



# Education Contributions

Supplementary Planning Document



SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

April 2007

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## **1. Non-Technical Summary**

- 1.1 This summary is intended to provide an overview of the purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal, together with a brief synopsis of its outcomes. The main report will expand upon the issues outlined in this section.
- 1.2 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a legal requirement of the new planning system. Its purpose is to ensure that local development documents conform to the Government's guiding principles of sustainable development, which are:
  - Living Within Environmental Limits;
  - Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society;
  - Achieving a Sustainable Economy;
  - Promoting Good Governance; and
  - Using Sound Science Responsibly
- 1.3 This SA appraises the City of Worcester Education Contributions SPD. This has been undertaken through a Sustainability Framework, whereby any sustainability issues of significance are assessed against a series of Sustainability Objectives. Through this process, any negative implications that could result from the adoption of the proposed policy can be identified and, if necessary, avoided/reduced/mitigated. The process also serves to draw attention to any positive benefits the policy may have for the City.
- 1.4 Three options for the Education policy were assessed. The first was to have no policy; the second was to maintain the existing adopted County-wide SPG; and the third was to adopt the proposed new SPD. These are broad options, as the nature of the SPD does not lend itself to more specific alternatives. Notwithstanding this, should particular elements from one or more options have shown the strongest sustainability characteristics, then these could have been combined and refined into a further policy option.
- 1.5 The SA is prepared alongside the SPD, to allow its findings to influence the direction of the policy document. The appraisal found that adoption of the new SPD was, in each case, either the best option, or of neutral effect.

## 2. Introduction

2.1 As part of the City of Worcester Local development Framework (LDF), an Education Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has been produced. The SPD is intended to replace existing County-wide Supplementary Planning Guidance of 2003 'Section 106 Planning Obligations – Education Facilities'. The new SPD will provide further guidance and expand upon the current adopted policies on planning obligations set out in Paragraph 10.37 and Policy CLT.10 of the City of Worcester Local Plan. The aims of the SPD are set out below:

- **TO PROVIDE GREATER CLARITY FOR DEVELOPERS AND APPLICANTS AND ASSIST IN STREAMLINING THE PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS.**
- **TO PROVIDE A CLEAR FRAMEWORK FOR ASSESSING THE REQUIREMENT FOR ADDITIONAL EDUCATION FACILITIES AND CALCULATING PLANNING OBLIGATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CITY.**
- **TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN ENSURING THAT COMMUNITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS ARE FULFILLED AS PART OF NEW DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS AND THAT THE PROCESS IS FAIR AND TRANSPARENT TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.**
- **TO CLEARLY STATE THE COUNCIL'S PROCEDURES IN DEALING WITH PLANNING APPLICATIONS WHICH ARE LIKELY TO GENERATE PLANNING OBLIGATIONS FOR EDUCATION FACILITIES AND IN DRAFTING AGREEMENTS THAT SECURE PLANNING OBLIGATIONS.**

2.2 Under Section 19 (5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the SPD must be accompanied by “an appraisal of the sustainability of the proposals”, as well as “a report of the findings of the appraisal”.

2.3 Sustainability Appraisal is intended to ensure that the planning system accords with the Government's aims of working towards sustainable development. The UK's four 'priority areas' regarding sustainable development have been established as:

- Sustainable Consumption and Production;
- Climate Change and Energy;
- Natural Resource Protection and Environmental Enhancement; and
- Sustainable Communities.

It is from these four themes that the Sustainability Objectives established at Scoping Report stage have been identified.

2.4 This report contains a full appraisal of the sustainability of the Draft Education Contributions SPD. It has been informed by an initial Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Scoping Report, which established the broad criteria for assessing the environmental, social and economic impacts of the policy, as well as creating an SA framework.

2.5 In considering the sustainability of the SPD, the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) have also been addressed (see Appendix 5). The SEA Directive (as transposed under Section 4(1) of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004) specifies a series of environmental requirements. These

requirements are commonly accommodated within the wider sustainability appraisal, and this is the approach that has been taken.

- 2.6 The draft SA has been prepared in accordance with the Office of Deputy Prime Minister's (ODPM) 'Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents' (2005).
- 2.7 Whilst the SA must be comprehensive and must examine any identified sustainability issues arising from (or influenced by) the SPD, it must also be succinct and accessible. Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks states that "Local planning authorities should ensure that the sustainability appraisal is commensurate with the scope of the local development document being appraised". In this instance, the SPD is concerned with procedural matters, rather than land-use issues. As a result, whilst all sustainability issues have been investigated, only a limited range of issues/objectives have been identified that are of relevance to the SPD.
- 2.8 Where it is considered that a land-use plan would adversely affect a European Site (Special Protection Areas/Special Areas of Conservation/sites on draft lists for protection), an Appropriate Assessment must be carried out. This is in accordance with Directive 92/43/EEC (the Habitats Directive) on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora. This Directive has been transposed into UK law, which is currently being updated as the draft Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006. As stated above, the SPD alone is not directly concerned with land-use issues; nor is it likely, in combination with other plans or projects, to have any negative effects. Consequently, Appropriate Assessment is not considered to be necessary.
- 2.9 Whilst the importance of Race Equality Impact Assessments, designed to "pre-empt the possibility that...[the] proposed policy could affect some racial groups unfavourably" is recognised, screening has indicated that such an assessment is not required in this instance.

### **3. The Sustainability Appraisal Process**

- 3.1 Production of a draft Sustainability Appraisal Report constitutes part of Stage 2 of what the ODPM guidance divides into a three-stage process. The steps involved in SA are closely linked to those for preparing an SPD, to ensure that the SA is able to positively influence the SPD as it evolves.
- 3.2 The first part of the process, Stage 1 (Pre-production), involved the production of an SA Scoping Report, which was intended to set the context and objectives, establish the baseline and decide on the scope of the SA. This first stage was itself divided into five constituent parts:
  - **A1:** Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainable development objectives;
  - **A2:** Collecting baseline information;
  - **A3:** Identifying sustainability issues and problems;
  - **A4:** Developing the SA framework;
  - **A5:** Consulting on the scope of the SA.

The SA Scoping Report was consulted on for a period of five weeks. The consultees were the statutory environmental bodies (English Heritage, English Nature, the Environment Agency and the Countryside Agency), as well as the Home Builders Federation. A summary of consultation responses is provided at Appendix 1, together with an outline of how any comments have been taken into account.

