



Sustainability Appraisal - Appendix A, B and C
Incorporating the Strategic Environmental Assessment
of the
**North Dorset Local Plan Part 1: Pre-submission
Document**

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Appendix A: Compliance with the SEA Directive

- A.1 The SEA Directive sets out, in Annex I, a list of information which needs to be provided within the Environmental Report for the assessment of the Plan. This appendix outlines how these requirements have been met and where the relevant information can be found within this report.
- a an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan and relationship with other relevant plans;
 - The Local Plan contents and objectives are set out in Section 3 of this report. This section also sets out how the Local Plan fits with other plans such as the NPPF and Neighbourhood Plans. Other Plans are outlined in the Scoping Report produced in 2009.
 - b the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan;
 - The Scoping Report produced in 2009 to accompany this Sustainability Appraisal, set out the current baseline position in relation to the environment. This is summarised in Section 4 of this report and in Section 4.0 of the Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report 2010.
 - c the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;
 - A summary of the characteristics of North Dorset is given in Section 4 of this report with more detail given in the Scoping Report produced in 2009. The Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report includes a summary of the characteristics of the District in Section 4.0 and a summary of the characteristics of each town in Section 6.0.
 - d 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 (the Birds Directive) and 92/43/EEC (the Habitats Directive);
 - Section 2 of this report outlines information relevant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC. This is a summary of the sites considered as part of the Habitats Regulations Assessment which is contained in a separate but linked report. Section 5.0 of the Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report also outlines the particular issues related to sites designated under these two directives.
 - Section 4 of this report summarises in more general terms the issues and challenges that face the area with more detail being included in the Scoping report produced in 2009.

- e the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation;
 - Section 3 and Appendix B of this report outline the Plan’s objectives, including those relevant to environmental protection, which have informed the Plan’s production. The Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report 2010 also sets out these objectives in Section 5.0. Appendices C and D of the Scoping Report outline the objectives in relation to the objectives of other Plans and Programmes that have influenced the Plans production.
- f the likely significant effects (including secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative 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;
 - The SA Framework contains SA objectives (as shown in Figure 4.2 of this report) which have been used throughout the SA process to appraise the policies, objectives and vision of the plan through its formulation. These objectives have been linked to the issues listed as shown in Figure 5.2 of this report with a discussion of the potential impacts being included in Section 7 of this report and Section 7.0 of the Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report.
 - The likely significant effects of the plan’s implementation are discussed in detail in Sections 6 and 7 and Appendices D, E and F of this report.
- g the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan;
 - Recommendations to prevent, reduce or offset any significant effects of implementing the plan have been set out in Sections 6.0, 7.0 and 8.0 of the Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report with further measures discussed in Sections 7 and 8 of this report.
- 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;
 - Section 2.0 of this report sets out the approach adopted to the appraisal of the Plan. This approach was also outlined in Section 5.0 of the Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report.
 - The Initial Sustainability Appraisal report included detailed appraisal of alternatives that were considered as part of the Plan formation. These are included in Section 6.0 and Appendices C and D of the Initial Sustainability

Appraisal Report. The options considered are outlined in Section 5.0 and Appendix C of this report.

- Options considered for the Southern Extension of Gillingham are detailed in Appendix E of this report.
- i a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring;
- Measures for monitoring the SA objectives alongside the Local Plan implementation are outlined in Section 10 of this report. This links the SA objectives to the monitoring framework for the Local Plan and cross refers to it.
- j a non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.
- A non-technical summary of this report is included as Section 1.0

Appendix B: Changes to the Vision and Objectives

B.1 The Local Plan Vision and Objectives have been outlined in Section 3 of this report. Since the Vision and Objectives were first established in the draft New Plan 2010, several minor changes have been made. The changes between the two sets of objectives are set out below accompanied by a commentary on the SA implications of the change.

Objective 1 - Meeting the Challenge of Climate Change

B.2 The objective is to address the causes and effects of climate change by:

- encouraging the use of sustainable construction techniques;
- encouraging the use of renewable energy technologies appropriate to the local area; and
- ensuring the wise use of natural resources, particularly previously developed land and water.

