



**DPD1:  
Core Strategy: Further  
Consultation on the  
Preferred Option  
Sustainability Appraisal  
Report**

June 2009



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## **SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL OF TRAFFORD'S CORE STRATEGY :** **FURTHER CONSULTATION ON THE PREFERRED OPTION**

### **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 Further Consultation on the Preferred Option Document which is the subject of public consultation from 29<sup>th</sup> June 2009 to 10<sup>th</sup> August 2009.

SA is a systematic process used to assess the extent to which an emerging plan or strategy will help to achieve the 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 Spatial Strategy, Strategic Sites and Locations and Core Policies against available baseline data and sustainability objectives. The baseline data and sustainability objectives were developed in the SA Scoping Report of July 2007. 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 Sustainability Appraisal to be carried out on all new or revised Development Plan Documents.

In addition, local planning authorities must 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 Sustainability Appraisal process 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.

The Strategy 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. Whilst the Strategic Sites and Strategic Locations 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, there is the potential for the Core Strategy 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. There will also be a need to undertake additional nature conservation and flood risk studies in order to address the uncertain impact of the Core Strategy on biodiversity, flora and fauna and vulnerability to climate change.

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

The Sustainability Appraisal process concluded that the Core Strategy has the potential to deliver a wide range of social, environmental and economic benefits. 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 have been made to the Strategic Sites / Locations proposals. These cover 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

The Sustainability Appraisal examined the Core Strategy Policies and made a number of recommendations about how individual policies could perform better. However, in the majority of these instances, these recommendations are met by other Core Strategy Policies and therefore no mitigation is needed and the relevant policy is referred to in the detailed Appraisal.

## **1.7 Next Steps**

To enable the community and other stakeholders to continue to contribute to the production of Trafford's LDF this SA Report will accompany the Further Consultation to the Core Strategy Preferred Option document for a period of formal public consultation. One of the purposes of this consultation is to ensure that the Council is

aware of all possible issues and options as well as asking for the public's views on the Preferred Option.

Following consideration and analysis of the consultation responses, the SA will be fully updated and augmented ahead of the publication of the Proposed Submission Core Strategy DPD for consultation in November 2009. The Core Strategy will then be submitted to the Secretary of State in February 2010 for examination in public by an independent Planning Inspector in June 2010. It is anticipated that the Council will formally adopt the Core Strategy in January 2011.

## 1.8 How to comment

This SA Report will be subject to a consultation period running from 29<sup>th</sup> June 2009 through to 10<sup>th</sup> August 2009 alongside the Further Consultation on the Core Strategy Preferred Option document. 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 10<sup>th</sup> August 2009.

## 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 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 need 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.

The first step in the production of the Core Strategy was the preparation of an Issues and Options paper. Subsequently, a further document detailing the Issues and Options for the Development Management policies was published for consultation in November 2007 and a Preferred Options report was issued in July 2008. The comments received during these stages of consultation have been used to inform the preparation of a further Preferred Option document and this is now also the subject of consultation.

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 the sustainable development, the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires a Sustainability Appraisal to be carried out on all new or revised DPDs.

The purpose of this sustainability appraisal (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 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council’s Core Strategy. It builds upon the Scoping Report (July 2007) as well as a previous SA Report that accompanied the consultation on

the previous Preferred Options document (July 2008). This SA Report applies the objectives identified in the Scoping Report document to the Core Strategy Preferred Options in order to assess the Spatial Strategy, Strategic Sites and Locations and Core Policies against available baseline data and sustainability objectives. It is being published for consultation alongside the Further Consultation to the Core Strategy Preferred Option document.

## 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.

When preparing a Core Strategy there is also a statutory obligation to conduct an environmental assessment in accordance with the requirements of 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’).

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 aspects) 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

In accordance with the Government’s guidance on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), sustainability appraisals of Core Strategies should also fully incorporate the requirements of the European Directive 2001/42/EC, known as the SEA Directive. The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 – the SEA Regulations – transpose this Directive into English law. 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

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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.

Regulations. The following table shows how this report meets the requirements of the SEA Directive.

Table 1: Compliance with the SEA Directive

<b>Information to be included in an Environmental Report under the SEA Regulations</b>	<b>Relevant sections in the SA Report</b>
An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan and its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.	3.4 – 3.5
The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan.	3.2
The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	3.2
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.	3.2 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.	3.3 3.5
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 – 4.5 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.	4.6 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 History 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 its development at appropriate points. The key milestones in the SA process for Trafford's Core Strategy is shown in the table below.

Table 2: Key Stages in the SA Process

<b>Task</b>	<b>Date</b>
Publication of the Draft SA Scoping Report	June 2006
Consultation on the Draft SA Scoping Report	October – December 2006
Finalised SA Scoping Report	July 2007
Publication of the SA of Preferred Options	July 2008
Consultation on the SA of Preferred Options	July – August 2008
Consultation on the SA of Preferred Option including Core Policies, Strategic Sites and Locations	June – August 2009

## 2.5 Feedback from Consultation

Consultation on the SA of Preferred Options took place between July and August 2008. The results of this consultation were published in October 2008.