3.3 Stage 2 of the SA process (Production) involved the development and refining of options and assessing of effects, the preparation of the Sustainability Appraisal Report, and consultation on the draft SPD and SA Report. The tasks within this second stage can be divided as follows:

- **B1:** Testing the SPD objectives against the SA framework;
- **B2:** Developing the SPD options;
- **B3:** Predicting the effects of the draft SPD;
- **B4:** Evaluating the effects of the draft SPD;
- **B5:** Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects;
- **B6:** Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the SPD;
- **C1:** Preparing SA Report;
- **D1:** Public participation on the SA Report and the draft SPD;
- **D2:** Assessing significant changes.

3.4 Following consultation an additional objective, Objective 18 was added..

#### **4. Outcomes of the Scoping Report**

4.1 The Scoping Report referred to at 2.2 is the starting point for this Sustainability Appraisal. As part of the Scoping Report, a series of Plans, Policies and Programmes (PPP) were identified which were considered to be of relevance to the sustainability of the SPD. A list of these PPP, together with an analysis and summary of their content, is provided at Appendix 2.

4.2 The collection of baseline data emerged as a particularly difficult issue, as no measurable information of relevance was identified. Various datasets currently exist to enable the monitoring of a great many environmental, economic and social issues, but it would not be possible to isolate any impact the SPD's policies may have had on these. Whilst degrees of significance for each sustainability issue may exist, it would be speculative to isolate and 'quantify' these effects. For example, one secondary effect of the SPD may be to lead to energy efficient designs, which accords with *SA Objective 7: To increase the proportion of energy needs met from renewable sources*. However, site-specific considerations, including construction techniques, are beyond the scope of the SPD, and the sustainability of these issues will be considered through other means, notably through other DPDs/SPDs and the development control process.

4.3 The current absence of useable baseline data may change if/when new information appears. During Scoping Report stage, consultees were invited to suggest sources of baseline data that may have been overlooked, but none were forthcoming. However, the Council remains open to suggestions, and will continue to explore new data sources that come to light, in line with the iterative nature of sustainability appraisal.

4.4 The main sustainability issues associated with the provisions of the SPD were identified as follows:

**Social:** New housing developments are creating a demand for additional/expanded education facilities. In some circumstances, existing facilities do not currently have the capacity to accommodate significant extra housing growth.

**Environmental:** Peak-time traffic congestion, due in large part to employment and schools-related travel patterns, could be exacerbated by lack of capacity in schools to meet local needs. If no additional capacity is provided to meet needs arising from residential development, longer distances will be travelled to schools elsewhere. This could contribute to greenhouse gas emissions.

**Economic:** Significant peak-time traffic congestion, due in large part to employment and schools-related travel patterns. Consequent effects on local and wider economy, in terms of lost time and productivity.

## **5. The SA Framework**

- 5.1 Following consideration in the Scoping Report of the PPP and baseline data, and the identification of sustainability issues, a Sustainability Appraisal Framework was derived, against which the SPD aims could be tested.
- 5.2 The SA Framework uses a suite of eighteen SA objectives, each of which is designed to ensure that environmental, social and economic concerns are given consideration within the SPD. The relevant SA Objectives have been checked against each other to ensure compatibility, and no conflicts have been identified. A full list of SA objectives is provided at Appendix 3.
- 5.3 The Sustainability Objectives allow for a meaningful and comprehensive assessment of the SPD. The objectives derive from Worcestershire County Council's and the Worcestershire Districts' emerging Joint SA framework, currently in discussion, which has evolved from the West Midlands Regional Sustainable Development Framework. Following consideration at Scoping Report stage, these Objectives were further refined, including additions to the decision-making criteria. The possibility of reducing vehicular pollution is included at criterion 2.1; the benefits of community 'ownership' of documents under the new planning system is recognised under criterion 5.1, which refers to the Statement of Community Involvement; and the possibility of making essential services more accessible is included under criterion 9.2.
- 5.4 During consultation on the Scoping Report, comment was invited as to the suitability of the SA objectives, and the connections made between these objectives and those of the SPD. No comment was received, and the SA Objectives have been taken forward as the most suitable for the SPD.

## 6. Appraisal of Options

6.1 An assessment of the sustainability of the following options helps identify the significant benefits that the SPD should deliver to the City:

**Option 1:** No policy concerning Section 106 contributions for education facilities.

**Option 2:** Maintain existing County-wide SPG for entirety of 'saved' period until September 2007.

**Option 3:** Adoption of proposed draft SPD on Education Contributions.

6.2 Each of the three options can be assessed against those Sustainability Objectives identified as being of relevance during the Scoping Report stage. By adopting a clear, tabulated approach, direct comparisons may be made between each option, allowing the merits or shortcomings of each to be identified.

**Table 1: Comparison of SPD options**

Relevant SA Objective	SA Objective Criteria	SPD Options		
		No Policy	Maintain existing SPG	Adopt new SPD
Objective 2: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	Will it help to promote sustainable modes of transport and reduce vehicular pollution?	0	1	1
Objective 3: To reduce traffic volumes	Will it help to reduce the need to travel?	0	1	1
Objective 5: To provide opportunities for communities to participate in and contribute to the decisions that affect their neighbourhood and quality of life	Do proposals comply with the Statement of Community Involvement?	n/a	n/a	2
	Are proposals transparent and open to the public?	n/a	1	2
Objective 9: To improve the quality of, and accessibility to, local services and facilities	Will it aid accessibility to essential health, education and social facilities?	0	1	2
<b>Total Score</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>

n.b. It must be recognised that the current situation is subject to change, and that sustainability of the above options could also require revision. For example the first criteria of SA Objective 3: To reduce traffic volumes is dependent on the location of schools, and this may change with any education review/rationalisation.

