# Soundness tool

| Key question | Possible evidence | Evidence provided |
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| **Justified** | | |
| **Participation** | | |
| 1. Has the consultation process allowed for effective engagement of all interested parties? | The consultation statement | Consultation statements have been provided in relation to: <br> Issues and Options consultation (June 2007) <br> Issues and Options consultation (Nov 2007) <br> Preferred Options consultation (July 2008) <br> Preferred Option consultation (June 2009) <br> Further pre-publication consultation document (November 2009) <br> Further Consultation on the Core Policies Delivery Strategy (March 2010) <br> Publication Core Strategy (September 2010) |
| **Research/ fact finding** | | |
| 2. Is the content of the development plan document justified by the evidence? <br><br> 3. What is the source of the evidence? <br><br> 4. How up to date and convincing is it? | i. Sections of the development plan document which show how the evidence points towards the selected strategy, policies or proposals <br> ii. Sections of the pre-submission proposals documents <br> iii. Sections of the preferred strategy report <br> iv. Sections of the sustainability appraisal report which set out its main conclusions in relation to the policies in the development plan document <br> v. Sections of the consultation statement <br> OR <br> A very brief statement of how the main findings of consultation support the policies, with reference to: <br> o reports to the council on the issues raised during participation, covering both the front-loading and formulation phases <br> o any other information on community views and preferences | In preparing the Core Strategy we have used the most up to date information available and commissioned research and a number of surveys to complement existing information. A list of documents used to support this Core Strategy can be found in the Core Documents' list which is available on the Council's website. <br><br> The justification text in the Core Strategy details the relevant evidence base used for each individual policy. <br><br> During its preparation the Core Strategy has been subject to Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats' Regulations assessments. The results of these assessments can be found on the Council's website. <br><br> The Consultation Statement (2010) contains a summary of the main issues raised at all consultation stages and how these have been |

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| | vi. The studies, reports and technical papers that provide the evidence for the policies set out in the development plan document. The date of preparation and who they were produced by should be signposted<br><br>OR<br><br>For each policy (or group of policies dealing with the same issue), a very brief statement of the evidence documents relied upon and how they support the policy (where this is not already clear in the reasoned justification in the development plan document) | addressed in the Core Strategy. |
| 5. What assumptions had to be made in preparing the development plan document?<br><br>6. Are the assumptions reasonable and justified? | i. Sections of the development plan documents setting out the assumptions<br><br>ii. Sections of the sustainability appraisal report setting out the assumptions<br><br>iii. A very brief statement for each assumption as to how the evidence led to the assumption<br><br>iv. Reference to national or regional policy, correspondence from bodies consulted or technical papers that provide the basis for assumptions | The Core Strategy was produced in the context of RSS, the status of which was certain until June 2010 and therefore provided the strategic planning framework for the preparation of the Core Strategy. Despite the uncertainty around the current status of RSS, the evidence that informed its preparation is still considered valid. The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report sets out the Sustainability Objectives, sub objectives and indicators.<br><br>The RES and the MIER provides the context for Trafford's economic role in the sub-Region.<br><br>The Issues and Options Paper contained a summary of assumptions contained in the above documents.<br><br>Chapter 2 provides the context for the Core Strategy in light of the revocation of RSS in June 2010.<br><br>W1 and W2 were initially prepared in the context of PPS6, more recent drafts of the Plan have been revised in the context of PPS4 (as detailed in the PPS4 technical note)<br><br>Policy R2 was initially prepared in the context of PP15 and PPG16, more recent drafts of the Plan have been revised in the context of PPS5. |

