



# **DPD1: Trafford Core Strategy: Publication Document**

**Sustainability Appraisal Report**

**June 2010**



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## **SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL OF TRAFFORD'S CORE STRATEGY:** **PUBLICATION DOCUMENT**

### **1. NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

#### **1.1 Introduction**

This Report outlines the findings of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council's Core Strategy. It has been produced to accompany the Publication version of the Core Strategy which is the subject of public consultation from 20<sup>th</sup> September 2010 to 1<sup>st</sup> November 2010.

SA is a systematic process used to assess the extent to which a plan or strategy will help to achieve relevant social, environmental and economic objectives. It also suggests ways of avoiding or reducing negative impacts.

This SA considers the potential implications of the Core Strategy by assessing the Vision, Strategic Objectives, Strategic Locations and Core Policies against available baseline data and sustainability objectives. The findings of SA should be reflected in the adopted Core Strategy to help ensure that it maximises its contribution to future sustainability.

#### **1.2 Requirement to Undertake a Sustainability Appraisal**

Sustainable development is the core principle underpinning the planning system. In order to ensure that new plans and strategies contribute towards sustainable development, the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires a SA to be carried out on all new or revised Development Plan Documents.

In addition, there is a need to comply with European Union Directive 2001/42/EC, which requires a formal Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of plans and programmes that are likely to have a significant effect on the environment.

#### **1.3 Sustainability Objectives**

The SA considers the potential implications of the Core Strategy by assessing the plan against a series of social, environmental and economic objectives. Accordingly, the establishment of these objectives is central to the SA process.

Drawing upon the sustainability issues identified through analysis of baseline data and the review of other relevant plans and strategies, twenty-three objectives that reflect Trafford's priorities for achieving a sustainable borough have been identified. These cover a range of issues, for example relating to housing, social exclusion, health, climate change, air quality, water quality, landscape, investment and prosperity. In addition, sixty-four sub-objectives have been identified to assist with the assessment against the sustainability objectives.

## **1.4 Baseline Characteristics and Key Sustainability Issues**

The review of plans, programmes and strategies, the analysis of the baseline data, and consultation with the public and statutory bodies enabled the following key sustainability issues to be identified:

- Need to ensure sufficient supply of all types and tenure of housing. In particular sufficient houses need to be provided in the right places at the right price
- There is a need to reduce the need to travel by car
- Need to reduce the fear and incidents of crime
- Need to tackle the localised areas of high levels of deprivation
- Create sustainable communities
- Increase public involvement and participation in decision making
- Need to minimise the skills shortage
- Need to protect and enhance the environment of local communities
- Need to provide an integrated transport network
- Conserve and enhance the built environment
- Conserve and enhance the natural environment recognising the importance of biodiversity
- Protect, conserve and enhance the designated features of the historic environment and their settings'
- Increase the access to and provision of areas of natural habitat and open space
- Need to secure and promote increased energy efficiency and renewable energy sources
- Need to promote and secure increased sustainable waste management
- Need to consider the impacts of flooding and flood risk
- Ensure that both Trafford and the NW achieve their true economic potential
- Need to ensure that the vitality and viability of our town centres is maintained and enhanced
- Manage and promote tourism development
- Need to improve usage of public transport
- Need to promote the re-use of land and minimise the take-up of greenfield land
- Need to balance high level of demand for development in the south of the borough against limited capacity

Source: Sustainability Issues were derived from the baseline data gathered in 2007 to inform the SA Scoping Report (June 2007)

## **1.5 Appraisal Results: Positive and Negative Effects**

The SA process concluded that the Publication version of the Core Strategy has the potential to deliver a wide range of social, environmental and economic benefits. In particular, it was considered that the Vision for Trafford should help provide more opportunities for residents in areas of disadvantage, which would have a significant positive impact on reducing economic disparities; improving access to services and facilities; decreasing poverty and social exclusion and equity and equality of opportunity. The Vision also offers considerable scope for redeveloping vacant / underused brownfield sites which would have key benefits for improving local neighbourhood quality; protecting and enhancing the diversity and distinctiveness of



landscape, townscape character and cultural facilities; reducing crime and fear of crime; and conserving land resources and reducing land contamination.

The five Strategic Locations have the potential to deliver a range of sustainability benefits. Specifically, the proposals for these Strategic Locations should improve the balance and mix of the housing market; enhance Trafford's economic performance; reduce economic disparities and enhance Trafford's image as a business destination.

On the whole, the Core Strategy Policies also scored very highly in the SA process.

Although the amendments made to Core Strategy throughout the plan preparation process have improved its performance against the sustainability objectives, the Publication document still has the potential to have some negative impacts. In particular, due to the amount of development proposed, the Core Strategy could have a negative impact on traffic generation and air quality. The extent to which this negative impact can be offset will depend on whether significant enhancements to public transport can be secured, particularly in the more peripheral parts of the Borough where development is proposed. In addition, the Core Strategy directs a significant amount of development to areas at risk of flooding and, as a result, the impact of elements of the Plan on vulnerability to climate change is uncertain. Nevertheless, it is acknowledged that there are overriding sustainability reasons for directing development to these locations and there are policies within the Core Strategy which will ensure that appropriate measures are taken to manage flood risk.

## **1.6 Difference the Sustainability Appraisal Process has Made**

The SA process for the Trafford Core Strategy has played a key role in improving the social, environmental, and economic performance of the developing strategy. Throughout the plan preparation process the SA has made a series of recommendations to improve the sustainability of the Core Strategy and, as a result, a number of amendments have been made to the Strategic Location proposals and individual Core Policies.

In particular, the SA has resulted in the Core Strategy Publication document incorporating specific references to:

- The need to ensure that adequate public transport provision exists/is provided by way of the proposed developments and that this offers a viable alternative to the user;
- The need to ensure high standards of sustainable urban design at Carrington (SL5);
- The need to value and protect historic buildings and structures;
- The need to maintain the biodiversity value of the Strategic Locations;
- The need to ensure that uses classified in PPS25 as being "more vulnerable" to flooding such as residential, certain leisure uses, healthcare and educational facilities are located outside of high flood risk and that development incorporates measures to reduce the risk of flooding; and
- The need to clarify that new residential development will provide a balance of choice for new residents and the existing community.

## **1.7 Next Steps**

This SA Report is being published alongside the Publication version of the Core Strategy to provide the public, statutory consultees and other stakeholders with an opportunity to express opinions on this SA Report and to use it as a reference point whilst commenting on the Core Strategy Publication document.

The Council will then submit the Core Strategy to the Secretary of State for an Independent Examination. This SA report will form part of the evidence base that the Planning Inspector will refer to in order to assess the soundness of the Core Strategy.

Following the Examination, the Inspector will issue a report to the Council containing binding amendments that must be made to the Core Strategy before it is legally adopted. A summary of the main issues raised on the SA, and how these were taken into account in the development of the plan and SA Report, will be produced as part of the adoption statement for the Core Strategy.

The significant effects of implementing the Core Strategy will then be monitored.

## **1.8 How to comment**

This SA Report and the Publication version of the Core Strategy will be subject to a consultation period running from 20 September through to 1 November 2010. Comments are invited on the contents of the report, in terms of the appraisal methodology, the accuracy of the assessment of the likely significant effects of the plan and the opportunities for additional mitigation to ensure that the Core Strategy is as 'sustainable' as possible.

Comments may be made by any of the following means:

- By email, to: [strategic.planning@trafford.gov.uk](mailto:strategic.planning@trafford.gov.uk)
- By post, to:  
Core Strategy Consultation  
Strategic Planning and Developments Team  
1st Floor, Waterside House  
Sale Waterside  
Sale  
M33 7ZF

The Council should receive all comments no later than 5:00pm on Monday 1 November 2010.

## **2. INTRODUCTION**

### **2.1 Purpose of the Report**

In September 2004, the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act came into effect and introduced the requirement for Trafford Metropolitan Council to replace its existing land use development plan – the Revised Trafford Unitary Development Plan (Adopted June 2006) – with a new “spatial” development plan – the Trafford Local Development Framework. The Local Development Framework (LDF) is not a single plan but comprises of a series of individual documents that collectively deal with the spatial issues that will affect the people, who will live, learn, work and relax in the Borough over the next 15 years.

The Core Strategy is the overarching element of the LDF and all other Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) prepared by the Council are required to be in conformity with it. The Core Strategy will outline the Council’s vision for Trafford up to the year 2026, and will set out how the Council will manage the change necessary to realise this vision. Accordingly, it will need to establish an appropriate balance between growth, regeneration and environmental protection / improvement.

Sustainable development is the core principle underpinning the planning system and, as a consequence, sustainability will be at the heart of the Core Strategy. In order to ensure that new plans and strategies contribute towards sustainable development, the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) to be carried out on all new or revised DPDs.

The purpose of this SA is to promote sustainable development through the integration of sustainability considerations into the preparation, adoption and implementation of the Core Strategy. SA does not constitute a separate stage in the production of the Core Strategy but instead represents an iterative, on-going process that forms an integral part of the plan-making process. It involves the identification and evaluation of the social, environmental and economic impacts of the plan. In doing so, it provides an opportunity to consider ways in which the Core Strategy can make an effective contribution to sustainable development and provides a means of avoiding or reducing any adverse effects that the plan might have.

This Report outlines the findings of the SA of Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council’s Core Strategy Publication document. It is being published alongside the Core Strategy to provide the public, statutory consultees and other stakeholders with an opportunity to express opinions on this SA Report and to use it as a reference point whilst commenting on the Core Strategy Publication document. It should be read alongside the previous SA reports issued for consultation.

### **2.2 Requirement for SA / SEA**

Under Section 19(5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, where a Local Planning Authority is preparing a Core Strategy it is mandatory for the plan to be subject to a sustainability appraisal throughout its production, to ensure that it is fully consistent with, and helps to implement, the principles of sustainable



development. The SA performs a key role in providing a sound evidence base for the Core Strategy and provides a means of demonstrating to decision makers, and the public, that the plan is the most appropriate given reasonable alternatives.

In parallel with this, the European Directive 2001/42/EC “on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment” (the Strategic Environmental Assessment or ‘SEA Directive’), which is transposed into United Kingdom law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the ‘SEA Regulations’), introduced a statutory obligation to conduct an environmental assessment of certain plans. The Regulations apply to a range of UK plans and programmes prepared by public bodies, including Trafford’s Core Strategy which meets the relevant criteria in that:

- It is “prepared by an authority for adoption, through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government, and is required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions” (Article 2(b)); and
- It concerns “town and country planning or land use... which sets the framework for future development consent of projects” (Article 5.2(a)).

While SA and SEA are distinct processes, many of their requirements overlap. As a consequence, the Government has prepared guidance<sup>1</sup> which advises that an integrated approach to SA and SEA should be pursued, so that the SA process also meets the requirements of the SEA Directive and Regulations. This involves extending the breadth of (predominantly environmental) issues required to be considered under SEA to cover the full range of aspects (including social and economic) for sustainability.

In accordance with this guidance, this SA Report meets the SEA requirements, and acts as the ‘environmental report’ for the purposes of Regulation 12 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. Throughout this report, all references to SA must be taken to include the requirements of European Directive 2001/42/EC.

## **2.3 Compliance with these Requirements**

As outlined in section 2.2, sustainability appraisals of Development Plan Documents should also fully incorporate the requirements of the European Directive 2001/42/EC, known as the SEA Directive, which are transposed into United Kingdom law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations). While SEA and SA are distinct processes, the intention of this SA is to adopt an approach to appraisal which also meets the requirements of the SEA Directive and Regulations. The following table shows how this report meets the requirements of the SEA Directive.

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<sup>1</sup> Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents: Guidance for Regional Planning Bodies and Local Planning Authorities – ODPM, November 2005.

Table 1: Compliance with the SEA Directive

Information to be included in an Environmental Report under the SEA Regulations	Relevant sections in the SA Report
An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan and its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.	3.2 3.4 – 3.6
The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan.	3.3
The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	3.3
Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan, 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.	3.3 3.7
The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or national level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.	3.2 3.3
The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soils, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage, landscape, and the interrelationship between the above factors.	4.1 – 4.4 Appendix Report
The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan.	4.5 Section 6 Appendix Report
An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties.	3.1 3.6
A description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring.	5
A non-technical summary of the information provided above.	1

## 2.4 Key Stages of the SA in Relation to the Core Strategy

SA provides a means to assess the economic, social and environmental effects of a Core Strategy at various points during its preparation. It is not a one-off event in the preparation of a Core Strategy; instead, it should be undertaken in tandem with the plan preparation process and fed into the Core Strategy's development at appropriate points.

The first formal stage in the SA process was the production of a SA Scoping Report, which was published for consultation in June 2007. This Scoping Report defined the Sustainability Framework (consisting of a series of sustainability objectives, sub-objectives and indicators) and set out the methodology that would be used to inform the process of SA throughout the different stages in the production of the Core Strategy. Details on how the SA has been applied during various stages of the plan preparation process are provided below.

### **SA of the Issues and Options – July 2007**

The priority social, economic and environmental sustainability issues for Trafford identified in the SA Scoping Report were used together with the issues identified in the Spatial Portrait of Trafford and the Community Strategy to develop the Strategic Objectives in the Core Strategy Issues and Options Document.

The Issues and Options document contained three different Spatial Options for development in Trafford. Council Officers carried out an initial SA of these options. This appraisal raised a large number of uncertainties due to the very outline and strategic nature of the options. A number of positive and negative impacts were identified. Issues over the need to address congestion, reduce the need to travel and protect the natural environment were highlighted and the need for mitigation and infrastructure in developing the options further. A more detailed summary of this appraisal can be found in Appendix IV.

### **SA of Preferred Options – July 2008**

A SA was then carried out in July 2008 on the Preferred Spatial Options. These options were refined from the Issues & Options stage, allowing a more detailed SA to be carried out. In order to gain from the expertise of others, the Council established three Sustainability Panels comprised of stakeholders with an interest in various social, economic and environmental aspects of sustainable development. This SA process then involved four stages, as set out below:

- Stage 1 – An appraisal of the draft Spatial Options
- Stage 2 – An appraisal of the final Spatial Options
- Stage 3 – Critical friend appraisal
- Stage 4 – Ratification panel approval

Further details of the appraisal process and the outcomes can be found in the document “Sustainability Appraisal of Spatial Options for the Core Strategy Preferred Options Report” and in Section 4.5.

