



Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report



Securing our district's future...





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Section One

Non Technical Summary

1 Non Technical Summary

Introduction to Sustainability Appraisal

- 1.1** The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process is a way of ensuring that all plans and programmes which relate to land use issues are compatible with the aims of sustainable development. This includes the Core Strategy DPD.
- 1.2** Governments around the world committed to the concept of sustainable development at the Rio summit in 1992. Subsequently, the UK government produced its national strategy for sustainable development. The revised UK Sustainable Development Strategy (2005) – Securing the Future, defined sustainable development as “enabling all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life, without compromising the quality of life of future generations”.
- 1.3** The origins of the SA process lie with the European Union’s Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive, which acts to ensure that all plans/policies with land use implications take into consideration environmental issues and impacts. The UK’s SA process has widened this scope, to also include consideration of social and economic issues when assessing specific plans and programmes relating to land use issues.
- 1.4** The SA process comprises a number of stages. The production of this scoping report covers stages A1 to A5 as outlined in the table below.

Table 1.1 Stages of the Sustainability Appraisal Process

Stage A	Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope	A1	Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives
		A2	Collecting baseline information
Stage B	Developing and refining options and assessing effects	B1	Testing the DPD objectives against the SA framework
		B2	Developing the DPD options
		B3	Predicting the effects of the DPD
		B4	Evaluating the effects of the DPD
		B5	Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects
		B6	Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the DPDs
Stage C	Preparing the SA report	C1	Preparing the SA report



Stage D	and SA report	D1	Publication and submission of the DPD and the SA report
		D2(i)	Appraising significant changes
		D2(ii)	Appraising significant changes resulting from representations
		D3	Making decisions and providing information
Stage E	effects of implementing the DPD.		
		E2	Responding to adverse effects

The Scoping Report

- 1.5** The Scoping Report sets out the source of the requirements to carry out SA and other associated environmental assessments, and explains how the SA will be carried out. It also includes a context review of other relevant policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives. This helps to clarify the role of the Core Strategy, and the policy context within which it will work. This stage of the SA has also included the collation of baseline information which provides the evidence for identifying key sustainability issues and the basis for predicting and monitoring the effects of the policies included in the Core Strategy.
- 1.6** This information feeds into the sustainability appraisal framework which will be used to assess the different options and alternatives being considered when producing the Core Strategy.

The Sustainability Appraisal Framework

- 1.7** The sustainability appraisal framework consists of a series of objectives and indicators. These have been devised with regard to both national and regional sustainability objectives and indicators, as well as to the environmental and sustainability issues assessed to be of key importance in the Core Strategy.

Sustainability Issues

In order to assess what options would be most sustainable for the future development of Mansfield District, the key sustainability issues that are affecting the area were identified. These have been separated into social, economic, environmental and spatial issues, although there is inevitably overlap between them. For example certain issues, such as climate change, have environmental, economic, social and spatial implications. The key sustainability issues affecting the district are set out in Table 1.2.

Table 1.2 Key Sustainability Issues

Key issue	Supporting Evidence
Social	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor health and health inequalities 	<p>Addressing the social, economic and environmental determinants of health and supporting healthy lifestyles are key aims for the region (Investment for Health – A Public Health Strategy for the East Midlands).</p> <p>Indicator 'Average life expectancy' is relatively low.</p> <p>Indicator 'Percentage of adults participating in physical activity' is relatively low.</p> <p>Indicator 'Percentage of obese adults' is relatively high.</p> <p>Men from the most deprived areas have 9 years shorter life expectancy than those from the least deprived areas (APHO and Department of Health, Health Profile 2008).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor quality and unfit housing 	<p>The Mansfield Housing Strategy states that a report by the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies ('Background Information on the Housing Market in the East Midlands') identified Mansfield as having areas with dwellings at risk of low demand (areas characterised by high levels of voids or difficult to let housing in the social rented sector and higher vacancies in the private sector).</p> <p>The Council is working towards the Decent Homes programme although it has a large percentage of properties that do not currently meet the standard set by Government.</p> <p>The Meden Valley Making Places, a special purpose vehicle, which was set up in partnership with the Council in 2003 to target specific areas in need of housing regeneration.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of sufficient housing 	<p>Over the plan period (2006 – 2026) an average annual requirement of 530 dwellings has been set in the Regional Plan. The 2009 Housing Monitoring Report reveals that recent completion rates are below this target with an annual average of 322 completions between 2006 and 2009.</p> <p>An increase in house building is therefore required in order to meet the targets set out in the Regional Plan.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imbalances in the housing stock 	<p>The 2001 Census reveals that the the district has a smaller proportion of homes at the lower and upper ends of the housing ladder with 26.4% having 4 rooms or less compared with 32.6% nationally and 12.9% having 7 or more rooms compared with 19.8% nationally</p> <p>Council tax banding information highlights that there is a large percentage of properties within the district which are in band's A and B. These bands relate to property at the lower end of the market and points to an overall imbalance in the housing stock in the context of property values.</p>