B.3 The relevant parts of the objectives from the draft New Plan (2010) were:

- Objective 3 - Protecting and Managing the Built and Natural Environment
 - a) Encouraging the use of sustainable construction techniques, available renewable energy technologies and taking account of the effects of climate change;

B.4 The inclusion of a new objective covering climate change, as a breakdown of the original 2010 objective, helps to improve compatibility with the SA objectives by giving more emphasis on environmental protection especially in relation to climate change. This objective also specifically deals with mitigation and reducing impacts on environmental resources.

Objective 2 - Conserving and Enhancing the Historic and Natural Environment

B.5 The objective is to conserve and enhance the environment of North Dorset by:

- ensuring that North Dorset's wildlife, landscape and cultural heritage are protected and well managed;
- encouraging design that maintains the quality of the District's built and natural environment; and
- ensuring that the District's residents are able to enjoy their homes and public places without undue disturbance or intrusion from neighbouring uses.

B.6 The relevant parts of the objectives from the draft New Plan (2010) were:

- Objective 3 - Protecting and Managing the Built and Natural Environment

- b) Ensuring that North Dorset’s wildlife, landscape and cultural heritage are protected and enhanced;
- c) Encouraging design that maintains the quality of the District’s built and natural environment;
- d) Ensuring that the District’s residents are able to enjoy their homes and public places without undue disturbance or intrusion from neighbouring uses.

B.7 This objective now refers to “conserving and enhancing” rather than the previous version which sought to “protect and manage”. This is seen as a more proactive stance and therefore enhances the compatibility with the SA objectives. The objective also makes greater reference to the “historic environment” rather than just the “built environment”. This is again seen as an enhancement, giving clearer meaning to the objective, making it more specific to the management of assets.

Objective 3 - Ensuring the Vitality of the Market Towns

B.8 The objective is to support the role and function of the market towns of Blandford Forum (and Blandford St. Mary), Gillingham, Shaftesbury and Sturminster Newton as the main service centres for the District by:

- making them the main focus in the District for housing development, including affordable housing;
- enhancing their employment and training opportunities, particularly through the provision of sufficient employment land, to meet the growing needs of the towns and their hinterlands;
- focusing an improved range of retail, cultural and leisure uses within the town centres;
- improving health, education and community services to meet the needs of the towns and their rural hinterlands;
- improving sustainable transport links and accessibility within the towns; between the towns and the villages in their rural hinterlands; and, through improved linkages with strategic transport networks;
- securing the delivery of mixed use regeneration on previously developed land in accessible locations;
- ensuring that housing development is delivered in step with employment opportunities, community facilities and infrastructure; and
- taking account of the effects of any interaction between the towns themselves and with the large towns and cities in neighbouring districts.

B.9 The relevant parts of the objectives from the draft New Plan (2010) were:

- Objective 1 - Thriving Market Towns
 - a) Making them the main focus in the District for housing development, including affordable housing;

- b) Enhancing their employment and training opportunities, particularly through the provision of sufficient employment land, to meet the growing needs of the towns and their hinterlands;
- c) Focusing an improved range of retail, cultural and leisure uses within the town centres;
- d) Improving health, education and community services to meet the needs of the towns and their rural hinterlands;
- e) Improving sustainable transport links and accessibility within the towns; between the towns and the villages in their rural hinterlands; and, through improved linkages with strategic transport networks;
- f) Securing the delivery of mixed use regeneration on previously developed land in accessible locations;
- g) Ensuring that housing development is delivered in step with employment opportunities, community facilities and infrastructure;
- h) Taking account of the effects of any interaction between the towns themselves and with the SSCTs in neighbouring districts.

B.10 The elevation of Sturminster Newton to a main town whilst not directing strategic growth to smaller settlements is a positive change as it enhances the role of the four towns by increasing the focus of development to the most sustainable locations in the district. In addition to this change the objective has been amended to remove the reference to terms used in the now abolished Regional Strategy.

Objective 4 - Supporting Sustainable Rural Communities

B.11 The objective is to enable a network of sustainable smaller rural communities where local services and employment opportunities enable day-to-day needs to be met locally by:

- adopting a general policy of restraint outside the District's four main towns, whilst also enabling essential rural needs to be met;
- focusing on meeting local (rather than strategic) needs in Stalbridge and the District's villages;
- enabling individual rural communities to plan to meet their own local needs, especially through neighbourhood planning; and
- securing the retention, enhancement and future viability of local community facilities and local services.