### **SA of The Preferred Option – June 2009**

A further Preferred Option report was prepared by the Council in June 2009. This report contained a Spatial Strategy, five Strategic Sites, thirteen Strategic Locations and a series of Core Policies. Independent consultants, Urban Vision, were commissioned to undertake a full SA of this report.

The SA concluded that the Core Strategy has the potential to deliver a wide range of social, environmental and economic benefits. In particular, it was considered that the Spatial Strategy should help to provide more opportunities for residents in areas of disadvantage, which would have a significant positive impact on reducing economic disparities; improving access to services and facilities; decreasing poverty and social exclusion and equity and equality of opportunity. Whilst the Strategic Sites and Strategic Locations were considered to have the potential to make a significant positive contribution towards improving the balance and mix of the housing market; reducing poverty, social exclusion and economic disparities; and improving economic performance.

On the whole, the Core Strategy Policies also scored very highly in the SA process.

Nevertheless, it was considered that there was the potential for the Core Strategy to have a negative impact on traffic generation and air quality. There were also uncertain scores in relation to flood risk due to the SFRA Level 2 work not being available.

Further details of the outcomes of this stage of the appraisal process can be found in the accompanying document "Core Strategy: Further Consultation on the Preferred Option Sustainability Appraisal Report" and in Section 4.5.

#### **SA of Interim Consultation on Policies L2, L4, L5, W1 and R5 – November 2009**

A number of amendments were made to five Core Policies following comments received on the policies during the consultation on the Preferred Option report in June 2009. These five amended policies were subject to further SA and consultation in November 2009.

The SA process concluded that the amended policies L2, L4 and R5 had no uncertain or negative effects on the sustainability objectives. The performance of policy L5 against a number of the sustainability objectives was uncertain but no mitigation measures were proposed by the SA. In addition, due to the SFRA Level 2 work not being available, a number of uncertainties remained over the location of employment sites and flood risk.

Further details of the outcomes of this stage of the appraisal process can be found in the document "Core Strategy: Further Consultation on Core Policies L2, L4, L5, W1 and R5 Sustainability Appraisal Report" and in Section 4.5.

#### **SA of Further Consultation on the Vision, Strategic Objectives, and Delivery Strategy – March 2010**

Following the consultation on the five amended Core Strategy policies in November 2009 a number of changes were made to the Core Strategy Vision, Strategic Objectives, and Delivery Strategy. Specifically, the Core Strategy Vision was amended to incorporate the Spatial Strategy and reflect the Council's revised approach to Strategic Locations and Sites. The number of Strategic Locations was reduced from 13 to 5, with the remaining 8 Strategic Locations from the Preferred Option document being incorporated into the Core Policies, and all 5 of the Strategic Sites were removed and incorporated into either the retained Strategic Locations or Core Policies. In the light of comments received at previous stages in the Plan preparation process, a number of changes were also made to several of the Core Strategy policies, primarily to take account of the Council's revised approach to Strategic Locations.

Further SA was carried out on these additional changes to the Vision, Strategic Objectives, and Delivery Strategy. This SA also drew upon information from the Level 2 SFRA and the results of the Trafford Core Strategy PPS25 Flood Risk Sequential Test Report in order to carry out a PPS25 Flood Risk Exceptions test of the Strategic Locations.

The SA concluded that the amended Core Strategy had the potential to deliver a wide range of social, environmental and economic benefits. However, it identified some opportunities for further enhancement and made a number of recommendations to improve its sustainability.

Further details of the outcomes of this stage of the appraisal process can be found in the document “Core Strategy: Further Consultation on the Vision, Strategic Objectives, and Delivery Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Report” and in Section 4.5.

### **SA of Core Strategy Publication Document – June 2010**

This SA report presents the outcomes of the appraisal of further refinements made to:

- The five Strategic Locations; and
- Core Policies L1, L4, L5, L6, L7, L8, W1, W2, W3, R1, R2 and R5.

For completeness, this SA report also presents the most recent appraisal of the Vision and the remaining Core Policies, which have not been significantly altered since they were last consulted upon.

## **2.5 Feedback from Consultation**

Article 6(2) of the SEA Directive states that authorities with relevant environmental responsibilities and the public must be given an early and effective opportunity to express their opinion on the draft plan and the accompanying environmental report.

As detailed in section 2.4, a SA Report has been provided alongside each version of Trafford's Core Strategy that has been issued for consultation. A number of comments have been made on these SA reports. These comments have been analysed and, where relevant, taken into account during subsequent stages of the SA process.

Details of the comments received on earlier versions of Trafford's Core Strategy and their accompanying SA reports is available on the Council's website.

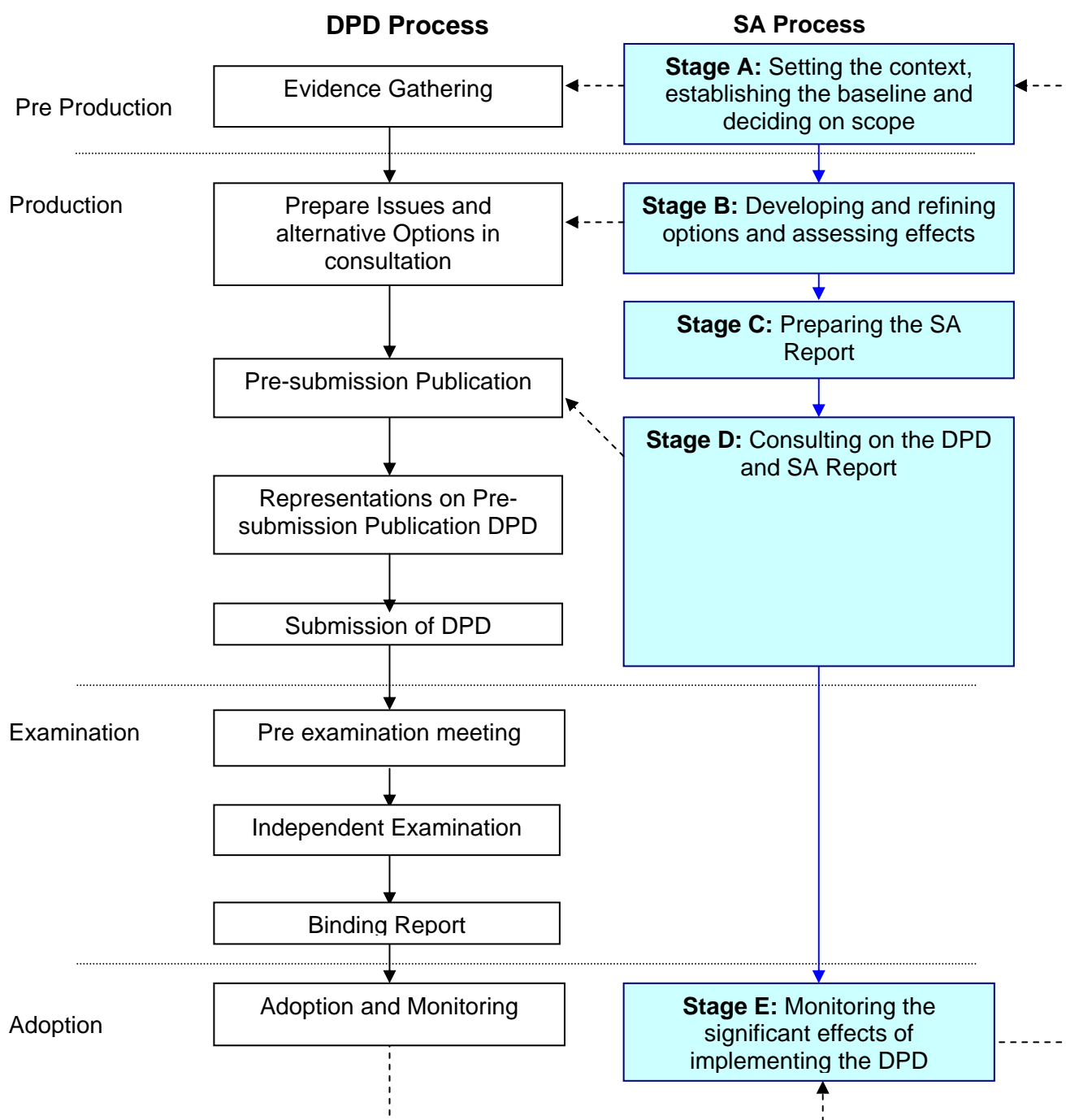


### 3. METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Overall Approach

The approach adopted to undertake the SA was based on the process set out in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) Guidance Paper “Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents” November 2005. This guidance advocates a five-stage process to undertaking SA, as set out in the following diagram:

Figure 1: DPD and SA preparation process



Trafford Council undertook the first stage (Stage A), identifying the initial scope of the SA, in June 2007. In conjunction with key stakeholders, the Council identified and reviewed other relevant plans, policies and programmes that will affect and influence the Core Strategy; set out relevant social, environmental and economic baseline information; identified the key sustainability issues for the SA to address; established an SA Framework consisting of sustainability objectives, indicators and targets; and produced a Scoping Report for consultation on the scope of the appraisal.

As part of Stage A of the SA process, twenty-three sustainable development objectives were established for appraising the Core Strategy. The establishment of these SA objectives is central to the SA process. The SA framework, based on these objectives, provides a way in which sustainability effects are described, assessed and compared. Sustainability objectives are distinct from those of the Core Strategy itself.

The sustainability objectives used for the SA of the Core Strategy were drawn from the sustainability issues identified through the analysis of the baseline data and review of other plans and strategies set out in the SA Scoping Report. They cover a range of issues, for example relating to housing, social exclusion, health, climate change, air quality, water quality, landscape, investment and prosperity. In addition, sixty-four sub-objectives have been identified to assist with the assessment against the sustainability objectives.

The SA Framework can be found in the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal Appendices report, which is available on the Council's website.

### **3.2 Links to Other Plans, Programmes and Strategies**

Stage A of the SA process involves establishing the context in which the Core Strategy is being prepared, namely the other plans, programmes and strategies that influence its content (and vice-versa) and the opportunities and challenges they present. The SEA Directive specifically requires environmental objectives established at international, European Community or national levels to be taken into account in developing the Core Strategy. However, in order to facilitate a comprehensive approach and maximise its sustainability, guidance on SA recommends that this should be widened to consider how the Core Strategy can support the full range of other plans, policies and programmes that already exist, including at the regional, sub-regional and local levels, taking into account their economic and social as well as environmental objectives.

In reviewing these plans, policies and programmes the aim is to identify their implications for the Core Strategy to ensure that the relationship between these documents and the Core Strategy has been fully explored. This will in turn ensure that Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council is able to exploit potential synergies and address any identified inconsistencies between international, national, regional and local objectives.

Table 2 below shows a list of the plans, policies and programmes that were reviewed as part of the SA. The full review is provided in the SA Scoping Report for the Core Strategy (June 2007), which is available on the Council's website.

Table 2: List of all Plans, Programmes and Strategies reviewed as part of the SA

INTERNATIONAL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development.</li> <li>• Guiding Principles for the Sustainable Spatial Development of the European Continent (ESDP) (2000).</li> <li>• EU Framework Directives on: Air Quality, Water, Nitrates, Water Quality, Drinking Water Quality, Pollution, Wild Birds, Conservation of Wild Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna, Waste, Landfill of Waste, Packaging, Packaging Waste, and Noise.</li> <li>• A Sustainable Europe for a Better World: A European Strategy for Sustainable Development (2001)</li> <li>• EU Sixth Environmental Action Programme (2002)</li> <li>• Environment 2010: Our Future, Our Choice.</li> <li>• European Biodiversity Strategy</li> <li>• Kyoto Protocol (1997)</li> <li>• European Directive on SEA</li> <li>• European Landscape Convention</li> <li>• UNESCO World Heritage Convention</li> <li>• European Spatial Development Perspective</li> </ul>
NATIONAL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air Quality Strategy for England, Wales and Northern Ireland (DETR <i>et al</i>, 2000)</li> <li>• Rural White Paper: Our Countryside, The Future – A Fair Deal for Rural England (DETR, 2000)</li> <li>• Urban White Paper: Our Towns and Cities, The Future – Delivering an Urban Renaissance (DETR, 2000)</li> <li>• UK Waste Strategy (DEFRA, 2007)</li> <li>• Working with the Grain of Nature: A Biodiversity Strategy for England 2002</li> <li>• The Strategy for Sustainable Farming and Food (DEFRA 2002)</li> <li>• Our Energy Future – Creating a Low Carbon Economy (DTI, 2003)</li> <li>• Creating Sustainable Communities: Building for the Future (ODPM, 2003)</li> <li>• Sustainable Communities in the North West (ODPM, 2003)</li> <li>• Moving Forward: The Northern Way (ODPM, 2004)</li> <li>• The Future of Transport White Paper (2004)</li> <li>• Choosing Health: Making Healthier Choices Easier, White Paper (DOH, 2005)</li> <li>• Sustainable Communities: People, Places and Prosperity (ODPM, 2005)</li> <li>• Securing The Future: delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy 2005.</li> <li>• Our Energy Challenge – Securing Clean Affordable Energy (DTI, 2006)</li> <li>• Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990</li> <li>• Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979</li> <li>• Soil Action Plan (DEFRA, 2004)</li> <li>• The Countryside in and around Towns (2005)</li> <li>• PPS 1 Delivering Sustainable Communities</li> <li>• PPS1 (Supplement) Planning and Climate Change</li> <li>• PPG 2 Green Belts</li> <li>• PPS 3 Housing</li> <li>• PPG 4 Industrial, Commercial Development and Small Firms</li> <li>• PPS 6 Planning for Town Centres</li> <li>• PPS 7 Sustainable Development in Rural Areas</li> <li>• PPG 8 Telecommunications</li> <li>• PPS 9 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation</li> <li>• PPS 10 Planning for Sustainable Waste Management</li> <li>• PPS12 Local Development Frameworks</li> <li>• PPG 13 Transport.</li> <li>• PPG 14 Development on Unstable Land</li> <li>• PPG 15 Planning and the Historic Environment</li> <li>• PPG 16 Archaeology and Planning</li> <li>• PPG 17 Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation</li> <li>• PPS 22 Renewable Energy</li> <li>• PPS 23 Planning and Pollution Control</li> <li>• PPG 24 Planning and Noise</li> <li>• PPS 25 Development and Flood Risk</li> <li>• MPG 1 General Considerations</li> </ul>

