



**West Wiltshire District Council
Leisure and Recreation Development Plan Document**

**Sustainability Appraisal Report
Submission Draft**

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C4S - the Centre for Sustainability at TRL

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Abbreviations

C4S:	Centre for Sustainability.
DCLG:	Department for Communities and Local Government (formerly ODPM).
DoH	Department of Health.
HRA:	Habitats Regulations Assessment.
LDF:	Local Development Framework.
LRDPD:	Leisure and Recreation Development Plan Document.
LRNA:	Leisure and recreation need assessment.
ODPM:	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (now Department for Communities and Local Government, DCLG).
SA:	Sustainability Appraisal.
SEA:	Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Non Technical Summary

Background

This is the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Report prepared for the Sustainability Appraisal of West Wiltshire District Council's Leisure and Recreation Development Plan Document (LRDPD).

SA is a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, and helps planning authorities to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development whilst preparing their plans. It does this through a structured appraisal of the plan objectives and core strategies against key sustainability issues for the area.

This SA Report also fulfils the requirements to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) according to the Environmental Assessment of Plan and Programmes Regulations 2004.

The Plan

West Wiltshire's LRDPD aims to review the District's recreation planning policies in light of the Council's Leisure and Recreation Needs Assessment (Kit Campbell Associates, 2005) and the Leisure and Recreation Needs Assessment Update (Kit Campbell Associates, 2007). The needs assessment (and its 2007 update) provided an audit of the current leisure and recreation provision and a survey of the public opinion on recreational needs in the District.

The main findings of the Leisure and Recreation Needs Assessment are that the public would like to see existing facilities protected and refurbished to improve their quality and accessibility. Additional facilities that people feel the district needs are sports pitches and more recreational centres for teenagers.

The objectives for the LRDPD are to:

- Deliver sustainable leisure and recreation facilities;
- Provide a sufficient quantity of high quality and accessible¹ open spaces to meet local needs;
- Maximise access to the countryside for active and passive recreation;
- Provide well managed and maintained greenspaces;
- Provide high quality and accessible¹ indoor sports facilities to meet local needs;
- Provide high quality, imaginative and accessible¹ children's play areas;
- Provide high quality and accessible¹ outdoor sports facilities to meet local needs;
- Provide high quality and accessible¹ recreation facilities for teenagers to meet local needs;
- Support opportunities to develop a variety of water-based recreation activities;
- Develop a policy for the use of country parks;
- Increase the amount of tree cover in the District in appropriate locations;

¹ Accessible by walking, cycling, public transport and for those with mobility needs

- Promote out of hours access to school recreation facilities by the local community;
- Identify measures to adequately fund improvements to recreation facilities; and
- Develop a planning framework which takes a positive approach to addressing issues identified in the Leisure & Recreation Needs Assessment (LRNA).

In order to meet these objectives, a range of policies have been developed. These include:

- Policy LP1: Protection and enhancement of existing open space or sport and recreation provision;
- Policy LP2: Proposals that involve the loss of open space or sport and recreation;
- Policy LP3: Review of low value sites;
- Policy LP4: Providing recreation facilities in new developments;
- Policy LP5: New sport and recreation facilities;
- Policy OS1: New artificial turf pitch provision;
- Policy OS2: New grass pitch provision;
- Policy CR1: Footpaths and Rights of Way;
- Policy CR2: Country Parks;
- Policy CR3: Greenspace Network;
- Policy GM1: Maintenance of existing open space;
- Policy GM2: Management and maintenance of new or enhanced open space;
- Policy GM3: Future management partnerships;
- Policy IS1: Indoor leisure centres;
- Policy IS2: Joint indoor leisure centres;
- Policy YP1: Children's play areas;
- Policy YP2: Provision for teenagers;
- Policy WR1: Sailing lakes;
- Policy WR2: River based recreation;
- Policy WR3: Kennet and Avon Canal;
- Policy WR4: Wilts and Berks Canal;
- Policy TC1: Trees; and
- Policy SC1: Dual-use of school facilities.

The Sustainability Appraisal

The Sustainability Appraisal process involves several stages which are closely linked to plan preparation:

- Stage A involves setting the context, establishing the baseline and deciding on the objectives and scope for the appraisal. The output of Stage A is a SA

Scoping Report, which is sent to the statutory environmental bodies for consultation;

- The options for the plan (in this case the LRDPD) are developed, refined and assessed in Stage B;
- During Stage C the results of the appraisal are reported in a SA report which is sent out for consultation in Stage D together with the draft plan (the Preferred Options for the LRDPD); and
- Stage E entails monitoring the significant effects of implementing the DPD, to check that the plan has had no unforeseen effects on the environment.

The SA process thus contributes to the plan throughout its development, especially through the appraisal and refinement of plan options.

Formal consultation on the Preferred Options for the LRDPD and a Sustainability Appraisal of the Preferred Options was carried out in June 2006. The results of this consultation were then taken into account and translated into draft policies.

A further period of public consultation was then undertaken on the LRDPD Preferred Options (Stage 2) Consultation Paper and Sustainability Appraisal Report. The results of this consultation were then taken into account and translated into LRDPD Submission Draft. This is the Non Technical Summary for the Sustainability Appraisal Report for the LRDPD Submission Draft.

The environmental, social and economic characteristics of the area were examined in Stage A, and trends identified where possible (i.e. is the situation getting better or worse?). The policy context of the LRDPD was also reviewed at this stage. This initial work was then used to identify the key environmental issues and opportunities that relate to the District, and on which the appraisal should focus.

The review of baseline information highlighted the characteristics of the District and in particular the following issues of relevance for the LRDPD:

- The countryside is potentially under pressure from developments;
- Traffic levels have more than doubled in ten years, and the population of the District, in line with the rest of the County, seems to prefer using the car for their work trip even though the rail network is well developed in West Wiltshire (serving all five market towns) and most of the people work quite locally. This increase in traffic makes cycling and walking in general more dangerous, and limits the accessibility of the countryside as many paths do not link up but start and finish at very busy roads without footpaths;
- Health is perceived as an issue, with coronary disease, strokes and some types of cancer still major killers, and increasing percentages of obese and overweight people. Nearly 40% of the population does not take physical activity on a regular basis; and
- There is a need to improve public access and the quality of the existing provision of recreational facilities; and
- There is a need to provide more facilities for teenagers and more sport pitches.

SA Objectives

A set of objectives and indicators (the SA framework) were also formulated in Stage A to help focus the appraisal of the LRDPD. The SA objectives and indicators are based on the SA framework used for the Sustainability Appraisal of the South West

Regional Spatial Strategy, and adapted to reflect the specific environmental issues and opportunities identified for the District.

The SA objectives that have been developed for the LRDPD are to:

- Improve the health and well being of the people of Wiltshire;
- Increase the number of people who are regularly physically active;
- Provide recreational facilities which feel safe;
- Determine local standards for sport and recreation facilities in the district and develop recreational facilities to meet local needs;
- Improve access by public transport to leisure services across public sector and partner agencies;
- Improve access to leisure services across public sector and partner agencies;
- Ensure that scope for the protection and enhancement of wildlife is built into outdoor recreation / leisure facilities;
- Maximise the efficient use of existing recreational facilities; identify underused facilities;
- Provide well designed recreational / leisure facilities which are appropriate in scale and appearance for their locality;
- Ensure recreation / leisure facilities reflect valued local distinctiveness and facilitate access to open space / countryside;
- Use leisure facilities to help reduce flood risk;
- Use renewable energy wherever possible in recreation / leisure facilities;
- Reduce the amount of water used in council leisure facilities;
- Use recycled aggregates in the construction and maintenance of recreation / leisure facilities wherever possible;
- Increase the percentage of waste recycled or composted (Corporate plan) in the leisure and recreation industry;
- Reduce the proportion of waste by using recycled products wherever possible; and
- Contribute positively to AQMAs in Bradford on Avon and Westbury.

Most of these SA objectives can be achieved without conflict. However, potential conflicts might result from optimising the number of facilities and the way they are managed, and ensuring that the local community is not deprived of recreation opportunities i.e. if a local space previously used for recreation is designated for other purposes than green space.

It also needs to be ensured that optimising the use of facilities and ensuring that facilities in keeping with surrounding is delivered without detriment to the protection and enhancement of wildlife.

Whereas most of the proposed LRDPD objectives are compatible with the SA objectives there is also some uncertainty on how the provision of facilities (indoor, outdoor, for children, for teenagers etc.) will take into account/ensure accessibility by public transport or by foot and cycle, sustainable construction practices and reduction of resource use. Furthermore, increased accessibility to the countryside, to Southwick Country Park and to rivers/lakes for water based activities might not be compatible with protection of the wildlife.

Appraisal Findings

The 35 Preferred Options in the LRDPD Submission Draft have been assessed against the SA objectives for potential effects. The conclusions of the assessment are that:

- Overall, the options proposed are likely to improve the current situation. However, the sustainability effects of the LRDPD will ultimately depend on the way in which the options are implemented, and it is currently uncertain what many of the effects will be.
- The Council should firm up its commitments to sustainable construction and sustainable use of resources - e.g. by adopting design which minimises water use and flood risk, by using recycled materials, by introducing renewable energy etc., in new build and maintenance of leisure and recreation facilities to ensure the sustainability of the DPD and its implementation. Where possible, the Council should use procurement and planning instruments to ensure developers follow similar principles in delivering recreational facilities.

Some of the policies put forward in the LRDPD Submission Draft have been identified as having potential adverse effects on the following SA objectives:

- To reduce the amount of water used (Policies SC1, IS2 and OS2);
- To provide recreational facilities which feel safe (Policy OS2);
- To improve access to leisure services (Policy OS2);
- To ensure the protection and enhancement of wildlife (Policy OS2);
- To provide leisure facilities which are in keeping with their surroundings (Policy OS2); and
- To reduce flood risk (Policy OS2).

Mitigation measures proposed to reduce or offset these adverse effects include:

- Ensure access to facilities is improved through better link with the transport network;
- Accessibility by sustainable modes of transport to be a criterion in awarding planning consent; and
- Use of planning agreements to ensure developers contribute to enhancement of public transport and pedestrian/cycling links.

Measures for monitoring the significant effects of the plan are proposed. These measures and the monitoring program will be finalised in an SA/SEA Statement which will accompany the LRDPD once it is adopted.

Monitoring has been proposed for all of the significant positive effects that were identified in the appraisal. Examples of some of the monitoring measures that have been proposed include:

- Number of visitors to parks and open spaces;
- Number of people using school based facilities after hours;
- Levels of customer satisfaction with leisure and recreation facilities; and
- Number of facilities for teenagers developed.

1 Introduction

The West Wiltshire Community Strategy 2004-2014 identifies the need to promote healthy lifestyles and greater physical activity, and also to improve opportunities for people to access recreation including parks and open spaces. The Corporate Plan for West Wiltshire identifies 'better access to recreation' as one of the key areas for improvement.

In 2005, West Wiltshire District Council undertook a review of leisure and recreation needs within the district (Kit Campbell Associates, 2005). This review was then updated in 2007 (Kit Campbell Associates, 2007). The Council is using the findings of this [Leisure and Recreation Needs Assessment](#)² (L&RNA) and its update to develop a Leisure and Recreation Development Plan Document.

The purpose of West Wiltshire's Leisure and Recreation Development Plan Document (LRDPD) is to provide the spatial policy framework for the future provision of leisure and recreation open space in the district, including the allocation of additional sites.

When adopted, the LRDPD will form part of West Wiltshire's Local Development Framework and will replace recreation planning policies contained within the "saved" Wiltshire Structure Plan 2016 and the West Wiltshire District Local Plan 1st Alteration.

West Wiltshire's LRDPD is currently under development, and has undergone various stages of consultation:

- A Scoping Report for the Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA) of the LRDPD was consulted on in July 2005 (TRL, 2005).
- Following this, an Issues and Options Consultation Document setting out the initial issues and options identified in the L&RNA, was consulted on in October 2005 (West Wiltshire, 2005). This was accompanied by a working note reporting how the options contributed towards the achievement of the SA/SEA objectives set out in the Scoping Report (TRL, 2006a).
- The results of the Issues and Options Consultation Document were used to identify possible preferred options for the LRDPD which were informally consulted on during spring 2006 (West Wiltshire, 2006a).
- Formal consultation on the Preferred Options for the LRDPD (West Wiltshire, 2006b) and a Sustainability Appraisal of the Preferred Options was carried out in June 2006 (TRL, 2006b).
- The results of the consultation on Preferred Options were taken into account and translated into draft policies by West Wiltshire. Formal consultation on the Preferred Options (Stage 2) Consultation Paper for the LRDPD (West Wiltshire, 2007a) and a Sustainability Appraisal of the Preferred Options was carried out in March 2007 (TRL, 2007).

This report is the Sustainability Appraisal for the LRDPD Submission Draft (to be submitted in September), and has been prepared by the Centre for Sustainability (C4S) at TRL.

1.1 Purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal Report

The policies in the LRDPD Submission Draft have been subject to a joint Sustainability Appraisal (SA) / Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process in

² Available at <http://www.westwiltshire.gov.uk/index/env/planning/planning-policy/local-develop-framework.htm>

accordance with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004) (the 'SEA Regulations')³.

The purpose of SA/SEA is to assess the likely significant effects of plans and programmes. SA/SEA is a process with the objective of integrating sustainability considerations into plans and programmes throughout their development.

The report is based upon the previous SA Report which was prepared at the Preferred Options Stage 2 (TRL, 2007), and fully reflects the changes that have been made to the draft LRDPD since the Preferred Options stage.

This report also takes into account the consultation comments that were received for the previous SA Report (TRL, 2007). The previous SA Report was consulted upon at the same time as the Preferred Options Stage 2 in March 2007.

The main differences between this SA Report which has been prepared for the Submission Draft and the previous SA Report (Stage 2) which was issued at the Preferred Options stage in March 2007 are:

- One of the preferred options (Preferred Option 6.10 part of CR3: Greenspace Networks) assessed in the previous SA report has not been taken forward in the Submission Draft. To reflect this, the option has been omitted from this SA report.
- Changes have been made to nine of the Preferred Options. The assessment has been updated to reflect these changes.

1.2 Compliance with the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires SA to be carried out on Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS), Development Plan Documents (DPD) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD).

The SEA Regulations for the UK implement European Directive 2001/42/EC, which is commonly referred to as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive. The objective of the SEA Regulations is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans, with a view to promoting sustainable development.

SEA and SA are two closely linked but distinct, processes. SA aims to integrate sustainability issues into decision making by appraising the plan or strategy using environmental, social and economic objectives. SEA also aims to facilitate sustainable development, but the main emphasis is on integrating environmental considerations into decision making through a thorough assessment of environmental impacts.

It is possible to satisfy both SA and SEA requirements through a single appraisal process, and this is the approach which is recommended in the guidance on 'Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents' (ODPM, 2005). For clarity, the integrated appraisal of SA and SEA will be referred to as SA throughout this report.

The following table illustrates how the requirements of the SEA Regulations are met in this SA Report. Further details on the stages of the SA are provided in section 2.1.