B.12 The relevant parts of the objectives from the draft New Plan (2010) were:

- Objective 2 - Sustainable Rural Communities
 - a) Taking forward the opportunities to both regenerate and expand Sturminster Newton and improve its town centre to support and enhance its function as the District's largest local service centre;

- b) Focusing the remaining limited development potential in Stalbridge and other identified larger villages within the District that are well served by a range of local services;
- c) Securing the retention, enhancement and future viability of local community facilities and local services;
- d) Adopting a general policy of restraint in the countryside, whilst also enabling essential rural needs to be met.

B.13 This change brings about a more restrictive approach to growth across the district but enables parish councils to plan for local growth and development through the new neighbourhood planning route. This potentially accords with the SA objectives better than the approach in the draft New Plan as it focuses growth on the four main towns but does not prevent growth to meet needs and aspirations in the rural area.

Objective 5 - Meeting the District's Housing Needs

- B.14 The objective is to deliver more housing, including more affordable housing, that better meets the diverse needs of the District by:
- meeting the vast majority of overall District housing needs by focusing provision at the District's four main towns;
 - focusing provision elsewhere on meeting local housing needs, especially the need for affordable housing;
 - ensuring that all new dwellings contribute to overcoming the affordable housing shortfall;
 - ensuring that the type, design and mix of housing reflects housing needs in up-to-date assessments;
 - ensuring that housing is designed to support the changing needs of its occupants and users; and
 - ensuring that sufficient, sustainably-located sites are provided to meet the needs of gypsies, travellers and travelling show people in the District.
- B.15 The relevant parts of the objectives from the draft New Plan (2010) were:
- **Objective 4 - Meeting the District's Housing Needs**
 - a) Focusing provision to meet overall District needs on main and local service centres;
 - b) exceptionally allowing affordable housing to meet strictly local needs elsewhere;
 - c) Ensuring that all new dwellings contribute to overcoming the affordable housing shortfall;
 - d) Ensuring that the type, design and mix of housing reflects housing needs in up-to-date assessments;
 - e) Ensuring that housing is designed to support the changing needs of its occupants and users

- f) Ensuring that sufficient, sustainably-located sites are provided to meet the needs of gypsies, travellers and travelling show people in the District.

B.16 The change to this objective reflects the approach of focusing strategic growth at the four main towns with neighbourhood planning being the vehicle for delivering local levels of growth. This is likely to result in a more sustainable pattern of development with growth being focused in the most sustainable areas.

Objective 6 - Improving the Quality of Life

B.17 The objective is to improve the quality of life of North Dorset's residents, particularly the older population and the young, by:

- encouraging the provision of viable community, leisure and cultural facilities both in the main towns and rural communities;
- retaining the current range of healthcare and education services and ensuring that additional healthcare and education facilities are provided in accessible locations;
- ensuring that a network of multi-functional Green Infrastructure including sport and recreation facilities, open and natural space, is provided across the district;
- securing an integrated approach to private and public transport (including parking provision and management), which improves accessibility to services; and
- ensuring that development makes a positive contribution to enhancing existing and providing new transport infrastructure.

B.18 The relevant parts of the objectives from the draft New Plan (2010) were:

- Objective 5 - Improving the Quality of Life
 - a) Encouraging the provision of viable community, leisure and cultural facilities focused on main and local service centres;
 - b) Retaining the current range of healthcare and education services and ensuring that additional healthcare and education facilities are provided in accessible locations;
 - c) Ensuring that a network of quality sports and recreation facilities and public open space are distributed throughout the District in locations that are most accessible to the community;
 - d) Securing an integrated approach to private and public transport (including parking provision and management), which improves accessibility to services;
 - e) Ensuring that development makes a positive contribution to enhancing existing and providing new transport infrastructure.

B.19 The change reflects the overall spatial strategy for the district and the reliance on neighbourhood planning to deliver growth outside of the four main towns. The approach is not only to enable community facilities to be delivered at the most sustainable locations of the four main towns but also in the rural area. This may

result in a more dispersed pattern of the provision of community facilities however, with market forces coming into play; rural facilities are likely to be less viable.

- B.20 In relation to the provision of sports pitch and recreation facilities, the change of emphasis from pitch / facility provision to a more holistic green infrastructure approach is seen to be more compatible with the SA objectives. This is primarily as green infrastructure embraces the multi-functionality of such facilities rather than just the primary purpose for which it was intended.