The main comments from consultation about the SA were:

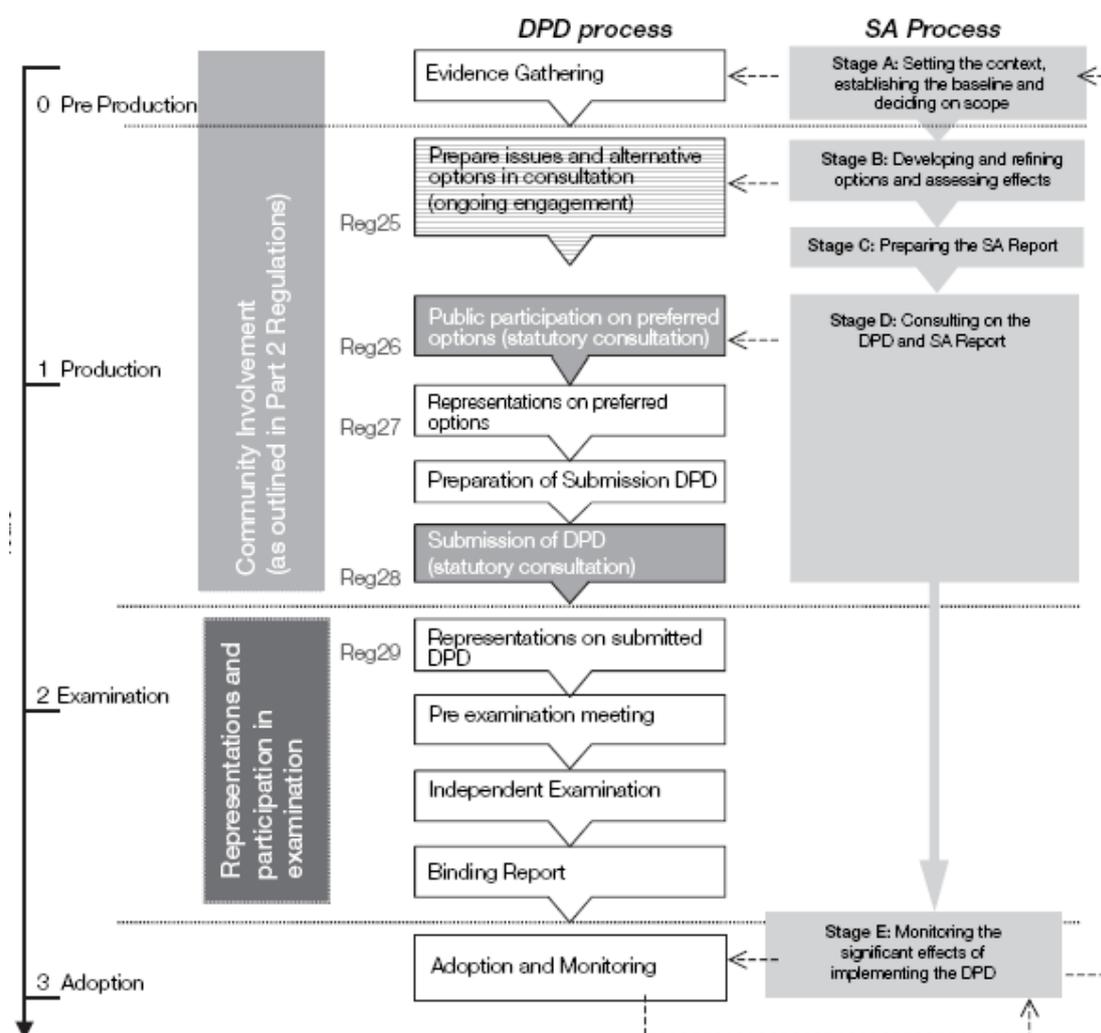
- The need for an Employment Land Review to inform the SA of the Preferred Options
- There was no SA of the strategic sites
- There was a need to provide more information about the:
  - Relationship with other plans and programmes
  - Relevant environmental protection objectives
  - Current state of the environment and how it would change without the Core Strategy
  - Current environmental problems, particularly those of areas of environmental importance
  - Content of the original scoping report
- A wide range of comments about detailed matters in relation to specific sites.
- The need for the completion of a level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

### 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. The diagram below sets out the SA stages and tasks, based on those listed in the Government guidance.

Figure 1: DPD and SA preparation process



There are five stages in the Sustainability Appraisal process. Trafford Council undertook the first stage (Stage A), identifying the initial scope of the SA, in October 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. This SA Report represents the completion of Stages B and C of the SA process.

The establishment of SA objectives and criteria 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.

The sustainability objectives used for the SA of the Core Strategy Preferred Options were drawn from the sustainability issues identified through analysis of the baseline data and review of other plans and strategies set out in the SA Baseline Report.

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.

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

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

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)

### 3.3 Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

The SA appraises the potential implications of the Core Strategy from a social, environmental and economic perspective. The establishment of SA objectives and criteria is central to this process and provides a way in which 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.

## **3.4 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

<b>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE NO.</b>	<b>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE</b>
<b>SO1</b>	<b>Meeting housing needs</b> - Promote sufficient housing in sustainable locations, of a size, density and tenure needed to meet the Borough's needs.
<b>SO2</b>	<b>Regenerate</b> - The physical, economic and social fabric of the disadvantaged communities within the Borough to reduce inequalities and improve prosperity.
<b>SO3</b>	<b>Meeting employment need</b> - Establish the right conditions to sustain employment sites for new and diverse investment to enable Trafford to remain a competitor within the sub-region to attract and retain employment opportunities.
<b>SO4</b>	<b>Revitalising Town Centres</b> – to maintain a clear hierarchy of vibrant, diverse and distinct shopping centres across the Borough to meet the needs of the local population.

<b>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE NO.</b>	<b>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE</b>
<b>SO5</b>	<b>Green environment</b> – Achieve an appropriate level of greenspace to protect and enhance the landscape character, recreational and biodiversity value of the Boroughs natural environment in both urban and countryside areas.
<b>SO6</b>	<b>Reducing 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>SO7</b>	<b>Securing sustainable development</b> – Promote the reuse of resources and the use of new technologies to combat climate change to minimise impact of new development on Trafford's resources.
<b>SO8</b>	<b>Protect the historic built environment</b> – Make the most of, protect and value the Borough's heritage for the maximum benefit of our residents and visitors.

### 3.5 Links to other Plans, Programmes and Strategies

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, 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 4 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 Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for the Core Strategy (June 2007), which is available on the Council's website.