³ Statutory Instrument 2004 No. 1633, available at <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2004/20041633.htm>

Table 1: SEA Directive requirements

SEA Directive Requirement	Where met in this report
Stage A	
the “relationship [of the plan or programme] with other relevant plans and programmes” (Annex I(a))	Section 4.1 and Appendix D
“the environmental protection objectives, established at international, [European] Community or [national] level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation” (Annex I (e))	Section 4.1, 4.2 and Appendix D
“relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme” and “the environmental characteristics of the areas likely to be significantly affected” (Annex I (b), (c))	Section 4.3 and Appendix E
“any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC” (Annex I (d))	Section 0
“...the authorities... which, by reason of their specific environmental responsibilities, are likely to be concerned by the environmental effects of implementing plans and programmes ... shall be consulted when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information which must be included in the environmental report” (Article 5.4 and 6.3).	Section 3.2
Stage B	
“...an environmental report shall be prepared in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated” (Article 5.1). Information to be provided in the Environmental Report includes “an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with” (Annex I (h))	Section 5 and Appendix F [Scoping Report / Working Note on Issue and Options Report]
Stage C	
“The environmental report shall include information that may reasonably be required taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme, [and] its stage in the decision-making process” (Article 5.2).	This report

1.3 Habitats Regulations Assessment

A Habitats Regulation Assessment has been undertaken (separately to the SA/SEA process) to determine whether the LRDPD is likely to effect the integrity of the Natura 2000k (N2K) sites located within and in the vicinity of West Wiltshire. The screening for the HRA concluded that none of the options will have a significant effect on any of the SACs/SPAs included in the screening exercise (West Wiltshire, Undated). Therefore a full appropriate assessment has not been undertaken.

1.4 Structure of Report

This report is divided into the following 7 sections:

- Section 1: Background to the SA Report;
- Section 2: LRDPD's objectives and visions;
- Section 3: Methodology adopted in the appraisal process;
- Section 4: Sustainability objectives, links to other plans, programmes and strategies, and baseline information;
- Section 5: Preferred options development and appraisal; and
- Section 6: Monitoring and implementation methodology.

2 Submission Draft LRDPD Objectives and Visions

The first version of the “Vision for open space, sports and recreation provision” was developed in the Leisure and Recreation Needs Assessment (Kit Campbell Associates, 2005). This vision has been subject to public consultation through the Issues and Options paper (West Wiltshire, 2005), the Possible Preferred Options paper (West Wiltshire, 2006a), the Preferred Options paper (West Wiltshire, 2006b) and the Preferred Options Stage 2 Paper (West Wiltshire, 2007a).

Based on the comments obtained, the vision put forward in the LRDPD Submission Draft (West Wiltshire, 2007b) and the key components of this vision are presented below.

The Vision for West Wiltshire LRDPD

“West Wiltshire will have a network of safe, accessible, high quality spaces, and sport and recreation facilities that makes West Wiltshire a place to be proud of, meets local needs and enhances the ‘liveability’ of the district, promotes health and well being, promotes sustainability, supports bio-diversity and makes the best use of land” (West Wiltshire, 2007b p19).

The vision is complemented by a list of key components:

- *The network of spaces and facilities is more important than any individual spaces or facilities - in other words, the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. Equally, every space or facility does not have to be suitable for all of its possible uses - spaces can be designed and maintained for specific purposes.*
- *Spaces and facilities should provide a safe and secure environment whilst providing challenging opportunities for recreation and play.*
- *All communities should have equal opportunities to access facilities. Access to free facilities is particularly important to low-income families.*
- *Easy access by walking, cycling and by public transport is important and meeting the needs of people with disabilities is particularly relevant.*
- *High quality is more important than quantity. It will be better to have a network of accessible high quality spaces than lots of poor quality provision.*
- *The countryside in the district and its high quality landscapes are appreciated by residents and visitors and help form an agreeable image of the district*
- *Meeting diverse local needs for leisure and recreation is more important than retaining spaces that serve no useful purpose. The priority should be to tackle deprivation and social exclusion.*
- *Local communities are involved with the maintenance of greenspaces and access routes*
- *Greenspace, accessible countryside and sport and recreation provision, help to support ‘liveability’; greenspaces and accessible countryside help to form an image of the district for both residents and visitors.*
- *Greenspaces and accessible countryside support sustainability in various ways, provided they are designed and/or managed in ways that make this possible. For example, there is evidence that visiting greenspaces helps relieve stress, therefore contributing to people’s emotional, physical and mental health, and that greenspaces help to reduce pollution and climate issues and surface water run-off.*

- *Greenspaces should be designed and managed in ways that support and encourage wildlife and biodiversity.*
- *Spaces or facilities that are not needed in their present form or location provide an opportunity to make better use of land” (West Wiltshire, 2007b p19).*

The vision for West Wiltshire is to be taken forward through a set of objectives. The objectives for the LRDPD are outlined in the box below.

Principal objective:

The overarching objective of the LRDPD is to:

- *“Deliver sustainable leisure and recreation facilities”.*

Delivering sustainable development is a key objective for the LRDPD. The principles of sustainable development which are the foundation of the policies in this document are to:

- *Meet local needs, in particular respecting and promoting the diverse needs of all groups in society;*
- *Minimise the need to travel and support increased accessibility by walking, cycling, by public transport and for those with mobility needs;*
- *Protect and wherever possible enhance environmental assets, including wildlife and natural habitats, historic features and sites, local landscape and townscape character;*
- *Minimise the environmental impact of development through sustainable construction, lifetime resource, energy and water use efficiency and renewable energy;*
- *Make the most efficient use of land and give priority to the reuse of previously developed land; and*
- *Achieve high quality and inclusive design that creates safe, adaptable and accessible environments” (West Wiltshire, 2007b p 20).*

Specific leisure and recreation objectives:

In addition to the principal objective outlined above, a number of specific leisure and recreation objectives have been identified:

- *“Provide a sufficient quantity of high quality and accessible⁴ open spaces to meet local needs;*
- *Maximise access to the countryside for active and passive recreation;*
- *Provide well managed and maintained greenspaces;*
- *Provide high quality and accessible⁴ indoor sports facilities to meet local needs;*
- *Provide high quality, imaginative and accessible⁴ children's play areas;*
- *Provide high quality and accessible⁴ outdoor sports facilities to meet local needs;*
- *Provide high quality and accessible⁴ recreation facilities for teenagers to meet local needs;*

⁴ Accessible by walking, cycling, public transport and for those with mobility needs.

- *Support opportunities to develop a variety of water-based recreation activities;*
- *Develop a policy for the use of country parks;*
- *Increase the amount of tree cover in the District in appropriate locations;*
- *Promote out of hours access to school recreation facilities by the local community;*
- *Identify measures to adequately fund improvements to recreation facilities; and*
- *Develop a planning framework which takes a positive approach to addressing issues identified in the Leisure & Recreation Needs Assessment” (L&RNA) (West Wiltshire, 2007b p 20).*

3 Appraisal Methodology

3.1 Stages and Tasks Adopted in the Appraisal Process

The SA of West Wiltshire's LRDPD has been undertaken in line with the SA Scoping Report methodology (TRL, 2005). The LRDPD has taken into account the comments received during consultation on the proposed scope of the assessment, and the comments received on the previous SA Reports (TRL, 2006b; TRL, 2007). Details on how consultation comments have been taken into account can be found in Appendices A, B and C.

The key stages of the SA of the LRDPD are detailed in Table 2, based on the stages that are outlined in the SA guidance (ODPM, 2005). Table 2 also shows the timetable for the SA and how it relates to LRDPD preparation. Published outputs of the SA process are outlined in *italic bold*, and can be downloaded from the Council's Website⁵. This SA Report reports on Stages B, C and D of the SA Process (Table 2).

When the LRDPD is adopted, the plan will be accompanied by a statement providing information on how the results of the SA/SEA and views expressed during consultation have been taken into account (the 'SA/SEA Statement'). In addition, the SA/SEA Statement will include the finalised monitoring framework.

Due to the complex nature and the length of time over which the SA and plan documents have been prepared, assessed and consulted upon, the timetable shown in Table 2 has been subject to change during the course of the SA process. For the same reasons, the timing of the final stages of the SA may be subject to further change.

⁵ <http://www.westwiltshire.gov.uk/index/council/your-council/strategies-policies/local-develop-framework.htm>

Table 2: SA/SEA Stages alongside the development stages of the LRDPD

Recreation DPD Stage	SA / SEA Stages	Dates
Begin document preparation Preparation of Issues and Options (I&O) paper and consultation	<p>Stage A: Setting the context, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A1: Identify other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives. A2: Collecting baseline information. A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems. A4: Developing the SA framework. A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA (Scoping Report). 	<p>SA Scoping Report prepared August 2005.</p> <p>Consultation on Scoping Report August – October 2005</p> <p>Consultation on Issues & Options (I&O) paper October to November 2005</p>
Preparation of preferred options, including consultation on possible preferred option	<p>Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> B1: Testing the DPD objectives against the SA framework. B2: Developing the DPD options. B3: Predicting the effects of the DPD. B4: Evaluating the effects of the DPD. B5: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects. B6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the DPDs. 	<p>Preparation of SA Working Note on I&O⁶ February 2006</p> <p>Consultation on Possible Preferred Options Paper March 2006</p>
Public consultation on preferred options	<p>Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> C1 Preparing the SA Report. 	<p>Formal consultation on Preferred Options for the LRDPD and SA Report June 2006</p> <p>Formal consultation on Preferred Options (Stage 2) and SA Report for Stage 2 (March 2007)</p>
	<p>Stage D: Consulting on the preferred options of the DPD and SA Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> D1: Public participation on the preferred options of the DPD and the SA Report D2(i): Appraising significant changes D2(ii) Appraising significant changes resulting from representations D3: Making decisions and providing information 	
Submission of DPD to Secretary of State	<p>Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the DPD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> E1: Finalising aims and methods for monitoring. E2: Responding to adverse effects. Preparing the SEA Statement.⁷ 	<p>LRDPD Submission Draft and SA Report September 2007</p> <p>SA Statement: indicative timing December 2008</p>

3.2 The Consultation Process

The Sustainability Appraisal for West Wiltshire's LRDPD has undergone various stages of consultation.

Scoping Report

As part of the scoping process for the SA/SEA, a SA Scoping Report was sent out for consultation to the statutory Consultation Bodies⁸ and other stakeholders in July 2005. The consultation period was five weeks, and written responses received before

⁶ This output is not required by the SEA Regulations but was produced to assist in selecting the preferred options.

⁷ The SEA Statement is required by the SEA Regulations.

⁸ Natural England (previously the Countryside Agency and English Nature), English Heritage, and the Environment Agency.

mid-October 2005 were taken into consideration in the next stages of the assessment. The following bodies were consulted on the Scoping Report:

- Natural England (previously the Countryside Agency and English Nature);
- English Heritage;
- Environment Agency;
- Department of Culture, Media and Sport;
- South West Regional planning body;
- GOSW; and
- Sport England.

Details of the consultation responses and how the comments received at the scoping stage were taken into account can be found in Appendix A.

Issues and Options

In addition, a SA Working Note on Issues and Options was produced in February 2006 (TRL, 2006a) to provide feedback to the District Council on the Issues and Options (I&O) paper, which was out for consultation during the period October to November 2005. The Working Note provided an indication of how each of the options within the Issues and Options paper contributed to the SA objectives set out in the SA Scoping Report. The Working Note was made available on the District website alongside the results of the consultation of the Issues and Options paper, and informed the development and refinement of possible preferred options for the LRDPD.

Preferred Options (Stage 1)

Formal consultation on the Sustainability Appraisal Report prepared at the Preferred Options stage was carried out in June 2006 (TRL, 2006b). Details of the consultation responses received on the SA Report and how they were taken into account in the SA Report at the Preferred Options Stage 2 can be found in Appendix B.

Preferred Options (Stage 2)

Formal consultation on the Sustainability Appraisal Report prepared at the Preferred Options Stage 2 was carried out in March 2007 (TRL, 2007). Details of the consultation responses received and how they have been taken into account in this report can be found in Appendix C.

3.3 Consultation Responses and How They were taken into Account

Consultation responses on the SA Report for the Preferred Option Stage 2 were received from:

- Government Office of the South West;
- Wiltshire Wildlife Trust; and
- Environment Agency.

The changes as a result of the consultation responses are as follows:

- The compatibility scores for SA 7 (Protect and enhance wildlife) have been amended from neutral to uncertain for the DPD objectives:
 - Provide well managed and maintained greenspaces;
 - Provide high quality and accessible outdoor sports facilities to meet local needs; and

- Provide high quality and accessible recreation facilities for teenagers to meet local needs (in the event of outdoor facilities).
- The assessment for summary text for WR4 has been amended to reflect potential adverse effects from the reinstatement of the Wiltshire and Berkshire Canal at Melksham.
- The following PPPs have now been included in Table 3 and Appendix D:
 - Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006;
 - Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for South West;
 - Supplement to PPS1: Planning and Climate Change;
 - PPS 9 : Biodiversity and Geological Conservation;
 - PPS 25 : Development and Flood Risk;
 - Hampshire Avon Catchment Management Strategy (CAMS);
 - Bristol Avon Catchment Flood Management Plan (CFMP);
 - Hampshire Avon CFMP.

3.4 Difficulties Encountered During the Appraisal

Difficulties in compiling the information

The preparation of the SA Scoping Report involved a review of baseline information, which has been updated throughout the SA process. The baseline review identified some information gaps which could not be filled during this SA (see Appendix E). Most of these gaps are due to a lack of comparator or trend data.

In recognition of these data gaps, the District Council have included within the LRDPD Submission Draft policy TC1 a commitment for the Council to produce a tree provision action plan and within policy YP2 a commitment to consult with teenagers through the proposed children's play strategy. Filling these data gaps will enable the development of more informed strategies for these issues.

Difficulties in carrying out the assessment

Due to a lack of national, regional and local sources of information on the effects of leisure and recreation measures, the SA for West Wiltshire's LRDPD has been largely based on the findings of the Council's Leisure and Recreation Needs Assessment (Kit Campbell Associates, 2005).

Many of the options assessed affect the local community and the District in different and/or contrasting ways (e.g. closing a local facility within one area could have a negative effect on one particular community). Effects such as these have been assessed using a qualitative approach, which might not be sufficient to capture the potential issues of the local community.

4 Sustainability Objectives, Baseline and Context

4.1 Links to Other Plans, Programmes and Strategies

The SEA Regulations (Schedule 2) state that an Environmental Report should outline:

- The plan's relationship with other relevant plans and programmes; and
- The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation. ODPM (2005) guidance extends this to include other sustainability objectives.

To fulfil this requirement, a review has been undertaken of other relevant plans, policies and programmes (PPPs) to identify environmental objectives which may provide constraints or synergies with the plan being formulated (see Table 3). The review, published first within the SA Scoping Report and modified to incorporate consultation responses during the previous stages of the SA, has been updated for this SA Report. The full review is included in Appendix D.