- 6.3 Table 1 shows the results of this assessment, whereby a score is apportioned to each SPD Option to reflect its ability to meet sustainability objectives. A score of zero (0) means the SPD option does not accord with the SA Objective criteria; a score of one (1) means the SPD option has some positive effect in relation to the criteria; and a score of two (2) means that the SPD option is in full accordance with the criteria, and is helping to contribute towards sustainability. As none of the relevant SA objectives are considered to be of greater significance than any others, the weighting of each is equal. This approach is concurrent with Government advice, as set out in Appendix 11 to *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents*.
- 6.4 A written justification for each score is provided at Appendix 4.
- 6.5 Table 1 illustrates where the SPD options are likely to have an effect on sustainability, together with a broad measure of their significance. In addition to these 'primary' effects, the SA should consider any secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects that are likely to result from the above options. No cumulative or synergistic effects have been identified, but it is considered that there may be a secondary effect that is beneficial; under the option of adopting the new SPD, schools should be located near to where the need generated from new housing development arises, and this could result in greater proportions of children walking to school. Walking is recognised as a valuable form of exercise, and could contribute to the health of the children, in addition to the health of any adults accompanying them.
- 6.6 The scores for each option show that adopting the new SPD is a more sustainable approach than either of the other two options. It is therefore the adoption of the new SPD that will go forward as the preferred option, to be considered in greater detail.
- 6.7 The Sustainability Framework can be used to assess the preferred option. Adopting a matrix to display the relationship (if any) between the aims of the SPD (as stated at 2.1) and the sustainability objectives, is an established means of assessing sustainability.
- 6.8 A colour-coded SA Matrix has been used in order to give a clear and readily-accessible 'snapshot' of the performance of the SPD.
- 6.9 The SA matrix makes clear that no negative effects have currently been identified that could result from the adoption of the proposed SPD. Mitigation, in order to minimise any negative effects of the policy, is therefore not required.
- 6.10 In adopting the SPD as Council policy, it is considered that the social, environmental, and economic issues identified at 4.4 can be minimised, and that the secondary benefits referred to at 6.5 can be capitalised upon. This report signals that there should be significant sustainability benefits of choosing this option over the existing SPG.

## Sustainability Appraisal Matrix

		Education Contributions SPD: Aims			
		SPD Aim 1	SPD Aim 2	SPD Aim 3	SPD Aim 4
<b>Sustainability Objectives</b>	1. To minimize the production of waste generated.				
	2. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions.				
	3. To reduce traffic volumes				
	4. Develop a knowledge driven economy, the infrastructure and skills base whilst ensuring all have the benefits, urban and rural.				
	5. To provide opportunities for communities to participate in and contribute to the decisions that affect their neighbourhood and quality of life.				
	6. Promote and support the development of new technologies, especially those with high value and low impact.				
	7. To increase the proportion of energy needs met from renewable sources.				
	8. Protect and improve standards of air, water and soil quality.				
	9. To improve the quality of, and accessibility to, local services and facilities.				
	10. Safeguard and strengthen the landscape character.				
	11. Seek net gain to biodiversity at all levels.				
	12. To improve the health and wellbeing of the population and reduce inequalities in health.				
	13. Provide decent, affordable housing for all, of the right quality and type, tenure and affordability for local needs, in clean, safe and pleasant local environment.				
	14. To raise the skills level and qualification of the workforce.				
	15. Conserve and enhance the historic environment.				
	16. Ensure efficient use of land through safeguarding of mineral reserves, the best and most versatile agricultural land, Greenfield land and maximise use of previously developed land.				
	17. Encourage pride and social responsibility in the local community.				
	18. To ensure development does not occur in high-risk flood prone areas and does not adversely contribute to fluvial flood risks or contribute to surface water flooding in all other areas.				
<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>Neutral overall effect</b>	<b>Neutral overall effect</b>	<b>Positive overall effect</b>	<b>Neutral overall effect</b>	

Key:  = Moving towards the SA Objective.  = SA Objective does not apply.  = Negative effect on the SA Objective.

## **7. Monitoring**

- 7.1 In order to maintain the effectiveness of the SPD, and to ensure the SA remains relevant, monitoring will be undertaken, as specified in the Local Development Scheme. This will be done through Annual Monitoring Reports, and will seek to ensure that the SPD and SA are achieving their aims, and ensure that any changes in national planning policy or best practice are reflected in the documents.

**Summary of Responses received for SA Scoping Report**

<b>Consultee</b>	<b>Summary of Response</b>	<b>Action</b>
The Countryside Agency	<p>Detailed response not possible due to limited resources.</p> <p>Impact of plan on character or quality of landscapes should be assessed, if appropriate.</p> <p>Countryside Agency methodologies concerned with access and recreation should be incorporated within the SA where appropriate, and should form part of the baseline indicators.</p> <p>Advised of the availability of Countryside Agency reports on the internet.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>SPD will not directly affect character areas. Secondary effects fall within other policies.</p> <p>These methodologies are recognised, but are not appropriate for this SPD.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
The Environment Agency	No Response Received.	n/a.
English Heritage	Unable to provide a response at this stage, due to current volume of work.	Noted.
English Nature	No Response Received.	n/a.
The Home Builders Federation	No Response Received.	n/a.

**Plans, Policies and Programmes reviewed in the identification of Sustainability Issues relevant to the SPD**

Plan, Policy or Programme	Summary of Contents/Key Principles	Implications for SA
<b>International</b>		
<b>The EU Sustainable Development Strategy (updated 2005)</b>	Seeks to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- combat climate change;</li> <li>- ensure sustainable transport;</li> <li>- address threats to public health;</li> <li>- manage natural resources more responsibly and stop biodiversity decline; combat poverty and social exclusion; and meet the challenge of an ageing population</li> </ul>	The principles of sustainable development are reflected in the SA objectives
<b>European Habitats Directive (1992)</b>	Promotes the maintenance of biodiversity by requiring measures to maintain or restore natural habitats and wild species at a favourable conservation status.	Biodiversity addressed in SA Objective 11.
<b>European Birds Directive (1979)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maintenance of the favourable conservation status of wild bird species;</li> <li>- Identification and classification of Special Protection Areas for rare or vulnerable species;</li> <li>- Establishment of a general scheme of protection for all wild birds.</li> </ul>	Biodiversity addressed in SA Objective 11.
<b>European Air Quality Directive (2000)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction of new air quality standards for previously unregulated air pollutants. Including sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, lead and ozone;</li> <li>- Pollutants governed by already existing ambient air quality objectives and benzene, carbon monoxide, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, cadmium, arsenic, nickel and mercury;</li> <li>- Establishes a community wide procedure for exchange of information and data on ambient air quality in the EC.</li> </ul>	Air quality addressed in SA Objective 8.
<b>European Water Directive (2000)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Framework for the protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater.</li> <li>- Four distinct elements; characterisation and assessment of impacts on river basin districts, environmental monitoring, the setting of environmental objectives and design and implementation of the programme of measures needed to achieve them.</li> </ul>	Water quality addressed in SA Objective 8.
<b>European Sixth Environmental Action Plan (2001 – 2010)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- High level of protection for the environment and human health, for general improvement in the environment and quality of life.</li> <li>- Identifies areas at risk of flooding and possible future flooding problems.</li> </ul>	The principles of environmental protection are reflected in the SA objectives.