| Key question | Possible evidence | Evidence provided |
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| **Alternatives** | | |
| 7. Can it be shown that the council's chosen approach is the most appropriate given the reasonable alternatives?<br><br>8. Have realistic alternatives been considered and is there a clear audit trail showing how and why the preferred strategy/approach was arrived at?<br><br>9. Where a balance had to be struck in taking decisions between competing alternatives is it clear how and why these decisions were made? | i. Sections of the consultation statement showing how the community was involved in considering issues, alternatives and options<br><br>ii. Documents used in community involvement with stakeholders and communities encouraging them to identify the issues and options they wished to see considered<br><br>iii. Any report produced at the end of the front loading phase of plan preparation setting out the issues and options raised<br><br>iv. Sections of the preferred strategy report explaining:<br><br>• how alternatives were developed and evaluated, and<br><br>• why alternatives were rejected in favour of the preferred strategy<br><br>v. Sections of the sustainability appraisal report showing the options and alternatives and explaining how they were objectively assessed<br><br>vi. Reports prepared during the plan preparation process (including after the preferred strategy participation) contributing to the decisions made on the inclusion of policies in the development plan document<br><br>vii. Sections of the consultation statement explaining how the main findings of consultation support the decisions<br><br>viii. Sections of the representations statement<br><br>OR<br><br>A brief statement of the influence upon decisions of:<br><br>the issues raised during stakeholder and community engagement, and how they have been addressed<br><br>ix. Any other documentation showing how alternatives were developed and evaluated<br><br>x. A very brief statement and any other supporting documentation of the way decisions have been taken | The various iterations of the Plan can demonstrate that logical and reasonable alternatives have been considered in the preparation of the Core Strategy. Further evidence to support this can be provided, including:<br><br>Refining the Options - Technical Annex 2009.<br><br>The Sustainability Appraisal consideration of alternative options.<br><br>Consultation Statements – Reg 30(1) (d) and Reg 30(1) (e)<br><br>The Core Strategy Broadsheet.<br><br>Chapter 4 of the Core Strategy Preferred Option (2009) summary of the process of refining the Options.<br><br>Technical Note on Strategic Locations and Strategic Sites – Selection process (March 2010)<br><br>Chapter 4 of the March 2010 Core Strategy consultation document summarised the process and result of refining the Strategic Sites and Locations. |

| Key question | Possible evidence | Evidence provided |
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| 10. Does the sustainability appraisal show how the different options perform and is it clear that sustainability considerations informed the content of the development plan document from the start? | i. A structure to the development plan document which reports the sustainability appraisal findings in relation to each policy<br><br>ii. Sections of the sustainability appraisal report which set out how sustainability appraisal has influenced the development of the preferred strategy and how policies have been revised in the light of sustainability appraisal findings<br><br>iii. Reports made as part of plan-making which indicate how sustainability appraisal has influenced the choice of strategy and the content of policies | In line with the SA/SEA requirements both the SA Scoping Report accompanying the Issues & Options Stage (2007) and the SA Report accompanying the Preferred Options Stage (2208) detailed sustainability appraisal and its influence on selection of the Preferred Spatial option (2009). The Preferred Options findings were reflected in the finalised Preferred Option document.<br>See Submission combined SA document |
| 11. Does the development plan document adequately expand upon regional guidance rather than simply duplicate it?<br><br>12. Does the strategy take forward the regional context reflecting the local issues and objectives? | i. Sections of the development plan document which explain where and how regional guidance has been elaborated upon and the reasons<br><br>ii. The regional development agency/regional planning body letter confirming that the development plan document is in general conformity with the regional special strategy<br><br>iii. Representations received from the regional development agency/regional planning body<br><br>iv. Representations from the Government Office<br><br>v. Reports or copies of correspondence as to how the representations have been considered and dealt with | Given the current uncertainty around regional planning, the Plan has been considered fully to assess the extent to which it contains policies that seek to rely on RSS policies. Where RSS policies continue to have particular relevance to Trafford, the Core Strategy seeks to adapt and incorporate elements of those policies that the Council wishes to see maintained at the local level.<br><br>The representation received in September 2010, from the Regional Leaders Board (the successor of 4NW), states that their remit has been substantially altered in recent months and that they do not have the capacity to comment on LDF production.<br><br>GONW have been actively involved in the preparation of the Plan. GONW have indicated during the most recent consultation (Sept 2010) that they have no comments to make on the Plan. |