Table 3: Documents reviewed

International
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EU Habitats Directive Directive 92/43/EC ▪ Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change ▪ The EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds 79/409/EEC ▪ The Convention on Biological Diversity, Rio de Janeiro 1992 ▪ Directive 2000/60/EC - The Water Framework Directive ▪ Directive 1966/62/EC on Ambient Air Quality and Management ▪ The Johannesburg Declaration of Sustainable Development 2002 ▪ European Spatial Development Perspective 1999 ▪ Environment 2010: Our Future, Our Choice (EU Sixth Environment Action Programme) ▪ Århus Convention (Decision 2005/370/EC) ▪ Health Strategy 2000 (EU Commission Communication COM(2000) 285 final) ▪ Programme of Community action in the field of public health (2003-2008) (European Parliament Decision No 1786/2002/EC)
National
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PPS1 : Delivering Sustainable Development (ODPM, 2005) ▪ Supplement to PPS1: Planning and Climate Change (DCLG, 2007) ▪ PPG 2 : Green Belts (as amended, ODPM, 2001) ▪ PPS 3 : Housing (as updated, ODPM, 2005) ▪ PPS 6 : Planning for Town Centres (ODPM, 2005) ▪ PPS 7 : Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (ODPM, 2004) ▪ PPS 9 : Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (ODPM, 2005) ▪ PPS 12 : Local Development Frameworks (ODPM, 2004) ▪ PPG 13 : Transport (ODPM, 2001) ▪ PPG 15 : Planning and the Historic Environment (DoE, 1994) ▪ PPG 16 : Archaeology and Planning (DoE, 1990) ▪ PPG 17 : Planning for Open Space, Sport, and Recreation (ODPM, 2002) ▪ PPS 23 : Planning and Pollution Control (ODPM, 2006) ▪ PPG 24 : Planning and Noise (DoE, 1994) ▪ PPS 25 : Development and Flood Risk (DCLG, 2006) ▪ Good Practice Guide on Planning for Tourism (ODPM, 2006) ▪ Securing the Future: The Government's Sustainable Development Strategy

(DEFRA, 2005)

- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)
- Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW)
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006
- UK Biodiversity Action Plan (<http://www.ukbap.org.uk/>)
- Working with the Grain of Nature: A Biodiversity Strategy for England (DEFRA, 2002)
- Biodiversity by Design (TCPA, 2005)
- Climate Change: The UK Programme (DEFRA, 2000)
- The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (DEFRA, 2007)
- The Historic Environment: A Force for Our Future (DCMS, 2001)
- Communities Plan (Sustainable Communities: Building for the Future) (ODPM, 2003)
- Government Urban White Paper: Our Towns, Our Cities, the Future. Delivering an Urban Renaissance (ODPM, 2000)
- Government Rural White Paper: Our Countryside, the Future – A Deal for Rural England (DETR, 2000)
- Game Plan: A strategy for delivering Government's sport and Physical activity objectives (DCMS/Strategy Unit Dec, 2002)
- Sporting Future for all – the Government's Plan for Sport (DfES & DCMS, 2001)
- Town and Country Parks, the Best and ... (ETRAC, 1999)
- Towards an Urban Renaissance (Report of the Government's Urban Taskforce, 1999)
- Public Park Assessment (Heritage Lottery Fund, 2001)
- Public Spaces: The Role of PPG17 in the Urban Renaissance (House of Commons Select Committee Inquiry into the draft revision of PPG17 March 2001):
- Urban Green Spaces Task Force , Green Spaces, Better Places (DTLR, 2002)
- Living Places (ODPM, 2002)
- Sustainable Communities: People, Places and Prosperity (ODPM, 2005)
- The Framework for Sport in England: A Vision for 2020 (Sport England, 2004)
- Government Public Health White Paper: Choosing Health (DoH, 2004)
- Policy Appraisal and Health (DoH, 2004)
- Natural Fit: Can Green Space and Biodiversity Increase Levels of Physical Activity? (RSPB, 2004)
- Draft Guidance on Health in Strategic Environmental Assessment: Consultation Document (DoH, 2007)

Regional

- A Sustainable Future for the South West: The Regional Sustainable Development Framework for the South West of England (SWRA, 2001)
- Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West (SWRA, 2006)
- A Biodiversity guide for the planning and development sectors in the SW (South West Biodiversity Partnership and the Association of Local Government Ecologists, 2002)
- SSA Appraisal Framework (SWRA, 2003)
- Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West 2006 – 2026: Possible development strategies for the Region (SWRA, 2004)
- South West Regional Planning Guidance (RPG10) (DTLR, 2001)
- Regional Economic Strategy for the South West of England 2003-2012 (SWERDA, 2003)
- Water Resources for the Future – a Strategy for the South West Region (Environment Agency, 2001)
- In Search of Chunky Dunsters – A Cultural Strategy for the South West (Culture South West, 2003)
- Towards 2015 – Shaping Tomorrow's Tourism (SWERDA, 2005)

- South West Regional Environmental Strategy (SWRA, 2001)
- The State of the Countryside in the South West (Countryside Agency, 2004)
- Strategy for the Historic Environment (HE) in the South West (English Heritage, 2004)
- Creating Sustainable Communities in the South West (GOSW, 2005)
- Sport England Regional Plan for Sport 2004 - 2008 , Life's out there ... be active in the South West (Sport England, 2004)

Local

- Wiltshire Structure Plan 2001 – 2011(Wiltshire County Council, Adopted 2001)
- Cotswolds AONB Management Plan (Cotswolds AONB, 2004)
- Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB, Management Plan (Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB, 2004)
- Wiltshire Biodiversity Action Plan (Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, 2002)
- Creating a County Fit for our Children: A Strategy for Wiltshire 2001-2014 (Wiltshire County Council, 2004)
- West Wiltshire District Plan 1st Alteration (2004)
- West Wiltshire – A Place to be Proud of, Wiltshire Community Strategy 2000-2014 (West Wiltshire LSP, Undated)
- Local Community Area Plan - Trowbridge (Trowbridge Town Council, 2004)
- Westbury Area Community Plan (Westbury Area Action Group, 2005)
- Melksham Area Community Strategy (Melksham 1st Partnership, 2004)
- Warminster and Villages Community Plan, 2005-2015 (Warmister and Villages Community Partnership, 2005)
- Bradford on Avon Community Area Plan 2005-2015 (Community Planning Partnership, 2005)
- Giving Meaning to Life - A Cultural Strategy for West Wiltshire District Council (WWDC, 2004)
- Open Space Provision in New Housing Developments: A Guide (SPG to Policies R4, C32 and I1 of West Wiltshire District Plan 1st Alteration and adopted 4th August 2004)
- West Wiltshire Horizon 21 (Local Agenda 21 Strategy document 2003)
- West Wiltshire District Council Health Promotion (2004)
- West Wiltshire Community Safety Strategy 2005-2008 (Undated)
- West Wiltshire District Council Crime and Community Safety Strategy 2002 – 07 (Undated)
- West Wiltshire Cycleway Report (Undated)
- Trowbridge Urban Design Framework (Trowbridge Town Council, 2003)
- Bristol Avon Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (Environment Agency, 2005)
- Hampshire Avon Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (Environment Agency, 2006)
- Bristol Avon Catchment Flood Management Plan (Draft) (CFMP) (Environment Agency, 2007)
- Hampshire Avon Catchment Flood Management Plan (Scoping) (CFMP) (Environment Agency, 2006)

4.2 Relevant Sustainability Objectives Identified

The review of other plans and programmes (Section 3.1) identified environmental protection objectives which West Wiltshire's LRDPD needs to adhere to. These include:

- Nature conservation;
- Conservation of water quality and quantity;
- Protection of the historic and archaeological environment;
- Reduction of visual intrusion;
- Protection of landscape;
- Protection of tranquil areas;
- Protection of green belt;
- Reduction of flood risk;
- Waste minimisation;
- Reduction of transport emissions;
- Improved access to open countryside, common land and rights of way;
- Healthy communities;
- Urban and rural regeneration;
- Sustainable natural resources use; and
- Sustainable economic development.

4.3 Social, Environmental and Economic Baseline

4.3.1 Documents and Bodies Consulted

Baseline data were collected using the documents and databases listed in Appendix E. County and District officers were also consulted for data on waste, accident statistics, nature conservation and air quality.

4.3.2 The Environmental Baseline

The SEA Regulations require that the Environmental Report includes an examination of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution of the environment without the implementation of the plan (the "future baseline" or the "without the plan scenario").

The future baseline can be difficult to describe as trend data is often not available. The information on the future baseline presented in the SA Scoping Report has been further developed during the SA by considering the effects on the SEA objectives of a "Do Nothing" option for each topic (included in the 'SA Working Note', TRL 2006).

The baseline data that has been collected for this SA is presented in Appendix E. Data is provided for the following topics:

- Population
- Human Health
- Social Exclusion
- Crime
- Housing
- Education
- Economy and Employment
- Transport
- Cultural Heritage
- Recreation
- Water Resources
- Air Quality and Climate Factors
- Biodiversity
- Landscape and Townscape
- Soil and Minerals
- Waste
- Material Assets

In Appendix, E baseline data for the topic material assets can be found under the following topics: housing (i.e. dwelling stock, number of community facilities), transport (i.e. length and condition of footpaths) and recreation (i.e. number of facilities).

The Study Area

West Wiltshire is a mainly rural district covering 517 km². It is based around five historic market towns each benefiting from a distinctive character and commercial vitality, while the rest of the population lives in numerous villages.

The District's economy is mainly based on the manufacturing and public sectors. The unemployment rate is slightly lower than the South West average. However, in the last few years the economic growth has been slower than the national average, and the manufacturing industry is declining.

Although relatively prosperous, some of the District's wards (e.g. Melksham North, Trowbridge Adcroft, Trowbridge Drynham) are among the most deprived in the County.

The District is close to the M4 and it is crossed by the A350 and the A36, all of which are important communication and development corridors. Each of the five market towns has a railway station with services linking to Swindon, Bath, Bristol, Southampton and London.

An analysis of the current provision of recreation facilities is provided in the Leisure and Recreation Needs Assessment (Kit Campbell Associates, 2005). The main conclusions of this needs assessment are that:

- The District has in general very good quality green spaces;
- Some of the available grass pitches have drainage problems and poor changing facilities. Some of the artificial turf pitches need maintenance;
- There are not enough facilities for teenagers, and some children play areas need improvements; and
- The District has more of certain types of indoor sport facilities (water and badminton courts equivalent) than suggested by the Sport England's 'Sports Facilities Calculator'⁹. However, five of the indoor facilities are within schools and are not open to the general public after hours.

The Leisure and Recreation Needs Assessment also highlighted that the residents see little or no need for increasing the number of certain open space, sport and recreation facilities in the District, but feel that there is a clear need for better management and maintenance of the existing provision (Kit Campbell Associates, 2005).

4.3.3 Summary of Key Trends

This section summarises the key baseline trends for each topic addressed in the appraisal. Data gaps are acknowledged in this report where appropriate. Where possible, trends are provided and comparisons made with regional and national contexts.

⁹ Available on the Sport England website at <http://www.sportengland.org/sportsfc.htm>

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

West Wiltshire's natural environment comprises three Special Areas of Conservation, two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), a Special Protection Area, five Local Nature Reserves and nineteen Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Furthermore, the District has 198 local sites of nature conservation interest. Many of these areas are open for public access, providing the people of West Wiltshire with opportunities to enjoy the natural environment. There is no data on the impacts on biodiversity from accessing those sites.

The Leisure and Recreation Needs Assessment has highlighted that residents would like greater access to the countryside via canal towpaths, footpaths, cycle ways and bridleways (see "Landscape and townscape" below).

Population

West Wiltshire is the most densely populated District in the county; with 2.3 people per hectare (county average is 1.3). Population growth of 9%, the second highest in the County, was recorded between 1991 and 2001. The estimated population for the year 2005 stood at 124,100. In particular, the population within both the 0-15 years and the over 75 years brackets has increased.

The Leisure and Recreation Needs Assessment has highlighted the lack of appropriate facilities for teenagers (Kit Campbell Associates, 2005). This was highlighted as a need by the majority of residents in Warminster, and sizeable minorities in Westbury, Trowbridge, Melksham, and Bradford.

Health

Health is regarded as an important issue by the population of the Districts¹⁰, although the population of West Wiltshire is relatively healthy compared to the average for England and Wales. Life expectancy is higher than average, and a proportion of people reporting limiting long term illness in West Wiltshire is amongst the lowest in England (although this is still higher than the Wiltshire average). Just over 3,000 people (3.6% of the population) were permanently sick or disabled in 2001. This is slightly higher than the proportion registered in the County, but lower than for the region. Although complete data sets are not available for 1991, the comparison shows an increase in population suffering from long term illness.

Statistics show that cardiovascular disease has been declining for decades, even more rapidly than stroke, but that it is still the major cause of early deaths. Overall, standardised mortality ratio index (SMR) for all cancers is also decreasing, even though the incidence of colorectal cancer is quite high and higher than the national SMR. Colorectal cancer can be related to an unhealthy diet and lack of physical exercise.

The number of overweight and obese people in the District has tripled over the last two decades and it is still rising. It is likely that both those trends will continue in the future, and in particular the proportion of obese population is likely to increase¹¹ if people are not stimulated to keep active and provided with facilities for doing so. In 2000/2002, 20.3% of people over 16 years old were obese. This is lower than that of England as a whole (21.8%) but is higher than Wiltshire (18.1%). Currently, 39% of people in West Wiltshire take no physical activity on a regular basis to keep fit. In 2000/2002 12.1% of adults in West Wiltshire were physically active, in comparison to 14.1% in Wiltshire and 11.6% in England. No data for a trend analysis are available,

¹⁰ Personal communication with Council's Officers

¹¹ West Wiltshire – A place to be proud of (community strategy 2004 – 2014)

and it is likely that many factors (personal circumstances, unavailability/ lack of access to facilities) contribute to this situation.

Finally, the Leisure and Recreation Needs Assessment (Kit Campbell Associates, 2005) reports the safety concerns of the community using or wanting to use the existing footpaths and cycleways. As many start/end at busy roads, they are not considered safe. Although there is no specific data on accidents related to cyclist/pedestrians trying to access those sites, there are more general statistics on pedestrian and cyclist casualties in West Wiltshire. Between 2001 and 2004, the number of pedestrian and cyclist casualties in both West Wiltshire and Wiltshire has generally declined.

Agricultural Land

Over 350 of the 517 km² of the District are agricultural land, mainly used as grassland (over 180 km²). This is countryside space that the population can enjoy for recreation. No trend data are available to understand how much of such land has been lost to development in West Wiltshire. Agricultural land in Wiltshire, however, has accounted for 50% of the land take for development¹². The District has as a target to build 50% of the housing provision on previously developed land, but the latest figures show an achievement of only 39% in 2005/06. This is the same as for 2003/04, and has declined since 2001/02 where the level was 50%.

Water Quality and Quantity¹³

Water resources in West Wiltshire include the River Avon, the Kennet and Avon Canal, and the River Wylde¹⁴. The chemical and biological quality of such resources has been improving since 1995. 79% of the water resources are of good chemical quality, whereas in 1995 only 46% were of good quality. 87% of the water resources are also of good biological quality.

Water resources are important for biodiversity and recreation. Specific data is not available for West Wiltshire on the number of people using water resources for recreation. There is, however, data available for the South West. In 2005, 89,425 rod licences were purchased from the Environment Agency, this comprised 7% of the total number for England and Wales.