- MPG 2 Applications, Conditions and Permissions
- MPG 3 Coal Mining and Colliery Spoil Disposal
- MPG 4 Main Document
- MPG 5 Stability in Surface Mineral Workings and Tips
- MPG 6 Guidance for Aggregates Provision in England
- MPG 7 Reclamation of Mineral Workings
- MPG 8 Main Document
- MPG 9 Main Document
- MPG 10 Provision of Raw Material for the Cement Industry
- MPG 11 Control of Noise at Surface Mineral Workings
- MPG 13 Guidance for Peat Provision in England
- MPG 14 Environment Act 1995: Review of Mineral Planning Permissions
- MPG 15 Provision of Silica Sand in England
- MPS 1 Planning and Minerals
- MPS 2 Controlling and Mitigating the Environmental Effects of Mineral Extraction in England

## REGIONAL

- Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West – RPG13 (2003)
- The North West Plan – Submitted Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West of England (2006)
- North West Regional Economic Strategy (2006)
- North West Regional Housing Strategy (2005)
- Action for Sustainability – The Regional Sustainable Development Framework for the North West (2004)
- North West Regional Transport Strategy
- North West Regional Freight Strategy (2003)
- The Strategy for Tourism in England's North West (2003)
- Regional Waste Strategy for the North West (2004)
- The Regional Forestry Framework for England's North West – The Agenda for Growth
- North West Sustainable Energy Strategy (2006)
- Rising to the Challenge – A Climate Change Action Plan for England's North West
- NW Biodiversity Action Plan
- Countryside Character Volume 2: North West England
- The Cultural Strategy for England's North West (2001)
- Streets for All
- NW Green Infrastructure Guide – Draft

## GREATER MANCHESTER

- Sharing the Vision – A Strategy for Greater Manchester
- The Greater Manchester Economic Development Plan 2004/5 – 2006/7
- Manchester City Region Development Plan
- Greater Manchester LTP2 2006/7 – 2010/11
- Greater Manchester Derelict Land Strategy
- Greater Manchester Air Quality Action Plan
- Greater Manchester Noise Plan Draft (2006)
- Destination Manchester – A Five Year Tourism Strategy 2003 – 2008
- Red Rose Forest Plan
- M60/M602/A627(M)/A663 Manchester Outer Ring Road Route Management Strategy
- Conservation in Greater Manchester

## LOCAL

- Trafford Community Strategy
- Trafford 2021 – A Blueprint (2006)
- Trafford Corporate Plan 2005 – 2008
- Trafford Economic Development Plan (2005)
- Trafford Housing Strategy 2005 – 2008
- Parks and Open Space Strategy (Draft) 2005-2010
- Action for Nature in Trafford 2005-2010
- Trafford Green Space and Culture Strategy 2002-2005
- Live Life Trafford: A Cultural Strategy for Trafford 2004-2009/10
- Safer Trafford: Drugs, Crime and Disorder Strategy 2005-2008
- Waste Management Strategy for Trafford Consultation Draft (2004)

- Trafford Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy
- Western Gateway Regeneration Framework 2001-2016
- PG7 – The Downs, The Devisdale, Bowdon, Ashley Heath Conservation Areas
- PG8 – South Hale Conservation Areas
- PG23 – Linotype Estate Conservation Area (2000)
- PG30 – Landscape Strategy (2004)

### 3.3 Baseline Characteristics and Key Sustainability Issues

The collection and analysis of baseline information is a key component of the SA process and a legal requirement under the SEA Directive. It facilitates the identification of the key sustainability issues that need to be taken into account when developing a Core Strategy and assists in the formation of objectives, indicators and targets for the plan. Baseline data also provides the information necessary to assist in predicting and monitoring the effects of a plan.

For the Core Strategy, baseline data was obtained from a number of different sources, including Annual Monitoring Reports, Quality of Life Counts (DETR, 2005), Best Value Report 2005/06, and the Local Transport Plan 2 (LTP2) Monitoring Technical Annex 2. The analysis of the key baseline characteristics for Trafford, together with an assessment of other relevant plans, policies and programmes, has facilitated the identification of the key sustainability issues that need to be taken into account when developing the Core Strategy.

From this analysis it is evident that Trafford is one of the most sought after locations to live in the north of England, with a high quality environment, strong and diverse economy, excellent schools and crime rates lower than any other metropolitan area. Nevertheless, it is recognised that not everyone in Trafford has the opportunity to share in this excellent quality of life and there are considerable disparities between neighbourhoods in the Borough. The major social, environmental and economic issues for Trafford are identified below:

- Need to ensure sufficient supply of all types and tenure of housing. In particular sufficient houses need to be provided in the right places at the right price
- There is a need to reduce the need to travel by car
- Need to reduce the fear and incidents of crime
- Need to tackle the localised areas of high levels of deprivation
- Create sustainable communities
- Increase public involvement and participation in decision making
- Need to minimise the skills shortage
- Need to protect and enhance the environment of local communities
- Need to provide an integrated transport network
- Conserve and enhance the built environment
- Conserve and enhance the natural environment recognising the importance of biodiversity
- Protect, conserve and enhance the designated features of the historic environment and their settings'
- Increase the access to and provision of areas of natural habitat and open space
- Need to secure and promote increased energy efficiency and renewable energy sources
- Need to promote and secure increased sustainable waste management



- Need to consider the impacts of flooding and flood risk
- Ensure that both Trafford and the NW achieve their true economic potential
- Need to ensure that the vitality and viability of our town centres is maintained and enhanced
- Manage and promote tourism development
- Need to improve usage of public transport
- Need to promote the re-use of land and minimise the take-up of greenfield land
- Need to balance high level of demand for development in the south of the borough against limited capacity

Source: Sustainability Issues were derived from the baseline data gathered in 2007 to inform the SA Scoping Report (June 2007)

### 3.4 Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

The SA appraises the potential implications of the Core Strategy from a social, environmental and economic perspective. SA is fundamentally based on an objectives-led approach whereby the potential impacts of a plan are gauged in relation to a series of objectives for sustainable development. The establishment of these objectives is therefore central to the SA process as it provides the methodological yardstick against which the sustainability effects of the Core Strategy can be described, assessed and compared.

Drawing upon the sustainability issues identified through analysis of baseline data and the review of other relevant plans and strategies, the SA Scoping Report for the Core Strategy identifies twenty-three objectives that reflect Trafford's priorities for achieving a sustainable borough. In addition, a number of sub-objectives have been identified for each objective to assist with the assessment against them. These objectives and their sub-objectives are listed below.

The objectives have been designed to be fully comprehensive, whilst minimising any overlap between individual objectives that could potentially cause confusion and skew the results of any appraisal. Each objective is inevitably broad in its scope given the wide-ranging nature of the Core Strategy and its potential sustainability implications.

#### **SOCIAL**

##### **S1 Achieve a better balance and mix in the housing market between availability and demand.**

- Ensure sufficient supply of all housing.
- Ensure sufficient supply of affordable houses.
- Increase the range of housing for all social groups particularly young people, older people "lifetime homes" and those with support needs.
- Ensure all housing is high quality and there are less vacant properties.
- Reduce homelessness.

##### **S2 Improve accessibility for all to essential services and facilities.**

- Improve access to services particularly in most deprived areas of the borough.

- Improve access to local services and amenities particularly for disabled and older people.
- S3 Enhance transport infrastructure, improving accessibility and quality of life to all communities.**
  - Provide efficient, inclusive and affordable public transport.
  - Improve participation in walking and cycling.
  - Improve road safety.
- S4 Reduce crime, disorder and the fear of crime.**
  - Reduce fear of crime and perception of crime
  - Reduce incidences of crime for burglaries, drug related, and violent, domestic abuse.
- S5 Reduce poverty and social exclusion.**
  - Reduce multiple deprivations.
  - Reduce the number of low-income families.
- S6 Encourage a sense of community identity and welfare and value diversity, improve equity and equality of opportunity.**
  - Provide opportunities and support for engagement and role in decision-making particularly in the young, those over 50, black and minority ethnic groups and disabled people.
- S7 Improve qualifications and skills of the resident population.**
  - Improve children's services.
  - Minimise educational inequality.
  - Improve educational standards for all.
  - Create a culture of learning through life for every individual and organisation.
  - Develop the right skills for the economy to address skills shortages.
- S8 Improve the health and, inequalities in health of the population.**
  - Promote better health and reduce health inequalities between different neighbourhoods in the Borough.
  - Increase participation in and access to sport and physical activity facilities.
  - Increase awareness and use of cultural facilities.
- S9 Protect and improve local neighbourhood quality.**
  - Improve the quality of highway infrastructure.
  - Reductions in the amount of litter, graffiti, fly posting and fly tipping.

## ENVIRONMENTAL

- E1 Reduce the effect of traffic on the environment.**
  - Manage traffic flows to reduce congestion.
  - Reduce traffic related emissions.
  - Reduce motorised traffic.

- E2 Protect, enhance and restore open space, biodiversity, flora and fauna, geological and geo-morphological features.**
- Conserve and enhance the natural environment.
  - Conserve and enhance habitat diversity.
  - Conserve and enhance geodiversity.
  - Conserve and enhance species diversity.
  - Ensure residents have access to high quality open space.
- E3 Reduce contributions to climate change.**
- Reduce the amount of carbon emissions.
  - Increase energy efficiency.
  - Increase the number of energy saving schemes.
  - Increase the proportion of energy needs generated from renewable sources.
- E4 Reduce impact of climate change.**
- Minimise risk of flooding and increase use of SUDS.
  - Minimise water consumption.
- E5 Reduce the environmental impacts of consumption and production.**
- Reduce the amount of waste produced and increase the proportion that is recycled and reused.
  - Reduce the amount of waste produced by business and increase the proportion that is reused.
  - Ensure the sustainable management of minerals resources.
- E6 Conserve land resources and reduce land contamination.**
- Reduce the amount of contaminated, derelict and underused land.
  - Reduce the loss of nature conservation value on brownfield land.
  - Increase the percentage of homes built on previously developed land.
- E7 Protect and improve water quality.**
- Improve the biological and chemical quality of rivers, canal and groundwater.
  - Improve the aesthetic quality of the rivers and canals.
- E8 Protect and improve air quality.**
- Decrease the emission of air borne pollutants from all sources.
  - Encourage the use of cleaner fuels.
- E9 Protect and enhance the diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character and cultural facilities.**
- Ensure residents have access to high quality cultural facilities.
  - Restore, protect and enhance landscape character.
  - Protect and enhance conservation areas and sites of archaeological importance.
  - Achieve high quality and sustainable design for buildings, spaces and the public realm sensitive to the locality.
  - Protect and enhance listed buildings.
  - Protect and enhance registered historic parks and gardens.

## ECONOMIC

### **EC1 Enhance Trafford's high performance and sustainable economy to provide a powerful contribution to regional growth.**

- Encourage the growth of existing and attract inward investment from key business sectors.
- Support an increase in firm formations in high growth, knowledge and innovation sectors.
- Create conditions for sustainable growth ensuring the supply of appropriate sites and premises that will respond to growth.

### **EC2 Reducing disparities by releasing the potential of all residents particularly in areas of disadvantage.**

- Target interventions that will tackle barriers to work, address basic skills issues and link workless people to vacancies.

### **EC3 Enhance Trafford's image as a business and tourism destination.**

- Increase Trafford's role as a tourist destination.

### **EC4 Encourage the long term sustainability of Trafford's Town Centres.**

- Enhance town centre vitality.
- Encourage developers to include sustainability and energy efficiency policies for their town centre schemes.

### **EC5 Improve the social and environmental performance of the economy.**

- Encourage ethical trading.
- Encourage good employee relations and management practices.
- Encourage companies to use environmental management systems.

## **3.5 Strategic Objectives of the Core Strategy**

The proposed Core Strategy spatial vision seeks to achieve the following Strategic Objectives by 2026.

Table 3: Core Strategy Strategic Objectives

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE NO.	STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE
SO1	<b>Meeting housing needs</b> - promote sufficient high quality housing in sustainable locations, of a size, density and tenure needed to meet the Borough's needs and to contribute towards those of the City Region.
SO2	<b>Regenerate</b> the physical, economic, environmental and social fabric of the most disadvantaged communities within the Borough to reduce inequalities and improve prosperity.
SO3	<b>Meet Employment Need</b> - Establish the right conditions to sustain employment sites for new and diverse investment to enable Trafford to remain competitive and contribute to the growth of the economy of the Sub-Region and to attract and retain employment opportunities.

<b>S04</b>	<b>Revitalise Town Centres</b> – Maintain a clear hierarchy of vibrant, diverse and distinct shopping centres across the Borough to be the focus for commercial, retail and leisure uses to meet the needs of the local population.
<b>S05</b>	<b>Provide a Green Environment</b> – Achieve an appropriate level of green-space, to protect and enhance the landscape character, recreational and biodiversity value of the Borough's natural environment in both urban and countryside areas and to provide for the growing community.
<b>S06</b>	<b>Reduce the Need to Travel</b> – Promote significant levels of development in the most sustainable locations in the Borough and make less sustainable locations accessible by improving transport links, particularly public transport.
<b>S07</b>	<b>Secure Sustainable Development</b> – Promote the reuse of resources, the principles of sustainable construction and the use of new technologies to combat and adapt to climate change to minimise the impact of all new development on the environment.
<b>S08</b>	<b>Protect the Historic Built Environment</b> – Protect, enhance and value the Borough's heritage to contribute to the attractiveness and distinctiveness of the Borough.

