulative impact of the proposed areas of search in the Wilton and Laverstock areas would overwhelm the existing settlements physically and socially.

- 4.15 It is recognised that Amesbury together with Bulford and Durrington function as one of the 5 local centres within South Wiltshire. Between the three settlements they have a range of facilities from primary and secondary schools, community facilities including a swimming pool, a range of shops, pubs and restaurants, hotels, a large employment allocation and other smaller employment opportunities. Amesbury also has a bus station, with connections to the rest of South Wiltshire. However, the majority of the proposed areas of search are not within walking distance of these facilities.
- 4.16 The SA of the proposed areas of search led to recommendations that some sites were no longer considered for development or that parts of the sites may accommodate development without undue harm to the identified SA objectives. This work has been carried forward into the site assessments incorporated in the site allocation policies in the Proposed Submission Core Strategy.

### **SA of Proposed Submission Core Strategy**

- 4.17 A draft Proposed Submission Core Strategy for South Wiltshire - relating to the area covered by the former Salisbury District Council prior to local government reorganisation - was prepared in Spring 2009 and a SA was carried out of the 54 policies which comprised the document at that time. Further to consideration of the findings of the SA, the Habitats Regulation Assessment, consultation with the Government Office for the South West and a frontloading meeting with the Planning Inspectorate, the document was then revised and renumbered, as outlined in Table 4.3. The majority of the deleted policies were deleted as they were considered inappropriate for a Core Strategy under the backdrop of Local Government Re-organisation. These will now need to be carried forward into a Wiltshire wide Development Management Development Plan Document (DPD) to be produced at a later date. Where changes have been made in response to SA and/or HRA recommendations this is denoted by (SA/ HRA).
- 4.18 As outlined in Table 4.3 and in the paragraph above, there have been changes to policy wording and the structure of the document since the detailed SA was carried out in April- May 2009. These changes were determined not to be significant enough to warrant further detailed SA of the revised Proposed Submission policies. The majority of changes were associated with report structure. The detailed appraisal of the original 54 policies (Appendix IV) is therefore considered to still be relevant. The summary of findings presented later in this section is structured in a way that relates the detailed SA of the original 54 policies to the current 25 policies which now comprise the Core Strategy as approved on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2009 by Wiltshire Council. The findings are summarised under the current Proposed Submission Core Strategy Policy numbering, with the previous policy numbers to which they relate contained in brackets. Table 4.3 provides an outline of how the policy numbers have changed and should be used in conjunction with the summary of findings detailed below. Where

recommendations for mitigation were suggested they have been reported and, where they have been incorporated in the amended policies, comments are made on the effect on the policies.

**Table 4.3: Core Strategy Policy Renumbering**

SA of Draft South Wilts Pre- submission document April 2009	Changes/ deletions	Numbering in revised Pre-submission document June 2009	Numbering in revised Proposed Submission document July 2009
CP1 – The Sustainable Settlement Strategy	No amendments	Core Policy 1 – The Sustainable Settlement Strategy	Core Policy 1– The Settlement Strategy and distribution of growth in South Wiltshire
CP2 - Meeting local needs for affordable housing	No amendments	Core Policy 3 – Meeting local needs for affordable housing	Core Policy 3 - Meeting local needs for affordable housing
CP3 – Housing mix	Policy split in response to GOSW guidance.	Core Policy 9 – Meeting Salisbury's Housing Need Core Policy 13 – Meeting housing Needs in the Four Rivers Community Area Core Policy 14 - Meeting the housing needs for the Stonehenge Community Area Core Policy 18 – Meeting Housing Needs in the southern Community Area Core Policy 20 – Meeting Housing Needs in the Mere Community Area Core Policy 21 –Meeting housing need in the Nadder Community Area	Core Policy 6 – Meeting Salisbury's Housing Need Core Policy 10 – Meeting housing Needs in the Wilton Area Core Policy 11 - Meeting the housing needs for the Amesbury Community Area Core Policy 14 – Meeting Housing Needs in the Southern Wiltshire Community Area Core Policy 16 – Meeting Housing Needs in the Mere Community Area Core Policy 17 –Meeting housing need in the Tisbury Community Area
CP4 - Lifetime Home Standards	No amendments	Core Policy 22 – Lifetime Homes Standards	Core Policy 18– Lifetime Homes Standard
CP5 – Specialised Health and Welfare Facilities	Deleted	Deleted	
CP6 – Gypsies and Travellers	Amended as a result of SA and PINS comments	Core Policy 7 – Making Adequate Provision for Gypsies and Travellers	Core Policy 4– Making Adequate Provision for Gypsies and Travellers
CP7 – Housing Density	Deleted		
CP8 – Creating High Quality Places	Deleted		
CP9 – Sustainable Development	Deleted		
CP10 – Community Safety	Deleted		
CP11 – Recreational Open Space	Deleted (saving adopted policy R2 )		
CP12 - Provision of Infrastructure	Deleted (SA )		