Air and Climate Change

The District Council has established two Air Quality Management Areas, located in Westbury and Bradford on Avon, where levels of NO₂, and NO₂ and PM₁₀ respectively have exceeded the U.K Air Quality Objectives. Air quality monitoring to date has shown that the annual NO₂ objective (average not to exceed 40 µg/m³) continues to be breached at both of these areas.

Data on greenhouse emissions per capita are not available at District level. However, a comparison between data from the census of 1991 and 2001 shows an increase in car ownership. The car is the means of transport used for 63% of trips to work, even though over 61% of the population works less than 5 km from home, and 30% less than 2km¹¹. No data is available on percentage of trips for recreational activities undertaken by car or other transport modes. There is also no data on increases in episodes of flooding of recreational facilities.

¹² <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/land/alltables.htm>

¹³ Issue added as result of the consultation on the Scoping Report

¹⁴ Added in response to consultation on the Scoping Report

Material Assets: Land Use - Housing and Business Land

In West Wiltshire 6,930 houses have been built between 1996 and 2006, of which 39% were on previously developed land (against a target of 50%). The Structure Plan target is 11,750 houses to be built by 2016. Some 55 ha of employment land have been developed from 1996 to 2006. The Structure Plan target is to develop 150 ha of employment land by 2016. This is likely to put pressure on undeveloped areas, including the countryside.

Cultural Heritage

The District has 3,801 listed buildings, of which 54 at risk; 229 archaeological sites of interest, 39 Conservation Areas, and 7 historic parks and gardens. However, no data is available on the number of visitors to sites of cultural heritage.

Landscape and Townscape

An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is an area of designated landscape with distinctive character that is of national importance.

The Cotswolds AONB covers the western extreme of North Wiltshire and the north-west tip of West Wiltshire, whilst the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB cover the southern portion of West Wiltshire. There are also five Special Landscape Areas¹⁵. The AONB action plans highlight the need for the areas to be accessible to the community whilst respecting the environment.

The five market towns in the District each have their own unique character. Warminster and Bradford on Avon have historic townscape settings which are afforded protection from development in the West Wiltshire District Plan. Trowbridge is subject to a regeneration scheme supported by the South West region, "Transforming Trowbridge", which will benefit the County as a whole.

There is no data available on the numbers of visitors to the above attractions, although the Leisure and Recreation Needs Assessment (Kit Campbell Associates, 2005) reports that Southwick Country Park could be better utilised.

Social Issues

Although deprivation in the District is relatively low in national terms, some of West Wiltshire's wards, for example, Trowbridge Adcroft are amongst the most deprived in the country. There is no data however to gauge levels of social inclusion with respect to accessibility to recreation facilities, although the lack of facilities for teenage has been highlighted as a concern in the LRNA.

Crime and Anti-social Behaviour

The Leisure and Recreation Needs Assessment reports on safety concerns of the population using the recreational facilities within the District. Children play areas at the end of cul-de-sacs for example are considered potentially unsafe as they are unsupervised and often in isolated areas. Furthermore, few playgrounds have become meeting places for teenagers, and are not therefore used as children and parents feel threatened. Finally, there is a growing concern about vehicles using bridleways (Kit Campbell Associates, 2005).

¹⁵ West Wiltshire District Council Planning Development and Recreation Department

Local communities in the District are weary of disturbances due to drunk and rowdy people in the streets, a concern which is likely to influence the way people use the streets for informal recreation.

Between 2002 and 2004, the number of recorded crimes per 1,000 population in West Wiltshire has been stable or slightly decreasing, although the local Police reports that Trowbridge Adcroft, one of the most deprived wards, is constantly performing within the worst ten wards of the area. There is no specific data on crime and/or anti-social incidents linked to specific recreation areas.

Recreational Facilities

The Leisure and Recreation Needs Assessment reports that there are good ranges of indoor sport facilities but that they are in need of refurbishment, and that multifunctional greenspaces are generally of reasonable quality but suffer from vandalism problems. In addition, pitches and courts were found to be of poor quality and have drainage issues.

Many pitches, court facilities, equipped play areas, and five of the fourteen main indoor sports facilities are within education establishments. In many cases, the facilities are not open to the local community and/or after hours (Kit Campbell Associates, 2005).

In 2003/04, 60% of the residents in West Wiltshire were satisfied with the leisure and sport facilities. A target of 66% by 2010 has been set, and West Wiltshire is on the way to achieving this. Over the same time period, 77% of the residents in West Wiltshire were satisfied with parks and open spaces. A target of 80% by 2010 has been set.

Overall, it was found that the residents of West Wiltshire would like improved provisions rather than additional new ones. In addition, improved access to facilities and a balance between the number of pubs and cultural facilities needs to be addressed.

4.4 Main Social, Environmental and Economic Issues and Problems

The SEA regulations state that SEAs should report on the environmental problems experienced in the study area. The SA guidance (ODPM, 2005) extends this to the need to identify sustainability problems and opportunities.

This section describes sustainability problems, opportunities and issues that West Wiltshire's Leisure and Recreation DPD needs to address. These issues have been identified through:

- Discussions with West Wiltshire District Council officers;
- Review of the baseline data; and
- Review of other plans, programmes and sustainability objectives, especially the West Wiltshire Community Strategy 2004 – 2014 "West Wiltshire: a place to be proud of" which includes a comprehensive review of the community's views on what issues matter to them.

The issues identified are shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Key Sustainability Issues

Key Issue	Source / Evidence	Implications
Social Issues		
39% of people in West Wiltshire take no physical activity on a regular basis. The proportion of overweight and obese people is increasing, and this needs to be counteracted by focusing on healthy eating and physical activity.	"West Wiltshire: a place to be proud of"	The plan needs to provide better facilities, as the LRNA (July 2005) highlights. The facilities already available need better promotion.
People feel that new developments must have adequate community infrastructure in place.		The plan needs to identify the need for new housing developments to be balanced by recreational facilities.
Some market towns in West Wiltshire need regeneration to improve their physical appearance.		This is an issue for the core strategy of the LDF, although better management of green spaces can achieve physical improvements.
People are concerned about the drunk and rowdy behaviour – accidents of violent crime at weekend and during the night hours are on the increase.		This is difficult to address through the planning system although the plan needs to acknowledge that this is an issue especially when considering recreational facilities in town centres.
People feel that the Council should improve access to and participation in recreational facilities in West Wiltshire.		Work is needed on improving disabled access to existing facilities and requiring this of new facilities.
People feel that a need exists to provide more sports and leisure provision especially for young people, whose percentage of population is increasing.		The plan needs to include provision of more sports and leisure facilities for young people if possible.
People feel that the Council should provide better children's play areas. This should also take into account how this part of the population is increasing.		The plan needs to include provision of children's play areas.
Although deprivation in the district is relatively low within the national context, some of West Wiltshire's wards are amongst the most deprived in the country.	Baseline review	Recreational facilities should be accessible to lower income population.
In nearly 20% of Wiltshire wards 25% of children live in poverty. The worse affected wards included in West Wiltshire District are (2000): Warminster West, John of Gaunt (Trowbridge).		Improvement of children playgrounds can contribute to provide a free fun environment for children.

Key Issue	Source / Evidence	Implications
Environmental Issues		
People in West Wiltshire feel that protecting the environment should be a high priority.	"West Wiltshire: a place to be proud of" and baseline review	The SA will help in ensuring that the LRDPD takes environmental impacts into account.
People feel that improving access to open space is important: this could include provisions for a linking up of the existing county paths often starting and/or terminating at busy roads not provided with footpaths.		Provision should be made for access to open space/countryside in the RDPD.
People feel that villages need to be protected from over development. The target of 50% of new housing built on brownfields has not been reached yet. This means that the countryside is under pressure for development.		This is an issue for the core strategy of the LDF.
Economic Issues		
Greater support is needed for new local small scale economic development including enhancing business in the wider countryside.	"West Wiltshire: a place to be proud of"	This is an issue for the core strategy of the LDF and could possibly be addressed by recreation based businesses.
Access Issues		
People feel that greater emphasis should be placed on encouraging alternative transport especially walking and cycling and more cycle routes are needed.	"West Wiltshire: a place to be proud of"	Provision needs to be made for encouraging walking and cycling in the LRDPD.
People have concerns regarding the danger of traffic in residential areas.		The SA will need to consider safe access to facilities.
Some people feel socially excluded from travelling.		Better integration needed with public transport provision
Accessibility to recreation and leisure facilities, especially by disabled people is poor – there is not enough information and no activities locally. 3.6% of the population of the District was registered as disabled or permanently sick in 2001.		Work is needed on improving disabled/elderly access to existing facilities and requiring this of new facilities.
Increased car ownership means that the roads are becoming busier and less accessible to cyclist and pedestrians; improper vehicle use of bridleways and country paths might also increase.	Baseline review	Work is needed to ensure that cyclists and pedestrian routes are available, accessible and safe. Provision should be made for access to open space/countryside in the LRDPD.

4.5 Sustainability Appraisal Framework

This section outlines the Sustainability Appraisal framework that has been used to appraise the effects of the LRDPD Submission Draft.

Based on discussion with the District Council, the SA framework for the LRDPD is largely based on the framework used for the SA of the South West Regional Spatial Strategy. The sustainability objectives and indicators in the regional framework have thus been adapted to the specific context of West Wiltshire and the LRDPD.

The SA framework that has been used to appraise the sustainability effects of West Wiltshire's LRDPD is shown in Table 5. Shaded cells represent sub-objectives which are not of direct relevance to the LRDPD e.g. "Reduce the need to travel by air" or which are covered elsewhere e.g. "Meet local needs locally".

Only one comment on the SA framework was received during consultation on the Scoping report, as follows: *it is important when assessing recreation facilities that their impact upon water quantity is taken into account (i.e. high usage will deplete reserves, and low water levels may increase pollutant concentrations)*. In order to address this comment, impacts on water quantity as well as quality have been considered during the appraisal of the Preferred Options.

Table 5: Sustainability Appraisal Framework

High level regional sustainability objectives	Regional appraisal questions. Does the policy...	LRDPD SA Objectives	LRDPD SA Indicators. Will the plan help to...
Improve health	Improve health	<p>SA1: Improve the health and well being of the people of Wiltshire</p> <p>SA2: Increase the number of people who are regularly physically active</p>	<p>Encourage the use of parks and open spaces and ensure access for all.</p> <p>Increase the number of people participating in sports based activities.</p> <p>Increase the number of people, particularly young people, engaging in greater physical activity.</p> <p>Provide additional outlets for young people.</p>
	Reduce health inequalities		
	Promote healthy exercise, especially daily exercise		
Support communities that meet people's needs	Help make suitable housing available and affordable for everyone		
	Give everyone access to learning, training, skills and knowledge		
	Reduce crime and fear of crime	SA3: Provide recreational facilities which feel safe.	Promote well designed recreational facilities that help reduce opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour.

High level regional sustainability objectives	Regional appraisal questions. Does the policy...	LRDPD SA Objectives	LRDPD SA Indicators. Will the plan help to...
	Promote stronger more vibrant communities	Covered by objectives related to access to facilities.	
	Increase access to and participation in cultural activities		
Develop the economy in ways that meet people's needs	Give everyone in the region access to satisfying work opportunities, paid or unpaid		
	Help everyone afford a comfortable standard of living		
	Reduce poverty and income inequality		
	Meet local needs locally	SA4: Determine local standards for sport and recreation facilities in the district and develop recreational facilities to meet local needs; <i>also covered by objectives related to access to facilities.</i>	Achieve local standards for sport and recreational facilities in the district.
	Increase the circulation of wealth within the region		
	Harness the economic potential of the coast in a sustainable way		
	Reduce vulnerability of the economy to climate change and harness opportunities arising		
Provide access to meet people's needs with least damage to communities and	Reduce the need/desire to travel by car	SA5: Improve access by public transport to leisure services across public sector and partner agencies (LPSA2 modified).	Develop recreational facilities which have good access to public transport.
	Reduce the need/desire to travel by air		

High level regional sustainability objectives	Regional appraisal questions. Does the policy...	LRDPD SA Objectives	LRDPD SA Indicators. Will the plan help to...
the environment	Help everyone access basic services easily, safely and affordably	SA6: Improve access to leisure services across public sector and partner agencies (LPSA2 modified).	Increase the number of journeys possible by foot or cycle to recreation destinations.
	Make public transport, cycling and walking easier and more attractive	Covered in objectives related to access and travel by public transport and walking / cycling.	
	Encourage a switch from transporting freight by road to rail or water		
Maintain and improve environmental quality and assets	Protect and enhance habitats and species (taking account of climate change)	SA7: Ensure that scope for the protection and enhancement of wildlife is built into outdoor recreation / leisure facilities.	Increase opportunities for wildlife enhancement in recreation / leisure facilities; ensure no harm to protected species.
	Promote the conservation and wise use of land	SA8: Maximise the efficient use of existing recreational facilities; identify underused facilities.	Rationalise recreation / leisure facilities in the district.
	Protect and enhance landscape and townscape	SA9: Provide well designed recreational / leisure facilities which are appropriate in scale and appearance for their locality.	Provide well designed recreational / leisure facilities.
	Value and protect diversity and local distinctiveness including rural ways of life	SA10: Ensure recreation / leisure facilities reflect valued local distinctiveness and facilitate access to open space / countryside.	Provide recreation / leisure facilities which are in keeping with their surroundings.
	Maintain and enhance cultural and historical assets		
	Reduce vulnerability to flooding	SA11: Use leisure facilities to help reduce flood risk.	Use leisure facilities to help reduce flood risk.
Minimise consumption of natural resources	Reduce non renewable energy consumption and greenhouse emissions	SA12: Use renewable energy wherever possible in recreation / leisure facilities.	Encourage the use of renewable energy wherever possible in recreation / leisure facilities.

High level regional sustainability objectives	Regional appraisal questions. Does the policy...	LRDPD SA Objectives	LRDPD SA Indicators. Will the plan help to...
	Keep water consumption within local carrying capacity limits (taking account of climate change)	SA13: Reduce the amount of water used in council leisure facilities.	Help to reduce the amount of water used in Council leisure facilities.
	Minimise consumption and extraction of minerals	SA14: Use recycled aggregates in the construction and maintenance of recreation / leisure facilities wherever possible.	Increase the amount of recycled aggregates used.
	Reduce waste not put to any use	SA15: Increase the percentage of waste recycled or composted (Corporate plan) in the leisure and recreation industry. SA16: Reduce the proportion of waste (LPSA2) by using recycled products wherever possible.	Improve the recycling/composting level within the industry. Increase the amount of recycled materials used.
	Minimise land, water, air, light, noise, and genetic pollution	SA17: Contribute positively to AQMAs in Bradford on Avon and Westbury by 2005.	Increase the number of journeys possible by foot or cycle to recreation destinations.

NB: All regional appraisal questions are from the Strategic Sustainability Appraisal of the South West Regional Spatial Strategy

4.6 Internal Compatibility of SA Objectives

This section investigates whether there are potential conflicts or tensions between any of the SA objectives in Table 5.