Key issue	Supporting Evidence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High homelessness rate. 	<p>The Mansfield Inter-agency Homelessness Strategy 2008-2013 identifies a number of issues in relation to homelessness, with major concerns being homelessness amongst young people and the amount of rough sleepers.</p> <p>Indicator 'Homelessness rate' for Mansfield District is relatively high in relation to regional and national levels.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High (but decreasing) crime figures. 	<p>The Mansfield District Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy identifies that whilst the gap is closing, overall crime rates in Mansfield District are still higher than the national and county averages.</p> <p>Figures from Nottinghamshire Police show that the amount of reports of criminal damage, drug offences, robbery, theft of and from motor vehicles and violent attacks against a person all decreased in 2008.</p>
Economic	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relative deprivation 	<p>In the Regional Plan, Mansfield falls within the Northern Sub-area of the East Midlands Region where the economic, social, and environmental regeneration of the area is a priority (Policy 7)</p> <p>The Index for Multiple Deprivation for 2007 (published in 2009) ranks Mansfield as the 34th most deprived area in the country. It revealed 12 of the 66 lower super output areas (LSOA's) were in the 10% most deprived nationally. All of these are in the Mansfield and Mansfield Woodhouse urban area falling within the Ravensdale, Oaktree, Portland, Ladybrook, Lindhurst, Pleasley, Robin Hood and Sherwood wards.</p> <p>These wards present a range of economic, social and environmental challenges and are priority locations for co-ordinated action through the 'Neighbourhood Element' of the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund. These disadvantaged areas also benefit from a programme funding through the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI) which focuses on promoting an entrepreneurial ethos, providing access to employment for local people, and enhancing the performance of local business.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low educational attainment 	<p>A key theme of the Sustainable Community Strategy is learning, and priorities for action include increasing educational attainment levels through amongst other things developing a new further education college for the people of Mansfield and Ashfield (The Big Picture Mansfield Sustainable Community Strategy 2007 – 2015).</p> <p>Indicator 'Percentage of working age people with no qualifications' is relatively high.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low level of skills 	<p>Improving skill levels in the workplace and promoting community based learning opportunities is a priority for action (The Big Picture Mansfield Sustainable Community Strategy 2007 – 2015).</p>