| Effective | | |
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| **Deliverable** | | |
| 13. Has the council clearly identified what the issues are that the development plan document is seeking to address?<br><br>14. Have priorities been set so that it is clear what the development plan document is seeking to achieve? | i. Sections of the development plan document which refer to the vision and objectives of the sustainable community strategy and the issues identified there<br><br>ii. A statement prepared following stakeholder and community engagement in the front-loading phase of plan-making setting out the identified issues for the development plan document A spatial portrait based on the advice in 'Policies for spatial plans' presented as part of the core strategy<br><br>iii. A core strategy vision which is framed to set out the outcomes which are sought for the future<br><br>iv. Sections of the development plan document which identify the main issues addressed<br><br>v. Sections of the development plan document which indicate the priority outcomes | The main issues are listed in the Spatial Profile. The Vision and Strategic and Place Objectives have been amended through iterations of the Plan to ensure that they deliver the priorities for the Plan.<br><br>These Issues were arrived at following discussions at Neighbourhood Forums as part of the consultation period in 2007. |
| 15. Are there any cross-boundary issues that should be addressed and, if so, have they been adequately addressed? | i. Sections of the regional special strategy which identify cross-boundary issues.<br><br>ii. Sections of the development plan document setting out cross-boundary issues and the response to them<br><br>iii. Reports on relevant studies which cover wider areas than the local authority and how the development plan document addresses their findings or recommendations<br><br>iv. Records of meetings with adjoining authorities or relevant agencies which confirm that there are no cross-boundary issues of significance | Section 2 of the Plan details Trafford's role in the Region and the sub-Region including the context for cross boundary issues.<br><br>A Joint Project Board was established in 2006 between Manchester City, Salford City and Trafford Councils, with key stakeholders invited as necessary to assist cross boundary preparation. A key decision taken by the board related to the definition of the Regional Centre and Inner Areas boundaries in the three districts. Additionally officers from Cheshire East, Stockport, Manchester and Trafford Councils meet regularly with representatives from the Airport to discuss matters relating to LDF preparation.<br><br>Joint evidence base has been prepared across Greater Manchester, such as GM Transport Modelling, GM Flood Risk, GM SHMA, employment forecasting and, tackling climate |

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| 16. Does the development plan document contain clear objectives? | i. A spatial portrait which identifies the key issues facing the area<br>ii. A core strategy vision which is framed to set out the outcomes which are sought for the future<br>iii. The strategic objectives of the development plan document, and the commentary in the development plan document of how they derive from the spatial portrait and vision | Sections 2, 3, 4, and 5 of the Plan set out the Profile, Vision, Strategic and Place Objectives for the Borough.<br>Each Policy/Strategic Location details which Objective(s) are delivered by the policy. |
| 17. Are the objectives specific to the place; as opposed to being general and applicable to anywhere?<br>18. Is there a direct relationship between the identified issues and the objectives? | i. The spatial portrait and the commentary in the development plan document as to how the objectives derive from it<br>ii. Confirmation from the local strategic partnership and partner organisations that they agree the objectives as being specific to the place | The Place Objectives flow from the Issues identified in section 2 of the Plan and link to the delivery of the Strategic Objectives to give local specificity.<br>Throughout the preparation of the Plan, specific reports have been presented to the LSP "thematic" sub groups, the Partnership Executive and the Partnership Board. This has resulted in the LSP confirming that it agrees that the Trafford Core Strategy provides the spatial expression of the Sustainable Community Strategy.<br>Each Policy/Strategic Location details which Key Objective(s) of the SCS are delivered by the policy. |
| 19. Is it clear how the policies will meet the objectives?<br>20. Are there any obvious gaps in the policies, with regard to the objectives of the development plan document? | i. Relevant sections of the development plan document which explain how policies derive from the objectives and are designed to meet them<br>ii. Relevant sections of the sustainable community strategy which identify its objectives<br>iii. Confirmation from the local strategic partnership and partner organisations that they believe the polices will achieve the agreed objectives<br>iv. Research reports and studies which address the means to address objectives and conclude that the policies are appropriate and should succeed<br>v. Sections of the development plan document, reports or other documents which discuss the matters which should be addressed in the development plan | Each Policy/Strategic Location details which Objective(s) of the Plan and the SCS are delivered by the policy.<br>The LSP confirmed in July 2010 that the Trafford Core Strategy provides the spatial expression of the Sustainable Community Strategy.<br>Sections 2-5 of the Plan set out the matters which should be addressed in the development plan document.<br>The Policies have been amended through iterations of the Plan, taking on board recommendations from SA work and other studies to ensure that they deliver the Plan's Vision and Objectives. |