Appendix C: Results of Options Testing

- C.1 The Initial SA Report details the options considered as part of the Local Plan policy formulation. It sets out which of the options was considered to be most appropriate to take forward to form policy. These results from the Initial SA are summarised in Figure C1 of this report. The Addendum to the Initial SA Report detailed the additional sites considered for meeting the growth requirements of Gillingham and Blandford. The results of this site assessment are reported in Figure C1 under Core Policies 15 and 16.
- C.2 The details of the assessment of the options for the Development Management Policies are reported in the Addendum to the Initial SA report. They have not been repeated here as in all instances the proposed policy approach, compliant with national policy, was considered a better approach than that in the adopted Local Plan.
- C.3 Since the Initial SA was undertaken, including options selected and recommendations made, there have been several changes to National through the introduction of the National Planning Policy Framework. These changes have had an impact on how the Local Plan policies have been formulated however; it is considered that the options tested as part of the Initial SA are still valid.

Figure C1: Options considered and recommendations.

Draft New Plan 2010 Policy	Options considered as part of the Initial SA 2010	Initial SA 2010 Option recommendation
Core Policy 1 – Climate Change	Option 1(1). Adopt the national and regional timetables for the introduction of the Code for Sustainable Homes and targets for energy from renewable sources or adopt a faster timetable supported by the required evidence. Gathering evidence would require an additional resource input from the District Council, slowing down the plan making process.	Adoption of higher targets would offer the greatest benefits in terms of sustainability.
Core Policy 2 – Sustainable Forms of Development	No alternative options were considered as the policy sets out the requirements for development to deliver more sustainable forms of development	This policy was judged to help move towards more sustainable forms of development.

Draft New Plan 2010 Policy	Options considered as part of the Initial SA 2010	Initial SA 2010 Option recommendation
Core Policy 3 – Sustainable Development Strategy	The Spatial Strategy identifies the overall hierarchy of settlements within the district. The options considered related to the categorisation of settlements as RSS Policy B and Policy C settlements.	
	Option 3(1) Should Sturminster Newton be an RSS Policy B or C settlement?	Sturminster Newton is judged to fall better into the role of a Policy C settlement due to its current size, location relative to other settlements and function in the wider area and due to the constrained and historic nature of the town.
	Where should the lower cut-off be for settlements that are assigned Policy C status?	
	Option 3(2) Should settlements in the range 700 to 900 population be included as RSS Policy C settlements	Settlements in this range offer a good level of services and have a reasonable level of population. They therefore should be identified as RSS Policy C settlements and receive some growth to enable them to continue to function as local service centres.
	Option 3(3) Should settlements in the range 500 to 700 population as well as those in the range 700 to 900 population be included as RSS Policy C settlements?	Settlements in this range offer a reasonable level of services. Additional population growth should help to support these services and enable the settlements to function better as local service centres. These settlements should therefore be identified as RSS Development Policy C settlements.
Option 3(4) Should settlements of less than 400 population receive some growth?	Settlements in this range have few everyday services and a relatively low population. Additional population growth to support and enhance these services would need to be significant and would harm the character of the area and impact / be impacted on by neighbouring settlements. For this reason, these settlements should not be identified as RSS Development Policy C settlements.	

Draft New Plan 2010 Policy	Options considered as part of the Initial SA 2010	Initial SA 2010 Option recommendation
Core Policy 3 – (continued)	There are then two “anomalies” which, due to the level of service provision and the size of settlements, do not neatly fall within the characterisations above.	
	Option 3(5) Should Fontmell Magna be included as an RSS Policy C Settlement?	Fontmell Magna acts as an important service centre along the A350 corridor. Allowing growth at the village will support this function and may enhance the provision of services for the surrounding area. It should therefore be identified as a RSS Development Policy C settlement.
	Option 3(6) Should Spetisbury be included as an RSS Policy C Settlement?	Spetisbury has limited services but a reasonably high population. The settlement is constrained environmentally creating a linear settlement. Growth here would be unlikely to support the level of service provision in the village and would be likely to encourage commuting to Poole or Blandford. It should not be identified as a RSS Development Policy C settlement
Core Policy4 – Housing (including Affordable Housing) Distribution	The overall quantum of development and the distribution of this development guided the options considered.	
	Option 4(1) Should the Plan seek to accommodate less than 7000 dwellings, 7000 dwellings in line with emerging RSS or more than 7000 dwellings	Delivering around 7000 dwellings is likely to be the most sustainable option as this will enable housing needs to be met and increase the supply of labour to support economic growth. It will also help to control the level of in-migration for non-economic purposes such as retirement.