Key issue	Supporting Evidence
	<p>Lack of graduates in the local labour force is perceived as a constraint/threat to the creation of a more diverse and stronger local economy (The Big Picture Mansfield Sustainable Community Strategy 2007 – 2015).</p> <p>Indicator 'Percentage of people of working age qualified to NVQ Level 4 or above' is relatively low.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pockets of high and hidden unemployment 	<p>Unemployment in parts of the district is significantly higher than the national average namely in Eakring, Sherwood, Cumberlands, Robin Hood, Oak Tree, Pleasley Hill, Ladybrook, Lindhurst, Portland and Ravensdale wards (Employment Bulletin: NCC Nov 08).</p> <p>Indicator 'Percentage of working age people claiming Incapacity Benefit' is relatively high.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of diverse economic base 	<p>The Regional Economic Strategy (RES) highlights our area as a regional economic priority. Structural weaknesses are identified in the RES related to the need to address the low pay-skill equilibrium and to develop a knowledge intensive economy to address the productivity gap. This is taken forward in the Regional Plan which highlights regeneration of the Northern Sub area a regional priority (Policy 7).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of good quality employment land 	<p>The lack of good quality industrial land in the Northern Sub-Region is identified as a particular issue (Regional Plan).</p> <p>The Mansfield Ashfield Regeneration Route is identified as a potential broad location to assist with the economic regeneration objectives for the Northern Sub-Region (Northern Sub-Regional Strategy Policy 3 of the Regional Plan).</p> <p>Indicator 'Take up of employment land' is relatively low.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vulnerable town centre 	<p>The Mansfield Retail Study (2005) by GVA Grimley identifies that Mansfield Town Centre needs to expand and adapt in order to maintain and enhance its position within the region. The cumulative impact of competition from Nottingham, Sheffield, Derby and Meadowhall, and recent improvements to these shopping destinations, makes Mansfield vulnerable and at risk of decline should improvements not be made to its retail offer.</p> <p>The 2008 Retail Monitoring Report highlights a 15% retail vacancy rate within the Town Centre.</p>
Environmental	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing pressure on biodiversity resource 	<p>Research at the regional level reveals major declines in regional biodiversity with remaining wildlife habitats becoming increasingly small, isolated and fragmented (Regional Plan).</p>



Key issue	Supporting Evidence
	<p>Mansfield has a rich natural heritage comprising a wide range of important habitats and a rich diversity of plant and animal species. This includes nationally rare habitats such as heathland, acid grassland, limestone grassland (also known as calcareous grassland), and ancient oak-birch woodland. In addition, wetland habitats are present within the river corridors of the Maun and Meden including reedbeds, wet woodlands and water meadows. Within the district nationally important species include white-clawed crayfish, night jar, skylark and water vole (MDC, GI IPG11).</p> <p>Indicator 'Percentage of Sites of Special Scientific Interest in unfavourable but recovering condition' is high.</p> <p>The enhancement of local biodiversity resource is a priority for action in the Sustainable Community Strategy (The Big Picture Sustainable Community Strategy 2007-2015).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Threats to green infrastructure 	<p>The emerging RSS highlights the delivery, protection and enhancement of environmental and green infrastructure (GI) as a regional priority (Policy 28 & Northern SRS Policy 4).</p> <p>The Mansfield GI IPG reveals a wide variety of environmental, historical and recreational resources which add to the GI resource in our area. This includes a network of sites important for wildlife, recreation and landscape value (MDC IPG11: Green Infrastructure).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood risk 	<p>PPS25: Development and Flood Risk and the Regional Plan emphasise the importance of flooding and land drainage as a spatial planning issue especially in the light of climate change. In addition, both national and regional policy expect our development plans to be informed by a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) setting out a high level overview of flood risk issues within our district.</p> <p>The Mansfield SFRA identifies the River's Maun and Meden as the main sources of fluvial flooding. The main high flood risk areas in the district are localised along these main Rivers, especially around structures with limited flow capacity. Overall, whilst these high risk areas affect only a small proportion of the district they predominately impact upon the Mansfield central area where regeneration and development is a priority.</p> <p>In addition, the SFRA identifies moderate risks of flooding in the district from surface water run-off and sewers associated with particular topographical and drainage capacity limitations. In the recent floods of June 2007, although flooding arose from overtopping of the River's Maun and Meden, a number of flood incidents also occurred away from the main rivers. Most of these were repeats of historic flood incidents, mainly attributable to excessive surface run-off or sewer flooding. The SFRA therefore recommends a cautious approach when considering development around these particular locations.</p> <p>With regard to groundwater flooding, the SFRA highlights the existence of natural springs away from the main river within the River Meden catchment. In such locations, where there is low lying ground we may</p>