Table 4: List of all Plans, Programmes and Strategies reviewed as part of the SA

<b>INTERNATIONAL</b>
<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> </ul>

- Kyoto Protocol (1997)
- European Directive on SEA
- European Landscape Convention
- UNESCO World Heritage Convention
- European Spatial Development Perspective

### NATIONAL

- Air Quality Strategy for England, Wales and Northern Ireland (DETR *et al*, 2000)
- Rural White Paper: Our Countryside, The Future – A Fair Deal for Rural England (DETR, 2000)
- Urban White Paper: Our Towns and Cities, The Future – Delivering an Urban Renaissance (DETR, 2000)
- UK Waste Strategy (DEFRA, 2007)
- Working with the Grain of Nature: A Biodiversity Strategy for England 2002
- The Strategy for Sustainable Farming and Food (DEFRA 2002)
- Our Energy Future – Creating a Low Carbon Economy (DTI, 2003)
- Creating Sustainable Communities: Building for the Future (ODPM, 2003)
- Sustainable Communities in the North West (ODPM, 2003)
- Moving Forward: The Northern Way (ODPM, 2004)
- The Future of Transport White Paper (2004)
- Choosing Health: Making Healthier Choices Easier, White Paper (DOH, 2005)
- Sustainable Communities: People, Places and Prosperity (ODPM, 2005)
- Securing The Future: delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy 2005.
- Our Energy Challenge – Securing Clean Affordable Energy (DTI, 2006)
- Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
- Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979
- Soil Action Plan (DEFRA, 2004)
- The Countryside in and around Towns (2005)
- PPS 1 Delivering Sustainable Communities
- PPS1 (Supplement) Planning and Climate Change
- PPG 2 Green Belts
- PPS 3 Housing
- PPG 4 Industrial, Commercial Development and Small Firms
- PPS 6 Planning for Town Centres
- PPS 7 Sustainable Development in Rural Areas
- PPG 8 Telecommunications
- PPS 9 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation
- PPS 10 Planning for Sustainable Waste Management
- PPS12 Local Development Frameworks
- PPG 13 Transport.
- PPG 14 Development on Unstable Land
- PPG 15 Planning and the Historic Environment
- PPG 16 Archaeology and Planning
- PPG 17 Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation
- PPS 22 Renewable Energy
- PPS 23 Planning and Pollution Control
- PPG 24 Planning and Noise
- PPS 25 Development and Flood Risk
- MPG 1 General Considerations
- 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)

### **3.6 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 the SA of the Preferred Option report. However, there were some areas of uncertainty that resulted from the limited detail of some of the proposals (partly resulting from the strategic nature of the document) and evidence constraints particularly in terms of quantifying impacts. It was also necessary to make a number of assumptions in order to carry out the assessment.

Some of the key limitations/difficulties included:

- The Level 2/Hybrid SFRA has not yet been completed which meant that there was uncertainty over the impact of some of the proposals on flood risk and adapting to climate change.
- Limited information about the ecological value of a number of Strategic Sites and Locations.
- Limited detail on some of the proposals for the Strategic Locations;
- In order to assess the degree and type of impact it was necessary to assume that the proposals would be implemented in accordance with the proposed development phasing contained within the Core Strategy Preferred Option Document.

### **3.7 Screening for Appropriate 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 an ‘appropriate assessment’ 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 appropriate assessment 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 appropriate assessment, 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) has been undertaken by the Greater Manchester Ecological Unit. 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. It is acknowledged that there will be a need to reconsider the assessment once spatial allocations have been made and the screening opinion is presently being updated.

## **4. PREFERRED OPTIONS APPRAISAL**

This section provides a summary of the results of the sustainability appraisal of the Further Consultation on the Core Strategy Preferred Option Document. The Spatial Strategy and each of the Strategic Sites, Strategic Locations and Core Strategy Policies were appraised against the 23 Sustainability Objectives. 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 full sustainability appraisal matrices are available in the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal Report Appendices, which is available on the Council's website.

### **4.1 Summary of the Significant Effects of the Spatial Strategy**

The Sustainability Appraisal process concluded that the Spatial Strategy 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 Spatial 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 Spatial 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 the Spatial Strategy 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. The focus for part of this development on the regeneration 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 Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDs), where appropriate, to reduce surface water runoff into watercourses and reduce the flood risk. This will address the uncertain impact of the Spatial Strategy on water quality and vulnerability to climate change.

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

The Council recognise that development of large sites within the Borough will be a key means of delivering many of the objectives of the Core Strategy, particularly

those relating to housing numbers and economic growth. As a consequence, five Strategic Sites (SS) have been identified in the Further Consultation to the Core Strategy Preferred Option Document on the basis that they are of sufficient scale, in the appropriate location and of an appropriate type to make a significant contribution to the delivery of the Core Strategy. The following section gives a brief summary of the outcomes of the SA of each of these sites.

#### *SS 1:Victoria Warehouse*

There are a number of significant sustainability benefits associated with the Victoria Warehouse site. The provision of commercial offices, a hotel and ancillary leisure/retail would create a number of jobs in a location that is accessible by public transport and well related to areas of deprivation. As a consequence, the Victoria Warehouse site could deliver important social benefits by reducing poverty and social exclusion and improving access to services and facilities.

As the site consists entirely of previously developed land, its redevelopment would be consistent with the objective of conserving land resources. Furthermore, as the proposal would lead to the removal of a prominent vacant building, it is anticipated that it would have a positive impact on townscape character and local neighbourhood quality.

The provision of apartments on this site has the potential to improve the balance and mix of the housing market. However, to maximise the positive effects of the site it will be important to ensure that a range of unit sizes are incorporated into the development, including 2 bed dwellings. There is some uncertainty over the extent to which the site would impact upon biodiversity, flora and fauna and adapting to climate change.

#### *SS 2:Trafford Quays*

The Trafford Quays site has the potential to deliver a range of housing types and tenures in order to make a significant contribution towards the Borough's housing needs. This provision of high quality housing in proximity to key drivers of the regional economy could help enhance Trafford's high economic performance and provide a powerful contribution to regional growth. The incorporation of community facilities could also, depending on the nature of those facilities, have a minor positive effect on the health of the population and help develop a sense of community identity and welfare.