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| 21. Are there realistic timescales related to the objectives? | i. Sections of the development plan document which address delivery and the timescales for key developments and initiatives<br><br>ii. Confirmation from the local strategic partnership and partner organisations that the timescales are realistic in terms of their contribution to delivery | Each Strategic Location and Policy provides an implementation mechanism.<br><br>Key stakeholders and service providers have been involved in the preparation of these tables.<br><br>Additionally the LIP has been produced alongside the Core Strategy, with similar involvement of key service providers. |
| 22. Are the policies internally consistent? | i. Sections of the development plan document, documents used in community involvement, and technical papers which demonstrate that the objectives are consistent<br><br>ii. A very brief statement explaining how the council considers its objectives are consistent | The Plan has been considered against the Strategic and Place Objectives and the Council considers that it is consistent.<br><br>The SA process assisted in resolving issues of inconsistency. |
| 23. Does the development plan document contain material which:<br><br>• is already in another plan<br>• should be logically be in a different plan<br>• should not be in a plan at all? | i. Information in the local development scheme, or provided separately, about the scope and content (actual and intended) of each development plan document. This should show how they combine to provide a coherent policy structure<br><br>ii. Representations from the Government Office<br><br>iii. Reports or copies of correspondence as to how the representations have been considered and dealt with | Appendix 3 of the Core Strategy sets out which UDP Policies will be replaced by the relevant LDF document.<br><br>The Plan has been considered fully to assess the extent to which it contains policies that seek to rely on RSS policies. Where RSS policies continue to have particular relevance to Trafford, the Core Strategy seeks to adapt and incorporate elements of those policies that the Council wishes to see maintained at the local level.<br><br>GONW have been actively involved in the preparation of the Plan. GONW have indicated during the most recent consultation (Sept 2010) that they have no comments to make on the Plan. |
| 24. Does the development plan document explain how its key policy objectives will be achieved? | i. Sections of the development plan document that identify the key objectives and how they will be delivered upon<br><br>ii. Confirmation from the relevant agencies that they support the objectives and the identified means of delivery<br><br>iii. Other supporting material – for example, commitments in the local area agreement that will | Each Policy/Strategic Location details which Key Objective(s) of the Plan and the SCS are delivered by the policy.<br><br>Each Strategic Location and Policy provides an implementation mechanism.<br><br>Key stakeholders and service providers have been involved in the preparation of these tables and the associated LIP. |

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| | support the delivery of the strategy in the development plan document | |
| 25. If there are development management policies, are they supportive of the strategy and objectives? | i. Sections of the development plan document that show how the development management policies:<br>• will help to deliver the strategy<br>37. derive from, and elaborate on, the objectives and policies of the plan | Earlier versions of the Core Strategy presented two sets of policies, one "Core Policies", one "Development Management Policies". Following consultation responses, particularly from GONW, it was concluded that these two sets of policies should be amalgamated into one set of Core Policies.<br><br>Additional, site specific, development management issues will be addressed by way of the Land Allocations and other DPDs. |
| 26. Have the infrastructure implications of the strategy/policies clearly been identified? | i. A section or sections of the development plan document where infrastructure needs are identified and the proposed solutions put forward<br>ii. Representations in respect of infrastructure<br>iii. Reports or copies of correspondence as to how representations in relation to infrastructure have been considered and dealt with | Each Strategic Location and Policy provides an implementation mechanism.<br>Key stakeholders and service providers have been involved in the preparation of these tables and the associated LIP. |
| 27. Are the delivery mechanisms and timescales for implementation of the policies clearly identified? | i. Sections of the development plan document setting out delivery mechanisms and timescale<br>ii. Other development plan documents being prepared that develop the policies of the core strategy further and set out how they will be delivered<br>iii. Research or studies that address matters of delivery and the realistic timescales<br>iv. Documents that set out arrangements made or planned for local delivery vehicles, or other delivery mechanisms<br>v. Very brief statements on how other stakeholders intend to support the delivery of the policies, with any supporting correspondence or reports by the authority or the relevant stakeholder<br>vi. Correspondence from stakeholders on delivery mechanisms and timescale<br>vii. Reports or copies of correspondence as to how representations on delivery and implementation have | Each Strategic Location and Policy provides an implementation mechanism.<br>Key stakeholders and service providers have been involved in the preparation of these tables and the associated LIP. |