<b>National</b>		
<b>UK Strategy for Sustainable Development (2005)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Living within environmental limits.</li> <li>- Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society.</li> <li>- Achieving a sustainable economy.</li> <li>- Promoting good governance and using sound science responsibly.</li> <li>- Highlights four priority areas for action: Sustainable consumption and production, climate change and energy, protecting our natural resources and enhancing the environment and creating sustainable communities and a fairer world.</li> <li>- For each of these areas, the Strategy identifies indicators through which to review progress.</li> <li>- Includes 20 UK Framework Indicators intended to cover key impacts and outcomes that reflect the priority areas across the UK.</li> </ul>	<p>The principles of sustainable development are reflected in the SA objectives</p>
<b>Sustainable Communities Plan (2003)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Long-term programme of action for delivering sustainable communities in urban and rural areas: - addressing the housing shortage through accelerating the provision of housing, affordable housing and tackling homelessness.</li> <li>- Addressing low demand and abandonment</li> <li>- Decent homes</li> <li>- Liveability – improving local environments</li> <li>- Protecting the countryside.</li> </ul>	<p>The principles of sustainable development are reflected in the SA objectives</p>
<b>Transport 10 Year Plan (2000)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ten-year strategy for investment in the future to create prosperity and a better environment. Approach based on integrated transport, public &amp; private partnership and new projects to deliver a broad package of improvement by 2010.</li> <li>- 50% increase in rail use</li> <li>- 80% increase in rail freight</li> <li>- Traffic congestion reduced below current levels particularly in large urban areas</li> <li>- 10% increase in bus passenger journeys</li> <li>- Safer cycling and walking routes, more 20mph areas and Home Zones for safer roads.</li> </ul>	<p>Transport objectives are addressed in SA Objectives 2, 3, and 9.</p>
<b>UK Climate Change Programme (1994)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improve business use of energy, stimulate investment and cut costs.</li> <li>- Energy labels, standards, integrated pollution prevention and control, stimulate new more efficient sources of power generation,</li> <li>- Cut emissions from the transport sector, promote better energy efficiency in the domestic sector, improve energy efficiency requirements of the building regulations,</li> <li>- Protecting and enhancing forests,</li> <li>- New targets for improving energy management of public buildings, energy efficiency targets for local authorities, schools and hospitals, developing green travel plans.</li> </ul>	<p>Climate change is addressed in the SA Objectives, in particular Objective 2.</p>
<b>The Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW) 2000</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Extends the public's ability to enjoy the Countryside whilst also providing safeguards for landowners and occupiers.</li> <li>- Creates a new statutory right of access to open country and registered common land.</li> <li>- Modernise the Rights of Way system</li> <li>- Give greater protection to SSSIs.</li> <li>- Provide better management arrangements for AONBs</li> <li>- Strengthen Wildlife Enforcement Legislation</li> </ul>	<p>Principles of CROW act are reflected in SA Objectives, especially Objectives 10, 11 and 12.</p>

<p><b>PPS 1 – Delivering Sustainable Development (2005)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contributing to sustainable economic development. Protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment, the quality and character of the countryside and existing communities.</li> <li>- Ensuring high quality development through good and inclusive design and efficient use of resources.</li> <li>- Community involvement to present a shared vision and strategy of how the area should develop to achieve more sustainable patterns of development.</li> <li>- High quality inclusive design in the layout of new developments and individual buildings in terms of function and impact.</li> <li>- Consider people's diverse needs and aim to break down unnecessary barriers and exclusions to benefit the whole community.</li> <li>- Policies should take account of environmental issues such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mitigation of effects and adaptation to climate change through the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the use of renewable energy, air quality and pollution, land contamination, protection of groundwater from contamination and noise and light pollution.</li> <li>Protection of the wider countryside and impact of development on landscape quality, conservation and enhancement of wildlife species and habitats. The promotion of biodiversity.</li> <li>Need to improve built and natural environment in and around urban areas and rural settlements including the provision of good quality open space, conservation of soil quality, preservation and enhancement of built and archaeological heritage.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>The principles of sustainable development are reflected in the SA objectives</p>
<p><b>PPG2: Green Belts (1995)</b></p>	<p>There are five purposes of including land in Green Belts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas;</li> <li>- To prevent neighbouring towns from merging into one another;</li> <li>- To assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment;</li> <li>- To preserve the setting and special character of historic towns; and</li> <li>- To assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.</li> </ul>	<p>The aims of PPG2 are reflected in the SA Objectives, particularly Objective 10.</p>

<p><b>PPS 3 – Housing (2006)</b></p>	<p>The specific outcomes that the planning system should deliver are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High quality housing that is well-designed and built to a high standard.</li> <li>• A mix of housing, both market and affordable, particularly in terms of tenure and price, to support a wide variety of households in all areas, both urban and rural.</li> <li>• A sufficient quantity of housing taking into account need and demand and seeking to improve choice.</li> <li>• Housing developments in suitable locations, which offer a good range of community facilities and with good access to jobs, key services and infrastructure.</li> <li>• A flexible, responsible supply of land – managed in a way that makes efficient and effective use of land, including re-use of previously developed land, where appropriate.</li> </ul>	<p>Principles of PPS3 are reflected in the SA Objectives, especially Objective 13.</p>
<p><b>PPG13: Transport (2001)</b></p>	<p>Promote more sustainable transport choices for both people and for moving freight;</p> <p>Promote accessibility to jobs, shopping, leisure facilities and services by public transport, walking and cycling; and</p> <p>Reduce the need to travel, especially by car.</p>	<p>Principles of PPG13 are reflected in the SA Objectives, especially Objectives 2 &amp; 3.</p>
<p><b>PPG17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (2002)</b></p>	<p>Supporting an urban renaissance – with local networks of high quality and well managed and maintained open spaces, sports and recreational facilities;</p> <p>Supporting a rural renewal - the countryside can provide opportunities for recreation and visitors can play an important role in the regeneration of the economies of rural areas;</p> <p>Promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion - well planned and maintained open spaces and good quality sports and recreational facilities can play a major part in improving people's sense of well being in the place they live;</p> <p>Health and well being - open spaces, sports and recreational facilities have a vital role to play in promoting healthy living and preventing illness;</p> <p>Promoting more sustainable development - by ensuring that open space, sports and recreational facilities are easily accessible by walking and cycling and well served by public transport.</p> <p>Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land should not be built on unless an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space or the buildings and land to be surplus to requirements.</p>	<p>Principles of PPG17 are reflected in the SA Objectives.</p>