Draft New Plan 2010 Policy	Options considered as part of the Initial SA 2010	Initial SA 2010 Option recommendation
Core Policy4 – (continued)	Option 4(2) Deliver high proportion in the main towns (80% Policy B and 20% elsewhere), a medium proportion (70%:30% split) or a lower proportion (60%:40% split)	It is likely that the 80% to 20% focus on the main towns will not meet the needs of the rural areas. The result will harm the viability of the larger villages to act as hubs for the local rural area and harm economic activity in these areas. However, having too great a focus on the rural areas will exacerbate the problems associated with rural isolation and result in increased reliance on the car. The most sustainable approach is therefore likely to be a 70:30 split, focusing on the main towns.
Core Policy 5 – Managing Housing Land Supply	The geographical scale at which housing land supply would be managed and the approach to the prioritisation of brownfield land guided the options considered.	
	Option 5(1) Manage the supply of housing land at the district level or more locally	Management at the Sub-district level is likely to deliver more sustainable forms of development
	Option 5(2) Adopt a brownfield target to reflect availability, a target to enable an unrestricted housing supply or a higher target restricting greenfield development	Having a brownfield target based on the availability of suitable land is the best approach as it offers the balance between restricting greenfield development whilst enabling housing delivery. A 35% target is considered the most appropriate for North Dorset.
Core Policy 6 – Economy	Growth of the economy is an important part of sustainable development. This is facilitated through the availability of sufficient jobs and land in the right locations.	
	Option 6(1) Plan to accommodate growth of about 2000 jobs based on a broad RSS interpretation, for growth of about 3300 jobs based on more detailed local assessment of evidence or for growth of greater than 3300 jobs.	The most appropriate approach is to plan for job growth that meets the likely future demands and help to reduce commuting into and out of the district.

Draft New Plan 2010 Policy	Options considered as part of the Initial SA 2010	Initial SA 2010 Option recommendation
Core Policy 6 – (continued)	Option 6(2) Allocate enough land to meet need as identified in Workplace Strategy (approximately 25.3ha) or exceed the identified need.	Allocating enough land to meet the identified need is likely to offer the most sustainable option as it should reduce the negative environmental impacts whilst still enabling the economy to grow. However, the supply of land should be kept under review to ensure that the most appropriate and sustainable land is available to allow for sustainable levels of economic growth.
	Option 6(3) Allocate the majority of the employment land at the RSS Policy B settlements (greater than equivalent in housing growth) or in proportion to proposed housing growth.	Generally a slight focus on the urban areas will offer greater benefits than a dispersed approach. Allocating the majority of employment land at the RSS Policy B settlements is likely to be the most sustainable option.
Core Policy 7 – Retail and Other Town Centre Uses	Provision of retail space is an important factor in creating thriving town centres.	
	Option 7(1) Continue with current primary and secondary shopping areas or expand these areas to allow for growth	Making adequate provision for retail uses in the town centre is important to avoid the negative effects of out of town retail. The most appropriate option is likely to be to make provision for additional retail growth in the towns through expanded secondary and primary shopping areas.
Core Policy 8 – Housing Mix, Type and Density	The density of new developments is an important factor that governs the way a development functions and how it fits into a settlement.	
	Option 8(1) Incorporate a flexible density requirement into policy at between 30 and 50 dwellings per hectare or ensure that all developments are built at at least 40 dwellings per hectare.	Having a flexible approach but generally requiring development between 30 and 50 dwellings per hectare is likely to deliver the most sustainable outcomes. It will respect the character and heritage of the settlements within the district whilst enabling an efficient use of land.