The results of the compatibility assessment are summarised in Figure 1. This figure shows that most of the SA objectives are compatible (i.e. that they can be achieved without conflict), or that no relationship exists between objectives. Potential conflicts however might arise from optimising the number of facilities and the way they are managed, and ensuring that the local community is not deprived of recreation opportunities. The LRDPD will need to ensure that a balance is met between maximising the use of existing facilities and ensuring that enough facilities are provided in appropriate locations to meet local needs.

It also needs to be ensured that optimising the use of facilities (SA8) and ensuring that facilities in keeping with surrounding (SA10) are delivered without detriment to the protection and enhancement of wildlife (SA7). This uncertainty could be mitigated by ensuring impacts on wildlife are considered on a site by site basis and that where habitats or species of importance are found specific mitigation measures are put in place to avoid or reduce the effects.

Figure 1: Compatibility Assessment of SA Objectives.

Improved health and well being SA1																			
Increased physical activity SA2	C																		
Safe recreational facilities SA3	C	C																	
Local facilities for local needs SA4	C	C	-																
Accessibility by public transport SA5	C	C	-	C															
Accessibility by foot and cycles SA6	C	C	C	C	-														
Protect and enhance wildlife SA7	C	C	-	-	-	-													
Optimise use of facilities SA8	C	C	-	?	-	-	?												
Good quality designed facilities SA9	C	C	C	C	-	-	C	-											
Facilities in keeping with surrounding SA10	C	C	C	C	-	C	?	?	C										
Reduction of flood risk SA11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	C									
Use of renewable energy SA12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	C	-	-							
Reduced water use SA13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	C	-	-	-						
Recycled aggregates use SA14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	C	-	-	-	-					
Increase waste recycling SA15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	C	-	-	-	-	-	C			
Use recycled products SA16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	C	-	-	-	-	-	C	C		
Contribute to AQMA SA17	C	C	-	-	C	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	C	-	-	-	-	-	
	Improved health and well being	Increased physical activity	Safe recreational facilities	Local facilities for local needs	Accessibility by public transport	Accessibility by foot and cycles	Protect and enhance wildlife	Optimise use of facilities	Good quality designed facilities	Facilities in keeping with surrounding	Reduction of flood risk	Use of renewable energy	Reduced water use	Recycled aggregates use	Increase waste recycling	Use recycled products	Contribute to AQMA		

Legend

C	Objectives are compatible
?	Uncertainty over compatibility
N	Objectives are not compatible
-	No relationship between objectives

4.7 Compatibility of SA and Plan Objectives

A compatibility test has also been conducted to determine whether there are any potential conflicts between the proposed SA objectives and the LRDPD objectives.

The results in Figure 2 show that there are no apparent conflicts of interest between most of the SA objectives and the LRDPD objectives.

There is however some uncertainty on how eleven of the LRDPD issue-related objectives would contribute to the achievement of a number of SA objectives. It is not clear how the provision of facilities (indoor, outdoor, for children, for teenagers etc.) will take into account or ensure the use of renewable energy, recycled aggregates and recycled products. In addition, it is unclear how the provision of these facilities will encourage reduced water use and increased waste recycling. Furthermore, increased accessibility to the countryside, to Southwick Country Park and to rivers/lakes for water based activities might not be compatible with protection of the wildlife.

The key to Figure 2 is as follows:

C	Objectives are compatible
?	Uncertainty over compatibility
N	Objectives are not compatible
-	No relationship between objectives

Figure 2: Compatibility Assessment between SA Objectives and LRDPD Objectives

LRDPD objectives	Abridged SA Objectives																
	Improved health and well being (SA1)	Increased physical activity (SA2)	Safe recreational facilities (SA3)	Local facilities for local needs (SA4)	Accessibility by public transport (SA5)	Accessibility by foot and cycles (SA6)	Protect and enhance wildlife (SA7)	Optimise use of facilities (SA8)	Good quality designed facilities (SA9)	Facilities in keeping with surrounding (SA10)	Reduction of flood risk (SA11)	Use of renewable energy (SA12)	Reduced water use (SA13)	Recycled aggregates use (SA14)	Increase waste recycling (SA15)	Use recycled products (SA16)	Contribute to AQMA (SA17)
Deliver sustainable leisure and recreation facilities	C	C	-	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Provide a sufficient quantity of high quality and accessible ¹⁶ open spaces to meet local needs	C	C	-	C	C	C	?	?	C	C	-	-	?	-	-	-	-
Maximise access to the countryside for active and passive recreation	C	C	-	C	?	?	?	-	-	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	?
Provide well managed and maintained greenspaces	-	-	-	C	-	-	?	C	C	C	-	-	?	-	-	-	-
Provide high quality and accessible ¹⁶ indoor sports facilities to meet local needs	C	C	-	C	C	C	-	?	C	-	-	?	?	?	?	?	C
Provide high quality, imaginative and accessible ¹⁶ children's play areas	C	-	C	C	C	C	-	?	C	-	-	?	?	?	?	?	C
Provide high quality and accessible ¹⁶ outdoor sports facilities to meet local needs	C	C	-	C	C	C	?	?	C	-	-	?	?	?	?	?	C
Provide high quality and accessible ¹⁶ recreation facilities for teenagers to meet local needs	C	C	-	C	C	C	?	?	C	-	-	?	?	?	?	?	C
Support opportunities to develop a variety of water-based recreation activities	C	C	-	-	?	?	?	?	-	-	C	-	-	-	-	-	?
Develop a strategy for the use of Southwick Country Park	C	C	-	-	?	C	?	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Increase the amount of tree cover in the District in appropriate locations	C	-	-	-	-	-	C	-	-	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Promote out of hours access to school recreation facilities by the local community	C	C	-	C	?	?	-	C	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	-
Identify measures to adequately fund improvements to recreation facilities	-	-	-	C	-	-	-	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Develop a planning framework which takes a positive approach to addressing issues identified in the LRNA	C	C	C	C	?	?	?	C	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

¹⁶ Accessible by walking, cycling, public transport and for those with mobility needs.

5 Leisure and Recreation DPD Options

5.1 Initial Options

West Wiltshire District Council consulted upon a first set of options in an 'Issues and Options' report during the period October to November 2005 (West Wiltshire, 2005). The Council also consulted on a reduced and modified set of options in a 'Possible Preferred Options Consultation' report which was issued in March 2006.

5.2 Preferred Options (Stage 1)

Of the options from the Issues & Options stage 21 were not taken forward to the Preferred Options consulted on in June 2006 (West Wiltshire, 2006b) due to the following reasons:

- Lack of public support (e.g. sports hall at Kingston Mills site, Bradford on Avon);
- Lack of funding for initiatives such as developing a network of cycling routes, including between Trowbridge and Melksham;
- Poor performance of three options tested in the sustainability appraisal (i.e. options 6.5, 6.5a and 6.6);
- Need for a holistic approach of the review, and consequent refurbishment, of the eight Council leisure centres, rather than proposing site by site improvements; and
- Need for further consultation/understanding of local needs/actual use/technical assessment of current water-based facilities before proposing changes.

5.3 Preferred Options (Stage 2)

The changes that were made to the LRDPD Preferred Options (Stage 2) (West Wiltshire, 2007a) following the Preferred Options (Stage 1) included:

- Four new policies were introduced:
 - Policy LP5: New sport and recreation facilities;
 - Policy CR3: Greenspace Network;
 - Policy WR3: Kennet and Avon Canal; and
 - Policy WR4: Wilts and Berks Canal.
- Preferred Option 6.10 (Develop land at Hilperton Gap for outdoor sports provision and informal open space) was amended to extend public access at land within the Hilperton Gap, Hilperton.
- Although options 3.5 (Encourage development of 'friends' groups to help manage local greenspaces) and 3.6 (Encourage parish and town councils to take greater responsibility for management of local greenspaces) were not taken forward from the Issues and Options stage to Preferred Options (Stage 1), they were re-introduced and consulted on at Preferred Options Stage 2.
- One of the options at the Preferred Options (Stage 1) was a Planning Policy. This policy was a composite option made up of different parts. This Planning Policy was split up into more defined elements for the Preferred Options Stage 2 consultation.
- The LRDPD options were grouped differently in the Preferred Options Stage 2 document, and were formulated as policies.

5.4 Submission Draft

The changes made to the policies since the consultation on the previous Preferred Options (Stage 2) are reflected in this SA Report. The policies included in the LRDPD Submission Draft (West Wiltshire, 2007b) are outlined below in Table 6.

To allow the reader to follow changes to the options, linkages between the policies put forward in the Preferred Options (Stage 2) document (Wiltshire, 2007a) and the Preferred Options consulted on in June 2006 (West Wiltshire, 2006b) are included in Table 6.

Changes made to the policies put forward in the LRDPD Submission Draft (West Wiltshire, 2007b) are included as *italics* in Table 6. The main changes to the document include the slight alteration of nine policies and the deletion of preferred Option 6.10 (*'The District Council will seek to extend public access to the greenspace network at land within the Hilperton Gap, Hilperton'*) from the policy CR3: Greenspace network.

Table 6: LRDPD Submission Draft Policies

<p>Policy LP1: Protection and enhancement of existing open space or sport and recreation provision Previous preferred option: Planning Policy</p> <p>High value and high quality open space and sport and recreation provision will be protected from development for other land uses. Wherever possible, these facilities should be enhanced to meet identified local needs.</p>
<p>Policy LP2: Proposals that involve the loss of open space or sport and recreation provision Previous preferred option: Planning Policy</p> <p>Proposals that result in the loss of open spaces or sport and recreation facilities will only be permitted where the site that will be lost is surplus to requirements and is not significant in terms of nature conservation or <i>landscape or settlement character</i>. This will be subject to the following policy tests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) The site that will be lost is clearly surplus to requirements in terms of its current use, and there is no need for it to be used for a different form of open space or sport and recreation provision; or(ii) The development will result in the enhancement of other existing spaces or facilities - this will represent a greater benefit to the community served by the provision that will be lost than retaining the previous facilities; or(iii) The development will result in replacement provision that will be at least as accessible, at least equivalent in terms of attractiveness and quality, and capable of accommodating and sustaining at least the same levels and types of use as the provision that will be lost; or(iv) The proposed development is ancillary to the use of land used for sport and physical recreation and will not adversely affect either the level of use it can sustain or the quality of provision. <p>The District Council has carried out a comprehensive needs assessment and will maintain an up-to-date assessment of local open spaces and recreation facilities. This assessment forms the evidence base for the above policy tests.</p> <p><i>Particular regard should be paid in applying these policy tests to the overall lack of open space provision Bradford on Avon and Melksham and to local deficiencies in accessible open space.</i></p>

Policy LP3: Review of low value sites**Previous preferred options: 1.1, 1.2, 3.1, 5.2 and 12.1**

The District Council will review those spaces classed in the latest leisure and recreation needs assessment as being of low value in the light of wider planning policies, taking account of the accessibility, quality and value of alternative provision in the area, the views of the local community, and the resources available to the District Council.

The staged review of spaces will consider the following order of priority:

- (i) retain the site and enhance it when resources allow;
- (ii) retain the site and convert it to the most appropriate alternative form of greenspace use when resources allow;
- (iii) consider disposal for other uses and use the money in the vicinity of the land sold to enhance existing spaces or facilities of more value to the local community.

Particular regard should be paid in applying these policy tests to the overall lack of open space provision Bradford on Avon and Melksham and to local deficiencies in accessible open space.

Policy LP4: Providing recreation facilities in new developments**Previous preferred options: Planning Policy and 12.3**

Where new development (especially housing) creates a need for access to open space or sport and recreation provision, an assessment will be made as to whether a contribution to open space or sport and recreation provision is required.

Depending on the size of the proposed development, its location and likely impact in terms of increasing the demand pressures on open space and sport and recreation provision, developers may be required to:

1. Make on-site provision; or
2. Fund off-site provision; or
3. Fund the enhancement of off-site provision; or
4. Provide a mix of the above.

A condition will be imposed to achieve the first of these outcomes and a planning agreement will be required to achieve the second or third. The fourth outcome will require a condition and a planning agreement.

Any necessary provision will be calculated taking into account the quantity standards and distance thresholds set out in this document.

Any necessary provision will be delivered in phase with development.

Policy LP5: New sport and recreation facilities**New option**

Proposals for new sport and recreation facilities within the District will be supported provided that they meet needs identified in an up to date needs assessment, are located at the most accessible location *possible at the settlements they are intended to serve, are readily accessible by sustainable modes of transport and are in accordance with the principles of sustainable development.*

Proposals for new open space provision in Bradford on Avon and Melksham or for new sports pitch provision in Bradford on Avon, Melksham, Trowbridge and Westbury will be particularly encouraged given the current lack of facilities at these towns.

Policy OS1: New artificial turf pitch provision**Previous preferred options: 6.1 and 6.2**

The District Council will support, and facilitate where it can, the development of artificial turf provision on school sites, specifically:

- (i) third generation artificial turf pitches, designed to support multi-team and multi-age community clubs, on secondary school sites;

(ii) an athletics facility on a suitable school site.

Policy OS2: New grass pitch provision

Previous preferred options: 6.3, 6.4, 6.7, 6.8 and 6.11

Proposals for the development of grass sports pitches and ancillary facilities will be permitted at the following locations:

- A Land at Woolmore Farm, Melksham;
- B Land adjacent to Woodmarsh, North Bradley;
- C Lafarge sports ground, Westbury;
- D Vivash Park, Westbury.

Provided that development protects and where possible enhances wildlife habitats, historic and landscape features, delivers a sustainable drainage solution and creates a safe and convenient connection to existing pedestrian, cycle and public transport networks and the highway without creating transport problems. Acceptable mitigation measures will be implemented where appropriate.

Policy CR1: Footpaths and Rights of Way

Previous preferred options: 2.1 and 2.4

The public rights of way network will be protected from development for other land uses and extensions and improvements will be sought, where appropriate, as part of development proposals.

The public rights of way network will be reviewed and plans implemented to:

- (i) Improve the network through better designed and accessible furniture, signage, waymarking and interpretation boards, lighting and maintenance;
- (ii) Extend the network to make new, better or safer linkages between routes and with public transport.

In Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the development and maintenance of the network will conserve and where possible enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the landscape.

Policy CR2: Country Parks

Previous preferred options: 8.5 and 9.0

Country parks will be protected from development for uses other than recreational and enhanced *for recreation and wildlife* where possible at the following locations:

- A Biss Meadows, Trowbridge
- B Paxcroft Brook, Hilperton
- C Southwick
- D Barton Farm, Bradford on Avon

At Biss Meadows and Paxcroft Brook, enhancements and extensions will be sought through negotiations on the development of adjacent allocated housing sites.

At Southwick, the District Council will maintain the current uses on site and make improvements to signage and maintenance regimes to meet local visitor needs and to enhance biodiversity.

At Barton Farm, there are opportunities to develop better public access to the River Avon for bathing, rowing, canoeing and angling as well as improve visitor interpretation and habitat enhancement.