<b>Regional</b>		
<b>West Midlands Regional Sustainable Development Framework (2005)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop thriving communities;</li> <li>- Enhance &amp; protect the environment;</li> <li>- Ensure prudent and efficient use of natural resources; and</li> <li>- Develop a flourishing diverse and stable regional economy</li> </ul>	<p>The principles of sustainable development are reflected in the SA objectives</p>
<b>West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (2004 – 2021)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 76% of new housing on brownfield land creating balanced communities through providing a range of different housing with different tenures and within rural areas targeting new housing to meet local needs and to support local services.</li> <li>- Improvements to quality of environment and access to high quality public services and transport. Creating a high quality built environment, landscapes and enhancing urban greenspace and public spaces, the historic environment, restoring degraded land, increasing forestry and woodland and areas for increasing biodiversity.</li> <li>- A positive approach towards renewable energy and energy conservation.</li> <li>- Regional targets for waste reduction and recycling.</li> <li>- Reducing the need to travel and to make the best use of infrastructure while targeting investment at areas in a joined up way across the different types of transport. Need to change people's attitude to travel, promote public transport and strategic park and ride.</li> <li>- Increase range and quality of business opportunities available.</li> <li>- Create balanced communities and provide the commercial, retail, transport and leisure facilities to serve a wider area, thereby minimising the need to travel further afield.</li> </ul>	<p>The RSS is reflected in the SA Objectives.</p>
<b>West Midlands Housing Strategy 2006 – 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Create mixed, balanced and inclusive communities</li> <li>- Assist in the delivery of urban and rural renaissance as per RSS</li> <li>- Influence future development of new housing provision to facilitate and enhance economic development</li> <li>- Address variety of different housing needs</li> <li>- See that Decent Homes standards are met</li> <li>- Achieve social and other affordable housing</li> <li>- Achieve sustainable access to minimise environmental resource consumption and traffic and improve the quality of the environment</li> </ul>	<p>The housing strategy is reflected in the SA Objectives, especially Objective 13.</p>
<b>West Midlands Regional Biodiversity Strategy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maintain and improve the condition of habitats, species and ecosystems</li> <li>- Develop an area based approach to restoring wildlife</li> <li>- Monitor the condition of habitats, species and ecosystems</li> <li>- Reconnect and integrate action for biodiversity with other environmental, social and economic activity</li> <li>- Cope with the impact of climate change</li> </ul>	<p>Biodiversity is addressed in SA Objective 11.</p>
<b>'Sign up for Sport' - A Regional Plan for Sport in the West Midlands 2004-2008</b>	<p>To significantly increase participation in sport within all age and social groups, leading to improvements in health and other social and economic benefits and providing the basis for progression into higher levels of performance, for those with the talent and desire to progress.</p>	<p>The health element of sport is addressed in SA Objective 12.</p>

<b>County</b>		
<p><b>Draft Worcestershire Local Area Agreement (2006)</b></p>	<p>“A County with safe, cohesive, healthy and inclusive communities, a strong and diverse economy and a valued and cherished environment.”  Identifies 36 outcomes under 6 thematic blocks as follows:  A. Communities that are safe and feel safe.  B. A better environment for today and tomorrow  C. Economic success that is shared by all.  D. Improving health and well being  E. Meeting the needs of children and young people  F. Stronger communities</p>	<p>The principles of the Worcestershire LAA are reflected in the SA Objectives.</p>
<p><b>Partnership Towards Excellence: A Community Strategy for Worcestershire</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Communities that are healthy and support vulnerable people</li> <li>- A safer place to live, work, learn, travel and do business.</li> <li>- People able to acquire the skills, knowledge and self-esteem they need to allow them to be active citizens and achieve personal fulfilment.</li> <li>- Worcestershire as a prosperous County which continues to build on strengths and by diversifying and modernising to meet the needs of a changing economy.</li> <li>- Worcestershire’s environment and everything it contains to be protected, conserved and enhanced to ensure that we keep the best of our inheritance for future generations.</li> <li>- Worcestershire to be vibrant and celebrate diversity, to include everyone and give them equal access to public services and opportunities to take part in community life and have a strong sense of citizenship.</li> <li>- Seek to reduce crime, the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour by introducing crime prevention as a material consideration into the land-use and development planning process.</li> <li>- Prudent use of natural resources in order to minimise their use and to conserve them for future generations.</li> <li>- There is a primary need to reduce energy use wherever possible at all stages of the development process.</li> <li>- The loss of or detrimental impact to the County’s environmental assets or landscape character should be avoided.</li> <li>- Encourage development on previously developed land</li> <li>- Deliver sustainable patterns of development, which allow accessibility to jobs, education, health, shopping, leisure and other local services.</li> <li>- A key element of sustainability is to ensure that town centres within the County are not undermined by development proposals elsewhere.</li> <li>- Skylines and hill features and prominent views of such features contribute to local landscape character and as such should be protected from development.</li> <li>- The principle of sustainable development must be applied to agricultural land, and this will require the protection of the best and most versatile agricultural land for future generations, whilst recognising the environmental, economic and social needs of rural areas.</li> <li>- Development will be expected to incorporate measures to prevent the pollution of watercourses and aquifers.</li> <li>- Support for proposals that incorporate renewable energy/energy efficiency measures.</li> </ul>	<p>The Community Strategy’s aims are reflected in the SA Objectives.</p>