Trafford Quays is however predominantly a greenfield site. As a consequence, its development would have a major negative impact on the objective of conserving land resources. It may also have an adverse impact on the objective of protecting, enhancing and restoring open space, biodiversity, flora and fauna. To mitigate this potential impact, appropriate surveys should be undertaken and areas of high biodiversity, landscape and open space value should be protected and enhanced as part of development. In addition, the sites proximity to the motorway network coupled with its poor accessibility by public transport could result in high levels of car usage which will have a negative effect on the objectives of reducing the effect of traffic on the environment, decreasing contributions to climate change and improving air quality. Significant public transport improvements will be necessary to mitigate these adverse impacts.

### *SS 3:Stretford Meadows*

It is anticipated that the Stretford Meadows site will deliver a number of sustainability benefits. It is predicted that the restoration of a former landfill site to provide an area of green space and woodland would have a major positive effect on local neighbourhood quality, open space provision, biodiversity, flora and fauna, reducing land contamination and air quality. The creation of a high quality open space at Stretford Meadows will also complement the regeneration of Stretford and provide much needed recreation space for this dense urban area.

By providing a new outdoor recreation facility it can be expected that the development would have a positive effect on the health of the population and on the sense of community identity. In order to maximise the positive effects of the Stretford Meadows site on these objectives it will be important to ensure that the site can be easily accessed from neighbouring estates. Finally, the planting of trees to create an informal woodland will help to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and would therefore help meet the objective of reducing contributions to climate change.

### *SS 4:Partington Canalside*

There are a number of important sustainability benefits associated with the proposals for the Partington Canalside site. In particular, the provision of high quality housing could help improve the housing balance and mix in Partington and may benefit the economies of Trafford and Greater Manchester by attracting more skilled people to the area. The associated redevelopment of the Partington shopping centre should also deliver important social benefits by improving access to services and facilities, reducing poverty and social exclusion and improving the health of the population.

However, it is anticipated that the Partington Canalside site may have a negative impact on a number of sustainability objectives. It would lead to the loss of a major greenfield site, which may potentially have a negative impact on biodiversity, flora and fauna. As mitigation, areas of high biodiversity, landscape and open space value should be protected and enhanced as part of development. Furthermore, due to the peripheral location of Partington in the Borough and its poor accessibility by public transport there is a risk that the Partington Canalside site will result in car dependency which will have a negative impact on the objectives of reducing the effect of traffic on the environment, reducing contributions to climate change and improving air quality. Significant public transport improvements will be necessary to mitigate these adverse impacts.

### *SS 5 :Altair*

The Altair site would deliver significant social, environmental and economic benefits. By securing the comprehensive redevelopment of a town centre site in need of regeneration Altair can be expected to deliver significant benefits for local neighbourhood quality and townscape character. It would lead to the provision of a wide range of employment opportunities in a highly accessible location, which would not only have a major positive effect on Trafford's economic performance but would also help reduce poverty, social exclusion and economic disparities in the Borough. There would also be a major positive effect on the sustainability of Altrincham town centre.

The provision of a range of leisure facilities on the site would have a major positive effect on the health of the population and on Trafford's image as a tourism destination. The highly accessible nature of the site should have positive impacts on

access to services and facilities and should also help reduce the effects of traffic on the environment and decrease contributions to climate change. Nevertheless, in order to maximise these benefits, it may be necessary to enhance pedestrian links from the nearby transport interchange to the Altair site.

### 4.3 Summary of the Significant Effects of the Strategic Locations

In addition to the Strategic Sites, the Council has identified thirteen Strategic Locations (SL). The following section gives a brief summary of the outcomes of the SA of each of these Locations together with Davenport Green. An SA of Davenport Green was carried out to assist in the consideration of representations received to the Core Strategy Preferred Options consultation July 2008 detailing proposals for strategic development allocations at Davenport Green.

#### *SL 1: Pomona*

The proposals for Pomona have the potential to deliver a range of significant sustainability benefits. The key ones relate to improving accessibility for all to services and facilities; reducing poverty and social exclusion; conserving land resources; enhancing Trafford's economic performance; improving the Borough's image as a business location; and reducing disparities. 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 regeneration of a large vacant site will enhance neighbourhood quality. However, 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. Key mitigation measures to prevent this will include the completion of appropriate nature conservation studies and the provision of suitably designed open spaces and an ecological corridor.

#### *SL 2: Wharfside*

The proposals for Wharfside are expected to have a largely positive impact on the sustainability objectives. In particular, the proposal is expected to have a major positive effect on economic performance; Trafford's image as a business destination; the conservation of land resources; and reducing economic disparities. Other high scoring objectives include protecting and improving local neighbourhood quality; improving health; reducing crime and fear of crime; reducing poverty and social exclusion and decreasing the impact of traffic on the environment.

There are no anticipated negative effects from the proposals for Wharfside. However, there is a need to undertake a more detailed flood risk assessment before the development of certain sites takes place. This will address the uncertain impact of the proposals on the objective of reducing the effects of climate change.

#### *SL 3: Old Trafford*

By providing job opportunities in an area of relative deprivation it is anticipated the proposals for Old Trafford will have a positive effect on poverty and social exclusion, disparities and equity and equality of opportunity. The proposals to improve the quality and appearance of local buildings and the surrounding environment will have

a positive impact on neighbourhood quality and townscape character. There are no anticipated negative effects from the proposals for the Old Trafford Strategic Location.

#### *SL 4:LCCC Area*

The expansion of the sports stadium at LCCC will enhance Trafford's reputation as a location for national and international sporting events and help strengthen Trafford's reputation as a tourism destination. By providing job opportunities in close proximity to areas of deprivation the LCCC proposals can be expected to have positive effects on poverty and social exclusion; economic disparities; and economic performance. Whilst it is anticipated that the provision of new / enhanced sports, leisure and education facilities should have a positive effect on the objectives relating to health; skills and qualifications; and access to services and facilities.