In order to ensure that the Strategic Objectives of the Core Strategy are consistent with the principles of sustainable development they must be tested against the SA framework. This enables conflicts and tensions between the objectives to be identified and necessary additions or amendments to be made.

Table 4 'tests' the Core Strategy's strategic objectives against each of the SA objectives. This exercise was originally undertaken as part of the SA of the Core Strategy Issues and Options (July 2007) and Preferred Options (July 2008).



Table 4: Testing the Core Strategy's Strategic Objectives against the SA Objectives

Summary SA Objective	Achieve a better balance and mix in the housing market	Improve accessibility for all to essential services and facilities	Enhance Transport infrastructure and improve accessibility	Reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime	Reduce poverty and social exclusion	Encourage community identity, value diversity and improve equality of opportunity	Improve qualifications and skills	Improve health and inequalities in the health of the population	Protect and improve local neighbourhood quality	Reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	Protect and enhance open space, flora and fauna, biodiversity, and geological features	Reduce contributions to climate change	Reduce impacts of climate change	Reduce environmental impacts of consumption and production	Conserve land resources and reduce land contamination	Protect and improve water quality	Protect and improve air quality	Protect and enhance landscape and townscape character	Enhance Trafford's high performance and sustainable economy	Reduce disparities by releasing the potential of all residents	Enhance Trafford's image as a business and tourism destination	Encourage the long term sustainability of Trafford's town centres	Improve the social and environmental performance of the economy
SA Objective	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<b>Core Strategy Objective</b>																							
<b>SO1 Meeting housing needs</b>	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	0	+	+	+	0	0	+	0
<b>SO2 Regenerate</b>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+
<b>SO3 Meet Employment Need</b>	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	?	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+
<b>SO4 Revitalise Town Centres</b>	0	+	0	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	+	0	0	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<b>SO5 Provide a Green Environment</b>	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	+
<b>SO6 Reduce the Need to Travel</b>	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	+	0	+	0	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+
<b>SO7 Secure Sustainable Development</b>	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	?	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	0	+	+	0	+
<b>SO8 Protect the Historic Built Environment</b>	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	?	0	+	0	0

+ Objectives are compatible     
 - Objectives are not compatible     
 ? Uncertain relationship     
 0 No direct relationship

Overall the Strategic Objectives of the Core Strategy are considered to be compatible with the SA objectives. In particular, the objectives relating to regenerating the physical, economic, environmental and social fabric of the most disadvantaged communities within the Borough; revitalising town centres; providing green infrastructure; and securing sustainable development, are especially consistent with the principles of sustainable development.

There were no instances where the Strategic Objectives of the Core Strategy were considered to be incompatible with a SA objective. Nevertheless, there were some uncertain relationships between the two sets of objectives. For instance, the Core Strategy objective of meeting employment need would have an uncertain impact on the objective relating to reducing the effect of traffic on the environment.

### **3.6 Data Limitations/Technical Difficulties**

The SEA Directive requires the identification of any difficulties encountered; these may include technical deficiencies or lack of knowledge. There were no significant technical difficulties encountered during the undertaking of the SA. However, due to the strategic nature of the document there were some areas of uncertainty that resulted from the limited detail of some of the proposals. In addition, it was necessary to assume that the proposals would be implemented in accordance with the proposed development phasing contained within the Core Strategy.

During some of the earlier stages of the SA process there were a number of evidence constraints that made it more difficult to quantify impacts. These included:

- Uncertainty over the impact of some of the proposals on flood risk and adapting to climate change due to the Level 2/Hybrid SFRA not having been completed; and
- Limited information about the ecological value of the Strategic Locations.

These evidence constraints were largely resolved before later stages of the SA were undertaken.

### **3.7 Habitat Regulation Assessment**

Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna – the ‘Habitats Directive’ – provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. Article 6 of this Directive introduced the requirement to undertake a ‘Habitat Regulation Assessment’ (HRA) of the implications of proposed land use plans, such as Core Strategies, for the integrity of nature conservation sites of European importance. Such sites are known as Natura 2000 sites, and include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs), Special Areas of Protection (SPAs), potential Special Areas of Protection (pSPAs), Ramsar sites and Offshore Marine Sites (OMSs).

The purpose of a HRA is to determine whether or not significant effects on European sites are likely and to suggest ways in which they could be avoided. Under the provisions of the Habitats Directive, consent can only be granted for such a plan if, as a result of the HRA, it can be demonstrated that the integrity of the sites will not be

adversely affected or, where adverse impacts are anticipated, there is shown to be no alternative solutions and imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to go ahead.

An initial screening exercise to determine whether the Core Strategy is likely to have a significant effect on a European site (whether within Trafford or in neighbouring authority) was undertaken by the Greater Manchester Ecological Unit (GMEU). Given that there are no European sites within the administrative boundary of Trafford Council, the screening opinion concluded that direct impacts such as habitat loss would not occur. Consequently, the screening opinion considered the effects of the Core Strategy primarily on European designated sites that lie within or in close proximity of Greater Manchester.

As regards the impact of the Plan on the special interests of the five European sites that lie within or in close proximity of Greater Manchester, given the distance of the European Sites concerned from Trafford the screening opinion considered that it is the scale and type of development that will be the determining factor for any impact of development on the special interest of the European Sites, rather than the spatial location of this development within the borough.

GMEU undertook a further iteration of the HRA in June 2009. This assessment considered impact of the refined Core Strategy (Preferred Option) on Natura 2000 sites. This concluded that Manchester Mosses SAC could potentially be affected by either development in areas selected by Trafford MBC as Strategic Locations/Strategic Sites or by Core Policies outlined in the Preferred Option report. As a consequence, a number of site and development proposals that would require further Assessment were identified.

A HRA of the Publication version of the Core Strategy has been undertaken by GMEU. This concluded that the proposals for the Carrington Strategic Location could have a significant effect on the Manchester Mosses SAC through potential atmospheric pollution and recreational pressure. It was also established that Core Policies L1: Land for New Homes and L4: Sustainable Transport and Accessibility also had the potential to have a significant effect on the SAC.

A more detailed Assessment of the possible effects of development of the Carrington Strategic Location and Core Policies L1 and L4 on the Manchester Mosses SAC was therefore completed. This concluded that, providing mitigating plans, policies and strategies are adopted and implemented appropriately through the development management process, development within the identified areas could proceed without harm being caused to the special interest of the Moss.

## **4. CORE STRATEGY PUBLICATION DOCUMENT APPRAISAL**

This section provides a summary of the results of the sustainability appraisal of the further refinements made to:

- The five Strategic Locations; and
- Core Policies L1, L4, L5, L6, L7, L8, W1, W2, W3, R1, R2 and R5.

This appraisal considered the degree and type of impact, split by short term (0-5 years), medium term (5-10 years), and long-term (10+ years). It also predicted the certainty of impact (in terms of high, medium and low); the scale of impact (which ranged from local to national); the permanence of the impact; any key secondary, cumulative and/or synergistic impacts; and options for mitigation.

For completeness, the most recent appraisal of the Vision and the remaining Core Policies, which have not been significantly altered since they were last consulted upon, is also provided.

The full sustainability appraisal matrices are available in the accompanying SA Report Appendices, which is available on the Council's website.

### **4.1 Summary of the Significant Effects of the Vision for Trafford**

The Vision has the potential to deliver a wide range of social, environmental and economic benefits. By prioritising development in the Regional Centre, Inner Areas and other regeneration priority areas the Delivery Strategy will provide more opportunities for residents in areas of disadvantage, which would have a significant positive impact on reducing economic disparities; improving access to services and facilities; decreasing poverty and social exclusion and equity and equality of opportunity. The Delivery Strategy's prioritisation of these areas also offers the most scope for redeveloping vacant / underused brownfield sites which would have key benefits for improving local neighbourhood quality; protecting and enhancing the diversity and distinctiveness of landscape, townscape character and cultural facilities; reducing crime and fear of crime; and conserving land resources and reducing land contamination.

Other high scoring objectives are enhancing Trafford's economic performance; improving the Borough's image as a business and tourism location; achieving a better balance and mix in the housing market; and encouraging the long-term sustainability of Trafford's town centres.

It is anticipated that there could be a negative impact on air quality in parts of the Borough due to the growth in traffic associated with the amount of development proposed. The focus on the peripheral areas of Partington and Carrington in particular has the potential to exacerbate the situation. Key mitigation measures will be the maintenance and development of an efficient public transport network and local tree planting schemes. There may also be the need to ensure new developments incorporate SUDs where appropriate to reduce surface water runoff into watercourses and reduce the flood risk. This will address the uncertain impact of the strategy on water quality and vulnerability to climate change.

Other policies in the Core Strategy are designed to ensure these mitigation measures are achieved.

## **4.2 Summary of the Significant Effects of the Strategic Locations**

The Publication version of the Core Strategy includes five Strategic Locations, which are identified as key areas for change. The following section gives a brief summary of the outcomes of the SA of each of these Strategic Locations.

### *SL 1: Pomona Island*

The proposals for Pomona have the potential to deliver a range of significant sustainability benefits. The key ones relate to reducing poverty and social exclusion; conserving land resources; enhancing Trafford's economic performance; and improving the Borough's image as a business location. By resulting in the redevelopment of a prominent, vacant site the proposals would also have a positive impact on the objectives relating to enhancing townscape character; reducing crime and fear of crime; and improving local neighbourhood quality.

The accessibility of the site by public transport and its proximity to areas of deprivation could also result in positive effects on a range of sustainability objectives, including reducing the effect of traffic on the environment; reducing contributions to climate change and improving air quality. The inclusion of a requirement for development to enhance pedestrian and cycle links to existing Metrolink stations at Cornbrook and Pomona will further strengthen the performance of the proposals against these objectives. Other objectives that the proposals would have some positive impact on include those relating to the social and environmental performance of the economy; transport infrastructure; sense of community identity; and water quality.

Due to an extant planning permission, 546 residential units will be provided at Pomona. The majority of these will be 2 bed dwellings and it is therefore anticipated that the proposals will make a positive contribution to achieving a better balance in the housing market. However, a significant proportion of the Pomona site is at a high risk of flooding. Consequently, the inclusion of a residential element within the proposals means that they are likely to have a negative impact on the objective of reducing the impact of climate change.

As a result of the Sequential Testing of the Strategic Locations, the amended proposals for Pomona no longer include certain leisure uses, healthcare and educational facilities. Consequently, the degree to which the proposals impact positively on the objectives relating to accessibility to services and facilities and reducing disparities is reduced.

As there has been re-vegetation on a portion of the site there is the possibility that its redevelopment could have a negative impact on biodiversity, flora and fauna. However, the amended policy now stipulates that an assessment of biodiversity must be carried out prior to development and that appropriate sites for nature conservation must be provided to compensate for any loss. As a result, it is considered that the proposals will have a positive impact in the long term on the objective of protecting and enhancing biodiversity, flora and fauna.



### *SL 2: Trafford Wharfside*

The proposals for Trafford Wharfside are expected to have a largely positive impact on the sustainability objectives. In particular, the proposals are expected to have a major positive effect on economic performance; reducing poverty and social exclusion; Trafford's image as a business destination; the conservation of land resources; and reducing economic disparities. Other high scoring objectives include improving accessibility for all to services and facilities; improving health; improving qualifications and skills; reducing crime and fear of crime and improving the social and environmental performance of the economy. The proposals place a strong emphasis on securing a high quality design for the redevelopment of Victoria Warehouse and ensuring that tall buildings, in particular, are well designed and iconic. This should enhance the performance of the proposals against the objective of protecting and improving local neighbourhood quality.

The site is well connected to, or within walking distance of, the public transport network and the proposals would also support walking and cycling through the provision of a pedestrian bridge crossing to the Quays and the creation of a processional route to the LCCC Strategic Location. Furthermore, it is stated that development in this location will be expected to contribute to the provision of a high frequency public transport system. Consequently, it is anticipated that the proposals would have a positive impact on traffic generation and, by extension, air quality and contributions to climate change. However, there is only limited certainty about this correlation due to the proposals also having the potential to exacerbate congestion, with the GM transport model forecasting a significant increase in journey times on the A56 and A5081.

Trafford Wharfside is immediately adjacent to the Manchester Ship Canal and the Level 2 SFRA has demonstrated that a significant proportion of the site is at risk of flooding. The Council's Sequential Test Report showed 42% of the site falling within Flood Zone 2 and 2% in Flood Zone 3. As a result, the proposal is likely to have an adverse impact on the objective of reducing the effects of climate change. It is however noted that the proposals have been amended to specify that all uses classified by PPS25 as being More Vulnerable to flooding must be located outside the part of the site that is within Flood Zone 3. In addition, the amended policy now stipulates that development proposals at Wharfside will be required to be accompanied by a Flood Risk Assessment which demonstrates that the development will be safe from flooding without increasing flood risk elsewhere. As a consequence of these amendments, the proposals are no longer considered to have a negative effect on the objective of reducing the impact of climate change.

There are no anticipated negative or uncertain effects from the proposals for Trafford Wharfside.

### *SL 3: Lancashire County Cricket Club (LCCC) Area*

The proposals for the LCCC Strategic Location have the potential to deliver a wide range of sustainability benefits. The redevelopment of the stadium will significantly enhance Trafford's reputation as a location for national and international sporting events and strengthen Trafford's reputation as a tourism destination. The proposals would also result in the provision of a range of employment opportunities, a superstore, and education, community and leisure facilities in a location that is well related to areas of deprivation and accessible by public transport. As a consequence, it is anticipated that the proposals would have a major positive impact on the

objectives relating to economic disparities; poverty and social exclusion; access to services and facilities; health; and skills and qualifications. There would also be some positive impact on the objectives relating to enhancing Trafford's high economic performance and improving the social and environmental performance of the economy. In addition, the policy stipulates that the proposed superstore would be limited to a scale that will address the deficiencies in retail provision in the Old Trafford/Stretford area, which addresses previous uncertainties about the impact of the proposals on Trafford's town centres. As a result, it is now concluded that the proposals are unlikely to have any significant impact on the Borough's town centres.