Policy CR3: Greenspace Network

New option (Previous Preferred Option 6.10 has now been removed from this option)

The development of a greenspace network will be sought in and around the urban areas within the District. Development proposals will be permitted which extend and enhance existing riverside walks and recreational areas *and fragmented habitats* and

seek to secure and maintain public access to the banks of rivers and canals *and other habitats, where they will have no adverse impacts on wildlife*. The establishment of Local Nature Reserves as part of the network will be addressed.

Policy GM1: Maintenance of existing open space

Previous preferred option: 3.3

The District Council will implement a flexible and varied maintenance regime rather than a uniform approach across all spaces. Maintenance arrangements will take into consideration:

- (i) the role and function of local spaces;
- (ii) local needs;
- (iii) *the need to maintain and where possible to enhance wildlife and biodiversity;*
- (iv) local landscape and townscape character;
- (v) the need to create safe, adaptable and accessible spaces.

Policy GM2: Management and maintenance of new or enhanced open space

Previous preferred option: Planning policy

Developers will be required to make arrangements for the long term management and maintenance of all new or enhanced provision resulting from development *including management for wildlife*. This may be achieved by:

- (i) The developers making acceptable arrangements for management and maintenance in perpetuity;
- (ii) The District Council adopting the new or enhanced provision (assuming it does not already own it), at no cost to the authority, together with a commuted maintenance sum sufficient to fund management and maintenance for a period of 20 years.

Policy GM3: Future management partnerships

Previous preferred options: 3.5 and 3.6

The District Council will work with "friends" groups and other partner organisations to identify the best approach to the future management and maintenance of public open space. New arrangements will be subject to local consultation.

Policy IS1: Indoor leisure centres

Previous preferred options: 4.1, 4.3 and 4.10

The District Council will develop a programme for the refurbishment and/or replacement of the following Council owned leisure centres:

Blue Pool, Melksham
Christie Miller Sports Centre, Bowerhill
Bradford on Avon Pool
Trowbridge Sports Centre
Castle Place Leisure Centre, Trowbridge
Westbury Pool
Leighton Recreation Centre, Westbury
Warminster Sports Centre

Policy IS2: Joint indoor leisure centres

Previous preferred options: 4.2 and 11.1

When considering the provision of new or replacement indoor sports facilities, the District Council will investigate with the County Council and secondary schools the potential for joint facility developments.

Policy YP1: Children's play areas

Previous preferred options: 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5

The District Council will, working with partner organisations, develop a Play Strategy to:

- (i) identify needs and opportunities;
- (ii) develop a suitable hierarchy of provision;

- (iii) develop a new approach to the delivery of facilities based on better and more imaginative play facilities with innovation and active play as the focus of provision;
- (iv) develop a suitable quality standard for existing and future play facilities which reflects the needs of children and young people, and widens opportunities for play within the local environment.

Policy YP2: Provision for teenagers

Previous preferred options: 7.1 and 7.2

The District Council will consult with local teenagers and youth groups to provide a network of facilities that meet needs and comply with adopted quantity and accessibility standards and with appropriate quality standards.

Policy WR1: Sailing lakes

Previous preferred option: 8.1

The recreational use of existing sailing lakes at Westbury and Shearwater will be safeguarded and development proposals will be permitted which enhance such use, subject to environmental and highway considerations.

Proposals for further new sailing lakes and associated facilities will be permitted elsewhere in the District having regard to location, environmental and highway considerations, in consultation with the Environment Agency.

The District Council, working with partner organisations, will investigate the current constraints on, and potential for consolidating, sailing at Westbury and Shearwater lakes. If there is a need, the Council will consider options for creating new sailing lakes.

Policy WR2: River based recreation

Previous preferred option: 8.5

Proposals to develop river areas for better public access and for all types of water sports, including fishing, bathing, rowing and canoeing will be encouraged provided that they do not adversely affect the water quality or quantity, amenity, visual quality or value as a wildlife habitat of a river or watercourse and associated wetlands.

The County Council working with partner organisations will investigate opportunities to increase public access to river areas.

Policy WR3: Kennet and Avon Canal

New option

Proposals for recreational and tourist development on the Kennet and Avon Canal will be permitted, provided they do not detract from the navigation of the canal, its ecological value or its local environment. The development should be integrated into the existing footpath, cycleway and public transport network and highway access and parking issues should be satisfactorily resolved.

Policy WR4: Wilts and Berks Canal

New option

The restoration and reconstruction of the Wilts and Berks Canal as a navigable waterway is supported in principle. Proposals will be permitted that are designed to develop the canals recreational and nature conservation potential, in particular the use of the old line of the canal for walking, *cycling* and interpretation. The historic alignment of the canal will be protected from inappropriate development with a view to its re-establishment as part of a navigable waterway and development which is likely to destroy the original alignment of the canal or its associated works will be resisted.

The Canal Partnership will search for a new line for the canal at Melksham to join the old line at or before the border with North Wiltshire District. Proposals for a new line must demonstrate there will be no overall adverse effect on *cultural heritage* and the natural environment.

Policy TC1: Trees**Previous preferred options: 10.1, 10.2 and 10.3**

To maintain and increase the amount of tree cover in the District, important trees which provide amenity value will be protected and new tree planting will be sought having regard to the character of the local landscape or townscape *and local habitat*. The planting of native species characteristic of the local area (and having regard to the changing climate) should be provided wherever appropriate.

Policy SC1: Dual-use of school facilities**Previous preferred option: 11.1**

Proposals for the dual use of school playing fields and indoor sports facilities will be encouraged to help meet the needs of local communities.

5.5 How Social, Environmental and Economic Issues were Considered in the Selection of Preferred Options

The SA/SEA of West Wiltshire's LRDPD has been an iterative and ongoing process, and has informed the development of the LRDPD during various stages of its preparation.

The SA process assisted in the definition of the Preferred Options (Stage 1) by providing the consultees and the Council's Officers with an assessment of the potential effects of the alternatives at different stages:

- To aid the consultation, all the options within the Issues and Options report were assessed against the 17 SA objectives. This was reported in a SA Working Note published on the District's website (TRL, 2006a). The Working Note examined 67 options subdivided in 13 key issues and included an assessment of "do nothing" options, reflecting the "evolution without the plan";
- The Council's Officers used the assessment within the Working Note and the consultation responses to define the Possible Preferred Options; and
- The assessment of the Possible Preferred Options and the results of the consultation on the Possible Preferred Options were used to define the Preferred Options which were consulted upon during the period June – July 2006.

The SA of the Preferred Options (Stage 1) furthermore informed the content of the Preferred Options (Stage 2) document in the following ways:

- Clarifying the key issues emerging from the spatial portrait of the District;
- Identifying the common themes arising from the policy framework;
- Amending the vision and key components of the DPD, in particular emphasising the need for a safe and secure but challenging environment for play, equal opportunities for access to facilities, meeting the needs of those with access issues, the value of the countryside and landscape for its contribution to emotional, physical and mental health, and ensuring that local communities are involved in the maintenance of greenspaces and access routes;
- Developing the key objective of delivering sustainable development;
- Assisting with the evaluation of alternative options to develop preferred options (e.g. GM3);
- Ensuring that the development of policy wording from preferred options meets the key components of the vision and the key objective of delivering sustainable development (e.g. Policies LP5, CR1-3, GM1, WR3, TC1); and

- Assisting with the development of an appropriate monitoring framework.

The SA of the Preferred Options (Stage 2) has informed the content of the Submission Draft in the following ways:

- Ensuring spatial objectives take into account accessibility by public transport or by foot and cycle;
- Helping to clarify the key spatial elements of this LRDPD;
- Identifying the need to clarify the relationship between this LRDPD and other plans, strategies and processes that will be implemented;
- Identifying the need for additional site specific investigation to examine potential unsustainable or uncertain effects;
- Identifying the need for supporting text to policy OS2 to ensure potential site specific adverse affects are taken into account at design stage; and
- Assisting with the development of the monitoring framework.

Consultation comments on the SA have also resulted in changes to the LRDPD, including clarifying and making more explicit that options have been tested through sustainability appraisal.

5.6 Comparison of Social, Environmental and Economic Effects of Preferred Options

The full assessment of the LRDPD Submission Draft is presented in Appendix F, while the summaries of the assessment of each option are presented in Table 7 and Table 8.

Please note that the assessment presented within this SA Report is based on the assessments presented in the previous SA Reports (TRL, 2006b; TRL 2007) and the SA working note of issues and options (TRL, 2006a). A table showing the alterations between Stage 1 and Stage 2 Preferred Options is included in Appendix F.

Table 7 Summaries of the Option Assessment

Preferred option	Summary of assessment
<p>LP1: Protection & enhancement of existing open space or sport & recreation provision</p>	<p>The policy implements the first step within a hierarchy of protection of local facilities of highest quality and most value to the local communities. This, for open spaces, will be delivered through a future strategy. It is recommended that principles of environmental protection and resource efficiency should be taken into account when considering spaces to protect and enhancements. Finally, accessibility through sustainable means of transport should also be enhanced.</p>
<p>LP2: Proposals that involve the loss of open space or sport & recreation provision</p>	<p>The policy provides a list of tests for ensuring that only low value spaces are lost to development. The first test assumes that any development would be permitted on surplus open spaces. It could be made clearer that there will be links with other LDDs or SPDs and the LTP to ensure that any of such developments respect the principles of sustainable development and do not have secondary negative impacts, e.g. increase in demand for open spaces/recreation, worst air quality. This is partly addressed through planning policy LP4.</p>
<p>LP3: Review of low value sites</p>	<p>The enhancement of low value spaces could result in increased patronage and therefore improved health, well being and increased physical activity for the local community. Furthermore, depending on the nature of the enhancement measures, sustainable enhancement practices can be implemented – from using recycled materials to ensuring better management of water. However, budget constraints might limit the extent of green space being enhanced, thereby reducing the potential for improving health and well being.</p> <p>Improvement of low value spaces has a potentially significant and permanent local effect on the health of the community and its cohesiveness if the spaces are improved taking into account local needs and standards.</p> <p>The conversion of low value spaces to other green space uses is good practice as it does not deprive local communities of any green space but hopefully provides them with more attractive space which is closer to meeting their requirements, providing this matches local needs. This could result in increased patronage and improvements to health and quality of life. Depending on their nature, conversion works can be an opportunity to implement sustainable practices – from using recycled materials in construction to ensuring better management practices. Providing a significant number of low value spaces can be converted within the Council’s budget, this option should ensure good use of resources. Care should be taken to ensure that biodiversity is protected or enhanced and that increased patronage is managed to limit any increase in traffic.</p> <p>The effects of the conversions are potentially significant at local level and permanent on the community (health, well being and satisfaction of local needs). This option will perform best in areas where the LRNA has ascertained surplus of certain facilities (some of which are underused) but shortage of others.</p> <p>The effects of site disposal would depend on how green spaces are used and the vicinity to the nearest alternative facilities. The disposal of green spaces for development could cause loss of wildlife and habitats. The disposal of under-valued sites could also lead to loss of amenity for those sections of local communities using the spaces. In the bigger picture, the Council would be able to concentrate its spending onto sites with highest potential, thus gaining an opportunity for improving the overall quality of green space facilities provided.</p>

Preferred option	Summary of assessment
	<p>Links with other LDDs are necessary to ensure that development on former green space and enhancement of nearby facilities is sustainable. The option is potentially self-mitigating as the income from the sale would be spent on the closest spaces serving the community, although care must be taken to ensure that the available facilities are accessible to all (children cyclists, pedestrians) and that any habitat lost is compensated. However, value to the wildlife should be also taken into account during the decision process.</p> <p>The significance of the effects is very much dependent on the balance between loss (and final use) of space and improvements to other local green areas. The effects are likely to be permanent.</p> <p>The conversion of low value children’s play areas to other open space uses, or their disposal, could be good practice for the whole community but only if the interests of local children are safeguarded and appropriate compensation and mitigation measures are put into place. Loss of children’s play areas can be difficult to compensate as children alone cannot travel too far for alternative facilities. The conversion/use of income on nearest sites might benefit the community by providing more attractive spaces. This could result in increased patronage and improvements to health and quality of life in general. Depending on their nature, conversion works can be an opportunity to implement sustainable practices – from using recycled materials in construction to ensuring better management practices.</p> <p>The effects of the conversions and/or disposal are potentially very significant at local level and permanent for the community, both in a positive sense (health, well being and satisfaction of local needs of the overall community) and negative sense (loss of facilities for children).</p>
<p>LP4: Providing recreation facilities in new developments</p>	<p>Providing recreation facilities in new developments should be beneficial both new and existing local communities. It is believed that, through planning conditions and agreements, any increased pressure on existing recreation spaces from new developments will be mitigated. There might be some short term negative effects while the open space lost is under development but the enhanced facilities or the new facilities are still not available. Some of the impacts associated with the loss of green space (e.g. passive recreation) might not be mitigated from enhancements. Developers’ contributions could be used to mitigate any potential negative effect on wildlife from increased access to open space and to ensure any secondary effects e.g. increased traffic, effects on air quality, are mitigated or, better, prevented through links with other local plans.</p>
<p>LP5: New sport & recreation facilities</p>	<p>The review of the need for major new facilities and construction following sustainable development principles is likely to have positive effects. Although effects on wildlife and on air quality are uncertain as they will depend on the location of the facilities. For example, if the new facilities are located in town centres they could contribute negatively to local air quality.</p>
<p>OS1: New artificial turf pitch provision</p>	<p>Enhancing school sites through construction of multi-use facilities is beneficial to the schools themselves and to the community, depending on extent of access to wider community. Increased effectiveness and availability of outdoor sports facilities is likely to encourage the community’s participation in healthy activities – particularly as pitches are multi-use and are likely to appeal to more people. An athletics training facility could encourage the population to take up more sporting activities and benefit the pupils of the local school where the site was developed. On the other hand, the effects might be limited if athletics appeals to only a small proportion of the population.</p>

Preferred option	Summary of assessment
OS2: New grass pitch provision	<p>Developing a number of multi-pitch grass sites throughout West Wilshire is likely to benefit many people. However, depending on how it was funded, this might be an expensive option due to the maintenance requirements, as highlighted in the LRNA. The more significant and permanent effects are likely to be on the health and well being of the population and on water resources if water efficiency measures were not put into place for the maintenance of the pitches. Furthermore, significant contrasting effects might be expected on the optimisation of resources, as new pitches are needed and will probably be well used, but they are expensive to build and maintain.</p> <p><i>A - Land at Woolmore Farm, Melksham</i></p> <p>This proposal has been put forward by the County Council and would compensate the potential loss of the Christie Miller facility to employment development. The most significant positive effects are on the level of provision of facilities, and consequently the health and well being of the District's population. There are however potential negative effects linked to the loss of countryside, potential impact on a grade II*/ listed building and the fact that the site is not easily accessible. Development at this site is linked to the development of a secondary school on adjacent land and the development of the school should facilitate accessibility improvements to the area (e.g. new buses, cycleways and paths).</p> <p><i>B - Land adjacent to Woodmarsh, North Bradley</i></p> <p>This is a good opportunity for the club and would potentially free up space for junior sporting clubs. However, impacts on the local community (e.g. loss of agricultural land and amenity) and the potential impact on the wildlife in the short term will need to be taken into consideration.</p> <p><i>C - Lafarge sports ground, Westbury</i></p> <p>Developing a new community sports club on the Lafarge site could be a good opportunity to improve quality and provision of outdoor sports facilities. Effects would depend on current state of the site, the way in which the new sports club was developed, and how the development was funded including trade-offs within the Council's overall budget. Potential negative effects on safety and on accessibility, as the site is 1.1 miles from Westbury and is served by a narrow and unlit access.</p> <p><i>D - Vivash Park, Westbury</i></p> <p>This proposal has been put forward by the District Council. The most significant positive effects are on the level of provision of facilities, and consequently the health and well being of the district's population. Linkages to existing network of public transport and cycling/pedestrian paths might need exploring. The effects are dependent on the effective development of the site, as land ownership has been identified as an issue.</p>
CR1: Footpaths & Rights of Way	<p>Improving the linkages within the network of cycle ways and pathways is likely to enhance health, well being and satisfaction of the local communities that benefit from these improvements. This option may be very effective as it enhances the existing facilities through linkage, although benefits will largely be limited to the communities living in the vicinity of parts of the network that are improved. Furthermore, any</p>