SA of Draft South Wilts Pre- submission document April 2009	Changes/deletions	Numbering in revised Pre-submission document June 2009	Numbering in revised Proposed Submission document July 2009
CP13 – Transportation Strategy	Deleted (SA/HRA)		
CP14 – Strategic Highways Projects	Deleted (SA/HRA)		
CP15 – Water Efficiency and the River Avon SAC	Minor amendments (SA/HRA)	Core Policy 23 – Water Efficiency and the River Avon Special Area of Conservation	Core Policy 19– Water Efficiency and the River Avon Special Area of Conservation
CP16 – Managing Phosphate Levels in Watercourses		Core Policy 24 – Managing Phosphate Levels in Watercourses	Core Policy 20 – Pollution and Phosphate Levels in the Water Environment
CP17 – Emergency Services and Healthcare	Deleted (SA)	Deleted	
CP18 – Green Infrastructure and Habitat Networks	Amended as result of SA/HRA	Core Policy 26 – Green Infrastructure and Habitat networks	Core Policy 23– Green Infrastructure and Habitat networks
CP19 – Education	Deleted (SA)	Deleted	
CP20 Housing Distribution	No amendments	Core Policy 2 – Housing Distribution	Core Policy 1 (this is now all wrapped into Core Policy 1)
CP21 – Housing Supply Years 1 -5	No amendments	Core Policy 4 – Housing supply in the early part of the Core Strategy	Core Policy 2
CP22 – Meeting the longer term housing needs of the Area	No amendments	Core Policy 5 – Meeting the longer terms housing needs of the area	Housing Supply from Strategic allocations 2010-2026 (Core Policy 4 and 5 now merged)
CP23 – Managed release of housing land	No amendments	Core Policy 6 – Managed Release of housing land	DELETED
CP24 – Continuation of existing employment allocations	Merged with CP25	Core Policy 8 – employment allocations	Core Policy 1 and supporting text para 6.46
CP25 - Strategy for Delivering New Employment Opportunities	Merged with CP24		CP1 and CP2 and supporting text 6.23 (d)
CP26 – Delivering Economic Development in Urban Areas	Deleted		
CP27 – Delivering the Right Type of Jobs to Meet Local Needs	Deleted		
CP28 – Small businesses	Deleted		
CP29 – Bio-tech, environmental technology, advanced engineering and medical sectors	Deleted		

SA of Draft South Wilts Pre- submission document April 2009	Changes/deletions	Numbering in revised Pre-submission document June 2009	Numbering in revised Proposed Submission document July 2009
CP30 – Protecting employment land	Deleted		CP5 (reintroduced)
CP31 – Support for existing businesses	Deleted		
CP32- Supporting the rural economy	Deleted		
CP33 – Visitor and Tourist facilities		Core Policy 17 - Stonehenge	Core Policy 13- Stonehenge
CP34 – Hotels, Bed and Breakfast, Guest Houses and Conference facilities	Amended (SA)	Core Policy 27 – Hotels, Bed and Breakfasts, Guest Houses and Conference Facilities.	Core Policy 24 Hotels, Bed and Breakfasts, Guest Houses and Conference Facilities.
CP35 – Tourist Caravans and Holiday Chalets	Deleted		
CP36 – Arts, Entertainment, Cultural and Leisure Facilities	Deleted		
CP37 – Maltings/Central Car Park		Core Policy 10 – Maltings / Central Car Park	Core Policy 7– Maltings / Central Car Park
CP38 – Out of Centre Retailing	Deleted		
CP39 – Landscape	Deleted		
CP40 – Biodiversity	Deleted		
CP41 – Flood Risk	Deleted		Core Policy 21 (reintroduced - HRA and EA) – Flood Risk
CP42 – Contaminated Land	Deleted		
CP43 – Environmental Pollution	Deleted		Core Policy 25 (re-introduced) – HRA – Air Quality
CP44 – Protection of Heritage Assets	Deleted		
CP45 – Salisbury Skyline		Core Policy 11 – Salisbury skyline	Core Policy 8 – Salisbury skyline
CP46 – Public Realm Improvements	Deleted		
CP47 – Protection of Services and Community Facilities		Core Policy 25 - Protection of Services and Community Facilities	Core Policy 22- Protection of Services and Community Facilities
CP48 – provision of New Community Facilities and Services	Deleted		
CP49 – Protection of Existing Sport, Leisure and Recreational Facilities	Deleted		
CP50 – Proposals for New Sport, Leisure and Recreational	Deleted		

SA of Draft South Wilts Pre- submission document April 2009	Changes/deletions	Numbering in revised Pre-submission document June 2009	Numbering in revised Proposed Submission document July 2009
Facilities			
CP51 – Porton Down		Core Policy 15 – Porton Down	Core Policy 12– Porton Down
CP52 – New Forest National Park	Amended SA/HRA	Core Policy 19 – New Forest National Park	Core Policy 15– New Forest National Park
CP53 – Old Sarum Airfield		Core Policy 12 – Old Sarum Airfield	Core Policy 9– Old Sarum Airfield
CP54 - Ministry of Defence Land	Amended SA/HRA	Core Policy 16 – Ministry of Defence Land	NOW DELETED

***Core Policy 1 - The Settlement Strategy and distribution of growth in South Wiltshire***

(Appendix IV – the policy is now an amalgamation of the former policies 1, 20, 22, 24 and 25)

- 4.19 This policy sets out the spatial strategy of the plan, clearly enumerating the level of housing and employment land to be accommodated in Salisbury and each of the community areas. The policy performs well against the objectives relating to housing, employment and reduction in carbon emissions. Because it is a strategic locational policy, only the impact on strategic objectives can be appraised as many of the impacts will be site specific. The implementation of the strategy can be found in policies 2, 4, and 5 (20 - 23) and Appendix IV where details of the proposed sites are given. The policy sets out a clear framework to guide a sustainable pattern of development with the emphasis on the main settlement of Salisbury which is identified as a Strategically Significant City in the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). There were no mitigation or enhancement recommendations for this policy itself, although the HRA made necessary recommendations for mitigation through other policies 12, 19, 20, 22, 23 and 25.

***Core Policy 2 - Strategic Allocations***

(Appendix IV - reference policies 21,22 and 25 respectively)

- 4.20 This group of policies set out the numbers and locations of housing development to meet the predicted dwelling requirements to 2026 and have therefore been appraised together so that the cumulative impact is more apparent than through separate appraisals. Policy CP1 sets out the settlement hierarchy and these policies detail the implementation of that policy. This policy sets out the distribution of development in terms of the identified Local Service Areas and Community Areas which comply with the settlement hierarchy. The policy sets out specific sites and employment allocations which will meet the identified requirements. The strategy supports climate change objectives through concentrating development on areas with existing facilities and public transport which also has the effect of

protecting the countryside and the economic benefits which accrue through tourism.