Key issue	Supporting Evidence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High and increasing pressure on water resources and related infrastructure 	<p>see the emergence of new springs or temporary streams when groundwater levels are elevated in the underlying Limestone aquifer. However, overall the SFRA concludes the indicative risks of groundwater flooding within the district are relatively low. (SFRA, 2008)</p> <p>Mansfield sits on two major aquifers within the Idle and Torne catchment area namely the lower Magnesium Limestone aquifer and the Triassic Sherwood Sandstone outcrops. These aquifers provide a strategically important groundwater resource and are the source of significant public water supply, industrial and agricultural abstractions (The Idle and Torne Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy, 2007).</p> <p>Research undertaken at the regional level indicates potential water supply deficits in many parts of the East Midlands over the plan period. However, this assumes a continuation of current levels of leakage and water useage, and that no new water resources over and above those proposed in existing water resource plans are developed. In terms of water quality, the Study highlights Mansfield as having particular problems with regard to the capacity of existing sewerage networks and sewage treatment works to accept discharges from new development. (Spatial Review of Water Supply and Quality in the East Midlands, 2006).</p> <p>In addition, the Mansfield SFRA identifies parts of our area suffering from particularly low flow conditions as a result of high water abstraction and low inflow which has implications for water quality and biodiversity (SFRA, 2008).</p> <p>The Water Cycle Strategy Scoping Study reveals that the district is not an area that is currently over abstracted. However, the draft Water Resource Management Plan prepared by Severn Trent Water (STW) indicates that the East Midlands Water Resource Zone as a whole will be in supply demand-deficit by 2011/2102, and that the shortfall will become increasinly negative throughout the 25 year plan period. STW will have insufficient water available to meet long term demand without further investment.</p> <p>In addition, the Scoping Study highlights that the collection and treatment of waste water is the major water cycle infrastructure constraint to significant growth in the district. There are capacity restrictions within the waste water infrastructure which may struggle to cope with new development that resulted in significantly increased volumes unless remediation measures are incorporated.</p>
Spatial	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The need to support sustainable travel patterns 	<p>Indicator 'Percentage of households without access to a car' is relatively low in the Mansfield urban area.</p> <p>There is high demand for public transport in those parts of our area with low income households, households without a car and high population density and this is largely matched by the supply of commercially viable bus services (North Nottinghamshire Local Transport Plan). The provision</p>



Key issue	Supporting Evidence
	<p>of public transport particularly by bus is therefore a key issue in the quality of life of many existing residents in the context of accessibility to jobs, shops and other services.</p> <p>Whilst current levels of congestion across North Nottinghamshire highway network are unlikely to be detrimental to health or economic well-being now or in the near future there are localised problems including into Mansfield town centre from main radial routes at peak periods. However, no air quality management area's (AQMA's) have been declared in Mansfield (North Nottinghamshire Local Transport Plan).</p> <p>Traffic flows in the Mansfield have steadily increased from late 1990's levels (North Nottinghamshire Local Transport Plan).</p> <p>Mansfield Public Transport Interchange is selected as LTP2's top priority major scheme (North Nottinghamshire Local Transport Plan). The scheme is seen as an essential to address the issues of growth in use of cars, combined with a general decline in bus patronage whilst at the same time acting as a catalyst for town centre redevelopment and regeneration (North Nottinghamshire Local Transport Plan).</p> <p>Pleasley by-pass (the off-line single carriageway option) is selected as the second priority major scheme. It meets many of the core priorities of the LTP2 strategy and provides in effect the second phase of the Mansfield Ashfield Regeneration Route (MARR). It is an important scheme for economic regeneration as it improves links from the MARR redevelopment areas to the motorway (North Nottinghamshire Local Transport Plan).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change 	<p>Addressing climate change is the Government's principal concern for sustainable development. The UK's target is to reduce CO₂ emissions to 29% below 1990 levels by 2020, and greenhouse gas emissions to 80% below by 2050 (Climate Change Bill 2008).</p> <p>Reducing the district's carbon footprint by reducing CO₂ emissions from transport and buildings is one of the key outcomes identified in the Sustainable Community Strategy (The Big Picture Sustainable Community Strategy 2007 – 2015).</p> <p>The SFRA highlights the potential likely impacts of climate change in terms of increasing flood depths from the River Maun, and exacerbating the impact of surface water run-off from new development.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low levels of recycling 	<p>Indicator 'Percentage of all household waste recycled' is relatively low.</p>

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

- 1.8** A range of SA objectives have been drafted, primarily aligned with regional SA objectives but also taking into account the context review, baseline data and key sustainability issues identified for the District. A full explanation of these objectives is given in Appendix 5 'Justification of SA Objectives'.