Preferred option	Summary of assessment
	<p>improved access to the countryside should be balanced with enhanced protection of wildlife, which may be disturbed by increased patronage. This is partly mitigated through considerations on integration with Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The effects could be significant in particular on the health and well being of the community.</p> <p>This option, which has arisen through the consultation on the I&O Report, represents the community's desire for improved existing pathways to enhance accessibility to the countryside. Improvements could enable more sections of the community to use the paths, thus potentially also improving social inclusion. The most significant effects are on issues such as optimisation of resources and good quality design that meets the expectations of the local community, as this is a relatively low-budget but very effective measure advocated by the population which improves the existing assets. This option is likely to have significant and permanent effects due to the community interest – although the new signs, lights etc. will need maintenance.</p>
CR2: Country parks	<p>Providing increased access for canoeing and other water sport activities on waterways should benefit healthy lifestyles. Mitigation measures may be needed to avoid impacts from increased usage (e.g. traffic, disturbance to wildlife). The policy may provide some enhancements to wildlife as improvements to maintenance regimes could also help to benefit biodiversity.</p>
CR3: Greenspace network	<p>Linking facilities together in a network will enhance their value and also provide for additional informal recreation spaces. Secondary positive effects include providing safer routes for cycling and walking for leisure and personal transport. Extending or enhancing fragmented habitats could protect or enhance wildlife.</p> <p>Significant effects linked to the increased provision of informal recreational facilities. The site is also already covered by a network of footpaths.</p>
GM1: Maintenance of existing open space	<p>The proposed maintenance regime could be quite effective in focusing on the facilities in most need of improvements. A clear set of criteria and priorities accompany this option to try and ensure its effectiveness. Local consultation should be pursued to ensure that the right facilities are targeted and the changes proposed meet local needs. The most significant effect is on meeting the needs of the local community. The need to respect and enhance landscape and townscape and wildlife and biodiversity is recognised.</p>
GM2: Management & maintenance of new/enhanced open space	<p>This policy is likely to benefit the population and wildlife as facilities should be managed and maintained in the long term. The Council should ensure that sustainability principles are taken into account within the perpetual agreements. It is not clear how and if adaptation of existing facilities to changed needs could be included within these agreements.</p>
GM3: Future management partnerships	<p>Collaboration from local "friends" of the greenspace is likely to have many positive effects. The local community would feel more involved and interested in a space they feel ownership of. The spaces would therefore reflect more the needs of the community itself and would be used more, thus improving the health and well being of the community. Voluntary work might also reduce the Council's maintenance costs. Assigning the management of greenspaces to parish and town councils is likely to have a positive effect on the involvement of local communities. Devolving management responsibilities to local parish and town councils may also result in the redistribution of the Council's</p>

Preferred option	Summary of assessment
	maintenance budget.
IS1: Indoor leisure centres	<p>Improved signage could contribute to increased use of existing facilities and would have some positive effect on the accessibility of local facilities. The relocation of the Castle Place Leisure Centre, for which a planning consent has been approved, would improve significantly the accessibility of the facility as well as solve safety problems which potentially limit the patronage of the centre. The new facility should be built in line with principles of sustainable construction.</p> <p>The holistic approach to the refurbishment of all indoor facilities managed by the District Council is likely to be beneficial to the whole community, as it should provide the best provision within the budget available. Specific site decisions should be subject to consultation with the local community to ensure they meet local needs. The refurbishment should be seen as an opportunity for the District Council to specify sustainable construction practices.</p> <p>The most significant and permanent effects of the whole approach would be on the community, in terms of improved health, well being and increased physical activity. There should also be a significant effect on optimisation of resources.</p>
IS2: Joint indoor leisure centres	<p>This option could ensure that a more holistic approach is taken to the management of the existing facilities within the District, thus enabling authorities to find the best compromise between budget, quality, number and range of provisions for the community. The most significant effects of the approach are likely to be on the level and quality of provision and accessibility for the local community.</p> <p>Opening school facilities to local community use will encourage more people to take up healthy activities, although the venues might need to be adapted to sustain this increased use. The most significant effects are therefore on the level of community participation to sporting activities.</p>
YP1: Children's play areas	<p>Better use of the resources available should guarantee better provision of facilities, although provision would be concentrated around fewer sites. Appropriate measures should be put in place to ensure that the facilities are created, managed and used in the most sustainable way. If sites are disposed of, the effects of this option will depend on how disposed sites are used and proximity to alternative sites. There could be a loss of accessibility as a result of reduced number of play areas, and a loss of wildlife and habitats if disposed sites are used to build developments.</p> <p>The effects, both positive (due to better facilities) and negative (due to reduction in numbers) are likely to be significant. The option is self mitigating as better facilities are provided, although further measures might need to be introduced to ensure all children can easily access those better but fewer facilities.</p>
YP2: Provision for teenagers	<p>This option has some effect on SA4 "Local facilities for local needs". The outcome of the consultation is a fact finding exercise which will inform the District's Officers on the best way forward.</p> <p>This option would provide the necessary facilities advocated by the whole community and the teenagers in particular. The effectiveness of this strategy will greatly depend on the level of engagement with the teenagers and the rest of the community – it will be informed by the</p>

Preferred option	Summary of assessment
	outcomes of the consultation.
WR1: Sailing lakes	This option has the most significant effects on optimisation of facilities, as it is likely to be more cost effective to “refurbish” the existing lakes to satisfy local needs. If good facilities are offered, more people could be attracted to enjoy the spaces for formal and informal use. Westbury and Shearwater lakes are established facilities which the locals already use, but links with the LTP and other LDDs are needed to ensure access by public transport. Depending on the existing habitats and wildlife in and around the lakes, development or increased access of the facilities may have a negative effect, but development and maintenance regimes could also be used to encourage and enhance biodiversity through the creation/management of wildlife habitats.
WR2: River based recreation	Providing more access for canoeing and other sport activities on waterways throughout the district will provide more options for healthy activities. Mitigation measures need putting in place to limit impacts from increased usage (e.g. traffic, disturbance to wildlife). Most significant effects on increased opportunities for engaging in sporting activities. Potential positive effects on biodiversity providing thought is given to appropriate design and planting.
WR3: Kennet and Avon Canal	Development of recreational facilities on the Canal will have positive benefits on accessibility of the waterway and on the walking and cycling provisions. There might be some effects on the wildlife from increased accessibility. These effects and mitigation measures should be taken into account within the development.
WR4: Wilts and Berks Canal	Restoration of the canal line and use of the old line for walking will provide benefits to the population through increase in provision of recreational facilities. Developing a new line might provide an opportunity for integrating flood relief measures. Wildlife protection measures and potentially enhancements should be taken into account. Potential positive effects on the creation/management of wildlife habitats. Although the reinstatement of the missing link at the canal at Melksham would require some land take. This could have adverse effects depending on the habitat and wildlife value of the site where the cut is taken (NB: no specific route has been identified at present).
TC1: Trees	Tree planting can potentially increase biodiversity. The effects of an increase in trees has been assessed at a very general level but as it is not clear to what extent new trees would be planted, or in which areas, it would be appropriate to assess the policy itself once developed, within the appropriate context.
SC1: Dual-use of school facilities	Opening facilities to local community use will encourage more people to take up healthy activities, although the venues might need to be adapted to sustain this increased use. The most significant effects are therefore on the level of community participation to sporting activities.

Table 8: Summary of Sustainability Appraisal Findings

SA/SEA Objective (abridged)	1. Improved health and wellbeing	2. Increased physical activity	3. Safe recreational facilities	4. Local facilities for local needs	5. Accessibility by public transport	6. Accessibility by foot and cycles	7. Protect and enhance wildlife	8. Optimise use of facilities	9. Good quality designed facilities	10. Facilities in keeping with surroundings	11. Reduction of flood risk	12. Use of renewable energy	13. Reduced water use	14. Recycled aggregate use	15. Increase waste recycling	16. Use recycled products	17. Contribute to AQMA
LP1: Protection & enhancement of existing open space or sport & recreation provision																	
Preferred option: Planning Policy	?	?	?	✓	?	?	?	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	?
LP2: Proposals that involve the loss of open space or sport & recreation provision																	
Preferred option: Planning Policy	?	✓	?	✓	?	?	?	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?
LP3: Review of low value sites																	
Preferred option: 1.2(i)	✓	✓	?	✓	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	-	?	?
Preferred option: 1.2(ii)	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	?	?	✓	?	?	?	?	?	?	-	?	?
Preferred option: 1.2(iii)	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	✓	?	?	?	?	?	?	-	?	?
Preferred option: 3.1	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	✓	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Preferred option: 5.2	?	?	✓	?	?	?	?	✓	?	?	?	?	?	?	-	?	?
LP4: Providing recreation facilities in new developments																	
Preferred option: Planning Policy	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	?	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?
LP5: New sport & recreation facilities																	
New option	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	?	?	-	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?
OS1: New artificial turf pitch provision																	
Preferred option: 6.1	✓	✓✓	?	✓	?	?	?	✓	?	?	?	?	?	?	-	?	?
Preferred option: 6.2	✓	✓	?	✓	?	?	?	✓	?	?	-	?	?	?	-	?	?
OS2: New grass pitch provision																	
Preferred option: 6.3	✓✓	✓✓	-	✓	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	*	?	-	?	?
Preferred option: 6.4	✓	✓	*	✓	*	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	-	?	-
Preferred option: 6.7	?	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	-	?	-

Table 8: Summary of Sustainability Appraisal Findings (continued)

SA/SEA Objective (abridged)	1. Improved health and wellbeing	2. Increased physical activity	3. Safe recreational facilities	4. Local facilities for local needs	5. Accessibility by public transport	6. Accessibility by foot and cycles	7. Protect and enhance wildlife	8. Optimise use of facilities	9. Good quality designed facilities	10. Facilities in keeping with surroundings	11. Reduction of flood risk	12. Use of renewable energy	13. Reduced water use	14. Recycled aggregate use	15. Increase waste recycling	16. Use recycled products	17. Contribute to AQMA
Preferred option: 6.8	?	✓	?	✓	?	?	?	?	?	✘	✘	?	?	?	-	?	-
Preferred option: 6.11	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	-	?	-
CR1: Footpaths & Rights of Way																	
Preferred option: 2.1	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓✓	?	✓	?	?	?	-	-	?	-	?	✓
Preferred option: 2.4	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	?	✓	?	?	-	?	-	?	-	?	✓
CR2: Country parks																	
Preferred option: 8.5	✓	✓	-	✓✓	?	✓	?	-	?	✓	?	-	-	-	-	-	?
Preferred option: 9.0	✓	✓	✓	?	-	✓	✓	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CR3: Greenspace network																	
New option	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	-	✓✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓
GM1: Maintenance of existing open space																	
Preferred option: 3.3	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GM2: Management & maintenance of new/enhanced open space																	
Preferred option: Planning policy	✓✓	✓✓	-	-	-	-	✓	✓✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GM3: Future management partnerships																	
Preferred option: 3.5	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	-	-	?	✓	-	?	-	-	-	-	?	-	-
Preferred option: 3.6	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	-	-	?	✓	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IS1: Indoor leisure centres																	
Preferred option: 4.1	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Preferred option: 4.3	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	?	-	✓	✓	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	-
Preferred option: 4.10	✓	✓	✓	?	?	?	?	✓	?	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IS2: Joint indoor leisure centres																	

Table 8: Summary of Sustainability Appraisal Findings (continued)

SA/SEA Objective (abridged)	1. Improved health and wellbeing	2. Increased physical activity	3. Safe recreational facilities	4. Local facilities for local needs	5. Accessibility by public transport	6. Accessibility by foot and cycles	7. Protect and enhance wildlife	8. Optimise use of facilities	9. Good quality designed facilities	10. Facilities in keeping with surroundings	11. Reduction of flood risk	12. Use of renewable energy	13. Reduced water use	14. Recycled aggregate use	15. Increase waste recycling	16. Use recycled products	17. Contribute to AQMA
Preferred option: 4.2	✓	✓	-	✓	?	?	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Preferred option: 11.1	✓	✓✓	-	?	?	-	-	✓✓	-	-	-	-	x	-	?	-	?
YP1: Children's play areas																	
Preferred option: 5.3	?	?	✓	?	?	?	?	✓	✓	?	?	?	?	?	-	?	?
YP2: Provision for teenagers																	
Preferred option: 7.2	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	?	?	?	✓	?	?	?	?	?	?	-	?	?
WR1: Sailing lakes																	
Preferred option: 8.1	✓	✓	-	?	?	?	?	?	-	?	?	-	-	-	-	-	-
WR2: River based recreation																	
Preferred option: 8.5	✓	✓	-	✓✓	?	✓	?	-	?	✓	?	-	-	-	-	-	?
WR3: Kennet and Avon Canal																	
New option	✓✓	✓✓	-	✓	✓	✓✓	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WR4: Wilts and Berks Canal																	
New option	✓✓	✓✓	-	✓	-	✓✓	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TC1: Trees																	
Preferred option: 10.2	✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SC1: Dual-use of school facilities																	
Preferred option: 11.1	✓	✓✓	-	?	?	-	-	✓✓	-	-	-	-	x	-	?	-	?

Key to appraisal scores

✓✓	Very sustainable	?	Uncertain
✓	Sustainable	x	Unsustainable
-	Neutral	xx	Very unsustainable

5.7 Appraisal Conclusions

There are uncertainties regarding the potential sustainability effects of all of the Preferred Options with the exception of policies GM2: Management & maintenance of new/enhanced open space and TC1: Trees. This is reflected in the numerous scores for uncertainty in the appraisal tables (represented by '?' in Table 8).

Overall the options in the LRDPD Submission Draft are likely to improve the current leisure and recreation situation in West Wiltshire. However, the effects of the options will largely depend on the way in which they are implemented. For many of the options, this means that it has not been possible at this stage to be certain of what the potential effects might be. For example, the effect of disposing underused green space to improve facilities in the vicinity would depend on issues such as the alternative use of the disposed greenspace (e.g. will the site be used for development and what implications will this have on the local community and wildlife), the distance and accessibility to the nearest alternative facility, and the views of the local community.