- 4.21 Several of the sites were part of strategic growth areas which were subject to SA and the findings are reproduced below. The remaining sites are all brownfield sites in central locations and perform well against sustainability objectives relating to travel, land use and climate change. These sites will be instrumental in meeting the requirements for Salisbury. Some carbon neutral dwellings are proposed at the Engine Shed and Churchfields site which performs well against SA objective 7 and all sites will be subject to RSS policy which requires 10% of energy demand from renewable sources generated on or near the site. Five hectares of employment land are also to be retained. The UKLF site will provide land for 450 homes and possibly a primary school and it is hoped it will help to retain shops and services in Wilton. 3ha of employment land is also proposed to help replace lost jobs with the Ministry of Defence (MOD). The proposal will be positive for transport and social inclusion but impact on the Avenue will need consideration.
- 4.22 The central Churchfields Industrial Estate will be a mixed use development of 1,000 dwellings, 200 to be within the first five years of the plan, 5ha of employment land, a primary school and local neighbourhood centre which will not be of a scale to impact on the City Centre. The Maltings and Central Car park site includes 200 dwellings and is the subject of Core Policy 7 (previously 37) which is assessed independently.
- 4.23 **Fugglestone Red** - The site has a reasonable relationship to Salisbury and offers the potential for improvement of access to facilities for the existing adjacent somewhat isolated housing estate. Issues surrounding drainage and water abstraction and the potential for adverse impact on the historic Wilton House are also identified. Careful design and layout would be required to ensure that development of the site does not bring about the coalescence of Wilton and Salisbury. Transport issues are also identified with the potential to increase congestion, decrease air quality and increase traffic on an identified accident black spot. It was considered that all these issues should be addressed before development is considered.
- 4.24 Many of the above issues have now been addressed through the definition of the site boundaries which remove concerns about the impact on Wilton House and coalescence with Wilton and 1250 dwellings, 8ha of employment land and a new primary school are now proposed as a comprehensive mixed development. The former Imerys Quarry site, with an allocation for 4 ha of employment land was also part of the original Fugglestone Red area of search.
- 4.25 **Hampton Park** - The site is in a good location with walking and cycling links to main facilities and should be less car reliant than the other sites considered. The eastern part of the site should have a lesser effect on Old Sarum but could cause coalescence with Ford, while the western

part of the site could have an adverse impact on Old Sarum. Part of the site is a County Wildlife Site and is also adjacent to the River Bourne (part of the River Avon SAC) both of which must be adequately protected from pollution or recreation pressure. With these mitigation measures in place it was considered that the site could be further considered for development.

- 4.26 A development of 500 dwellings is now proposed and the site is reduced in size from the growth area assessed but mitigation will still be required as detailed in the development template, particularly in regard to Old Sarum and the River Bourne.
- 4.27 **Longhedge (Old Sarum) formerly referred to as Beehive** - The site was assessed in the light of proposed development on land to the south. The site is peripheral to the town but will have the benefit of accessing facilities in conjunction with Phase 1 of the Old Sarum development. It is further from the SAM but will still have landscape implications for distant views. However, the site does offer the opportunity to provide further facilities and provide a local centre. Landscape mitigation will be essential.
- 4.28 **West of Downton Road** - The northern part of the site performs well against the sustainability objectives in terms of location but there may be issues about pollution and congestion due to the A338 running past the site. There are also concerns about the impact on archaeology. However, it is considered that development may offer an opportunity to improve the urban/countryside interface on this approach to Salisbury. It is recommended that parts of the site, such as the northern section, could be considered for some smaller scale development. The comments in the earlier SA have been adopted and part of the site is now proposed for a modest development of 60 dwellings.
- 4.29 **South of Netherhampton Road** - The SA recommended that parts of the site should be given consideration due to good connections with Harnham. Employment development (10ha) is proposed with 400 dwellings and delivery of a local centre and community facilities to improve those presently in Harnham.
- 4.30 **King's Gate, Amesbury (Formerly called Stockport)**- The land is part of an extension to an existing Local Plan allocation, however some land proposed forms part of the recreation space for development already permitted and it should be demonstrated that there will be adequate open/play/recreation space in conjunction with this proposal. The development could provide an opportunity to improve the urban/countryside interface. Public transport improvements will be needed to avoid adverse impact.
- 4.31 It can therefore be concluded that the plan puts forward achievable development for the earlier part of the plan period, based in the most sustainable locations available for development. All sites will be subject to affordable housing policies and will be expected to bring

forward appropriate community facilities and necessary infrastructure, including green infrastructure, meet required water efficiency standards, and provide mitigation for the effects of wastewater discharges, in accordance with the development templates and other plan policies.

- 4.32 A further Site Specific Allocations DPD is proposed. Levels of development are proposed for each Community Area in accordance with the hierarchy set out in the spatial strategy. Therefore as the overall strategy has been found to be a sustainable proposal within the context of the plan, there is little of value to add at this stage and detailed appraisal should be carried out of the forthcoming site allocations DPD.
- 4.33 These housing policies will also have indirect long-term benefits for the economy through providing housing needed for employees to work in the proposed expanding modern economy. This in turn has the potential to produce benefits for climate change and transport objectives through providing opportunities to live and work in the area and reduce reliance on the private vehicle.
- 4.34 The assessments of the growth areas were carried out in workshops run by Enfusion with local knowledge provided by Wiltshire Council officers. This provided a mixture of both SA/SEA expertise and the input of those working and living in the area under consideration and provided a firm basis for assessment.
- 4.35 This stage of the process illustrates how SA has already been an integral and important part of the spatial strategy and site selection process. However, the area is subject to many environmental constraints including archaeology, landscape, water resource issues and highway capacity. These will need to be addressed by all of the proposed developments to avoid the potential adverse cumulative effect which could occur given the level of development required to meet social and economic needs in a highly constrained area.