Table 1.3 Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

SA1	To ensure that the housing stock meets the housing needs of the district
SA2	To improve health and reduce health inequalities
SA3	To provide better opportunities for people to value and enjoy the district's heritage
SA4	To improve community safety, reduce crime and the fear of crime
SA5	To promote and support the development and growth of social capital across the district
SA6	To increase biodiversity levels across the district
SA7	To protect and enhance the rich diversity of the natural, cultural and built environmental and archaeological assets of the district
SA8	To manage prudently the natural resources of the district including water, air quality, soils and minerals
SA9	To minimise waste and increase the re-use and recycling of waste materials
SA10	To minimise energy usage and to develop the district's renewable energy resource, reducing dependency on non-renewable sources
SA11	To make efficient use of the existing transport infrastructure, help reduce the need to travel by car, improve accessibility to jobs and services for all and to ensure that all journeys are undertaken by the most sustainable mode available
SA12	To create high quality employment opportunities
SA13	To develop a strong culture of enterprise and innovation
SA14	To provide the physical conditions for a modern economic structure, including infrastructure to support the use of new technologies

- 1.9** The indicators selected and included in this Scoping Report are intended to provide a measure of the degree to which the SA objectives are being achieved, and will be used to monitor the effects of the policies included in the Core Strategy. Where relevant those indicators within the Local Area Agreement have been used in defining the baseline characteristics of the district (see Section 5). The link between the SA objectives and the priorities captured in the LAA are shown in Appendix 5.

What Happens Next?

- 1.10** The SA Scoping Report provides an early opportunity for interested parties to comment, and ensure that the final SA report is robust enough to achieve its sustainable development objectives when appraising the Core Strategy. Copies of the SA Scoping Report have been



provided to the three main consultation bodies and to other relevant authorities and stakeholders with an interest in the plan area. Section 8 'Consultation (Stage A5)' of this report contains details of consultees. Feedback from the consultation process, along with any other additional findings and updates, will be incorporated into the iterative SA process.

- 1.11** The next formal stage of the SA process will be the publication of the SA report alongside the publication draft of the Core Strategy DPD.

2 Introduction

- 2.1** This report comprises the first stage of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Core Strategy DPD. The Core Strategy will form part of the Local Development Framework for Mansfield District, which sets out core policies for the growth and regeneration of the area, and a suite of development management policies dealing with particular development types and topics. More information about the Core Strategy can be found in 'The Core Strategy', later in this section.
- 2.2** The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 introduced the requirement to carry out Sustainability Appraisals as an integral part of the preparation of revisions of Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS) and for new or revised Development Plan Documents (DPDs).
- 2.3** Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks (PPS12) sets out how SA must be undertaken as part of the preparation of most local development documents in order to test their soundness against social, economic and environmental objectives by ensuring that it reflects sustainability objectives.
- 2.4** European Directive 2001/42/EC (commonly referred to as Strategic Environmental Assessment or SEA) which was translated into legislation in the UK on the 21st July 2004, requires that local authorities undertake an 'environmental assessment' of any plans and programmes they prepare that are likely to have a significant effect upon the environment.
- 2.5** European Directive 92/43/EEC – the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) requires that an appropriate assessment (AA) is made of the impacts of land-use plans on a specified list of sites.

Sustainability Appraisal

- 2.6** The purpose of SA is to assess the economic, social and environmental impacts of projects, strategies or plans, so that the preferred option promotes, rather than inhibits, sustainable development.
- 2.7** Identifying key sustainability issues and the ability to assess the likely effects through SA during the early stages of plan preparation ensures the plan or strategy contributes towards the aim of sustainable development.
- 2.8** SA is an ongoing process undertaken throughout the preparation of a plan or strategy. The aim of the appraisal process is to minimise adverse impacts and resolve as far as possible conflicting or contradictory outcomes of the plan or strategy.
- 2.9** The SA will help demonstrate the inter-relationships between social, economic and environmental issues.