The policy states that the residential element of the proposal will comprise principally of accommodation suitable for families, with an appropriate affordable housing contribution. As a result, the Strategic Location should make a significant contribution to Trafford's identified housing needs and thereby have a major positive effect on the objective of achieving a better balance and mix in the housing market. The requirement for development in this location to deliver improvements to the local highway network and better linkages to public transport infrastructure should have a positive impact on the objective of enhancing transport infrastructure and improving accessibility. Similarly, the new reference to protecting and enhancing the Grade II listed Trafford Town Hall and its setting should ensure that the proposals have a positive impact on the objective of protecting and enhancing the diversity and distinctiveness of townscape character.

There are no anticipated negative effects from the proposals for the LCCC area. Nevertheless, there is uncertainty over the impact of the proposals on traffic generation and, by extension, air quality and contributions to climate change. However, the greater emphasis placed upon improvements to the local highway network and enhanced linkages to public transport infrastructure in the amended proposals should reduce the impact on these objectives.

It is recognised that the wider masterplan proposals for the LCCC area have the potential to result in cumulative erosion of habitats and thus generally lead to a decreased level of biodiversity in the area. Nevertheless, it is now specified that development at this location will be required to incorporate features to enhance the level of biodiversity in the area, such as green roofs and appropriate landscaping. As a result, it is concluded that the proposals have the potential to have a positive impact on the objective relating to biodiversity, flora and fauna.

#### *SL 4: Trafford Centre Rectangle*

The Trafford Centre Rectangle Strategic Location has the potential to deliver a range of significant sustainability benefits. The key ones relate to enhancing Trafford's economic performance and improving the Borough's image as a business and tourism location. It is specified that the residential elements of the proposal will comprise predominantly of accommodation suitable for families, with an appropriate affordable housing contribution. As a result, the proposal should make a significant contribution to Trafford's identified housing needs and thereby have a major positive effect on the objective of achieving a better balance and mix in the housing market.

A significant emphasis is placed upon enhancing the accessibility of the location by public transport, with reference made to the need to significantly improve public transport infrastructure including an integrated, frequent public transit system; re-route local public transport provision through the site and provide a direct pedestrian

link to the Trafford Centre Bus Station. As a result, it is concluded that the proposals are likely to have some positive impact on the objectives relating to transport infrastructure; poverty and social exclusion; the effects of traffic on the environment; contributions to climate change; air quality; and economic disparities. The detail provided on the ancillary community facilities means that it can be concluded with a reasonable degree of certainty that the proposals would have a positive impact on the objectives of improving accessibility for all to services and facilities; improving qualifications and improving health.

The inclusion of a requirement for the development to preserve or enhance the Barton-upon-Irwell Conservation Area, deliver improvements to the Barton Bridge Swing Aqueduct (Grade II\* listed) and protect and enhance the setting of Pugin's Grade I listed church of All Saints and the Grade II Presbytery should ensure that the amended proposals have a significant positive impact on the objective relating to townscape character. Similarly, the proposals now incorporate a requirement for an assessment of biodiversity to be carried out prior to development and for appropriate sites for nature conservation to be provided to compensate for any loss. As a result, the proposals are likely to have a positive impact on the objective relating to open space, biodiversity, flora and fauna.

The Council's Sequential Test Report demonstrated that 20% of the Trafford Centre Rectangle is in Flood Zone 2 and 4% in Flood Zone 3. This flood risk is particularly acute in the Trafford Quays section of the site, 44% of which is in Flood Zone 2 and 15% is in Flood Zone 3. Consequently, development in this area may be particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Nevertheless, the amended proposals for Trafford Centre Rectangle specify that uses classified in PPS25 as being More Vulnerable to flooding must be located outside of Flood Zone 3 and that development proposals will be required to be accompanied by a Flood Risk Assessment which demonstrates that the development will be safe from flooding without increasing flood risk elsewhere. As a result, it is no longer considered that the proposals would have a negative effect on the objective of reducing the impact of climate change.

#### *SL 5: Carrington*

It is anticipated that the proposals for the Carrington Strategic Location will have a significant positive impact on the objectives relating to enhancing Trafford's economic performance; improving the Borough's image as a business location; reducing disparities; and conserving land resources and reducing land contamination. As the proposals involve the remediation and redevelopment of an under-utilised brownfield site there would also be some positive impact on local neighbourhood quality; water quality and townscape character.

The inclusion of a substantial residential element within the proposals and the specification that approximately 80% of this will be accommodation suitable for families should ensure that the proposals have a major positive impact on the objective of achieving a better balance and mix in the housing market. Similarly, the requirement for the development to be accompanied by ancillary community facilities may have some positive impact on the objectives of improving accessibility for all to services and facilities; improving qualifications and skills and improving the health. The proposals now unequivocally stipulate that development in this location will be required to protect and enhance the Mosslands and other sites of nature conservation and biological importance, including Carrington Rides, Broadoak Wood and Brookheys Covert. In addition, new habitats may be created through the required

Green Infrastructure provision. As a result, the revised proposals could have a significant positive impact on the objective of protecting, enhancing and restoring open space, biodiversity and flora and fauna.

Carrington is presently poorly served by public transport and development in this area has the potential to result in unsustainable patterns of transport. The proposal would however deliver significant enhancements to public transport and also provide new road infrastructure to serve the development area, including a contribution towards a scheme to mitigate the impact of traffic generated by the development on the M60, which would have a positive impact on transport infrastructure and the social performance of the economy. The impact of the proposals on the objectives relating to the effect of traffic on the environment and air quality is however less certain. The inclusion of a requirement to protect the Mosslands as a carbon sink should however ensure that the proposals have some positive impact on the objective of reducing contributions to climate change.

The Council's Sequential Test Report demonstrated that 16% of the site is in Flood Zone 2 and 5% in Flood Zone 3. Consequently, development in this area may be particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Nevertheless, the amended proposals for Carrington now specify that uses classified in PPS25 as being More Vulnerable to flooding must be located outside of Flood Zone 3 and that development proposals will be required to be accompanied by a Flood Risk Assessment which demonstrates that the development will be safe from flooding without increasing flood risk elsewhere. As a result of these amendments, it is no longer considered that the proposals for Carrington would have a negative effect on the objective of reducing the impact of climate change.

#### **4.3 Summary of the Significant Effects of the Core Strategy Policies**

The Core Strategy Publication Document contains seventeen policies. These will be essential for realising the Vision for Trafford. The following section gives a brief summary of the outcomes of the SA of these policies.

##### *L1: Land for New Homes*

Policy L1 Land for New Homes has the potential to deliver a range of significant sustainability benefits. The key ones relate to a better balance and mix in the housing market, improving accessibility for all to services and facilities, enhancing transport infrastructure; improving accessibility and quality of life to all communities and reducing poverty and exclusion. Other high scoring objectives are protecting and improving local neighbourhood quality and also protecting and enhancing the diversity and distinctiveness of landscape, townscape character and cultural facilities.

The strength of this policy relates to its prioritisation of sustainable locations and derelict, vacant and underused land and the requirement for infrastructure contributions in less accessible locations. Key mitigation actions relate to conservation surveys on re-vegetated sites before development takes place. Other policies in the Core Strategy will ensure that this takes place. This will address the uncertain impact of this policy on the open space, biodiversity, flora and fauna objective.

The amendments made to the Policy strengthen its performance against the objective of encouraging the long term sustainability of Trafford's town centres. However, due to an outstanding full planning permission, the amended policy now allows for the provision of 546 residential units at Pomona. Given the severity of flood risk at Pomona, development at this site is likely to be vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Whilst it is acknowledged that the amount of residential units to be delivered at Pomona represents only approximately 5% of the total number of dwellings to be provided in the Borough during the plan period, the development at Pomona will still result in a significant number of dwellings in an area at risk of flooding. Consequently, it is considered that Policy L1 would have an uncertain effect on the objective of reducing the impact of climate change. Nevertheless, as the housing to be delivered at Pomona Island is due to an extant full planning permission on this site, no mitigation measures are proposed.

### *L2: Meeting Housing Needs*

Policy L2 Meeting Housing Needs has the potential to deliver a number of significant sustainability benefits. The key ones relate to a better balance and mix in the housing market and improving accessibility for all to services and facilities. Other high scoring objectives relate to reducing poverty and social exclusion, encouraging community identity, improving health, reducing contributions to climate change, improving air quality, enhancing Trafford's economy and encouraging the long term sustainability of Trafford's town centres. There are no uncertain or negative effects on the sustainability objectives and no mitigation is proposed.

### *L3: Regeneration and Reducing Inequalities*

Policy L3 Regeneration and Reducing Inequalities scores well against the sustainability objectives. The proposals for Trafford's Priority Regeneration Areas would have a major positive impact on the objectives relating to achieving a better balance and mix in the housing market; improving accessibility for all to services and facilities; protecting and improving local neighbourhood quality; and enhancing Trafford's economy. The policy would have a positive impact on a wide range of other social and economic objectives, including those relating to enhancing transport infrastructure and accessibility; reducing crime and disorder; reducing poverty and social exclusion; encouraging a sense of community identity; improving qualifications, skills and health; reducing economic disparities and encouraging the long term sustainability of Trafford's town centres; and the social and environmental performance of the economy. As a consequence, the policy would have important positive secondary effects on the quality of life in the Borough.

The impact of the policy on a number of the environmental objectives is however less certain. In particular, there is an uncertain impact on the objectives of conserving land resources; protecting water quality; and protect and enhancing biodiversity, flora and fauna, due largely to the proposal at Partington involving the development of a greenfield site adjacent to the Manchester Ship Canal. However, this has to be balanced against the important regeneration benefits to Partington's town centre and balance of housing stock.

The amendments made to the policy do however improve its performance against a number of the environmental objectives. Specifically, the inclusion of a requirement for More Vulnerable uses to be located outside of Flood Zone 3 should ensure that the policy does not have a negative impact on the objective of reducing the impact of climate change. In addition, the amendments made to the policy should ensure that



there are improvements in access to employment areas from the regeneration priority areas by a choice of means of transport. This improves the performance of the policy against the objectives of reducing the effect of traffic on the environment and reducing contributions to climate change.

#### *L4: Sustainable Transport and Accessibility*

Policy L4: Sustainable Transport and Accessibility has the potential to deliver a wide range of sustainability benefits. By prioritising development in the most accessible locations and requiring development in less sustainable locations to improve access to more sustainable transport choices, the policy will have a major positive impact on the objectives relating to improving accessibility for all to services and facilities and the long term sustainability of Trafford's Town Centres. The policy aims to reduce car use by developing a high quality public transport network and promoting walking and cycling as an alternative to travelling by car. As a result, the policy will also have a significant positive impact on the objectives of reducing the effect of traffic on the environment and reducing contributions to climate change.

The policy pledges to bring forward new highway and public transport infrastructure schemes and will therefore have a major positive impact on the objective of enhancing Trafford's transport infrastructure. Other positive scoring objectives relate to reducing poverty and social exclusion; encouraging a sense of community identity; improving health; improving the qualifications and skills; protecting local neighbourhood quality; conserving land resources; improving air quality; enhancing Trafford's economy; reducing economic disparities and improving the social and environmental performance of the economy.

There are no uncertain or negative effects on the sustainability objectives and, as a result, no mitigation measures are proposed.

#### *L5: Climate Change*

Unsurprisingly, Policy L5 Climate Change has the potential to deliver a number of significant sustainability benefits, including reducing both contributions to and the effects of climate change and reducing the environmental impacts of consumption and production. It has positive effects on a number of other objectives such as reducing poverty (fuel poverty); improving health and local neighbourhood quality; protecting open space and biodiversity and enhancing Trafford's image as a business destination. It will also protect and improve air and water quality and the social and environmental performance of the economy.

The Trafford Economic Viability Study (May 2009) has demonstrated that compliance with the Code for Sustainable Homes Standards would not impact upon the viability of house building in Trafford. As a result, there is a greater level of certainty that the costs of incorporating the necessary features to meet these standards will not have a significant impact on the balance and mix of the housing market.

#### *L6: Waste*

A key purpose of policy L6 is to reduce the amount of waste that is produced in Trafford and to ensure that waste that is produced is dealt with in a sustainable way. As a result, the policy would have a major positive impact on the objective of reducing the environmental impacts of consumption and production. The policy would also have a significant positive impact on the objectives relating to reducing



contributions to climate change and enhancing Trafford's high economic performance.

The requirement for all developers of new waste management facilities to plan for and, where appropriate, use sustainable modes for waste transport should ensure the policy has a positive impact on the objectives relating to enhancing transport infrastructure and improving accessibility; reducing the effects of traffic; and improving air quality. Other high scoring objectives relate to protecting and improving local neighbourhood quality; conserving land resources; improving water and air quality, and improving the social and environmental performance of the economy.

There are no uncertain or negative effects on the sustainability objectives associated with the policy.

#### *L7: Design*

Policy L7 has the potential to have a positive impact on a wide range of sustainability objectives. In particular, it will have a significant positive impact on the objectives relating to protecting and improving local neighbourhood quality and enhancing landscape and townscape character.

By requiring new developments to provide safe, convenient links to public transport and community facilities and seeking to ensure that streets and public areas are designed to provide safe and attractive environments for walkers and cyclists the policy will also have some positive impact on the objectives relating to improving accessibility for all to services and facilities; improving health; reducing the effect of traffic; reducing contributions to climate change; and improving air quality. Other high scoring objectives include reducing crime and disorder; reducing the impacts of consumption and production; conserving land resources; enhancing Trafford's economic performance; enhancing Trafford's image as a business and tourism destination; and encouraging the long term sustainability of Trafford's town centres. The inclusion of a requirement for development to make an appropriate provision for open space should also mean that the policy would have a positive effect on the objective of protecting and enhancing open space and biodiversity.

There are no uncertain or negative effects on the sustainability objectives.