Draft New Plan 2010 Policy	Options considered as part of the Initial SA 2010	Initial SA 2010 Option recommendation
Core Policy 8 – (continued)	<p>The size and type of dwellings to be built is important in supporting the needs of economy and meeting the needs of the District’s population.</p> <p>Option 8(2) Specify size of dwellings for all developments based on identified current need or specify an approach which would help to support the economy for example through the provision of dwellings to attract in-migrants.</p>	<p>Meeting the needs of the existing population of the district is important and should form the basis for the housing mix in terms of affordable housing. In addition, the provision of housing to meet the needs of the economy will offer greater benefits and therefore the provision of 3 and 4+bed market housing is needed particularly in the main towns. Both options should therefore be considered as a combined strategy to deliver the appropriate mix of housing.</p> <p>A possible approach could therefore be to have a focus on 3 bed affordable dwellings to meet the needs of the current population and 3 and 4+ bed open market dwellings to attract the economically active.</p>
Core Policy 9 – Affordable Housing	<p>Site viability is altered by the level of affordable housing provision being sought however there is a high need for provision of affordable housing.</p> <p>Option 9(1) Incorporate into the plan a requirement of 35% affordable on all schemes, a requirement for 40% affordable with the exception of Gillingham where 35% would be required to reflect viability or require 40% on all schemes</p>	<p>The most sustainable approach is likely to be to have a percentage requirement for an area set as high as possible having regard to viability. This can then act as the starting point for negotiations on sites where viability is called into question. Requiring 40% affordable in all areas except in Gillingham where 35% affordable will be required is therefore the favoured option.</p>

Draft New Plan 2010 Policy	Options considered as part of the Initial SA 2010	Initial SA 2010 Option recommendation
Core Policy 9 – (continued)	<p>In addition, the options for the threshold at which affordable housing would be sought on a site were tested as follows:</p> <p>Option 9(2) Require affordable housing to be provided on schemes of 15 dwellings or more, on schemes of 3 dwellings or more or on all schemes</p>	<p>Setting the threshold as low as possible will deliver the highest number of affordable homes however there may be instances where viability is an issue. A flexible approach with the threshold set at one net additional dwelling is likely to be the most sustainable option.</p>
Core Policy 10 – Affordable Housing: Rural Exception Schemes	<p>Rural Exceptions provide affordable housing to meet identified need in areas where residential development would not normally be permitted</p> <p>Option 10(1) Allow rural exception schemes in all settlements of 3,000 inhabitants or less, focus on settlements based on the level of services/population or restrict to RSS Policy C settlements only.</p>	<p>The conclusion is that placing some restriction on the location of rural exception sites is desirable although placing too much restriction can harm rural communities. A balanced approach is therefore needed</p>
Core Policy 11 – Grey Infrastructure	<p>Four packages of transport measures were considered to promote sustainable patterns of travel. These were demand management measures, highway network improvements, public transport improvements and walking and cycling improvements.</p> <p>Option 11(1) Should the Demand Management recommendations be supported? (management of the mix, location and density of developments, management of parking, promotion of community travel planning)</p> <p>Option 11(2) Should the Highway Network recommendations be supported? (management of freight on the network, provision of accurate and up to date information, undertake a review of road schemes, develop route management strategies)</p>	<p>The greatest benefits are likely to arise through implementing the demand management recommendations.</p> <p>There are likely to be several negative effects from implementing the package of highway network recommendations against which mitigation measures will need to be put in place. If this is done effectively, the most appropriate action will be to implement these recommendations.</p>

Draft New Plan 2010 Policy	Options considered as part of the Initial SA 2010	Initial SA 2010 Option recommendation
Core Policy 11 – (continued)	Option 11(3) Should the Public Transport improvements be supported? (Gillingham interchange improvements, real time bus information, additional bus services, integrated rail/bus ticketing)	Implementing the package of public transport recommendations is likely to be the most sustainable option, offering benefits to the residents of the district.
	Option 11(4) Should the Walking and Cycling improvements be supported? (signage for pedestrians and cyclists, prioritise and timetable rights of way improvement schemes, implement walking and cycling improvements in towns, implement walking cycling and equestrian schemes)	Implementing the recommendations for walking and cycling improvements is likely to offer improvements in terms of sustainable transport, however greater emphasis could be given to connecting villages to each other and to the main towns through safe cycle and walking routes.
	In addition, the management of parking across each town can aid in influencing peoples travel behaviour.	
	Option 11(5) Should an integrated Parking Strategy be produced to manage parking in public car parks, on street parking and residential parking?	Managing parking across the district in a comprehensive way should encourage more sustainable travel choices however it requires actions outside of the remit of the Core Strategy. The Core Strategy should however not prevent it from happening at some time in the future and therefore should include the residential parking guidelines developed across the whole County as the first part of this process.
Core Policy 12 – Social Infrastructure	The provision of social infrastructure is important in improving the sustainability of settlements.	
	Option 12(1) Should the provision of social infrastructure be focused on the main towns or should provision be allowed at some of the larger villages	Permitting small scale facilities in villages whilst focusing the larger facilities in the main towns is considered the most sustainable way to meet need