***Core Policy 3 – Meeting Local Needs for Affordable Housing***  
(Appendix IV - reference Core Policy 2)

- 4.36 As the affordable housing will represent 40% or 15% of overall residential development on sites there are few effects that can be identified relating specifically to the fact that the housing is affordable rather than for private sale or rent. Specific effects related to the element of affordable housing are the positive effects identified for social objectives such as social exclusion and housing for all. Further minor benefits are identified for energy and climate change objectives as affordable housing is mostly now built to meet the requirements of at least level 3 of the Code for Sustainable Homes (CSH). Some potential exists for adverse effect on landscapes and biodiversity through the provision of rural, exclusion site affordable housing but this should be avoided through the policies firm statement that

environmental considerations will not be compromised. Overall a positive policy with no adverse effects identified.

***Core Policy 4 – Making Adequate Provision for Gypsies and Travellers***  
(Appendix IV - reference Core Policy 6)

4.38 This core policy aims to provide adequate sites to meet the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers in South Wiltshire. It will have positive sustainability effects through minimising social exclusion, providing accommodation for those who require it, ensuring appropriate facilities on site and minimising effects on neighbouring properties. However, the policy could consider including land adjacent to settlements which would be preferable to the traveller and settled communities alike. Also the policy could be improved to minimise effects on the environment through ensuring sites will not be located on environmentally constrained land. This would improve the sustainability rating for the SA objectives on flooding, river quality, biodiversity and archaeology. Mitigation/enhancement recommendations were:

- Policy should include an additional point: the site should not be constrained by flooding nor have the potential for adverse effects on river quality, biodiversity or archaeological sites.
- The first bullet point should require sites to be in proximity of parks and recreation/open spaces.
- Consideration could be given to including land adjacent to settlements.

4.39 The policy now includes the phrase “within or close to settlements” and the criterion above relating to flooding. This has improved the performance of the policy against SA objectives.

***Core Policy 5 -Employment allocations***  
(Appendix IV - reference: former Core Policy 30)

4.40 This is a robust policy which will have a long term beneficial impact on economic objectives through avoiding the incremental loss of employment sites which would have a cumulative and long term adverse impact. However the policy does contain some flexibility which will allow the redevelopment of existing uses which are having an unacceptable environmental impact on the landscape, biodiversity or communities.

The policy also makes best use of existing infrastructure designed to serve employment premises and indirectly benefits transport issues as it protects a wide locational range of employment opportunities which can reduce travel to work distances and use of the private vehicle.

***Core Policy 6 - Meeting Salisbury's Housing Need***  
***Core Policy 10 - Meeting housing needs in Wilton Community Area***  
***Core Policy 11 - Meeting the housing needs for the Amesbury Community Area***

***Core Policy 14 - Meeting Housing Needs in the Southern Wiltshire Community Area***

***Core Policy 16 - Meeting Housing Needs in the Mere Community Area***

***Core Policy 17 - Meeting housing need in the Tisbury Community Area***  
(Appendix IV - reference: amalgamated in Core Policy 3)

- 4.41 The SA noted that the original policy, which combined all the above policies, was a very specific policy which generally has neutral effects on the majority of objectives. It performed extremely well on the social objectives relating to housing and social inclusion. It was considered that the policy will help to create development which meets identified needs rather than development led entirely by development profit. In combination with Core Policy 3 (Affordable housing) the policies comprise part of a comprehensive policy framework to guide housing development designed to meet projected needs.
- 4.42 As noted above, these policies were originally amalgamated as Core Policy 3 but on advice from GOSW have been separated to reflect that they are locally distinctive. However, their effects are the same whether appraised separately or together and positive effects are predicted for housing and social inclusion objectives.

***Core Policy 7 - Maltings/ Central Car Park***

(Appendix IV - reference Core Policy 37)

- 4.43 The policy seeks to facilitate growth in Salisbury consistent with its role in the HMA. This growth will not be confined to retail but will also encompass leisure and cultural uses to complement the existing primary and secondary retail frontages. Salisbury has the highest and densest population in the plan area and as such is the most sustainable location for these traffic generating uses. This will not however assist those in rural location with limited access to public transport or on lower incomes. Whilst this is the most sustainable location, parking should not be at a level to encourage use of the private vehicle rather than other modes of transport where it is available and there is potential for adverse impact on the SA objectives regarding air quality and congestion. This impact will be mitigated to some extent due to the fact that the site is mixed use and also incorporates 200 dwellings. Generally the policy performs well and the sensitivity of the site and the issues relating to biodiversity and river quality are well covered to avoid the potential for adverse impact. The policy will have long-term and cumulative positive impacts for the economy. Mitigation/enhancement recommendations were:
- The level of parking should be the minimum required for the development to function so that there is not an incentive to drive when public transport services are available.
- 4.44 The policy has now been amended to incorporate comments from the SA and HRA.

***Core Policy 8 – Salisbury Skyline***

(Appendix IV - reference Core Policy 45)

- 4.45 This policy will help to protect the distinctive historic landmark of the cathedral spire, which will have indirect benefits for the economy and design standards. The only negative impact identified is that the policy does reduce potential for the efficient use of land; however, this is modified and will be allowed if economic benefit and no harm to the skyline can be demonstrated.

**Core Policy 9 - Old Sarum Airfield**

(Appendix IV - reference Core Policy 53)

- 4.46 Any development permitted would be in a sustainable location and provides opportunities to put walking and cycling links in place to Salisbury centre. It is also near the Beehive Park and Ride.
- 4.47 Concerns had been raised regarding water abstraction and the corresponding impact on biodiversity and the potential for impact on the Old Sarum SAM. These are clearly recognised in the policy and the historic and ecological value of the area will be well protected from intrusive new development. Equally the policy protects the continued use of the site but also seeks to achieve community benefit from any development which is permitted.  
A positive outcome for sustainability objectives is expected from this policy.