<p><b>Worcestershire County Structure Plan (1996 – 2011)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Long term planning document covering the period 1996-2011.</li> <li>- Encourage and promote land use activities that will lead to an improvement in the quality of air, water and land.</li> <li>- Seek a reduction in the consumption of energy and finite resources through the more efficient use of resources, recycling, the use of renewable sources and the reduction in the amount of waste produced.</li> <li>- Protect from damaging development and land use activity, and enhance, biodiversity and diverse and important environmental. Landscape townscape and historic features and characteristics.</li> <li>- Ensure the integration of development within the landscape in order to protect and enhance essential landscape characteristics and features.</li> <li>- Protect and expand amenity areas and open spaces, and access to them, in both town and country.</li> <li>- Meet the housing requirements of the population of the new County through the provision of an adequate range of housing including general market, affordable and social housing in a way which protects the environment and makes the most effective use of the existing settlement pattern.</li> <li>- Work towards a better balance between housing, employment, social and community facilities within settlements</li> <li>- Encourage development that will help retain and enhance the identity, character and vitality of settlements.</li> <li>- Promote energy efficient construction, design and development patterns.</li> <li>- Seek the location of development in areas which will minimise the need to travel and reduce the distances required to be travelled (energy efficient locations)</li> <li>- Guide new development to locations that can be served by a choice of transport modes for both the movements of people and freight.</li> <li>- Support and facilitate the development of alternative modes of travel to the car.</li> <li>- Facilitate the strengthening and diversification of the economic base of the Region and of Worcestershire by the provision of a mixed portfolio of development locations and sites and by the enhancement and management of an attractive County environment.</li> <li>- Encourage urban and rural regeneration</li> <li>- Support the enhancement, development and integration of, and access to, a range of recreation facilities both within and around settlements.</li> </ul>	<p>The principles of the Structure Plan are reflected in the SA Objectives.</p>
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<p><b>Worcestershire Local Transport Plan 2 (2006 – 2011)</b></p>	<p>Sets out Transport Strategy for Worcestershire for 2006 – 11:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To support the unique diversity and character of Worcestershire by delivering an efficient, safe and fair transport system that meets the needs of all travellers and allows the easy movement of goods</li> <li>- To consider all appropriate solutions to transport problems and catering for all modes of transport</li> <li>- To work in partnership to deliver the second LTP, and recognise that greater benefits that can be achieved by working with all agencies that influence transport behaviour</li> <li>- To contribute towards meeting the regional aspirations for the West Midlands</li> <li>- To deliver improvements against all of the four shared priorities for transport agreed by central and local government</li> <li>- To ensure the LTP2 investment programme provides value for money and is underpinned by a robust and data-led approach to prioritisation of schemes</li> <li>- To recognise, and respond to, the wider impacts of transport</li> <li>- To promote sustainable development, and ensure economic success is not limited by transport availability</li> <li>- To continue to consult the public at every stage of the transport delivery process, and to continue to improve our performance through challenging the way transport schemes are prepared and delivered</li> <li>- To monitor and review our progress and challenge the way we work, ensuring our partners are kept informed on how the LTP2 is progressing</li> </ul>	<p>Transport objectives are addressed in SA Objectives 2, 3, and 9.</p>
<p><b>Worcestershire Biodiversity Action Plan</b></p>	<p>Takes objectives/targets of UK BAP and translates them into a Worcestershire context  Contains Habitat Action Plans for 19 key wildlife habitats and Species Action Plans for 20 key species  Habitat Action Plans aim to preserve habitats and their associated species by protecting existing sites, restoring degraded sites and where appropriate creating new sites.  Species Action Plans aim to protect viable populations through protecting and enhancing them</p>	<p>Biodiversity addressed in SA Objective 11.</p>
<p><b>DRAFT Worcestershire Climate Change Strategy</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Raise awareness of the issue of Climate Change &amp; its impact on the County.</li> <li>- Reduce Climate Change causing gas emissions across the County by a minimum of 10% from 2005 levels by 2011 and 20% by 2020</li> <li>- Adapt to and plan for the inevitable impacts of Climate Change on the County by focussing on a number of key sectors including; Commercial, Voluntary &amp; Public Service, Industry, New Developments, Public Transport and Waste.</li> </ul>	<p>Climate change is addressed in SA Objectives, especially Objective 2.</p>

## City

**City of Worcester Local Plan 1996-2011 (2004)**

- Encourage and promote land use activities which will lead to an improvement in the quality of air, water and land;
- Seek a reduction in the consumption of energy and finite resources through the more efficient use of resources, recycling, the use of renewable energy sources and the reduction of waste;
- Protect and enhance open spaces and access to them, local biodiversity, landscape, townscape, historic environment (including conservation areas, historic buildings, archaeological areas, and sites of historic parks and gardens) and their setting;
- Give emphasis to the sensitive location and design of development within the urban area, using previously developed land and buildings wherever possible, in order to complement and enhance the city; and
- Ensure that transport policies operate to improve the quality of air.
- Strengthen and diversify the local economy of the City by the provision of a mixed portfolio of development sites enabling a wide range of local job opportunities; and
- Encourage the process of urban regeneration.
- Continue the implementation of the previously agreed transportation strategy for the City;
- Encourage and promote modal change and increased walking and cycling;
- Improve the quality of car parking provision and adjust the pricing structure in accordance with the transportation strategy; and
- Encourage the development and adoption of Green Commuting Plans for all employees of non residential uses.
- Provide an adequate range of housing, including affordable social housing, in a manner which respects the environmental capacity of the city;
- All buildings should promote energy efficient construction, design, and development patterns and be located such as to minimise the need to travel and reduce the distances required to be travelled (i.e. energy efficient locations);
- Plan for attractive and safe neighbourhoods where shops, schools, open spaces and other community facilities are easily accessible to all; and
- Work towards a better balance between housing, employment, social and community facilities.
- Protect, enhance and develop new and existing recreational, cultural and community facilities with improved access to them and the wider countryside; and
- Prepare this Local Plan in a manner which enables comprehensive consultation with city residents and interested parties.

The aims of the Local Plan are reflected in the SA Objectives.