#### *L8: Planning Obligations*

Policy L8 would have a positive impact on a range of sustainability objectives. The positive scores relate to achieving a better balance and mix in the housing market; improving accessibility for all to services and facilities; enhancing transport infrastructure; encouraging a sense of community identity; improving health; protecting and improving local neighbourhood quality; reducing the effects of traffic; protecting open space and biodiversity; reducing contributions to climate change; protecting landscape and townscape character; enhancing Trafford's economic performance; encouraging the sustainability of the Borough's town centres; and improving the environmental and social performance of the economy.

The amended policy now refers to securing contributions towards reducing inequalities and the supporting text identifies the potential to use planning obligations to secure training opportunities in the construction trades during the development period and for other permanent opportunities created by development. A reference is also made to securing contributions to the provision of new education facilities. As a

result of these amendments, it is considered that the policy would also have a positive impact on the objectives of reducing poverty and social exclusion; improving the qualifications and skills of the resident population; and reducing disparities by releasing the potential of all residents particularly in areas of disadvantage.

The policy would not have any uncertain or negative effects on any of the sustainability objectives.

#### *W1: Economy*

There are a number of significant sustainability benefits associated with Policy W1 Economy. The key ones relate to enhancing Trafford's high economic performance; improving Trafford's image as a business destination; improving local neighbourhood quality; and protecting and enhancing townscape character. In addition, by seeking to focus economic activity on a number of key locations that are well related to areas of deprivation and by requiring smaller sites for employment development to be accessible by a range of alternative modes other than the private car, the policy will have a major positive impact on poverty and social exclusion and some positive impact on economic disparities. Policy W1 could also have a positive effect on the skills of the resident population. However, in order to increase the certainty of this impact, reference should be made to the use of legal agreements to secure employment opportunities for local residents.

Although B1 office developments would be focused in the Regional Centre and town centres, the amended policy would enable some B1 office development in out of centre locations. Nevertheless, some of these out of centre locations, such as Pomona, are accessible by public transport and a strong emphasis is placed on ensuring that new employment development is located where it will be accessible by a range of alternative modes other than the private car. In addition, it is specified that B1 office development in Trafford Park and Carrington will be ancillary to existing or proposed employment uses.

Another key objective of the policy is to improve public transport infrastructure in Trafford Park. Policy W1 should therefore still have a positive impact on reducing the effect of traffic on the environment; reducing contributions to climate change; improving air quality; and improving the environmental performance of the economy.

A number of the proposed locations for economic development are adjacent to the Manchester Ship Canal and/or Bridgewater Canal. Consequently, there is a degree of uncertainty over the impact of the proposals on water quality. However, other policies in the Core Strategy should ensure that new developments incorporate appropriate measures to reduce surface water runoff into watercourses and reduce the risk of flooding from sewers. As such, no mitigation measures are proposed.

Policy W1 seeks to focus employment uses in a number of locations, several of which are known to be at risk of flooding, including Pomona, Wharfside, Trafford Centre Rectangle, Trafford Park and Carrington. As a result, the policy is likely to have a negative impact on the objective of reducing the impact of climate change. Nevertheless, Trafford Council's Flood Risk Sequential Test report (2010) has demonstrated that the proposals for these areas pass the Sequential Test set out in PPS25 and an Exceptions Test is unlikely to be required. Furthermore, other policies in the Core Strategy will ensure that appropriate measures are taken to reduce the risk of flooding. As a result, no mitigation measures are proposed.

The amendments made to the policy since it was last consulted upon in March 2010 do not have a significant impact on its performance against any of the sustainability objectives.

#### *W2: Town Centres and Retail*

Policy W2 Town Centres and Retail has the potential to deliver a number of significant sustainability benefits. The key ones relate to enhancing Trafford's high economic performance; improving accessibility for all to services; and encouraging the long-term sustainability of the Borough's town centres.

The policy places a strong emphasis on public realm enhancements in Trafford's town centres and stresses the importance of respecting and enhancing the character and setting of the Conservation Areas and historic buildings in Altrincham and historic buildings in other local centres. As a result it is considered that the policy is particularly compatible with the objective of protecting and enhancing the diversity and distinctiveness of townscape character.

By encouraging the provision of a range of employment opportunities, services and facilities in highly accessible locations, Policy W2 should also have a positive impact on the objectives relating to reducing the effect of traffic on the environment; poverty and social exclusion; air quality; mitigating climate change; and reducing economic disparities. Other high scoring objectives relate to protecting and improving neighbourhood quality; reducing crime and fear of crime; conserving land resources; and enhancing Trafford's image as a business destination. The inclusion of a new and/or improved hospital facility to the list of proposed development in Altrincham town centre and the inclusion of a reference to the promotion of pedestrian links means that the revised policy has the potential to have a positive impact on the objective of improving health and reducing inequalities in health. However, it is acknowledged that there is only limited certainty about this relationship.

There are no negative effects on the sustainability objectives and no mitigation is proposed. However, the Level 2 SFRA demonstrated that sections of Trafford's town centres are susceptible to surface water flooding. The relationship between the policy and the objective of reducing the impacts of climate change is therefore considered to be uncertain. Nevertheless, it is noted that there are other policies in the Core Strategy which will ensure that appropriate measures are taken to reduce the risk of surface water flooding.

The amendments made to the policy since it was last consulted upon in March 2010 do not have a significant impact on the policies performance against any of the sustainability objectives.

#### *W3: Minerals*

Policy W3 has the potential to deliver a number of sustainability benefits. The strength of this policy relates primarily to its contribution to a number of environmental objectives. In particular, by requiring developers of new minerals facilities to plan for and, where appropriate use, sustainable modes of transport, the policy will help to reduce the effects of transport on the environment and reduce contributions to climate change. Other high scoring objectives are reducing the environmental impacts of consumption and production; protecting and improving

water quality; and enhancing Trafford's high performance and sustainable economy to provide a powerful contribution to regional growth.

Through the promotion of the effective restoration and aftercare of sites, the policy has the potential to also have a positive impact on the objective relating to biodiversity, flora and fauna. However, the certainty of this impact is low due to the proposed afteruses being unknown. There are no uncertain or negative effects on the sustainability objectives and no mitigation is proposed.

#### *R1: Historic Built Environment*

Policy R1 will contribute positively to a number of sustainability objectives. In particular, as a key aim of the policy is to protect, maintain and enhance the character, appearance and special architectural interest of the Borough's heritage assets, it is considered that the policy will have a major positive impact on the objective of protecting and enhancing the diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character.

By providing protection to historic buildings and features that contribute to the attractiveness of the Borough the policy could help create high quality environments to live, work and invest in. This would have a positive impact on the performance of Trafford's economy, reducing economic disparities; and enhancing Trafford's image as a business and tourism destination. As such, a particular strength of this policy relates to the positive impact it is likely to have in relation to the overall economic objectives, contributing positively to 4 out of 5 of these sustainability objectives. The policy would also have a positive impact on the objectives relating to reducing poverty and exclusion; encouraging a sense of community identity; and protecting and improving local neighbourhood quality.

There are no uncertain or negative effects on the sustainability objectives.

#### *R2: Natural Environment*

It is anticipated that Policy R2 Natural Environment will deliver a range of significant sustainability benefits, especially in relation to the environmental objectives. The policy would have a major positive impact on the objectives relating to protecting, enhancing and restoring open space, biodiversity, flora and fauna, geological and geo-morphological features; conserving land resources; protecting and improving water quality; and protecting and enhancing the diversity and distinctiveness of landscape character.

The protection the policy offers to street trees, woodland and other areas of open space should ensure that it also has some positive impact on the objectives relating to reducing contributions to climate change; reducing the impact of climate change; and improving air quality. Other high scoring objectives relate to encouraging a sense of community identity; improving health; protecting local neighbourhood quality; enhancing Trafford's economic performance; and enhancing Trafford's image as a tourism destination.

There are no uncertain or negative effects on the sustainability objectives.

### *R3: Green Infrastructure*

Policy R3 Green Infrastructure will have a significant positive impact on a number of sustainability objectives. These, as can be expected, relate primarily to the environment. The development of a high quality and multi-functional GI network would have a major positive impact on protecting, enhancing and restoring open space, biodiversity, flora and fauna, geological and geo-morphological features; protecting and enhancing landscape character; and conserving land resources and reducing land contamination. In addition, it is anticipated that the policy will have a major positive effect on adaptation to climate change by providing wildlife habitats and reducing the risk of flooding.

The alterations made to the policy generally strengthen its performance against the SA objectives. For instance, the emphasis now placed on developing a GI network that contributes to tourist development should ensure that the amended policy has a major positive impact on the objective of enhancing Trafford's image as a tourism destination. Furthermore, the inclusion of Stretford Meadows as a significant GI opportunity should ensure that the policy has a major positive effect on reducing contributions to climate change and some positive impact on the objectives of reducing poverty and social exclusion and reducing crime, disorder and the fear of crime.

Policy R3 will have a positive impact on most of the other environmental sustainability objectives. It will contribute towards the social objectives of improving local neighbourhood quality; improving health; increasing accessibility and encouraging a sense of community identity. The development of an integrated network of green infrastructure will also have a positive impact on the economic objective of enhancing Trafford's high economic performance by improving the attractiveness to the Borough and encouraging potential investors.

There are no uncertain or negative effects on the sustainability objectives.

### *R4: Green Belt and Other Protected Open Land*

The amended policy R4 Green Belt and Other Protected Open Land is another policy that scores well against the sustainability objectives. The key potential benefits of the policy relate to reducing the effect of traffic on the environment; protecting, enhancing and restoring open space; reducing contributions to climate change; and conserving land resources. In addition, by providing long-term protection against development that would have a detrimental impact on landscapes in the Green Belt and by preserving the setting and special character of a number of conservation areas in Trafford, including those at Dunham Town, Dunham Woodhouses and Warburton, the policy would also have a major positive effect on the objective of protecting the diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character.

The policy will have a positive impact on health and local neighbourhood quality by affording protection to open spaces that provide important areas for recreation, such as Timperley Wedge. It will also afford protection to areas of open land that contribute to image of the Borough and will thereby help protect local neighbourhood quality. However, although the policy will restrict housing supply and economic development opportunities, it will also provide a high quality environment that attracts skilled workers to the Borough and assist in urban regeneration by enabling investment to be focused on key regeneration areas. Furthermore, the policy provides protection to land that is not included in the Green Belt in Warburton



(south of Partington) and to the south of Shell, Carrington, to ensure this land makes the maximum potential contribution to housing and economic development needs beyond the Plan period”

The policy would however have an uncertain impact on the Borough's reputation as a business destination. This is due to the fact that it would restrict economic development opportunities. Nevertheless, it must also be recognised that the maintenance of the Green Belt would also have a positive impact on this objective by providing a high quality environment that can attract skilled workers to the Borough. Accordingly, no mitigation measures are proposed.

#### *R5: Open Space, Sport and Recreation*

Policy R5 Open Space, Sport and Recreation has significant benefits for the sustainability objectives relating to protecting and improving neighbourhood quality; improving the health of the population; protecting, enhancing and restoring open space, biodiversity, flora and fauna, geological and geo-morphological features; and conserving land resources. Other benefits relate to improving accessibility to services and facilities; encouraging a sense of community identity and welfare; reducing the impacts of climate change; improving air quality; and enhancing the diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character. Furthermore, it is considered that the provision of high quality open spaces that add to the attractiveness of the Borough could stimulate investment and thereby contribute to the objectives relating to Trafford's economy and the Borough's image for business and tourism.

There are no uncertain or negative effects on the sustainability objectives and no mitigation is proposed.

The amendments made to the Policy since it was last consulted upon in November 2009 would not have any substantial impact on its performance against the sustainability objectives.

#### *R6: Culture and Tourism*

By supporting culture and tourism developments in key locations in Trafford and promoting developments that contribute towards meeting the Borough's identified need for appropriate hotel accommodation and additional art galleries, Policy R6 would have a significant positive impact on the objectives relating to the Borough's image as a tourism destination and the diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character and cultural facilities. The policy would also have some positive impact on the objectives of enhancing Trafford's economic performance and encouraging the long-term sustainability of Trafford's town centres.

By directing cultural and tourism development principally to locations which are accessible and/or well-related to areas of deprivation, such as LCCC, the Regional Centre, Trafford's town centres and priority regeneration areas, the policy could result in the creation of a range of employment opportunities that have a positive impact on the objectives of reducing poverty and social exclusion and reducing disparities by releasing the potential of all residents particularly in areas of disadvantage.

It is however recognised that developments to support tourism can attract large number of visitors to the Borough, which will result in an increase in vehicle movements. Accordingly, it is considered that the policy has the potential to have a



negative impact on the objectives relating to reducing the effects of traffic on the environment; reducing contributions to climate change and improving air quality. Key mitigation measures will include securing public transport enhancements to major tourist attractions in the Borough. Although Policies L4 and L8 will ensure proposals for major visitor attractions secure public transport improvements. Improving accessibility by public transport would also increase the likelihood that the policy would help to meet the objective of reducing poverty and social exclusion. However, it is acknowledged that the potential impact of the policy on traffic generation needs to be balanced against the important economic benefits that it is likely to deliver.

There is also potentially a negative impact on the objective of reducing the impact of climate change due to a number of the areas identified for culture and tourism development being susceptible to surface water flooding and/or flooding from watercourses. However, it is acknowledged that other policies in the Core Strategy should ensure that appropriate measures are taken to reduce flood risk.

#### **4.4 Secondary, Cumulative and Synergistic Effects**

Under the provisions of the SEA Directive, when appraising the sustainability of the Core Strategy it is necessary to consider whether or not there are any secondary, cumulative and/or synergistic effects.