- 2.10** The final SA report should be able to demonstrate how the adopted Core Strategy has addressed the sustainability agenda and how the choices were made between alternative policies and proposals.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 2.11** The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive requires environmental appraisal to be undertaken on all plans and programmes likely to have a significant effect on the environment.
- 2.12** The objective of SEA is stated in Article 1 of the Directive: '[to] provide for a high level of protection of the environment and contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of development plans with a view to promoting sustainable development'. The requirement to undertake SEA applies to the Core Strategy DPD.
- 2.13** SEA should consider the key likely significant effects on the environment, including 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.
- 2.14** PPS12 makes it clear that planning authorities are able to meet the requirements of SEA within a SA. (See Appendix 3 'Relationship between SEA and SA'). This document comprises the initial stage of the SA (incorporating the SEA) for the Core Strategy. It sets out the information required to determine the scope of the appraisal and sets out the framework against which the effects of the policies and proposals of the Core Strategy will be assessed.

Relationship between SEA and SA

- 2.15** SEA and SA are similar processes that involve a comparable series of tasks. The main difference is that SEA focuses on environmental effects, whereas SA covers environmental, social and economic matters.
- 2.16** The requirements to carry out SEA and SA are distinct, but the ODPM (now Communities and Local Government) guidance of November 2005 states that it is possible to satisfy both through a single appraisal process and provides a methodology for doing so. SA goes further than SEA (which is primarily focused on environmental effects) requiring the examination of all the sustainability-related effects, whether they are social, economic or environmental. However, those undertaking SA should ensure that in doing so they meet the requirements of the SEA Directive. Throughout this document, the term SA is used to refer to the joint SA/SEA process.
- 2.17** Appendix 3 'How the requirements of SEA are met in this SA Scoping Report' shows how the requirements of SEA are met in this report.

Appropriate Assessment

- 2.18** The Habitats Directive requires that an Appropriate Assessment (AA) is made of the impacts of land-use plans that are likely to have a significant effect on any Natura 2000 site.
- 2.19** Natura sites that are subject to AA are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive, and/or as Special Protection Area (SPAs) designated under the Birds Directive. Government policy in PPS9 also requires sites designated under the Convention of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites) to be treated as having equivalent status to Natura 2000 sites. Appropriate assessment should also cover these sites.
- 2.20** AA should be carried out on sites regardless of if they are within or outside the plan area that could potentially be affected by the plan. There are no SPAs or SACs within the area covered by the Core Strategy, although the Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC is located approximately 7 km to the east of the district lying within the Newark and Sherwood District area.

Relationship between AA and SA

- 2.21** Whilst AA and SA are separate processes, guidance published by DCLG in August 2006 (Planning for the Protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment) recommends that AA should be undertaken in conjunction with SA. The guidance recommends that relevant evidence gathered should be used to inform both the AA and the SA.
- 2.22** Unlike SEA that is incorporated with SA, AA must be reported on separately to SA. The first step towards AA will be a screening stage which will provide initial evaluation of the plan's effects on the Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC. If it is concluded there will be no significant effect upon the SAC, the document will effectively be 'screened out' from the need for further assessment work and an AA will not be carried out. The Council will seek to ensure screening is undertaken at the earliest practicable stage of the plan preparation process in consultation with Natural England.

Sustainable Development

- 2.23** Governments around the world committed to the concept of sustainable development at the Rio summit in 1992. Subsequently, the UK government produced its national strategy that set out a vision of simultaneously delivering economic, social and environmental outcomes. Its aims were for:
- social progress which recognises the needs of everyone;
 - effective protection of the environment;
 - prudent use of natural resources;
 - maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment



2.24 The revised UK Sustainable Development Strategy (2005) – Securing the Future, defined sustainable development as “enabling all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life, without compromising the quality of life of future generations”.

2.25 The Strategy contains a set of five guiding principles for sustainable development:

Table 2.1 Guiding Principles

Living within Environmental Limits	Respecting the limits of the planet’s environment, resources and biodiversity, to improve our environment and ensure that natural resources needed for life are unimpaired and remain so for future generations.
Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society	Meeting the diverse needs of all people in existing and future communities, promoting personal well being, social cohesion and inclusion and creating equal opportunity for all.
Achieving a Sustainable Economy	Building a strong, stable and sustainable economy which provides prosperity and opportunities for all, and in which environmental and social costs fall on those who impose them (polluter pays), and efficient resource use is incentivised.
Using Sound Science Responsibly	Ensuring policy is developed and implemented on the basis of strong scientific evidence, whilst taking into account scientific uncertainty (through the precautionary principle) as well as public attitudes and values.
Promoting Good Governance	Actively promoting effective, participative systems of governance in all levels of society, engaging people’s creativity, energy, and diversity.