There are no anticipated negative effects from the proposals for the LCCC area. Nevertheless, it will be important to ensure that development does not have a detrimental impact on the setting of the Grade II listed Trafford Town Hall. In addition, there is uncertainty over the impact of the proposals on traffic generation. Key mitigation measures will include securing enhancements to the public transport infrastructure in the area.

#### *SL 5:Trafford Park*

The Trafford Park Core Strategic Location has the potential to deliver a range of significant sustainability benefits. The key ones relate to enhancing Trafford's economic performance; improving the Borough's image as a business location; conserving land resources and reducing land contamination; and improving the qualifications and skills of the resident population. There may also be a positive effect on reducing disparities, poverty and social exclusion. However, the extent to which this will be achieved will depend upon whether access to Trafford Park from these communities is enhanced, particularly by public transport.

The proposals Trafford Park may however have a negative impact on a number of sustainability objectives. In particular, due to an increased number of vehicular movements the effects of traffic on the environment could worsen and there may be an associated deterioration in air quality and increased contributions to climate change. Key mitigation actions relate to improving access by public transport, using BREEAM standards to encourage energy efficiency and tree planting.

#### *SL 6:Trafford Centre Rectangle*

The proposals for the Trafford Centre Rectangle have the potential to deliver a range of significant sustainability benefits. The key ones relate to 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 improving local neighbourhood quality. There may also be a positive effect on reducing disparities, poverty and social exclusion. However, the extent to which this will be achieved will depend upon whether access to Trafford Centre Rectangle from these communities is enhanced, particularly by public transport.

The proposals for the Strategic Location may however have a negative impact on a number of sustainability objectives. Public transport access to the site is presently limited which, together with the sites proximity to the motorway network, is likely to result in a significant proportion of journeys being made by private car. This could

have a negative impact on congestion, air quality and contributions to climate change. Improving public transport access will be a key mitigation measure. There is also a need to undertake conservation surveys, particularly on the greenfield site, and a more detailed flood risk assessment before development takes place. This will address the uncertain impact of these proposals on the open space, biodiversity, flora and fauna and reducing the effects of climate change objectives. In order to mitigate any adverse impact, areas of high biodiversity, landscape and open space value should be protected and enhanced as part of development.

#### *SL 7:Stretford Crossroads*

Stretford Crossroads has the potential to deliver a range of social, environmental and economic benefits. The key ones relate to protecting and improving neighbourhood quality; conserving land resources and reducing land contamination; enhancing townscape character; and encouraging the long term sustainability of Trafford's town centres. As the proposals involve the provision of employment opportunities and retail and leisure facilities in an accessible location, there would also be positive effects on a range of other sustainability objectives.

There are no anticipated negative effects. However, there is a need to undertake conservation surveys and a more detailed flood risk assessment before the development of certain sites take place. This will address the uncertain impact of these proposals on the open space, biodiversity, flora and fauna and reducing the effects of climate change objectives.

#### *SL 8:Carrington*

The Carrington Strategic Location has the potential to significant sustainability benefits. The key ones relate 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 a positive impact on local neighbourhood quality and townscape character.

Nevertheless, the site is presently poorly served by public transport and as a result has the potential to have a negative impact on congestion, air quality and contributions to climate change. The extent to which these impacts materialise will depend on whether the public transport proposals result in a viable alternative to the private car.

It is anticipated that the proposals for Carrington would also have a negative impact on reducing the impact of climate change due to parts of the site being at risk of flooding. Key mitigation actions relate to the completion of detailed flood risk assessments, the incorporation of appropriate measures to reduce flood risk and the application of the sequential and exceptions tests. There is also a need to undertake conservation surveys to address the uncertain impact of this Strategic Location on the open space, biodiversity, flora and fauna objective.

#### *SL 9:Partington*

There are a number of important sustainability benefits associated with the proposals for Partington. In particular, the provision of high quality housing could help improve the housing balance and mix in Partington and may benefit the economies of Trafford and Greater Manchester by attracting more skilled people to the area. The

associated redevelopment of the Partington shopping centre should also contribute towards the objectives of improving access to services and facilities, reducing poverty and social exclusion and improving the health of the population.

However, the proposals would lead to the loss of a major greenfield site and given the peripheral location of Partington and its poor accessibility by public transport the proposals may result in a significant increase in car journeys to the detriment of congestion, air quality and contributions to climate change. Significant public transport improvements will be necessary to mitigate these adverse impacts. There is also a need to undertake conservation surveys and a more detailed flood risk assessment before development takes place. This will address the uncertain impact of these proposals on the open space, biodiversity, flora and fauna and reducing the effects of climate change objectives. In order to mitigate any adverse impact, areas of high biodiversity, landscape and open space value should be protected and enhanced as part of development.

#### *SL 10: Sale West*

The proposals for Sale West are likely to have a positive impact on the objective of broadening the mix of housing to meet local housing needs and affordability. There would also be improvements to the neighbourhood quality and townscape character.

In addition, the improvement of access to retail and employment opportunities have the potential to deliver a range of significant sustainability benefits. The key ones relate to reducing disparities; tackling poverty and social exclusion; improving the social performance of the economy, improving access to services and facilities; and increasing equity and equality of opportunity. However, there is only limited certainty of these benefits being realised due to ambiguity over the measures that will be taken to achieve this.

#### *SL 11: Sale Town Centre*

It is anticipated that the proposals for Sale Town Centre will have significant sustainability benefits. Most notably, the redevelopment of the precinct and the introduction of a range of uses, including residential, would have lasting benefits for the sustainability of the town centre. Other objectives that the proposals would contribute towards include reducing the effect of traffic on the environment; enhancing economic performance; improving access to services and facilities; reducing crime and fear of crime; providing a better balance and mix in the housing market; and reducing poverty and social exclusion. There are no anticipated negative effects from implementing the proposals for Sale Town Centre.