<p><b>Worcester Community Strategy (2003)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Attracting new business;</li> <li>- Maintaining and further developing a variety of shops;</li> <li>- Increasing tourism;</li> <li>- Reducing traffic congestion;</li> <li>- Reducing litter;</li> <li>- Increasing recycling;</li> <li>- Improving health, reducing health inequalities and modernizing health services;</li> <li>- Enhancing and increasing leisure facilities;</li> <li>- Tackling poverty and all forms of discrimination;</li> <li>- Ensuring equality of access to all facilities and services;</li> <li>- Improving access to housing;</li> <li>- Improving levels of educational attainment.</li> </ul>	<p>The Community Strategy's principles are reflected in the SA Objectives.</p>
<p><b>Worcester Biodiversity Action Programme</b></p>	<p>Land use designations such as Special wildlife Site will not protect enough space to safe guard biodiversity levels, therefore protection must be provided throughout the city by general land use planning policies. At the time when site specific policies are established the biodiversity value of alternative sites must be known.</p>	<p>The Biodiversity Action Programme's principles are reflected in the SA Objectives.</p>
<p><b>Worcester Tourism &amp; Visitor Economy Strategy (2004)</b></p>	<p>5 priorities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development of the riverside and the canal basin and infrastructure development, parking, hotels, signage and public spaces.</li> <li>- A broad mix of night-time activities that appeal to a wide audience.</li> <li>- How can planning encourage the development of the Hotel sector of the local economy?</li> </ul>	<p>Elements addressed in SA Objectives 4 &amp; 9</p>
<p><b>Worcester Joint Economic Strategy (2002)</b></p>	<p>Employment in Worcester is more dependant on few large employers whose headquarters are located elsewhere than is the case in the rest of Worcestershire or the West Midlands. Worcester has a higher birth and death rate of VAT registered businesses than the West Midlands or UK average, conclusion small start up businesses struggle to survive in Worcester.</p>	<p>Strategy's principles are reflected in the SA Objectives</p>

**SA Objectives**

<b>SA Objective</b>	<b>Decision Making Criteria</b>	<b>Relevance to SPD Objectives</b>
1. To minimise the production of waste generated.	1. Are opportunities to increase recycling incorporated into proposals?	N
2. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	1. Will it help to promote sustainable modes of transport and reduce vehicular pollution? 2. Will it use sustainable construction methods? 3. Will it encourage opportunities for the production of renewable energy?	Y N N
3. To reduce traffic volumes.	1. Will it help to reduce the need to travel? 2. Will it provide opportunities to increase sustainable modes of travel?	Y N
4. Develop a knowledge driven economy, the infrastructure and skills base whilst ensuring all have the benefits, urban and rural.	1. Will it help to enhance the City's economy?	N
5. To provide opportunities for communities to participate in and contribute to the decisions that affect their neighbourhood and quality of life.	1. Do proposals comply with the Statement of Community Involvement? 2. Are proposals transparent and open to the public?	Y Y
6. Promote and support the development of new technologies, especially those with high value and low impact.	1. Does it encourage innovative and environmentally friendly technologies?	N
7. To increase the proportion of energy needs met from renewable sources.	1. Do proposals encourage energy efficient design? 2. Does it promote opportunities for the retrofitting of renewable energy?	N N
8. Protect and improve standards of air, water and soil quality.	1. Will it provide opportunities to reduce the City's Air Quality Management Areas and other areas of concern? 2. Will it provide opportunities to improve local water quality?	N N
9. To improve the quality of, and accessibility to, local services and facilities.	1. Will proposals enhance local facilities? 2. Will it aid accessibility to essential health, education and social facilities?	N Y

SA Objective	Decision Making Criteria	Relevance to SPD Objectives
10. Safeguard and strengthen the landscape character.	1. Will it take full account of the City's rich and varied landscape character? 2. Will it enhance the existing landscape character of the City? 3. Will it protect and enhance the City's forests and woodlands?	N  N  N
11. Seek net gain to biodiversity at all levels.	1. Will it help to safeguard the City's biodiversity? 2. Will it provide opportunities to enhance local biodiversity in both urban and rural areas?	N  N
12. To improve the health and wellbeing of the population and reduce inequalities in health.	1. Will it help to improve access to health facilities across the City? 2. Will it help to improve quality of life for local residents?	N  N
13. Provide decent, affordable housing for all, of the right quality and type, tenure and affordability for local needs, in clean, safe and pleasant local environment.	1. Will it provide opportunities to increase affordable housing levels within urban and rural areas of the City?	N
14. To raise the skills level and qualification of the workforce.	1. Will it provide opportunities to further develop adult and community learning facilities within the City?	N
15. Conserve and enhance the historic environment.	1. Will it enhance the City's conservation areas? 2. Will it help to safeguard the City's listed buildings?	N  N
16. Ensure efficient use of land through safeguarding of minerals reserves, the best and most versatile agricultural lands, Greenfield land and maximise use of previously developed land.	1. Will it safeguard the City's minerals resources? 2. Will it help to protect the City's agricultural land from adverse development?	N  N  N
17. Encourage pride and social responsibility in the local community.	1. Does it offer the opportunity to enhance civic pride?	N
18. To ensure development does not occur in high risk flood prone areas and does not adversely contribute to fluvial flood risks or contribute to surface water flooding in all other areas.	1. Does it reduce the risk of flooding in the City?	N

Appendix 4

**Performance of SPD options against SA Objectives/Criteria**

**Option 1:** No policy concerning Section 106 contributions for education facilities.

**Option 2:** Maintain existing County-wide SPG for entirety of ‘saved’ period until September 2007.

**Option 3:** Adoption of proposed draft SPD on Education Contributions.

<b>SA Objective 2: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions</b>	
<b>Criterion: Will it help to promote sustainable modes of transport and reduce vehicular pollution?</b>	
No Policy	Peak-time traffic congestion was identified as both an environmental and economic sustainability issue in the SA Scoping Report. Although it is not currently possible to calculate the precise number of car journeys generated by school trips, it is recognised that siting housing development away from existing facilities, without appropriate new schools, is a contributory factor to congestion. Without a policy regarding planning contributions for education facilities, this unsustainable trend could continue. Consequently, having no policy in place would be contrary to Sustainability Objective No. 2.
Maintain existing SPG	The existing SPG is designed to mitigate the effects outlined above, and its implementation thus far has been successful in ensuring schools facilities are located where they are needed. By reducing the need to travel to schools situated away from new housing developments, shorter vehicle journeys (especially by private car) can lead to a reduction in harmful greenhouse gas emissions. However, one of the reasons the policy requires updating is that the methodology does not take account of absolute numbers of school places; this can lead to anomalies, including insufficient contributions for the education facilities required as a result of new housing development. Any lack of places is significant, and must not be overlooked. Even single children can generate often long trips by private car, which goes against the criterion for Sustainability Objective No. 2.
Adopt new SPD	The new SPD seeks to take an approach that accounts for individual school places, and ensures a comprehensive system of obligations. In this way, school development will be sited where it is required, which will reduce the need for travelling to other facilities. A reduction in trips by private car would lead to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