2.26 These principles form the basis for policy within the UK and for policy to be responsible it must respect all principles. The Council has a vital role in supporting the aims of these principles and thus sustainable development.

2.27 Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development (PPS1) provides guidance on integrating sustainable development within the spatial planning system. In particular, PPS1 promotes urban and rural regeneration that:

- Promotes regional, sub-regional and local economies
- Promotes communities which are inclusive, healthy, safe and crime free
- Brings forward land of suitable quality in the right locations
- Gives high priority to ensuring access for all to jobs, health, education, shops, leisure, and community facilities
- Promotes a more efficient use of land.

2.28 The Planning Policy Statement 1 Supplement: Planning and Climate Change sets out how the planning system can contribute to reducing emissions and stabilising climate change by:

- Shaping sustainable communities that release the minimum amount of greenhouse gases
- Are resilient to climate change.

- 2.29** The Integrated Regional Strategy Framework for the East Midlands (2005) establishes consistency and integration between its strategies and ultimately focuses on achieving a high level of sustainable development in the region.

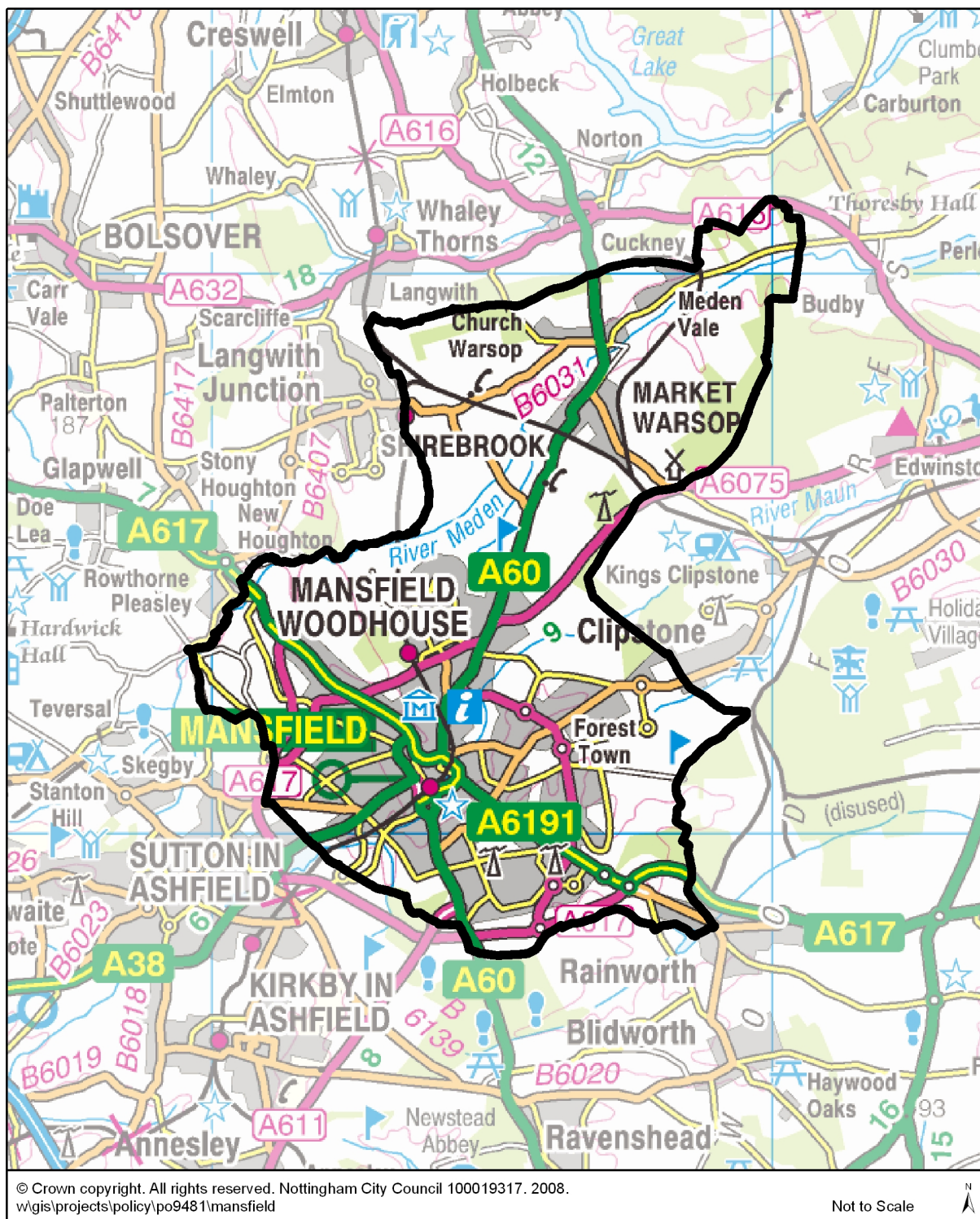
The Purpose of this Scoping Report

- 2.30** The purpose of this Scoping Report is to decide on the scope and level of detail of the SA. It sets out the results of the initial stage of SA for the Core Strategy DPD including a comprehensive source of baseline information.
- 2.31** This scoping report also suggests a list of sustainability issues and objectives that are relevant to the district and sets out the sustainability framework against which the spatial options for the Core Strategy can be assessed.
- 2.32** The following sections in this report explain the methodology, the results of the first four tasks in Stage A of SA, and how consultation will be carried out, followed by a section explaining the next steps:
- Section 3 'Methodology'
 - Section 4 'Other Relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes (Stage A1)'
 - Section 5 'Baseline Data & Characteristics of Mansfield District (Stage A2)'
 - Section 6 'Identifying Sustainability Issues (Stage A3)'
 - Section 7 'Developing the SA Framework (Stage A4)'
 - Section 8 'Consultation (Stage A5)'
 - 'The Next Steps'