**Core Policy 12 - Porton Down**

(Appendix IV - reference Core Policy 51)

- 4.48 The policy relates to the Porton Down Science Park and 10 ha of employment land which is allocated within the existing Local Plan and ensuring proposed development can meet the requirements of the Habitats Regulations. Although the policy states that no development will be permitted which will have an adverse impact on the SPA, SAC and SSSI, the detail of the proposals are required to make a thorough assessment of the potential impact. This should be established by project level HRA as proposed in the plan .
- 4.49 A more minor point is the level of traffic generation in a location which does not have good public transport links and which relies on a highly specialised rather than local workforce. A requirement for a Green Transport Plan for the Science Park (if there is not one already) and to accompany all development proposals should be considered.  
Mitigation/enhancement recommendations were:
- Requirement for a site wide Green Transport Plan especially in conjunction with development proposals that will increase traffic generation.
- 4.50 This policy has been amended and further background information provided including this statement from the Council: *" However, it should be noted that at the time of writing, a travel plan has been*

*agreed and adopted as part of a recent application at the DSTL facility. The travel plan effectively covers the whole site but will need to be updated to take into account future development at Porton Down.*". This statement satisfies the recommendation from the SA.

**Core Policy 13 - Stonehenge**

(Appendix IV - reference Core Policy 33)

- 4.51 This very specific policy has been mostly rated against the objectives as neutral because the wording which states that proposals "will be acceptable subject to meeting the other requirements of the Core Strategy" should rule out adverse effect as these policies cover biodiversity, landscape and sites of historical significance. The policy is also closely related, and incorporated in, the other policies relating to the extension of existing businesses. The economic objectives relating to the tourism economy will be directly progressed by this policy. However the issue of tourist facilities at Stonehenge has been the subject of national debate for a long time and whilst it is relatively easy to assume that the effects on sustainability objectives should be benign the real effect will be dependent on the detail which will have to be subject to EIA and potentially HRA.

**Core Policy 15 – New Forest National Park**

(Appendix IV - reference Core Policy 52)

- 4.52 The National Park brings prosperity to South Wiltshire as it is an integral part of the whole area's attraction for tourists. Therefore the policy will have positive and long-term benefits for the local economy, particularly for tourist accommodation and Salisbury City Centre. The policy will also have direct positive impacts for the SA objectives relating to heritage, culture, biodiversity and landscape. However, the proximity of a National Park may lead to an increase in house prices which leads to difficulties for young people trying to enter the housing market. The performance of the policy could be slightly improved by taking a more positive and proactive approach to development that would have a positive impact on the social and economic wellbeing of local communities, rather than stating that development should simply not have a negative impact.

Mitigation/enhancement recommendations were:

- Although this needs to be a controlling policy, consideration could be given to taking a more positive approach to the provision of affordable housing and community facilities, which will have a positive impact on the social wellbeing of the area.

- 4.53 The policy was originally amended as recommended, which has improved its' performance against social SA objectives. However the HRA Steering group concluded that the more restrictive original policy wording was more appropriate in protecting the New Forest Natura 2000 site. The policy wording was therefore reverted.

***Core Policy 18 - Lifetime Homes Standards***

(Appendix IV - reference Core Policy 4)

- 4.54 A very specific policy which has a neutral effect on most of the SA objectives. A positive effect is identified for the objectives relating to social inclusion, housing provision and quality of development. The policy will enable people to stay in their own communities and adapt their existing homes with minimal expense compared to adapting a home which does not already incorporate the design features for easy adaptation. Wheelchair access to all homes and disabled parking standards will facilitate accessing a wider range of facilities. Minor issues are identified which include people staying in larger homes than they might otherwise occupy, leading to energy demand to heat and light "dead" space, elderly residents becoming isolated in villages with infrequent public transport services and a lack of flow onto the market of family sized homes. However, it is considered that the benefits of the policy outweigh these issues.

***Core Policy 19 - Water Efficiency and the River Avon Special Area of Conservation***

(Appendix IV - reference Core Policy 15)

- 4.55 This policy performs well against environmental sustainability criteria, addressing a specific issue identified in the Habitats Regulations Assessment. There will be additional costs to business (including housebuilders) in meeting this policy, but the costs of doing so are uncertain. Additional costs to housebuilders and residents of installations and fittings are not likely to be significant and would be likely to be offset by savings in running costs for new homes.
- 4.56 The policy has been amended in light of recommendations from the HRA. It should be noted however that water efficiency measures to this equivalent will be incorporated into the Building Regulations as of 1/10/2009 through Circular 05/2009.

***Core Policy 20 - Pollution and Phosphate Levels in the Water Environment***

(Appendix IV - reference Core policy 16)

- 4.57 This policy performs well against environmental sustainability criteria, addressing a specific issue identified in the Habitats Regulations Assessment. There will be additional uncertain costs to housebuilders in meeting this policy. The policy has been amended in light of recommendations from the SA and HRA, including to address disturbance effects on the River Avon and require developments to demonstrate avoidance of pollution during construction through submission of a Construction Method Statement.

***Core Policy 21 – Flood Risk***

(Appendix IV - reference Core Policy 41)

- 4.58 This very specific policy deals with flood risk comprehensively and performs well against not only the flood risk objective but through the indirect implications for health, safety and the economy. At one stage it was proposed to delete this policy but its reintroduction in the plan, and inclusion of a policy requirement for Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) attributed to the recommendations made during the SA and HRA process, is welcomed.

***Core Policy 22 - Protection of Services and Community Facilities***

(Appendix IV - reference Core Policy 47)

- 4.59 Although a predominantly wealthy area, there are still areas of urban and rural deprivation where access to facilities creates social exclusion. This policy sets out a robust framework to protect existing facilities and will have long-term social benefits with more minor positive impacts for transport and climate change through reducing the need to travel.