| | | been considered and dealt with | |
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| 28. Is it clear who is going to deliver the required infrastructure and does the timing of the provision complement the timescale of the strategy/policies? | i. Confirmation from infrastructure providers that they support the solutions proposed and the identified means and timescales for their delivery<br><br>ii. Representations in respect of infrastructure<br><br>iii. Reports or copies of correspondence on how representations in relation to infrastructure and its timing have been considered and dealt with | Each Strategic Location and Policy provides an implementation mechanism.<br><br>Key stakeholders and service providers have been involved in the preparation of these tables and the associated LIP. | |
| 29. Is it clear who is intended to implement each part of the strategy/ development plan document?<br><br>30. Where actions required to implement policy are outside the direct control of the council, is there evidence of commitment from the relevant organisation to implement the policies? | i. Sections of the development plan document setting out responsibilities for delivery<br><br>ii. Correspondence showing how other stakeholders intend to support the delivery of the policies<br><br>iii. Reports by the council or the relevant stakeholder<br><br>iv. Representations from stakeholders on implementation<br><br>v. Reports or copies of correspondence as to how representations on delivery and implementation have been considered and dealt with | Each Strategic Location and Policy provides an implementation mechanism.<br><br>Key stakeholders and service providers have been involved in the preparation of these tables and the associated LIP. | |
| 31. Does the development plan document reflect the concept of spatial planning?<br><br>32. Does it go beyond traditional land use planning by bringing together – and integrating – policies for development, and the use of land, with other policies and programmes from a variety of organisations that influence the nature of places and how they function? | i. Sections of the development plan document that reflect the plans or strategies of other bodies<br><br>ii. Expressions of support from bodies responsible for other strategies affecting the area<br><br>iii. Representations in respect of services provided by other agencies<br><br>iv. Reports or copies of correspondence as to how the representations have been considered and dealt with. These should either clarify the issues raised in the representation, or include a copy of the substance of the representation | The Plan has been developed to provide the delivery of the SCS priorities.<br><br>Key stakeholders and service providers have been involved in the preparation of the Plan throughout.<br><br>The LSP confirmed in July 2010 that the Trafford Core Strategy provides the spatial expression of the Sustainable Community Strategy. | |
| 33. Does the development plan document take into account matters which may be imposed by circumstance, notwithstanding the council's views about the matter? | i. Explicit recognition within the development plan document that this may happen, and clear information about how the plan strategy can accommodate them<br><br>ii. Consideration of the options in relation to such matters as part of the evaluation of alternatives in a | The Plan has been prepared in such a way to ensure that sufficient flexibility exists whilst ensuring that the Strategic and Place Objectives are delivered.<br><br>Policy L1 provides additional flexibility and considers the implications of the delivery of | |

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| | report on the preferred strategy | higher housing numbers through the GM Growth Point, in particular in relation to the availability of external infrastructure funding. |
| **Flexible** | | |
| 34. Is the development plan document flexible enough to respond to a variety of, or unexpected changes in, circumstances? | i. Sections of the development plan document setting out the assumptions of the plan and identifying the circumstances when policies might need to be reviewed<br><br>ii. Sections of the annual monitoring report and sustainability appraisal report describing how the council will monitor:<br><br>• the effectiveness of policies and what evidence is being collected to undertake this<br><br>• changes affecting the baseline information and any information on trends on which the development plan document is based<br><br>iii. Statements or correspondence from stakeholders which commit to providing information to be used in monitoring the progress of the policies and changes in the baseline<br><br>iv. Risk analysis of the strategy and policies to demonstrate robustness and how the plan could cope with changing circumstances | The Plan has been prepared in such a way to ensure that sufficient flexibility exists to respond to unexpected changes in circumstances whilst ensuring that the Strategic and Place Objectives are delivered.<br><br>The Plan provides a clear Vision for the future development of the Borough within which sufficient flexibility exists. For example Policy L1 provides additional flexibility and considers the implications of the delivery of higher housing numbers through the GM Growth Point.<br><br>Section 28 of the Plan provides a monitoring framework, against which the delivery of the Plan will be monitored. |
| 35. Is the development plan document sufficiently flexible to deal with any changes to, for example, housing figures from an emerging regional special strategy? | i. Sections within the development plan document dealing with possible change areas and how they would be dealt with, including mechanisms for the rate of development to be increased or slowed and how that would impact on other aspects of the strategy and on infrastructure provision<br><br>ii. Risk analysis of the strategy and policies to demonstrate robustness and how the plan could cope with changing circumstances | The Plan has been prepared in such a way to ensure that sufficient flexibility exists whilst ensuring that the Strategic and Place Objectives are delivered.<br><br>Policy L1 provides additional flexibility and considers the implications of the delivery of higher housing numbers through the GM Growth Point. |
| 36. Does the development plan document include the remedial actions that will be taken if the strategies/policies are failing? | i. A section of the development plan document which expressly addresses flexibility<br><br>ii. Sections of the development plan document identifying the key indicators of success of the strategy, and the remedial actions which will be | Section 28 of the Plan provides a monitoring framework, against which the delivery of the Plan will be monitored.<br><br>The Plan states that the Council will consider the findings of this monitoring work to determine |