#### *SL 12: Woodfield Road*

The proposals for Woodfield Road have the potential to deliver a range of significant sustainability benefits. The key ones relate to achieving a better balance and mix in the housing market; improving access to services and facilities; improving accessibility; conserving land resources; and improving local neighbourhood quality. Other objectives that the proposals would contribute positively towards include reducing the effect of traffic on the environment; reducing contributions to climate change; and protecting and improving air quality.

There are no anticipated negative effects. However, there is a need to undertake conservation surveys and a more detailed flood risk assessment before the development takes place. This will address the uncertain impact of the proposals on

the open space, biodiversity, flora and fauna and reducing the effects of climate change objectives. In addition, it is unclear whether the loss of employment land could have a negative impact on social exclusion and poverty.

#### *SL 13: Altrincham Town Centre*

The proposals for Altrincham town centre would deliver significant social, environmental and economic benefits. By securing the comprehensive redevelopment of the town centre, the proposals can be expected to deliver significant benefits for local neighbourhood quality. It would lead to the provision of a wide range of employment opportunities in a highly accessible location, which would not only have a major positive effect on Trafford's economic performance but would also help reduce poverty, social exclusion and economic disparities in the Borough. There would also be a major positive effect on the sustainability of Altrincham town centre.

The provision of a range of leisure facilities on the site would have a major positive effect on the health of the population and on Trafford's image as a tourism destination. The highly accessible nature of the site should have positive impacts on access to services and facilities and should also help reduce the effects of traffic on the environment and decrease contributions to climate change. Nevertheless, in order to maximise these benefits, it may be necessary to enhance pedestrian links from the nearby transport interchange.

Altrincham town centre has a number of conservation areas and historic buildings and there is a possibility that focussing development in this area could have a negative impact on their character and appearance.

#### *Davenport Green*

Through the creation of a Country Park, the proposals for Davenport Green have the potential to contribute to the objectives relating to open space, biodiversity, flora and fauna; reducing the impact of climate change; enhancing the distinctiveness of landscape; and enhancing Trafford's image as a tourism destination. The provision of employment opportunities through the office development would also have a positive impact on economic performance and the skills of the population.

However, the site is in an inaccessible location with limited public transport access. Therefore, it is uncertain whether the proposals would deliver social benefits in terms of reducing disparities, social exclusion and poverty. Furthermore, the location of the development is likely to give rise to a substantial increase in vehicular movements to the detriment of congestion, climate change and air quality. The proposal will have the potential to have a negative impact on Trafford's town centres. Finally, the development would also lead to the loss of a significant area of natural environment of rural character in the Green Belt, which would potentially impact upon biodiversity, flora and fauna. Appropriate conservation surveys should be undertaken areas of high biodiversity, landscape and open space value would need to be protected and enhanced as part of development.

**Taking into account the uncertain and negative impacts, national and regional policy and having duly considered all representations made Trafford Council have considered that there is insufficient evidence or justification to put Davenport Green forward as a Strategic Location or Site.**

#### 4.4 Summary of the Significant Effects of the Core Strategy Policies

The Further Consultation on the Core Strategy Preferred Option Document contains seventeen policies. These will be essential for implementing the Spatial Strategy and realising the Vision for Trafford. The following section gives a brief summary of the outcomes of the SA of these policies.

##### Live

###### *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. Policy R2 should ensure that this takes place. This will address the uncertain impact of this policy on the open space, biodiversity, flora and fauna objective. The need for housing development to comply with the Code for Sustainable Homes and Secure by Design and the use of s106 agreements for training are the other important mitigations.

###### *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 and inequalities, reducing contributions to climate change and enhancing Trafford's economy. 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 is another policy that scores well against the sustainability objectives. The key objectives relate to 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. Other high scoring objectives are enhancing transport infrastructure and accessibility; reducing crime and disorder, and poverty and social exclusion; encouraging a sense of community identity, improving qualifications, skills and health; reducing contributions to climate change, landscape enhancement, reducing economic disparities and encouraging the long term sustainability of Trafford's town centres and the social and environmental performance of the economy. The policy will have important positive secondary effects on the quality of life in the Borough.

The policy has an uncertain effect on two objectives. The first is to reduce the effect of traffic on the environment and the key mitigation is to specify that access to these areas by 'a choice of means of transport' needs to be improved. The second is to conserve land resources. Here the proposal at Partington involves the development of a greenfield site. This has to be balanced against the important regeneration benefits to Partington's town centre and balance of housing stock.

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

Policy L4: Sustainable Transport and Accessibility has the potential to deliver a number of significant sustainability benefits. The key ones relate to improving accessibility for all to services and facilities; enhanced transport infrastructure; reducing the effect of traffic on the environment; reducing contributions to climate change and the social and environmental performance of the economy. The performance of the policy could be further improved by a direct reference to encouraging interchange between public transport modes and the provision of park and ride sites.

Other high scoring objectives relate to reducing poverty and social exclusion; encouraging a sense of community identity, improving skills and health; protecting local neighbourhood quality and air quality; enhancing Trafford's economy; reducing economic disparities and encouraging the long term sustainability of Trafford's town centres. There are no uncertain or negative effects on the sustainability objectives.

#### *L5: Climate Change*

Unsurprisingly, Policy L5 Climate Change has the potential to deliver a number of significant sustainability benefits to reducing both contributions to and the effects of climate change. 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 reducing the impacts of consumption and production. It will also protect and improve air and water quality and the social and environmental performance of the economy.

The major uncertain effect of this policy is on the better balance and mix in the housing market objective. This relates to the implications for house building costs of incorporating the necessary features into new and refurbished buildings.