Draft New Plan 2010 Policy	Options considered as part of the Initial SA 2010	Initial SA 2010 Option recommendation
Core Policy 13 – Green Infrastructure	<p>Green Infrastructure can provide multiple benefits including for biodiversity, recreation and learning. Linking sites together can enable greater benefits to be realised.</p> <p>Option 13(1) Should the provision of Green Infrastructure be coordinated across the district through the production of a Green Infrastructure Strategy or should standards be established to ensure delivery on a site by site basis.</p>	<p>Generally it is harder to realise the full benefits of green infrastructure elements without a coordinated approach to its provision and therefore the option for developing a Green Infrastructure Strategy is considered the best approach. However it is also important to set standards to ensure the provision of sufficient open space in new developments.</p>
Core Policy 14 – Conserving and Enhancing the Environment	<p>No alternative options were considered as the policy reiterates national and international policy for environmental protection interpreting it to the local case. In addition, greater protection is given to locally significant environmental features.</p>	<p>This policy seeks to integrate the environment into development decisions and offers a level of protection to the environment. It does however need to be rigorously enforced.</p>

Draft New Plan 2010 Policy	Options considered as part of the Initial SA 2010	Initial SA 2010 Option recommendation
Core Policy 15 – Blandford	<p>Blandford is the largest town in the south of the District and acts as a local service centre. Options for the growth of the town were considered.</p> <p>Option 15(1) Should the town be expanded after 2016 and if so should the town be expanded to the north east or the south west?</p>	<p>In general not allowing expansion of the town post 2016 is not considered sustainable. Development to the south west is considered to be the better of the two expansion options due to its lesser impact on the landscape and proximity to the town centre and schools. Extension of the town to the north east would potentially result in increased risk of flooding to the town centre and would breach the barrier of the town's bypass.</p> <p>Expansion of the town has a negative impact on the environment. To mitigate this impact, the necessary infrastructure to support the development such as SuDS for drainage and cycle/foot paths to enable sustainable travel, renewable energy and the highest levels of energy efficiency in new buildings need to be considered from the outset and incorporated into the final development.</p> <p>The Addendum to the Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report assessed an additional site to the south of the town at the A 350/A354 junction. This site highlighted several issues with the main ones being landscape impact, severance and the compromising of the proposed Charlton Marshall, Spetisbury and Sturminster Marshall bypass corridor. The conclusion was that the extension of the town to the south west was the better approach.</p>

Draft New Plan 2010 Policy	Options considered as part of the Initial SA 2010	Initial SA 2010 Option recommendation
Core Policy 16 – Gillingham	<p>Gillingham is the largest town in the north of the District and forms an important role serving this area. It has also seen rapid expansion over the recent past. Facilities in the town have failed to keep up with the pace of this recent development.</p>	
	<p>Option 16(1) Restrict growth to existing settlement boundary up until 2016 or allow for greenfield expansion before 2016.</p>	<p>Limited greenfield land needs to be made available for development up to 2016 to enable the housing delivery rate to be maintained at an appropriate level. It is however important that the regeneration of the town centre takes place alongside this to secure benefits for the town.</p>
	<p>Option 16(2) Post 2016, should the town expand to the south and south east, expand to the north west or through smaller scale developments in both locations.</p>	<p>Development of the site to the south and south west of the town would offer the best approach due to the proximity to the town centre and the railway station.</p> <p>The Addendum to the Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report assessed an additional site to the north east of the town. This site highlighted issues about the potential for development of the site. The main issues related to access to the site, to the landscape impact of the sites development and to proximity to services. In addition, the site would not meet the housing numbers assigned to the town necessitating additional sites to be developed elsewhere in the town. The conclusion was that the comprehensive development of the site to the south and south west was the better approach.</p>
	<p>To enable and support the growth in population that will result from the proposed residential development; the provision of employment land, the level of town centre uses to be provided, the regeneration of the town centre and the range of transport improvements were considered.</p>	