***Core Policy 23 - Green Infrastructure and Habitat networks***

(Appendix IV - reference Core Policy 18)

- 4.60 The policy has very positive benefits for biodiversity, open spaces and health objectives, and minor benefits for other social and environmental objectives. Uncertainties remain as to the standards of provision to be required under this policy. The policy may increase costs for developers but is also likely to improve the local environment of new developments, with potential for economic benefits as a result. However it should be noted that the policy is necessary to address HRA requirements. The mitigation/ enhancement recommendations were:
- Reference to specific standards of green infrastructure provision should be included in the policy, and/or to the role of greenspace provision and quality/accessibility improvements as avoidance and mitigation measures for potential recreational impacts on Natura 2000 sites.
- 4.61 Several recommendations were made in the HRA report which has lead to the inclusion of the following criterion:
- Provide for any suitable alternative natural greenspace provision, access or quality improvements as well as proving linkages between greenspaces in order to offset increased public use of the New Forest and Salisbury Plain N2K sites, where appropriate.
- 4.62 This amendment has lead to a further improvement in the performance of the policy against the SA objectives.

***Core Policy 24 - Hotels, Bed and Breakfasts, Guest Houses and Conference Facilities***

(Appendix IV - reference Core Policy 34)

- 4.63 The policy seeks to maintain, enhance and protect existing tourist accommodation facilities and facilitate the provision of new businesses. Therefore the policy performs well against economic objectives. Policy 32 (now deleted) dealt with the conversion of existing buildings in the countryside and the policy overlapped with this policy introducing a specific potential reuse which could be incorporated in Policy 32 for the sake of clarity. However, tourist accommodation can be significant traffic generators and the scale of enterprises in the open countryside and smaller settlements should be given consideration to avoid adverse effect on local highway networks and objectives related to carbon emissions. The policy also supports development adjacent to settlements which means greenfield sites which could have adverse effects on biodiversity and landscape value.
- 4.64 Mitigation/enhancement recommendations were:
- The scale of rural facilities, particularly conference facilities, in areas with poor public transport links, should be considered in either the policy or the supporting text to avoid unacceptable traffic generation and climate change effect through emissions.
  - The encouragement of new development adjacent to settlements i.e. greenfield sites in the open countryside should be reconsidered. (Does this contradict the statement that in the open countryside development will be restricted to conversion of specific buildings?)
  - The policy should refer to "smallest settlements" as in Core Policy 1 for the sake of clarity.
- 4.65 This policy has been amended in light of the SA comments; it now refers to smallest settlements and includes the following criterion: "Avoid unacceptable degrees of traffic generation and/or climate change effect through emissions." This has further improved the policy's performance in relation to environmental and health objectives.

***Core Policy 25 - Air Pollution***

(Appendix IV - reference Core Policy 43)

- 4.66 The original policy 43 dealt with wider sources of pollution whilst the revised policy deals exclusively with air pollution. This is a significant issue in Salisbury in particular which has congestion problems with a resulting AQMA. Air pollution can also have significant adverse effects on sites of ecological value so the reintroduction of this policy, albeit in a more specific form is a valuable contribution to achieving sustainable forms of development. There will be direct benefits for

health and biodiversity and indirect benefits for sustainable modes of transport and the economy.

### **Deleted Policies**

- 4.67 Many of the policies which were included in the first draft of the Core Strategy have, as noted previously, been deleted from the current Proposed Submission document as they were not considered to be appropriate for a strategic document. Policies covering issues such as biodiversity and the historic built environment which performed well against the SA objectives are no longer included and implementation of higher level guidance as well as saved Local Plan policies will be relied upon until the production of the Wiltshire Development Management DPD. As these are fundamental issues in relation to sustainability this does give cause for concern and the implementation of strong development management policies will be essential to ensure that the neutral effects predicted for the sites included in the Core Strategy is realised. It is hoped that these issues will be addressed through the forthcoming Wiltshire wide Development Management DPD.

### **Uncertainties**

- 4.68 Throughout the development of the Proposed Submission Core Strategy and the Sustainability Appraisal process, data gaps and uncertainties were uncovered. It is not always possible to accurately predict sustainability effects when considering plans at such a strategic scale. Impacts on biodiversity and cultural heritage, for example, will depend on more detailed information and studies at a site-level. Whilst climate change science is becoming more accurate, it is difficult to predict impacts likely to result from climate change, including synergistic effects. These uncertainties have been acknowledged in the detailed appraisal matrices, where applicable.

### **Summary**

- 4.69 On the whole, the findings of the SA, suggest that the emerging Core Strategy policies will make contributions to the progression of SA objectives. The issues surrounding accommodating the required level of development are recognised and appropriate policies, such as flood and water management, green infrastructure and habitat networks, are incorporated in the plan. Further protection for the historic built environment, including archaeology will need to be addressed through the forthcoming Development Management DPD.

## 5.0 SUMMARY AND CUMULATIVE EFFECTS ANALYSIS

5.1 In addition to the appraisal of individual policies undertaken in SA/SEA, the SEA Directive requires consideration of the overall effects of the plan, including the secondary, synergistic and cumulative effects of plan policies. This may include incremental effects that can have a small effect individually, but can accrue to have significant environmental effects.

### Positive cumulative effects of plan policies

5.2 The SA found that the majority of policies were found to have significant positive sustainability benefits for the South Wiltshire area. The following table summarises the significant positive effects identified:

**Table 5.1: Significant positive effects of the emerging Core Strategy**

Key relevant SA Objective:	Positive effects identified:
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The plan will have significant positive effects through meeting the housing needs of the District, particularly affordable housing needs, and in locations where housing is most needed. The plan also requires dwellings to be built to Lifetime Homes standards.</li> </ul>
Transport Climate Change,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The plan responds to existing high levels of car ownership and accessibility issues by focussing development on the main centres.</li> </ul>
Economy & Employment,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The plan will have positive effects for the employment sector.</li> </ul>
Social inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A moderate amount of development will be allowed in the smaller settlements and the plan protects services and community facilities.</li> </ul>

### Negative cumulative effects of plan policies

5.3 Alongside the many positive effects of the plan, potential negative sustainability effects were also identified. These primarily relate to the increased residential and employment development proposed in the plan, although it is noted that the scale of the housing requirement is determined at a higher policy level in the draft South West RSS. Negative effects identified are summarised below:

**Table 5.2: Significant negative effects of the emerging Core Strategy**

Key relevant SA Objective:	Negative Effects identified:
Climate Change Biodiversity Landscape & townscape	<p>The cumulative effects of increased development, including housing, employment development, and other infrastructure. These effects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>increased air pollution (local and regional);</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ pressures on water resources and water quality;</li> <li>■ increased waste production;</li> <li>■ implications for human health (e.g. from increased pollution); and</li> <li>■ incremental effects on landscape and townscapes.</li> </ul> <p>It is hoped that these issues will be addressed through the forthcoming Development Management DPD And through changes made to the Proposed submission draft.</p>
Climate Change and Energy/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ An increase in the District's contribution to greenhouse gas production- this is inevitable given the amount of new development proposed, and includes factors such as increased transportation costs, embodied energy in construction materials and increased energy use from new housing and employment development.</li> </ul>
Cultural Heritage Landscape & Townscape Building Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Potential negative effects are identified in relation to the historic environment which should be avoided through appropriate mitigation.</li> </ul>

## 6.0 IMPLEMENTATION & MONITORING

### Introduction

6.1 This section discusses indicators and targets to help monitor the sustainability effects of the LDF. Targets and/or indicators for each SA objective have been identified (from the SA Framework) and refined further to consider the significant sustainability effects of the plan, as required by the SEA Directive. ODPM's SA Guidance (November 2005) specifies that monitoring arrangements should be designed to:

- highlight significant effects;
- highlight effects which differ from those that were predicted; and
- provide a useful source of baseline information for the future.

### SA monitoring proposals for the Core Strategy

6.2 Government requires local planning authorities to produce Annual Monitoring Reports (AMRs). According to guidance from ODPM, "These need to include the findings of SA monitoring"<sup>10</sup>. Accordingly, the monitoring recommendations for the SA, as included in Table 6.1 should be integrated with the LDF AMR which should also include indicators that are relevant to the Sustainable Communities Strategy. The proposed LDF monitoring strategy should:

- Clearly set out who is responsible for the monitoring, as well as its timing, frequency and format for presenting results;
- By collecting new information, update and strengthen original baseline data, rectifying any deficiencies, and thereby provide an improved basis for the formulation of future plans;
- Establish a mechanism for action to enhance positive effects of the plan, mitigate any negative ones and assess any areas that were originally identified as containing uncertainty. The aim should be to keep the LDF working at maximum effectiveness for the benefit of the community; and,
- provide a clear and easily understandable picture of how actual implementation of the LDF is affecting south Wiltshire. Is it moving the area towards or away from the more sustainable future intended? Are any significant effects identified actually happening? Are any unforeseen consequences being felt? Are any mitigation measures that were proposed operating effectively?

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<sup>10</sup> *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents* ODPM, November 2005

6.3 Indicators aim to measure all relevant aspects of life in South Wiltshire – social and economic as well as environmental. These are drawn from:

- Objectives and targets set out in the LDF - these will mostly be quantitative and may be expressed as maps, graphs, diagrams or percentages (e.g. Percentage of new housing built on brownfield land, percentage of energy on major new developments to be provided by renewables etc.);
- Indicators already identified and used in the SA process, again mostly likely to be quantitative;
- Measures drawn from the baseline data collected during the early stages of the LDF or from the previous Local Plan (e.g. air quality, extent of wildlife habitats, need for affordable housing); and,
- Any other measures suggested by the community and stakeholders. These might be more qualitative (e.g. quality of life) and can be useful in enriching understanding and giving people a sense of ownership of the LDF.

6.4 Monitoring of the AMR will be undertaken by Council and the relevant statutory authorities, with responsibilities detailed in the AMR document.

**Table 6.1: Recommended Indicators**

SA Obj	Recommended indicators
1	To promote social inclusion for all, ensuring a fully inclusive environment, and addressing the needs of the young and old, those with disabilities, and diverse groups
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Mix of housing tenure within settlements</li> <li>■ Indexes of Multiple Deprivation throughout the District</li> </ul>
2	To ensure that everybody has the opportunity of living in a decent and affordable home
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Number of unfit homes per 1,000 dwellings.</li> <li>■ Indices of Multiple Deprivation – Housing and Services Domain</li> <li>■ Percentage of households rented from the Council or in Housing Association/Registered Social Landlords properties</li> <li>■ Percentage of new housing which is affordable</li> <li>■ Average house price compared with average earnings</li> <li>■ Number of housing Completions</li> </ul>
3	To improve the health and well-being of the population
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Life expectancy</li> <li>■ Death rates from circulatory disease, cancer, accidents and suicide</li> <li>■ Residents description of Health</li> <li>■ Obesity levels</li> <li>■ Number of sites/hectares decontaminated as a result of new development</li> </ul>
4	To improve community safety and reduce crime, including perceptions of the