#### *L6: Waste*

Policy L6 Waste has no significant high scores against the sustainability objectives. Nevertheless, it has a range of positive scores and no uncertain or negative effects on the sustainability objectives. The positive scores relate to enhancing transport infrastructure and improving accessibility; protecting and improving local neighbourhood quality; reducing the effects of traffic, contributions to climate change and impacts of consumption and production. It will conserve land resources and improve water and air quality, Trafford's economy and its social and environmental performance.

#### *L7: Design*

Policy L7 Design has significant benefits for sustainability objectives relating to protecting and improving neighbourhood quality and to landscape and townscape character. Other benefits relate to improving accessibility for all to services and

facilities, enhancing transport infrastructure; reducing crime and disorder; improving health; reducing the effect of traffic; protecting and enhancing open space and biodiversity; reducing contributions to climate change and the impacts of consumption and production; conserving land and improving air quality. It has the potential to provide positive impacts on Trafford's economy, its image for business and tourism, its town centres and its social and environmental performance. It has no uncertain or negative effects on the sustainability objectives.

#### *L8: Planning Obligations*

Policy L8 Planning Obligations has no significant high scores against the sustainability objectives. Nevertheless, it has a range of positive scores and no uncertain or negative effects on the sustainability objectives. The positive scores relate to 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 and 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 economy, the sustainability of its town centres and its environmental and social performance. The mention of training would give this policy the potential to improve its score against some of the sustainability objectives.

### **Work**

#### *W1: Economy*

There are a number of significant sustainability benefits associated with Policy W1. The key ones relate to enhancing Trafford's high economic performance; improving Trafford's image as a business destination; encouraging the long-term sustainability of the Borough's Town Centres; improving local neighbourhood quality; and protecting and enhancing townscape character. In addition, by seeking to focus economic activity on a number of Strategic Locations that are well related to areas of deprivation, the policy will have a positive impact on poverty, social exclusion and economic disparities.

However, the policy has an uncertain effect on a number of objectives. There is a need to undertake a more detailed flood risk assessment before development takes place on a number of the Strategic Locations. This will address the uncertain impact of the policy on the objective relating to reducing the effects of climate change. In addition, due to the amounts of development would be directed to canalside areas there is some uncertainty over the impact the proposals would have on water quality. Key mitigation measures will involve the use of SUDs where appropriate, to reduce surface water runoff into watercourses and reduce the risk of flooding from sewers.

Finally, there is some uncertainty over the impact of the proposals on traffic generation. The list of criteria for suitable economic development sites outside of the Strategic Locations does not make reference to accessibility by public transport. However, Policy L4 should ensure that sites for economic development are accessible by public transport.

#### *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 and encouraging the long-term sustainability of the Borough's Town Centres. By encouraging the provision of a range of employment opportunities, services and facilities in highly accessible locations, it should also have a positive impact on the objectives relating to accessibility; poverty and social exclusion; and reducing economic disparities. Other high scoring objectives relate to protecting and improving neighbourhood quality; reducing crime and fear of crime; conserving land resources; enhancing townscape character and enhancing Trafford's image as a business destination. There are no uncertain or negative effects on the sustainability objectives and no mitigation is proposed.

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

## **Relax**

### *R1: Historic Built Environment*

Policy R1 will contribute positively to a number of sustainability objectives. The key ones relate to reducing poverty and exclusion; encouraging a sense of community identity and welfare and value diversity, improve equity and equality of opportunity; protecting and improving local neighbourhood quality; protecting and enhancing townscape character; and encouraging the long term sustainability of Trafford's Town Centres. 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. 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 key sustainability objectives. There are no uncertain or negative effects on the sustainability objectives and no mitigation is proposed.

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

### *R3: Green Infrastructure*

Policy R3 Green Infrastructure will have a significant positive impact on four 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.

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 two of the economic objectives by adding attractiveness to the Borough and encourage potential investors. There are no uncertain or negative effects on the sustainability objectives and no mitigation is proposed.

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

Policy R4 is another policy that scores well against the sustainability objectives. The key potential benefits 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. 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.

However, the policy has an uncertain effect on three objectives. The first is the impact that the policy will have on the mix and balance in the housing market. It would also have an uncertain impact on Trafford's economic performance and 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 these objectives by providing a high quality environment that can attract skilled workers to the Borough. Accordingly, no mitigation measures are proposed.

### *R5: Open Space and Recreation*

Policy R5 has significant benefits for sustainability objectives relating to protecting and improving neighbourhood quality; improving the health of the population; and protecting, enhancing and restoring open space, biodiversity, flora and fauna, geological and geo-morphological features. 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 contributes 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.

### *R6: Culture and Tourism*

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. There are also positive scores against the economic objectives of enhancing Trafford's economic performance and encouraging the long-term sustainability of Trafford's town centres.

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. 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.

#### **4.5 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.

The secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects identified were generally positive, 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 the Relax chapter, 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, there were also a number of instance were negative secondary, cumulative and/or synergistic effects were identified, these include:

- Notwithstanding the areas accessibility by public transport, the cumulative impact of the proposals for the Strategic Sites and Locations within or adjacent to the Regional Centre could exacerbate congestion, particularly at peak hours and where there are sporting events at Old Trafford/LCCC;
- The focus on some peripheral areas (Carrington and Partington in particular) could 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 the sections of the population, particularly those who already suffer from respiratory illnesses. Increased congestion could also have a secondary effect on business competitiveness; and
- A cumulative overprovision of one-bed dwellings could result in empty properties, particularly on sites in the Regional Centre and Inner Areas.

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

The Sustainability Appraisal process concluded that the Core Strategy has the potential to deliver a wide range of social, environmental and economic benefits. 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 have been made to the Strategic Sites / Locations proposals. These cover 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

The Sustainability Appraisal examined the Core Strategy Policies and made a number of recommendations about how individual policies could perform better. However, in the majority of these instances, these recommendations are met by other Core Strategy policies and therefore no mitigation is needed and the relevant policy is referred to in the detailed Appraisal.