A wide range of positive secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects of the Core Strategy Publication document have been identified, for example:

- By reducing poverty, social exclusion and economic disparities many of the policies and strategic proposals would have the important secondary effect of improving quality of life for residents in the Borough;
- By maintaining and enhancing the quality of townscapes and landscapes many of the policies, particularly those in Policies R1 – R6, would help maintain/create attractive places to live and work. This may have an important secondary impact of stimulating investment, which would create jobs and reduce poverty and social exclusion.
- The redevelopment of vacant, derelict and underused sites in the Regional Centre and Inner Areas would cumulatively help to improve the image of this part of the Borough; and
- Proposals to redevelop brownfield sites adjacent to the Manchester Ship Canal and Bridgewater Canal could lead to the remediation of contaminated sites. This would eliminate sources of pollutants and have a positive impact on water quality, delivering secondary benefits for biodiversity in the watercourses.

Nevertheless, a number of negative secondary, cumulative and/or synergistic effects were also identified. For instance,

- Notwithstanding the proposals to secure enhancements to public transport provision, a number of proposals could cumulatively exacerbate peak time congestion in parts of Trafford; and
- The focus on some peripheral areas (Carrington and Partington in particular) has the potential to have a negative impact on air quality in parts of the Borough due to the growth in traffic associated with the amount of development proposed. This may have a secondary effect on the health of certain sections of the population, particularly those who already suffer from respiratory illnesses. Nevertheless, it is

recognised that the proposals contain a series of measures to limit traffic growth by ensuring that public transport offers a viable alternative to travelling by car.

#### **4.5 Difference the Sustainability Appraisal Process has Made**

The SA process concluded that the Core Strategy has the potential to deliver a wide range of social, environmental and economic benefits. However, throughout the plan preparation process the SA has identified a number of opportunities for further enhancement and made a series of recommendations to improve the sustainability of the Core Strategy. As a result, a number of amendments have been made to the Core Strategy. A summary of the difference the SA process has made during each stage of the plan preparation process is provided below.

The SA process for the Trafford Core Strategy has played a key role in improving the social, environmental, and economic performance of the developing strategy. Three additional intermediate SAs have been undertaken as well as the standard Issues and Options, Preferred Option and Publication document appraisals. A clear trend can be identified through these stages as the emerging strategy improves its performance against the sustainability objectives.

##### **SA of the Issues and Options – July 2007**

The SA identified a considerable number of instances in which the spatial options would have an uncertain impact on the SA objectives. This was largely due to the very outline and strategic nature of the options assessed at this stage in the process.

The SA did however highlight the importance of addressing congestion, reducing the need to travel and protecting the natural environment when developing the options further.

##### **SA of Preferred Options – July 2008**

The draft Spatial Options were appraised in February 2008 and the SA recommendations were then used to refine the Options and make them more sustainable by changing the quantum of development in some areas and including more sustainable travel methods. These changes included:

- Amending Spatial Option 1 so that the proposed level of development in Stretford and Sale Town Centres was changed from limited to moderate to address concerns over the commercial potential and regeneration of these areas not being realised
- The level of development proposed in Altrincham Town Centre under Spatial Option 1 was also amended from moderate to significant meet the needs of residents in the south of the Borough;
- Amending Spatial Option 2 so that Sale Moor, Timperley, Urmston and Lostock were identified for limited development rather than moderate development to encourage more development in Sale and Stretford where regeneration is needed;
- Housing numbers in Sale and Stretford in Spatial Option 2 were increased from 300 to 400 to further support the regeneration of these areas and meet the critical mass needed to improve cultural and other support services;
- The level of development proposed around the Trafford Centre was reduced to reflect environmental objectives of concentrating development to brownfield sites; and

- The addition of a requirement to provide a new school and community facilities at the Trafford Centre to address concerns over car use and the need to create a sustainable community at the Trafford Centre.

The Options were then reappraised in May 2008. Mitigation comments were included in the appraisal and these were taken forward into more detailed policy formation following the Preferred Options consultation.

#### **SA of Further Consultation on the Preferred Option – June 2009**

The SA process concluded that the Core Strategy has the potential make a significant positive contribution to a wide range of social, environmental and economic objectives. However, it also identified a number of opportunities for further enhancement and made a series of recommendations to improve its sustainability. As a result, a number of changes were made to the Strategic Sites / Locations proposals. These covered the incorporation of specific references to:

- Ensuring appropriate levels of density are achieved;
- Ensuring that consideration and where necessary appropriate mitigation is taken in relation to flood risk, e.g. SUDS
- The need to ensure that adequate public transport provision exists/is provided by way of the proposed developments
- The need to value and protect historic buildings
- The need to explore opportunities for the use of Combined Heat and Power

In relation to the Core Policies, the SA made a number of recommendations about how individual policies could perform better. However, in the majority of instances, these recommendations were met by other Core Strategy policies and therefore no mitigation was needed.

#### **SA of Interim Consultation on Policies L2, L4, L5, W1 and R5 – November 2009**

The SA process concluded that the amended policies L2, L4 and R5 had no uncertain or negative effects on the sustainability objectives. As a consequence, no measures were proposed to improve the sustainability of these policies. Similarly, although the performance of policy L5 against a number of the sustainability objectives was uncertain, the SA proposed no amendments to the policy.

Further minor alterations were however made to policy W1 following recommendations made by the SA in relation to public transport.

#### **SA of Further Consultation on the Vision, Strategic Objectives, and Delivery Strategy – March 2010**

The SA concluded that the amended Core Strategy had the potential to deliver a wide range of social, environmental and economic benefits. However, it identified some opportunities for further enhancement and made a few recommendations to improve its sustainability. As a result, changes were made to this document, prior to publishing it, to reflect these proposed mitigation measures. These included the incorporation of specific references to:

- The need to ensure that adequate public transport provision exists/is provided by way of the proposed developments and that this offers a viable alternative to the user;

- The need to ensure high standards of sustainable urban design at Carrington (SL5);
- The need to value and protect historic buildings and structures;
- The need to maintain the biodiversity value of the Strategic Locations;
- The need to ensure that uses classified in PPS25 as being “more vulnerable” to flooding such as residential, certain leisure uses, healthcare and educational facilities are located outside of high flood risk and that development incorporates measures to reduce the risk of flooding; and
- The need to clarify that new residential development will provide a balance of choice for new residents and the existing community.

In relation to the Core Policies, the SA made a number of recommendations to improve the sustainability of certain individual policies. Nevertheless, in the majority of instances, these recommendations are met by other Core Strategy policies (some of which are not the subject of this consultation) and therefore no mitigation is needed.

#### **SA of Core Strategy Publication Document – June 2010**

The SA process concluded that the amended Strategic Location proposals and Core Strategy Policies performed very well against the sustainability objectives. A number of recommendations were made about how individual policies could perform better. However, in the majority of instances, these recommendations were met by other Core Strategy policies and therefore no mitigation is needed.

## 5. MONITORING

### 5.1 The Annual Monitoring Report

The sustainability effects of implementing the Trafford Core Strategy will be monitored on an annual basis and reported through the Council's Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), which is published in December each year. The production of and AMR is a statutory requirement under section 35 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. It will provide a basis for the:

- Identification of unforeseen adverse effects and any necessary remedial action.
- Assessment of whether the Strategy is achieving the SA objectives.
- Assessment of the performance of mitigation measures

### 5.2 Monitoring Indicators

The indicators used to monitor the sustainability effects of implementing the Core Strategy were set out in the SA Scoping Report of June 2007. The indicators are set out below by sustainability objective and sub-objective:

#### Social

Objective	S1: Achieve a better balance and mix in the housing market	
	Sub Objective	Indicator
	Ensure sufficient supply of all housing	Total number of private and affordable housing completions House price to income ratio
	Ensure sufficient supply of affordable houses	Affordable developments completed No of shared ownership units completed No of equity loans negotiated
	Increase the range of housing for all social groups particularly young people, older people 'lifetime homes' and those with support needs.	Numbers of Older people helped to live at home (PAF C32) per 1000 population 65+
	Ensure all housing is high quality and there are less vacant properties.	The percentage of all housing that is non decent The proportion of RSL homes meeting the decent homes standard The percentage of RSL homes brought up to decent homes standard (monitored annually – BVPI 184b) The number of RSL homes that are not meeting the decent homes standard (BVPI 184a) Number of private sector homes meeting the decent homes standard

		The number of empty properties in the private sector returned into occupation or demolished
	Reduce homelessness	(BVPI 214) proportion of households accepted as statutorily homeless by the same authority within the last 2 years

Objective	<b>S2: Improve accessibility for all to essential services and facilities</b>	
	Sub objective	Indicator
	Improve access to services particularly in most deprived areas of the borough	% of the boroughs addresses deemed to be "most accessible" (800m from train or tram, 400m from quality bus corridor) % of the boroughs addresses in the 25% most deprived areas deemed to be "most accessible" (800m from train or tram or 400m from quality bus corridor)
	Improve access to local services and amenities particularly for disabled and older people.	Percentage of residents surveyed finding it easy to access key local services: a) primary schools b) pharmacy c) GP d) supermarket Percentage of residents surveyed that are satisfied with local services

Objective	<b>S3: Enhance transport infrastructure, improving accessibility and quality of life to all communities</b>	
	Sub Objective	Indicator
	Provide efficient, inclusive and affordable public transport	The percentage of residents who think in their local area over the past three years: a) public transport has got better or stayed the same b) the level of traffic congestion has got better or stayed the same
	Improve participation in walking and cycling	Percentage of the resident population who travel to work: a) by private motor vehicle b) by public transport c) on foot d) by metro / train e) bus f) cycle Percentage of the resident population travelling over 20km to work



		<p>Percentage of users satisfied with local bus services</p> <p>Percentage of the total length of footpaths and rights of way that are easy to use by the public</p> <p>Journey times on A56 between Dane Road and Park Road</p> <p>Develop an indicator to show the percentage of recreational routes (TPT / BWC / River Valleys) in satisfactory condition</p> <p>Develop indicator to measure new cycle lanes / cycle parking facilities</p>
	Improve road safety	<p>Number of:</p> <p>a) people killed or seriously injured (KSI) in road traffic collisions</p> <p>b) children (aged under of 16 years) killed or seriously injured children (KSI) in road traffic collisions</p> <p>c) cycle flow figures</p>

Objective	<b>S4 Reduce crime, disorder and the fear of crime</b>	
	Sub Objective	Indicator
	Reduce crime, disorder and the fear of crime	<p>Percentage of residents surveyed who feel 'fairly safe' or Very safe' whilst outside in the local authority area</p> <p>a) during the day</p> <p>b) after dark</p>
	Reduce incidences of crime for burglaries, drug related, and violent, domestic abuse.	<p>PSA 1 Reduction in comparator crimes</p> <p>Vehicle taking</p> <p>Theft from vehicle</p> <p>Vehicle interference</p> <p>Domestic burglary</p> <p>Theft of pedal cycle</p> <p>Theft from person</p> <p>Criminal Damage</p> <p>Common Assault</p> <p>Wounding</p> <p>Robbery</p>

Objective	<b>S5: Reduce Poverty and Social Exclusion</b>	
	Sub Objective	Indicator
	Reduce multiple deprivations	Percentage of the population living in the most deprived Super Output Areas in the

		country
	Reduce the no. of low income families	The percentage of: a) Children that are income deprived b) Population over 60 that live in households that are income deprived

Objective	<b>S6: Encourage a sense of community identity and welfare and value diversity, improve equity and equality of opportunity</b>	
	Sub Objective	Indicator
	Provide opportunities and support for engagement and role in decision making particularly in the young, those over 50, black and minority ethnic groups and disabled people.	<p>Percentage of people surveyed who feel that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together</p> <p>Number of people engaged in voluntary work in the community (by age, ethnic group, disability and geography)</p> <p>Percentage of 13-19 population participating in youth work</p> <p>Number of young people receiving an accredited award and/or volunteering (including DofE, Youth Achievement, Millennium Volunteers)</p>

Objective	<b>S7: Improve qualifications and skills of the resident population</b>	
	Sub Objective	Indicator
	Improve children's services	Number of childcare places per 1,000 population aged 0-5 not in early education

	Minimise educational inequality	<p>Percentage of 15 year old pupils in LEA schools achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A*- C or</p> <p>Proportion of young people (16-24 years old) in full time education, training or employment</p> <p>Percentage of young people leaving care aged 16 or over with at least 1 GCSE at grade A*- G (BVPI 50)</p> <p>Improve the educational outcome of children at 5A*-C non-selective schools compared to all schools</p> <p>Level of development reached at the end of the foundation stage in Partington and Old Trafford compared with the average for Trafford</p>
	Improve educational standards for all.	<p>Percentage of half days missed due to total absence in LEA schools:</p> <p>a) primary schools</p> <p>b) secondary schools</p> <p>Proportion of working age population qualified to:</p> <p>a) NVQ2 and above 72.9%</p> <p>b) NVQ3 and above 53.5%</p> <p>c) NVQ4 and above</p>
	Create a culture of learning through life for every individual and organisation	<p>The number of working age adults gaining at least one of the nationally approved certificates in Adult Literacy, Numeracy or ESOL (at entry level 3 or above) or key skills in application of numbers or communication at level 1 or 2, part of the Skills for Life strategy</p>
	Develop the right skills for the economy to address skills shortages	<p>Percentage of apprentices who achieve a full Apprenticeship framework</p> <p>Number of adults achieving a full level 2 qualification per year</p> <p>Number of adults achieving a full level 3 qualification per year</p>

Objective	<b>S8: Improve the health and, inequalities in health of the population</b>	
	Sub Objective	Indicator
	Promote better health and reduce health Inequalities between different neighbourhoods in the Borough	<p>The difference in all age, all cause mortality (per 1 00,000 population); between the top (Clifford, Bucklow- St. Martins, Urmston and Gorsehill) and bottom (Hale Barns, Hale Central, Brooklands and Timperley) quintile wards in Trafford</p> <p>All age, all cause mortality (per 100,000 population)</p> <p>Mortality rate from cancer in people aged under 75 expressed as per 1 00,000 (directly age standardized) population</p> <p>Mortality rate from heart disease, stroke and related diseases in people aged under 75 expressed as per 100,000 (directly age standardised) population)</p> <p>The number of smokers who had set a quit date and had successfully quit at four week follow up (based on self-report) with NHS stop smoking services.</p> <p>Percentage of schools achieving the National Healthy Schools standard</p>
	Increase participation in and access to sport and physical activity facilities	<p>Percentage of the population within 20 mins travel time of different sports facility types</p> <p>Percentage of pupils aged 5-16 years old receiving 2 hours high quality PE and school sport</p> <p>Percentage of adults taking part regularly in sport and active recreation (30 mins 3 times per week as per Sport England Active People Survey)</p> <p>Number of people aged 50+ participating in at least 30 minutes of moderate intensity sport and active recreation (including walking) at least 3 days a week</p> <p>QoL 10 - The percentage of residents who think for their area over the past three years the following have got better or stayed the same:</p> <p>a) sports and leisure facilities</p>