Draft New Plan 2010 Policy	Options considered as part of the Initial SA 2010	Initial SA 2010 Option recommendation
Core Policy 16 – (continued)	Option 16(3) Should an additional high quality strategic business park be allocated at Gillingham to enhance the town's role as an employment centre and to stimulate economic growth?	It is likely that allocation of a large strategic technology park at Gillingham will offer the best outcome although the impact on biodiversity, landscape and townscape needs to be considered carefully. The environmental mitigation measures required on site need to be specified early to ensure they are delivered and therefore reduce the impact of development.
	Option 16(4) To meet the needs of the growing population, Should additional retail provision beyond anticipated need as identified in the retail study be provided for at Gillingham?	The provision of additional land at or close to the town centre of Gillingham will help to meet the retail needs of the expanded town and enable it to better meet the needs of the area it serves. Opportunities also arise to realise wider benefits such as greater use of the railway, a district heating system, enhancing the town centre visually and links with the rest of the town. For these reasons, higher levels of growth are considered the best option for Gillingham.
	Option 16(5) Should the additional retail provision be provided for in the town centre and the Station Road regeneration area or should a broader approach be used to join the disparate parts of the centre in a more coordinated way?	A coordinated approach covering the wider town centre is likely to offer greater opportunities to capitalise on the benefits of regeneration.
	Option 16(6) The level of growth that will be taking place at Gillingham is likely to result in impacts to the surrounding area primarily related to increased traffic on the roads. Should a package of measures be implemented to manage demand and make the best use of the existing road network?	The package of measures are likely to help reduce the traffic impact of the growth of Gillingham although it is important that other measures such as cycling and walking links within and into the town are provided. In addition, the impacts on heritage, biodiversity and landscape need to be taken into account when looking in detail at the environmental impacts of the proposed road improvements.

Draft New Plan 2010 Policy	Options considered as part of the Initial SA 2010	Initial SA 2010 Option recommendation
Core Policy 17 – Shaftesbury	Shaftesbury plays a supporting role to Gillingham in the north of the District. The growth of the town beyond the current allocated development level was considered.	
	Option 17(1) Should Shaftesbury be restricted to the current boundaries of the town or should further greenfield expansion be allocated?	The moderate expansion of Shaftesbury is likely to be the most sustainable option but in combination with the redevelopment of some town centre sites. It is important however that any development minimises its impact on water resources and includes space for social infrastructure such as the expansion of the further education college and other community facilities.
	The provision of social infrastructure could be clustered onto one site to provide a “community hub”.	
	Option 17(2) Should land be reserved in the town centre or should facilities be provided on other sites such as the development site to the east of the town.	Reserving the site in the centre of the town for community uses would offer multiple benefits for the town. Ideally this would include a community hall, further education facilities and a youth centre however the development of the site for community benefits is more important than for all the potential uses being combined onto the one site
Core Policy 18 – Sturminster Newton	Sturminster Newton performs an important role in the west of the district acting as the main service centre for this rural area.	
	Option 18(1) Should growth be restricted within the current boundaries of the town, to encourage regeneration of the town centre or should the town expand onto greenfield land?	Regeneration of the centre of Sturminster Newton and development within the settlement boundary will offer a number of benefits including the provision of jobs and housing but also in improving the appearance and connectivity of the town. Housing delivery is however also important and therefore regeneration of the town and limited greenfield development will be the best option.

Draft New Plan 2010 Policy	Options considered as part of the Initial SA 2010	Initial SA 2010 Option recommendation
Core Policy 19 – Stalbridge and the Larger Villages	<p>Option 19(1) Should the growth at these settlements be restricted within the current settlement boundaries or should limited greenfield development be considered to reflect need?</p>	<p>Development within the existing settlement boundary should be the priority with small scale greenfield development on the edge of settlements being the last option considered. Such sites should be well located relative to the facilities within the settlement. Development on infill plots should also not harm the character of the settlement. For many settlements, greenfield sites are likely to be needed to deliver an appropriate rate of housing to support each settlement</p>



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