<b>SA Objective 3: To reduce traffic volumes.</b>	
<b>Criterion: Will it help to reduce the need to travel?</b>	
No Policy	Having no policy in place for securing Education Facilities through s.106 agreements would mean that schools infrastructure may not be located where it is required, i.e. where the need arises. If new housing developments are constructed without corresponding education facilities, then the school-age children generated from new housing would have to look elsewhere for a school place. This would almost certainly mean travelling greater distances.
Maintain existing SPG	Maintaining the current SPG would help to avoid this problem through ensuring education facilities are delivered in line with any new housing. However, there are circumstances in which the current formula for calculating contributions could lead to an under-provision in funding for school places.
Adopt new SPD	Adopting the new SPD would allow for precise calculations of the exact financial requirement for each development. This would ensure any education facilities are delivered where they are needed, with the consequent effects on reducing the need to travel.

<b>SA Objective 5: To provide opportunities for communities to participate in and contribute to the decisions that affect their neighbourhood and quality of life.</b>	
<b>Criterion: Do proposals comply with the Statement of Community Involvement?</b>	
<b>Criterion: Are proposals transparent and open to the public?</b>	
No Policy	The absence of any policy regarding planning contributions for education facilities would allow for no public participation. The public could have strong feelings on the nature and detail of the need to provide school places arising from new housing development, but without any adopted policy, any value from this community input would be lost.
Maintain existing SPG	Maintaining the current SPG would better serve Sustainability Objective No.5. The SPG was subject to full consultation during 2002, in line with contemporary Planning Policy Guidance, which entailed a six-week consultation period. Consultees included organisations and individuals, and notices of the consultation were placed in local newspapers. This process ensured that the adopted policy was robust. However, the policy was prepared under the previous planning system, whereby Statements of Community Involvement were not yet part of the development plan.
Adopt new SPD	Adopting the proposed new SPD would conform completely with Sustainability Objective No.5. The document has been prepared under the new planning system, which includes the statement that <i>"In developing the vision for their areas, planning authorities should ensure that communities are able to contribute to ideas about how that vision can be achieved, have the opportunity to participate in the process of drawing up the vision, strategy and specific plan policies, and to be involved in development proposals"</i> . <sup>*</sup> This participation is made explicit in the City of Worcester's Statement of Community Involvement. The requirement of Sustainability Appraisal has further expanded the open and inclusive nature of the SPD process; there is an initial consultation at Scoping Report stage, as well as a tandem SA consultation alongside the statutory six-week period for the SPD. This allows for any sustainability concerns to be raised, as well as issues regarding the policy itself.  <sup>*</sup> Extract from Paragraph 13(vi) of Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development ODPM (2005)

<b>SA Objective 9: To improve the quality of, and accessibility to, local services and facilities.</b>	
<b>Criterion: Will it aid accessibility to essential health, education and social facilities?</b>	
No Policy	Without any policy in place, some of the added value that can arise through new housing development might not be captured. If houses are built without sufficient corresponding local services and facilities, such as education facilities, then the residents of those new houses can be disadvantaged. In addition, stretching resources to accommodate extra residents can lead to a fall in the quality and availability of services to existing residents; this could lead to resentment and poor community relations.
Maintain existing SPG	The existing SPG is designed to ensure the above does not happen, by requiring a proportionate level of investment for facilities (in this case education – other services are governed by other Local Plan/LDF policies). However, the system does not take account of absolute numbers, meaning the required levels of investment to mitigate the impact of new housing may not be provided.
Adopt new SPD	The new SPD should accord with Sustainability Objective No. 9, through the use of a revised system for the calculation of planning contributions for education facilities. It is the intention that through this and other SPDs, existing local services and facilities, as far as possible, are not compromised by new development.

## Appendix 5

### **Compliance with Strategic Environmental Assessment**

(European Directive 2001/42/EC on “the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment”)

<b>Requirements for Environmental Report</b>	<b>Relevant Section of SA Report</b>
a) an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;	Sections 1 and 2; Paragraph 4.1; and <i>Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes</i> at Appendix 2.
b) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme;	No measurable “relevant aspects” currently identified (see paragraphs 4.2 & 4.3).
c) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;	No areas currently identified as likely to be significantly adversely affected.
d) Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC;	See paragraph 4.4.
e) The environmental protection objectives, established at international, community or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation;	<i>Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes</i> at Appendix 2.
f) The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors;	<i>SA Objectives</i> at Appendix 3.
g) The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme;	No adverse environmental effects currently predicted. Prevention and reduction (mitigation) not currently required (see paragraph 6.6).
h) An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information;	See paragraphs 4.2 - 4.3, Sections 5 & 6 and <i>Performance of SPD Education Policy Options against SA Objectives/Criteria</i> at Appendix 4

i) A description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Art. 10;	See paragraph 8.1
j) A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	See Section 1.
<b>Consultation Requirements</b>	<b>Sustainability Appraisal Response</b>
Authorities with environmental responsibility, when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the environmental report;	Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report consulted on for a period of 5 weeks. See paragraph 3.2 and <i>Summary of Responses received for SA Scoping Report</i> at Appendix 1.
Authorities with environmental responsibility and the public shall be given an early and effective opportunity with appropriate timeframes to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and the accompanying environmental report before the adoption of the plan or programme.	6-week consultation period for draft SPD and SA, in accordance with national planning policy and adopted Statement of Community Involvement. (see also paragraph 3.3)

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