## 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	<b>S1: Achieve a better balance and mix in the housing market</b>	
	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 (BVPUI 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.	Percentage of people surveyed who feel that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together Number of people engaged in voluntary work in the community (by age, ethnic group, disability and geography) Percentage of 13-19 population participating in youth work Number of young people receiving an accredited award and/or volunteering (including DofE, Youth Achievement, Millennium Volunteers)

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	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
	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	The difference in all age, all cause mortality (per 1 00,000 population);

	<p>different neighbourhoods in the Borough</p>	<p>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>
	<p>Increase participation in and access to sport and physical activity facilities</p>	<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: a) sports and leisure facilities</p>
	<p>Increase awareness and use of cultural facilities</p>	<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>

		b) Libraries c) Museums and galleries d) Theatres and concert hall
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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	Percentage of residents who think that: a) Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage in public places is a very big or fairly big problem in their local area.  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)

### 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	Levels of air pollutants, nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter, at the A56 air quality monitoring station (annual average).  NC>2 concentrations (ug/m3) at worst case receptor points within AQMAs  Intermediate proxy of tonnes NO <sub>x</sub> emissions from traffic on local main roads
	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

	<p>Conserve and enhance the natural environment</p>	<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>
	<p>Conserve and enhance habitat diversity</p>	<p>Change in area/population of priority habitats identified for Trafford in the Greater Manchester BAP</p>
	<p>Conserve and enhance geodiversity</p>	<p>New indicator to be developed</p>

	<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: 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	<b>E3: Reduce contributions to climate change</b>	
	Sub Objective	Indicator
	Reduce the amount of carbon emissions	QoL 25 - Carbon dioxide emissions by sector and per capita emissions CO2 emissions from domestic sector / transport
	Increase energy efficiency	Average annual domestic sales of gas Average annual domestic sales of Electricity QoL 27 - Daily domestic water use (per capita consumption)
	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 and 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
		The number of visits to major tourist destinations: a) The Trafford Centre b) The Imperial War Museum c) Sale Waterside Arts Centre d) MUFC – matches and museum and tour e) LCCC f) Dunham Massey hall and garden

Objective	<b>EC4: Encourage the long term sustainability of Trafford's Town Centres.</b>	
	Sub Objective	Indicator
	Enhance town centre vitality	Prime retail property rents per square metre in: Altrincham Sale Stretford Urmston  Percentage of vacant units in: Altrincham Sale Stretford Urmston
	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

The next steps in the SA process are to:

- Conduct public consultation on this SA and its accompanying Further Consultation on the Core Strategy Preferred Option Document.
- Appraise any significant changes made to the Core Strategy as a result of public consultation.
- Publish a sustainability statement showing how the SA process has influenced the content of the Core Strategy.
- Monitor the significant effects of the Core Strategy

## 6. CONCLUSIONS

Urban Vision Partnership Ltd were commissioned by Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council to undertake a sustainability appraisal of their Further Consultation on the Core Strategy Preferred Option Document. The appraisal work has been informed by national guidance and best practice and the methodology proposed by the Council in their Scoping Report (June 2007).

The Sustainability Appraisal process involved the assessment of the Spatial Strategy, Strategic Sites, Strategic Locations and Core Strategy 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 Sustainability Appraisal process concluded that the proposed Spatial Strategy has the potential to deliver a wide range of social, environmental and economic benefits. Nevertheless, although the Spatial Strategy would have a positive impact on the majority of sustainability objectives, it is anticipated that it 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. The focus on part of the development in the regeneration areas of Partington and Carrington in particular has the potential to exacerbate the situation. In order to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on air quality there is a need to maintain and develop an efficient public transport network and local tree planting schemes. There is also a recognised need to complete a Level 2/Hybrid Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) to address the uncertain impact of the Spatial Strategy on water quality and vulnerability to climate change.

The Strategic Sites and Strategic Locations have the potential to make a significant contribution towards social, environmental and economic objectives. In particular, many of the Strategic Sites and Locations would make a significant positive contribution towards improving the balance and mix of the housing market; improving local neighbourhood quality; reducing poverty, social exclusion and economic disparities; and improving economic performance. However, it is recognised that some of the Strategic Sites and Locations may give rise to some detrimental impacts. In order to mitigate against these impacts it is recommended that the following measures are undertaken:

- Completion of the Level 2/Hybrid Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) to address the uncertain impact of some of the Sites and Locations on water quality and vulnerability to climate change.
- Secure significant enhancements to public transport provision to reduce any negative impact on congestion, contributions to climate change and air quality.
- Limiting the provision of one-bed dwellings in residential development on several of the Sites and Locations, particularly those in the Regional Centre and Inner Areas.
- Undertake appropriate open space/nature conservation surveys of a number of the Strategic Sites and Locations and ensure that areas of high biodiversity,

landscape and open space value are protected and enhanced as part of development.

- Require developments, particularly those built on greenfield sites, to be built to an appropriate density whilst still providing for appropriate high quality open amenity space. By using land efficiently this will reduce the pressure to release further greenfield sites
- Local tree planting to reduce any negative impacts on air quality;
- Emphasise the need to value and protect historic buildings and features of historic / cultural interest;
- The use of BREEAM / Code for Sustainable Homes standards to improve the sustainability of new developments.

On the whole, the Core Strategy policies scored very highly in the SA process. There were few uncertain or negative effects on the sustainability objectives and only a small amount of mitigation measures are proposed. Recommended mitigation measures to prevent, reduce or offset any adverse impacts include:

- The incorporation of a reference to use of s106 agreements to secure contributions towards public realm improvements and training opportunities in the construction trades during the development period in Policy L8.
- Accessibility by public transport should be added as an additional criterion for economic development sites outside of the priority locations in Policy W1.
- The need to ensure that key cultural and visitor attractions in the Borough are accessible by public transport.