	Increase awareness and use of cultural facilities	<p>Number of existing cultural groups and networks in Trafford</p> <p>The amount of external investment in the cultural sector in Trafford</p> <p>Frequency of use (% visiting at least once a month) of Cultural and recreational facilities</p> <p>b) Libraries</p> <p>c) Museums and galleries</p> <p>d) Theatres and concert hall</p>
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Objective	<b>S9: Protect and improve local neighbourhood quality</b>	
	Sub Objective	Indicator
	Improve the quality of highway infrastructure	The percentage of the Authority principal road network where structural maintenance should be considered (BVPI 223)
	Reduction in the amount of Litter, graffiti, fly posting and fly tipping	<p>Percentage of residents who think that:</p> <p>a) Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage in public places is a very big or fairly big problem in their local area.</p> <p>The proportion of relevant land and highways that is assessed as having combined deposits of litter and detritus that falls below an acceptable level (BVPI 199a)</p>

## Environment

Objective	<b>E1: Reduce the effect of traffic on the environment</b>	
	Sub Objective	Indicator
	Manage traffic flows to reduce congestion	QoL 45 - Estimated traffic flows for all vehicle types (million vehicle km)
	Reduce traffic related emissions	<p>Levels of air pollutants, nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter, at the A56 air quality monitoring station (annual average).</p> <p>NC&gt;2 concentrations (ug/m3) at worst case receptor points within AQMAs</p> <p>Intermediate proxy of tonnes NO<sub>x</sub> emissions from traffic on local main roads</p>
	Reduce motorised traffic	Estimated distance travelled by car per capita

Objective	<b>E2: Protect, enhance and restore open space, biodiversity, flora and fauna, geological and geo-morphological features</b>	
	Sub Objective	Indicator
	Conserve and enhance the natural environment	<p>QoL 30 - The percentage of land designated as SSSI in favourable condition as a percentage of all land with SSSI status within the Borough.</p> <p>The area of land designated as local nature reserve per 1,000 population</p> <p>Condition of SBIs</p> <p>Number of new trees planted on the highway and in parks and open spaces</p> <p>Hectares of woodland created</p> <p>The percentage of Trafford covered by woodland</p> <p>Number of trees under TPO given permission for removal</p> <p>Number of trees given permission for removal in Conservation Areas</p> <p>Develop an indicator to measure urban fringe / Countryside in and around town (CIAT) as advocated by the Countryside Agency</p>
	Conserve and enhance habitat diversity	Change in area/population of priority habitats identified for Trafford in the Greater Manchester BAP
	Conserve and enhance geodiversity	New indicator to be developed



	<p>Ensure residents have access to high quality open space</p>	<p>% of addresses within 300m of accessible greenspace.</p> <p>QoL 10 - The percentage of residents who think for their area over the past three years the following have got better or stayed the same:</p> <p>e) parks and open spaces</p> <p>Percentage of Survey respondents satisfied with cleanliness in parks and open spaces (L52/6)</p> <p>Percentage of survey respondents fairly / very satisfied with parks and open spaces</p> <p>Number of Green Flag Parks</p> <p>Number of Green Flag Parks in Priority Regeneration Areas</p> <p>Percentage of population with access to 2 hectares plus woodland within 500m of their home.</p> <p>Percentage of Children's Play Areas that meet NPFA standards (LEAP and NEAP)</p> <p>Percentage of allotment plots in active use</p>
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Objective	E3: Reduce contributions to climate change	
	Sub Objective	Indicator
	Reduce the amount of carbon emissions	<p>QoL 25 - Carbon dioxide emissions by sector and per capita emissions</p> <p>CO2 emissions from domestic sector / transport</p>
	Increase energy efficiency	<p>Average annual domestic sales of gas</p> <p>Average annual domestic sales of Electricity</p> <p>QoL 27 - Daily domestic water use (per capita consumption)</p>
	Increase the number of energy saving schemes	The percentage of new developments incorporating plans for climate change
	Increase the proportion of energy needs generated from renewable sources	Indicator to be developed

Objective	<b>E4: Reduce impact of climate change</b>	
	Sub Objective	Indicator
	Minimise risk of flooding and increase use of SUDS	Number of new developments incorporating SUDS Planning applications objected to by the Environment Agency on flood risk grounds.
	Minimise water consumption	Potable water demand management

Objective	<b>E5: Reduce the environmental impacts of consumption and production</b>	
	Sub Objective	Indicator
	Reduce the amount of waste produced and increase the proportion that is recycled and re-used	Tonnage of household waste recycled or composted and % household waste recycled or composted
	Reduce the amount of waste produced by business and increase the proportion that is reused	The percentage of reduction in the volume of waste generated by businesses including commercial, industrial, construction and demolition). Use of Construction, Demolition and Excavation Waste Aggregate in England
	Ensure the sustainable management of minerals resources	Reduction in the use of primary minerals

Objective	<b>E6: Conserve land resources and reduce land contamination</b>	
	Sub Objective	Indicator
	Reduce the amount of contaminated, derelict and underused land	QoL 22 - The proportion of developed land that is vacant or derelict -NLUD
	Reduce the loss of nature conservation value on brownfield land	Develop an indicator that will measure the number of and type of habitat lost to development BVPI 216(a) Number of sites of potential concern within the LA with respect to Contaminated Land BVPI 216(b) Number of sites for which sufficient information is available to decide whether remediation of the land is necessary as a percentage of all sites of potential concern

	Increase the percentage of homes built on previously developed land	Percentage of new homes built on previously developed land
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Objective	<b>E7: Protect and improve water quality</b>	
	Sub Objective	Indicator
	Improve the biological and chemical quality of rivers, canal and groundwater	QoL 28 - The percentage of river and canal length assessed as: a) good biological quality b) good chemical quality
	Improve the aesthetic quality of the rivers and canals	Litter grading along the River Irwell A - clean D - dirty

Objective	<b>E8: Protect and improve air quality</b>	
	Sub Objective	Indicator
	Decrease the emission of air borne pollutants from all sources.	Days per year on which Particulate Matter and Nitrogen Dioxide reach moderate levels or higher
	Encourage the use of cleaner fuels	Develop indicator to measure number of households who have converted to cleaner fuels  Develop indicator to calculate the percentage of liquid fuels coming from sustainable/low carbon sources

Objective	<b>E9: Protect and enhance the diversity and distinctiveness of and landscape and townscape character and cultural facilities</b>	
	Sub Objective	Indicator
	Ensure residents have access to high quality cultural facilities	QoL 10 - The percentage of residents who think for their area over the past three years the following have got better or stayed the same: b) cultural facilities
	Restore, protect and enhance landscape character	Develop an indicator to measure landscape character restoration/protection/enhancement
	Achieve high quality and sustainable design for buildings, spaces and the public realm sensitive to the locality	Percentage of conservation areas in the local authority area with an up-to data character appraisal
	Protect and enhance listed	No. Grade I and IP listed buildings and at

	buildings	risk of decay, the condition of Grade II buildings, number of historic buildings, sites and areas where improvements have been made
	Protect and enhance registered historic parks and gardens	No. of Parks and gardens registered by English Heritage

### Economic

Objective	<b>EC1: Enhance Trafford's high performance and sustainable economy to provide a powerful contribution to regional growth.</b>	
	Sub Objective	Indicator
	Encourage growth of existing and attract inward investment from key business sectors	GVA output of key sectors as % of total GVA The total number of VAT registrations in the area per year
	Support an increase in firm formations in high growth, knowledge and innovation sectors	The total number of VAT registrations in the area per year in SIC J + K
	Create conditions for sustainable growth ensuring the supply of appropriate sites and premises that will respond to growth in key sectors.	Proportion of land available for employment development. Percentage of a) greenfield land b) brownfield Take up of a) greenfield land b) brownfield available for employment Number of data units / businesses

Objective	<b>EC2: Reducing disparities by releasing the potential of all residents particularly in areas of disadvantage.</b>	
	Sub Objective	Indicator
	Target interventions that will tackle barriers to work, address basic skills issues and link workless people to vacancies	Percentage of working age population that is in employment Percentage of working age population qualified to NVQ3 or equivalent Percentage of working age population that is claiming key benefits Percentage of working age population that is claiming incapacity benefit Percentage of the population of Bucklow, Clifford, St Martins and Talbot of working age that is claiming benefits

Objective	<b>EC3: Enhance Trafford's image as a business and tourism destination.</b>	
	Sub Objective	Indicator
	Increase Trafford's role as a tourist destination	Frequency of attendance to cultural events and activities
		<p>The number of visits to major tourist destinations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The Trafford Centre</li> <li>b) The Imperial War Museum</li> <li>c) Sale Waterside Arts Centre</li> <li>d) MUFC – matches and museum and tour</li> <li>e) LCCC</li> <li>f) Dunham Massey hall and garden</li> </ul>

Objective	<b>EC4: Encourage the long term sustainability of Trafford's Town Centres.</b>	
	Sub Objective	Indicator
	Enhance town centre vitality	<p>Prime retail property rents per square metre in:</p> <p>Altrincham</p> <p>Sale</p> <p>Stretford</p> <p>Urmston</p> <p>Percentage of vacant units in:</p> <p>Altrincham</p> <p>Sale</p> <p>Stretford</p> <p>Urmston</p>
	Encourage developers to include sustainability and energy efficiency policies for their town centre schemes	Number of town centre developments with energy efficient/renewable energy sources and sustainable building designs

Objective	<b>EC5: Improve the social and environmental performance of the economy.</b>	
	Sub Objective	Indicator
	Encourage ethical trading	Number of town centres achieving fair trade status
	Encourage good employee relations and management practices	Organisations with Investors in People awards



	Encourage companies to use environmental management systems	Companies registered as using environmental management systems such as ISO 14001
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### 5.3 Next Steps

This SA Report is being published alongside the Publication version of the Core Strategy to provide the public, statutory consultees and other stakeholders with an opportunity to express opinions on this SA Report and to use it as a reference point whilst commenting on the Core Strategy Publication document. This period of public consultation will run from the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2010 to the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2010.

All comments received will be analysed. Any significant changes to the Core Strategy arising from comments received will need to be assessed as part of the SA process. The Council will then submit the Core Strategy to Secretary of State for an Independent Examination. This SA report will form part of the evidence base that the Planning Inspector will refer to in order to assess the soundness of the Core Strategy.

Following the Examination, the Inspector will issue a report to the Council containing binding amendments that must be made to the Core Strategy before it is legally adopted. A summary of the main issues raised on the SA, and how these were taken into account in the development of the plan and SA Report, will be produced as part of the adoption statement for the Core Strategy.

The significant effects of implementing the Core Strategy will then be monitored.

## 6. CONCLUSIONS

The SA process has played a key role in improving the social, environmental, and economic performance of Trafford's Core Strategy. Three additional intermediate SAs have been undertaken as well as the standard Issues and Options, Preferred Option and Publication document appraisals. A clear trend can be identified through these stages as the emerging strategy improves its performance against the sustainability objectives.

This Report outlines the findings of the SA of the Core Strategy Publication document. It builds upon the Scoping Report (June 2007) as well as earlier SA Reports that accompanied the consultation on previous versions of the Core Strategy.

The appraisal process involved the assessment of the Core Strategy Vision, Strategic Locations and Core Policies against the twenty-three Sustainability Objectives identified in the Scoping Report. This appraisal considered the degree and type of impact, split by short term (0-5 years), medium term (5-10 years), and long-term (10+ years). It also predicted the certainty of impact (in terms of high, medium and low); the scale of impact (which ranged from local to national); the permanence of the impact; any key secondary, cumulative and/or synergistic impacts; and options for mitigation.

The SA has concluded that the Publication version of the Core Strategy has the potential to deliver a wide range of social, environmental and economic benefits. In particular, the Vision for Trafford should help provide more opportunities for residents in areas of disadvantage, which would have a significant positive impact on reducing economic disparities; improving access to services and facilities; decreasing poverty and social exclusion and equity and equality of opportunity. The Vision also offers considerable scope for redeveloping vacant / underused brownfield sites which would have key benefits for improving local neighbourhood quality; protecting and enhancing the diversity and distinctiveness of landscape, townscape character and cultural facilities; reducing crime and fear of crime; and conserving land resources and reducing land contamination.

The five Strategic Locations have the potential to deliver a range of significant sustainability benefits. Specifically, the proposals for the Strategic Locations should improve the balance and mix of the housing market; enhance Trafford's economic performance; reduce economic disparities and enhance Trafford's image as a business destination.

On the whole, the Core Strategy Policies also scored very highly in the SA process.

Although the amendments made to the Core Strategy throughout the plan preparation have improved its performance against the sustainability objectives, the Publication version of the Core Strategy still has the potential to have some negative effects. In particular, due to the amount of development proposed, the Core Strategy has the potential to have a negative impact on traffic generation and air quality. The extent to which this negative impact can be offset will depend on whether significant enhancements to public transport can be secured, particularly in the more peripheral parts of the Borough where development is proposed. The Core Strategy directs a significant amount of development to areas at risk of flooding and, as a result, the

impact of elements of the Core Strategy on vulnerability to climate change is uncertain. Nevertheless, it is acknowledged that there are overriding sustainability reasons for directing development to these locations and there are policies within the Core Strategy which will ensure that appropriate measures are taken to manage flood risk.

A number of recommendations were made to improve the performance of individual policies. However, in the majority of instances, these recommendations were met by other Core Strategy policies and therefore no mitigation is needed.