	fear of crime
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Monitor the number of domestic burglaries, violent offences, vehicle crimes, vandalism and all crime per 1,000 population</li> <li>■ Percentage of residents surveyed who feel 'fairly safe' or 'very safe' during the day whilst outside in their Local Authority</li> </ul>
<b>5</b>	To improve and protect accessibility to all services and facilities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Parishes with a GP, post office, play area, pub, village hall</li> <li>■ Provision of new community facilities secured through new developments</li> <li>■ Kilometres of cycle routes and facilities for cyclists</li> <li>■ Kilometres of new walking routes provided</li> <li>■ Percentage of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of a GP, hospital, primary and secondary school, employment and a major health centre</li> <li>■ Number of houses within a specified radius of services/facilities</li> </ul>
<b>6</b>	To improve the availability and accessibility to open space, including accessible natural greenspace, within and around communities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Hectares of new greenspace created</li> <li>■ Percentage of eligible open spaces managed to green flag award standard</li> </ul>
<b>7</b>	To increase energy efficiency including that of buildings, and promote the generation of energy from renewable resources
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Renewable energy capacity installed by type</li> <li>■ Percentage of new development including renewable energy generation</li> <li>■ Energy consumption</li> <li>■ Percentage of new development incorporating energy and water efficiency measures, and sustainable drainage systems</li> <li>■ Percentage of new employment development meeting BREEAM very good/excellent standards</li> <li>■ Percentage of homes meeting level 3 or above of the Code for Sustainable Homes</li> </ul>
<b>8</b>	To reduce waste generation and increase levels of reuse and Recycling
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Percentage use of aggregates from secondary and recycled sources</li> </ul>
<b>9</b>	To improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Changes in the travel to work mode of transport</li> <li>■ Greenhouse gas emissions</li> <li>■ AQMA designations or threshold designations</li> <li>■ Growth in cars per household</li> <li>■ Growth in car trip generation</li> <li>■ % change in public transport patronage</li> <li>■ Number of days in the year when air quality is recorded as moderate or high for NO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub>, CO and Ozone on average per site.</li> </ul>
<b>10</b>	To promote sustainable transport choices by improving affordable and accessible solutions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Percentage of employees commuting out of the area to work</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Changes in the travel to work mode of transport</li> <li>■ Car ownership</li> <li>■ Kilometres of cycle routes and facilities for cyclists</li> <li>■ Kilometres of new walking routes provided</li> </ul>
<b>11</b>	To make efficient use of land and, where appropriate, maximise the use of previously developed sites
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Monitor the type and number of applications permitted in the greenbelt</li> <li>■ The changing density of development</li> <li>■ Hectares of new development outside settlement boundaries</li> <li>■ % of development on previously developed land</li> <li>■ Use of previously developed land</li> </ul>
<b>12</b>	To respond to the threats posed by flooding and promote efficiency in the use of water resources
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Changing water quality</li> <li>■ Groundwater levels</li> <li>■ Percentage of new development incorporating water efficiency measures</li> <li>■ Water consumption per household</li> <li>■ Number of homes built against Environment Agency advice on flooding</li> <li>■ Percentage of new development incorporating energy and water efficiency measures, and sustainable drainage systems</li> <li>■ Percentage of new employment development meeting BREEAM very good/excellent standards</li> <li>■ Percentage of homes meeting level 3 or above of the Code for Sustainable Homes</li> </ul>
<b>13</b>	To improve safety and reduce congestion on roads
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Percentage of employees commuting out of the area to work</li> <li>■ Changes in the travel to work mode of transport</li> <li>■ Car ownership</li> <li>■ Kilometres of cycle routes and facilities for cyclists</li> <li>■ Kilometres of new walking routes provided</li> </ul>
<b>14</b>	To maintain and improve the quality and quantity of the district's rivers including those protected under the Special Area of Conservation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Water quality</li> </ul>
<b>15</b>	To conserve and enhance the district's biodiversity and geodiversity, including downland habitats and those protected under Special Protection Areas
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Net change in natural/ semi natural habitats</li> <li>■ Change in areas and populations of biodiversity importance</li> <li>■ Condition of designated sites</li> <li>■ Change in area of woodland</li> <li>■ Proportion of new developments delivering habitat creation or restoration</li> </ul>
<b>16</b>	To conserve and enhance the district's landscapes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ To monitor the number of landscape or built environment designations</li> <li>■ Hedgerow and/or veteran tree loss</li> <li>■ Area of /change in landscape designations</li> </ul>

<b>17</b>	To facilitate sustainable economic growth, development and competitiveness of new and existing businesses
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Percentage of completed retail, office and leisure development in town centre</li> <li>■ Amount of land/ floorspace developed for employment (by type)</li> </ul>
<b>18</b>	To provide suitable infrastructure to promote business growth and encourage investment in the district
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Percentage change in the total number of VAT registered businesses in the area</li> </ul>
<b>19</b>	To raise educational attainment and improve workforce skills
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Changing educational attainment at GCSE Level</li> <li>■ Proportion of persons in the local population with a degree level qualification</li> </ul>
<b>20</b>	To harness the economic benefits that arise from tourism and cultural activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ New jobs created in tourism and cultural industries</li> <li>■ Additional tourist bed spaces created</li> </ul>
<b>21</b>	To maintain and enhance the viability and vitality of new and existing services and facilities and re-emphasise the 'town centre first' objective in respect to retail development
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The changing diversity of main town centre uses (by number, type and amount of floorspace)</li> <li>■ Retail health checks/economic prosperity of smaller towns and villages</li> </ul>
<b>22</b>	To promote development of the highest standard that responds to its setting and is appropriate to its function
	None recommended
<b>23</b>	To protect, maintain and improve the recognised built heritage and cultural assets of the district, including Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Archaeology
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Grade I and II* Listed Buildings at risk</li> <li>■ Condition of Conservation Areas and sites of archaeological importance</li> <li>■ Number of historic parks and gardens</li> </ul>

## **7.0 CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS**

- 7.1 The SA of the Proposed Submission Core Strategy has appraised the effects of individual policies, as well as the overall effect of the plan, including cumulative and incremental effects. The SA has found that the emerging South Wiltshire Core Strategy will make a significant contribution to sustainability in South Wiltshire, with a particularly strong focus on meeting housing, employment and community needs. The key negative effects identified relate to increased housing and employment development leading to increases in greenhouse gas emissions and the potential cumulative effects of development on the high quality of South Wiltshire's natural and historic environment.
- 7.2 Throughout the preparation of the Core Strategy, the SA has made recommendations for measures to minimise and mitigate any adverse effects. These recommendations have been adopted by those preparing the Core Strategy, thereby resulting in a more sustainable LDF to guide the future of South Wiltshire.
- 7.3 This SA Report will form part of the evidence base during the Examination of the Core Strategy and will accompany the adopted DPD when it is published. If any further significant changes are made to the plan the SA Report will be updated accordingly.