It can be seen from Table 8 that some of the policies put forward have been identified as having potential adverse effects on the SA objectives. These include:

- Policy SC1 and Policy IS2 (previous Preferred Option 11.1) – Encouragement of the dual use of school playing fields and indoor sports facilities. This policy is likely to have adverse effects on water use (SA13); and
- Policy OS2 (previous Preferred Options 7.3, 6.4, 6.7, 6.8) - The development of grass sports pitches and ancillary facilities at Woolmore Farm, Melksham; land adjacent to Woodmarsh, North Bradley; the Lafarge sports ground, Westbury; and Vivash Park, Westbury. This policy is likely to have adverse effects on safety (SA3), accessibility (SA5 and SA6), wildlife (SA7), facilities in keeping with surroundings (SA10), flood risk (SA11), and water use (SA13).

Measures for reducing and offsetting these potentially adverse effects are proposed in section 5.5. However, the single most important factor that will determine the sustainability effects of the LRDPD is the way in which the options are implemented. Taking sustainability issues into account when these options are taken forward will be of utmost importance to reduce the potential for adverse effects.

In addition, the following recommendations are made:

- The review of provisions such as facilities for teenagers and tree cover will inform future strategies which might benefit from a sustainability review; and
- The Council should increase its commitment to sustainable construction and sustainable use of resources - e.g. by adopting design which minimises water use and flood risk; by using recycled materials; by introducing renewable energy, in new build and maintenance of leisure and recreation facilities. Where possible, the Council should use procurement and planning instruments to ensure developers follow similar principles in delivering recreational facilities.

Monitoring the significant effects of plan implementation will also be an important factor in helping to reduce the potential for adverse effects by enabling unforeseen adverse effects to be identified.

For the purpose of this sustainability appraisal, significant effects are defined as those identified as a double cross in the appraisal tables. The SA of West Wiltshire District Council's LRDPD did not identify any significant adverse effects (i.e. no double crosses are identified for any of the preferred options).

A summary of the appraisal results for each of the policies put forward in the LRDPD Submission Draft is provided below.

Spatial Policies LP: Levels of Provision

The five policies set out the planning policies proposed for protecting and enhancing existing provisions, disposing of low value facilities and providing for new facilities, including by using development control instruments to address increased demand from new housing developments. The staged approach will ensure that the best facilities are kept while lower value sites are released for development providing developers contribute to balance the loss through improvements of other nearby sites and additional provisions. Loss of open space to developments would obviously deprive the community of some passive recreation opportunities and might have some secondary effects on wildlife and air quality. Policy LP5 should ensure that new sport and recreation facilities are accessible by sustainable modes of transport. Consideration on how existing sites could be made more accessible through sustainable means of transport should be taken into account.

Spatial Policies OS: Provision for Outdoor Sport

Increasing the provision of artificial turf and “multi-pitch grass” should allow for increased participation in healthy activities. The policy shows an improvement from previous options as effects on wildlife, landscape and flood risk are considered and safety and accessibility to the sites through sustainable means of transport are taken into account.

Spatial Policies CR: Countryside Access

Investing into the network of footpaths and rights of way and improving accessibility of parks and the river Avon will have positive effects on accessibility of the countryside and therefore increased opportunities for passive and active recreation. The potential for increased disturbance to the wildlife is mitigated through the proposed integration of the development of the network with conservation and enhancement of landscape within Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Improvements to maintenance regimes in country parks could furthermore improve biodiversity.

Spatial Policies GM: Greenspace Management and Maintenance

The council’s proposed strategy for managing green space would have a positive impact on the local needs, as the local community would be consulted and involved in the actual management. Criteria such as respect of local landscape, wildlife and biodiversity are also to be taken into account. The opportunity of agreeing with developers the long term management and maintenance of spaces has a positive effect on the Council’s resources and budget; however the Council might still need to consider how changes in future needs would be addressed.

Spatial Policies IS: Indoor Sports Provision

Co-ordinating indoor sport facility developments between District Council, County Council and secondary schools would have the benefit of increased accessibility to sports facilities, and would help to ensure that local needs are catered for. The holistic approach would enable the District Council to shape an informed strategy of maintenance and refurbishment of the available facilities, which should assist in balancing community satisfaction and optimal use of resources. Refurbishment of the facilities would address the local needs and therefore could improve usage and ultimately health of the population.

Spatial Policies YP: Provision for Young People

The local community and specifically families, children and teenagers should benefit from the policies as the Council will consult on their specific needs and tailor the provision on it. This should ensure that local concerns on safety, quality and accessibility of the facilities are addressed.

Spatial Policies WR: Provision for Water Based Recreation

The options proposed for the provision of water based recreation facilities have a mainly neutral or positive effect. For example, increased accessibility to water based recreation facilities should allow for more participation in healthy activities. However, there remains uncertainty over the effect of the policies on wildlife and therefore consideration will need to be given to the effects of increased accessibility on biodiversity.

There is a need to understand the current use and any restriction to the use of the two existing lakes before embarking on the development of new lakes. Protection of the Kennet and Avon canal would add to the walking and cycling network. There are also potential positive effects on the creation/management of wildlife habitats.

Spatial Policies TC: Tree Cover

The enhancement and protection of vegetation in the District should enhance the landscape and townscape and have some positive effects on biodiversity and could have positive effects on the health of the nearby community.

Spatial Policies SC: Working with Schools

Opening facilities to local community use will encourage more people to take up healthy activities, although the venues might need to be adapted to sustain this increased use. The most significant effects are therefore on the level of community participation to sporting activities.

5.8 Proposed Mitigation Measures

The SA Report must include measures to prevent, reduce or offset significant adverse effects of implementing the DPD (ODPM, 2005). It is also a requirement of the SEA Regulations that measures should be considered to prevent, reduce or offset any significant adverse effects that have been identified during the assessment process.

Mitigation can take a wide range of forms, including:

- Changes to the DPD as a whole;
- Refining options in order to improve the likelihood of beneficial effects and minimise adverse effects;
- Technical measures to be applied during the implementation stage e.g. application of design principles;
- Informing the scope of project Environmental Impact Assessments accompanying planning applications (although EIAs would be unlikely for most recreational projects); and
- Proposals for changing other plans and programmes.

The Sustainability Appraisal did not identify any significant adverse effects. This section outlines proposed mitigation measures for addressing the potential adverse effects which have been identified through the appraisal of preferred options (those identified as a single cross in the appraisal tables). Proposed mitigation measures are summarised in Table 9.

Some mitigation or enhancement measures (such as introducing water efficiency measures) may be delivered by parties other than West Wiltshire District Council. Indeed, several administrative jurisdictions and stakeholders may be involved to ensure that local interests are taken into account. The co-operation of these other interests is needed to ensure that the mitigation/ enhancement or monitoring measure is successfully implemented.

Table 9: Key Mitigation Measures

Potential Adverse Effects	Proposed Mitigation
Impacts on safety	Ensure access to the facility is improved through better linkages with the transport network and design, including better lighting.
Impacts on accessibility by foot and cycle and public transport.	Accessibility by sustainable modes of transport to be a criterion in awarding planning consent. Use Planning agreements to ensure developers contribute to enhancement of public transport and pedestrian/cycling links. Demand management measures to restrict private vehicle use and improvements to cycling, walking and public transport facilities and initiatives to encourage modal shift.
Impacts on landscape/townscape.	Use Development Control conditions to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the character and setting of the listed buildings.
Impacts on flood risk.	Use Development Control conditions to ensure best practice in design and construction is followed to minimise flood risk – e.g. appropriate drainage of sites.
Impacts on water use.	Ensure water efficiency measures are introduced in construction and maintenance of facilities – e.g. collection system of rain water to partly feed irrigation of green spaces and changing facilities.

6 Monitoring and Implementation

The significant sustainability effects of implementing a plan or programme must be monitored to identify unforeseen adverse effects and to be able to undertake remedial action (ODPM, 2005). Monitoring of the significant (positive and negative) environmental effects of the plan is also explicitly required by the SEA Regulations.

6.1 Implementation

The Council has a statutory requirement under the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act to submit an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) to the Secretary of State by 31 December of each year.

An AMR reports on the extent to which the Local Development Documents (LDDs) which collectively deliver the spatial planning strategy in a local planning authority area are effective. The LRDPD is one of West Wiltshire's LDDs. Different types of indicators are addressed in an AMR:

- Contextual indicators that are not connected to particular policy but provide information on the general environmental, social and economic conditions in the local authority area;
- Process indicators for LDS delivery;
- Output indicators which measure the performance of the policies in the LDF; and
- Significant effects indicators which measure the significant environmental, economic, social effects of policy implementation.

According to government guidance Local Development Framework Monitoring: A Good Practice Guide (ODPM 2005a), AMRs are also expected to fulfil the monitoring requirements of sustainability appraisal (SA) and the strategic environmental assessment (SEA) Regulations. In broad terms, this means that monitoring must be linked to the significant environmental or sustainability effects caused by the implementation of LDDs.

The significant effects monitoring proposed for the LRDPD (Table 10) will be linked to West Wiltshire's AMR process and reported in future years' AMRs.

6.2 Proposed Monitoring

A proposed framework for how to report monitoring information and link performance and effects monitoring for West Wiltshire's spatial policies is provided in West Wiltshire's AMR. This framework supports the plan objective - output indicator - significant effects indicator approach outlined in the AMR guidance.

It is proposed that the following information should be provided for each component of the LRDPD (e.g. each option or policy) to facilitate determination of the need for reviewing individual policies:

- Plan objective / component / policy;
- SA objective;
- SA indicator / Significant effect indicator;
- Target;
- Progress made;
- Source of data;

- Frequency of monitoring / dates;
- Organisation responsible for collecting data;
- Geographic scale of data; and
- Issues identified.

To allow for any actual effects to be reduced or ameliorated monitoring should also address the point at which remedial action would be required and possible actions that could be taken. Targets could be determined to help to deal with responding to undesired trends in the monitoring data.

Indicators

Proposed indicators for monitoring the significant sustainability effects of West Wiltshire's LRDPD are presented in Table 10, categorised by the relevant SEA topic.

For the purpose of this report, significant effects are defined as those identified as a double cross in the appraisal tables (Chapter 4.5). No significant adverse effects have been identified for the West Wiltshire's LRDPD. Indicators have however been developed for the significant positive effects identified (i.e. those identified as a double tick in the appraisal tables).

In an attempt to capture any unforeseen adverse effects that may arise from the implementation of the LRDPD, monitoring measures have also been proposed for the potential adverse effects which were identified in the appraisal (i.e. those identified as a single cross in the appraisal tables). In addition, monitoring has also been proposed for three of the indicators where there remains much uncertainty of the effects.

Although monitoring is proposed for the significant positive effects remedial action is not necessary and therefore the columns 'when to take remedial action' and 'what remedial action to take' include N/A for not applicable.

The final monitoring plan will be published in the SEA Statement, alongside the Final LRDPD when this is adopted.

Table 10: Proposed Monitoring Measures

Effect or indicator to be monitored	Information required	Information source	Information quality, gaps	When to take remedial action	Remedial action to take
Significant (major) adverse effects					
None identified					
Significant (major) positive effects					
Improved health and well being and increased physical activity of the District's population	Number of visitors to parks and open spaces (including Southwick Country park)	To be determined	Potential to link with Local Survey (Peoples Voices). Sport England is shortly to survey the levels of sporting activity and then be used as a baseline for progress/monitoring.	N/A	N/A
	Number of people using school based facilities after hours	To be determined			
	Level of satisfaction with sport/leisure facilities (National Indicator BV119a)	Local survey (Peoples Voice) Statutory Satisfaction Survey (ODPM)	Information available annually. Information available every 3 years.		
	Percentage of people declaring that they regularly undertake physical activity (WWDC Service Indicator CL2)	Active People Survey (Sport England)	Information available annually.		

Effect or indicator to be monitored	Information required	Information source	Information quality, gaps	When to take remedial action	Remedial action to take
Facilities satisfying local needs	Maintain high levels of customer satisfaction with leisure and recreation facilities (66% by 2010 for leisure facilities and 80% for parks & open spaces)	To be determined (e.g. periodic surveys)	This information is only available for WWDC partnership facilities	N/A	N/A
	Level of satisfaction with greenspaces of people 11-18 years	Local survey (Tomorrows Voice)	Information available Biennial	N/A	N/A
	Number of people who have membership of watersports (sailing, canoeing, water skiing) clubs	Sailing Clubs	Information available annually.	N/A	N/A
Optimised use of facilities	<i>Covered by indicators on numbers of visitors to green spaces, users of sport facilities and level of satisfaction</i>	<i>See above</i>	<i>See above</i>	N/A	N/A
Potential (moderate) adverse effects					
Impacts on safety	Number of people using a facility complaining about accessibility due to remoteness and security – perceived or real	To be determined	Potential to link with Local Survey (Peoples Voices).	When there is a downward trend from what WWDC would like to see	Dependent on site issues

Effect or indicator to be monitored	Information required	Information source	Information quality, gaps	When to take remedial action	Remedial action to take
Impacts on accessibility by foot and cycle and public transport	<p>Number of visitors accessing the leisure and recreation facilities by foot, cycle or public transport</p> <p>Number of visitors wishing to access the leisure and recreation facilities by foot, cycle or public transport</p>	Periodic survey	These indicators are not monitored at the moment	If the indicator moves off-track from target this will trigger remedial action at survey stage	To be determined.
Impacts on landscape/ townscape	Potential impacts on character and setting of listed building	Site location plans/drawings; design statements that cover context, landscaping, views, building elevations, design and materials, boundary treatments	To be determined	If the indicator moves off-track from target this will trigger remedial action at pre application stage.	Use Development Control conditions to ensure impact on the character and setting of the listed buildings (9Woolmore farm and Spa road)

Effect or indicator to be monitored	Information required	Information source	Information quality, gaps	When to take remedial action	Remedial action to take
Impacts on flood risk	Whether best design practice to limit potential flood/drainage problems risks has been implemented	Detailed drainage assessment; flood/ drainage mitigation measures	To be determined		Use Development Control conditions to ensure best practice in design and construction is followed to minimise flood risk – e.g. appropriate drainage of sites
	Reported episodes of flooding	Management of recreational facilities	This indicator is not monitored at the moment		To be determined
Impacts on water use	Quantity of mains' water used in the recreational facilities	Management of recreational facilities	This indicator is not monitored at the moment	Quantity of mains' water increases over time	Review activities and implement water efficiency measures
Uncertain Effects					
Impacts on wildlife	No of consented applications for recreational facilities with recognised adverse effects on biodiversity	Periodic survey of planning consents	This indicator is not monitored at the moment	To be determined	To be determined
	The extent of measures delivered to mitigate or offset negative impacts	To be determined	This indicator is not monitored at the moment	To be determined	To be determined
Use of renewable energy	Are recreational facilities using sources renewable energy?	Periodic survey of facilities	These indicators are not monitored at the moment	To be determined	To be determined

Effect or indicator to be monitored	Information required	Information source	Information quality, gaps	When to take remedial action	Remedial action to take
Use of recycled aggregates	Are new developments making use of recycled aggregates?	Survey of new developments			

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See also Appendix C.