| | | whether or not a review of development plan policies will be needed. |
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| **Monitoring** | | |
| 37. Does the development plan document contain targets and milestones that relate to the delivery of the policies, including housing trajectories where the plan contains housing allocations? | i. Sections of the development plan document setting out indicators, targets and milestones<br>ii. Sections of the current annual monitoring report which report on indicators, targets, milestones and trajectories<br>iii. Reference to any other reports or technical documents which contain information on the delivery of policies | Section 28 of the Plan provides a monitoring framework, against which the delivery of the Plan will be monitored. |
| 38. Is it clear how these are to be measured and are these linked to the production of the annual monitoring report? | i. Sections of the development plan document setting out indicators, targets and milestones<br>ii. Sections of the current annual monitoring report and the sustainability appraisal report setting out the framework for monitoring, including monitoring the effects of the development plan document against the sustainability appraisal<br>iii. Reference to any other reports or technical documents which contain information on the collection or measurement of indicators | Section 28 of the Plan provides a monitoring framework, against which the delivery of the Plan will be monitored.<br>The Council produces an annual monitoring report and will consider the findings of this monitoring work to determine whether or not a review of development plan policies will be needed. |
| 39. Are suitable targets and indicators present (by when, how and by whom)? | i. Sections of the development plan document setting out indicators, targets and milestones<br>ii. Sections of the current annual monitoring report that report on indicators, targets, milestones and trajectories | Section 28 of the Plan provides a monitoring framework, against which the delivery of the Plan will be monitored.<br>The Council produces an annual monitoring report which details responsibilities for monitoring individual indicators. |

| **National policy** | | |
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| 40. Does the development plan document contain any policies or proposals that are not consistent with national planning policy?<br>41. If yes, is there a local | i. Sections of the development plan document which refer to planning policy statements and justify why any policies are not consistent with national policy<br>ii. Sustainable community strategy, studies forming evidence for the development plan document or other information which provide the stimulus for | During its preparation the Plan has been revised to ensure that it is consistent with National Policy.<br>GONW have been actively involved in the preparation of the Plan. Where issues in relation to conformity with national guidance have been raised during the preparation of the Plan, the |

| justification? | departing from national planning policy | Council has sought to address these (for example additional work relating to PPS4 conformity was provided as a result of GONW comments). GONW have indicated during the most recent consultation (Sept 2010) that they have no comments to make on the Plan. |
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| | iii. Evidence provided from the sustainability appraisal (including reference to the sustainability report) and/or from the results of community involvement | |
| | iv. Representations from the Government Office on the preferred strategy or the submitted development plan document | |
| | v. Reports or copies of correspondence as to how Government Office representations have been considered and dealt with | |
| 42. Does the development plan document contain policies that do not add anything to existing national guidance?<br><br>43. If so, why have they been included? | i. Sections of the development plan document which explain where and how national policy has been elaborated upon and the reasons<br><br>ii. Representations from the Government Office<br><br>iii. Reports or copies of correspondence as to how the representations have been considered and dealt with | The Plan has been considered fully to assess the extent to which it contains policies that duplicate national policy.<br><br>The Council does not consider that there are areas of the Plan that duplicate existing national policy without justification, for example where local circumstances warrant the approach (eg. Policy W1 (PPS4), R4 (PPG2) etc.).<br><br>GONW have been actively involved in the preparation of the Plan. GONW have indicated during the most recent consultation (Sept 2010) that they have no comments to make on the Plan. |