- 2.33** This Scoping Report builds on previous work undertaken in 2006 when the Council originally began work on the Core Strategy. The first SA Scoping Report was published for consultation for five weeks. Responses to the Scoping Report were received from the four statutory consultation bodies (at the time); the Countryside Agency, English Nature, English Heritage and the Environment Agency, together with some 18 responses from other organisations, including the Government Office. All comments received were generally supportive and included a number of constructive comments which have been taken into account within this revised report.

The Core Strategy

- 2.34** The Core Strategy is the first development plan document to be prepared as part of the Local Development Framework. It will set out the Council's vision and overall strategy for the future development of Mansfield District over the next twenty years – including the broad directions for growth to deliver future requirements for homes, jobs and other strategic development. All other documents to be produced as part of the Local Development Framework will need to reflect and be in general conformity with the Core Strategy.

Map 2.1 Mansfield District



3 Methodology

Guidance for carrying out SA

- 3.1** The Council's approach to undertaking SA is based upon the Government guidance document: Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents (published by the former ODPM, November 2005).
- 3.2** The guidance is designed to ensure compliance with the requirements of the SEA Directive.
- 3.3** In accordance with section 3.1.10 of the guidance, SA objectives are based upon those used in the process of appraising the Regional Plan.

Stages of SA

- 3.4** The Government guidance identifies 5 stages of carrying out an SA (stages A – E). These stages are explained in more detail in Appendix 4 'Stages in SA'.
- 3.5** The five stage approach as set out in Appendix 4 of this Scoping Report will be the approach that the Council will be following in the SA of the Core Strategy
- 3.6** This Scoping Report covers Stage A of the process.

The Nottinghamshire partnership approach to SA

- 3.7** In Nottinghamshire, a partnership has been formed to carry out the work of the initial stage of SA. The partnership comprises all local planning authorities in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire and the main objective of this joint approach to SA is to simplify the process of collecting baseline information. (Stage A - Tasks 1 and 2).
- 3.8** A common Scoping Report template was developed for use by each of the local planning authorities in the partnership.

Timetable

- 3.9** Table 3.1 below sets out the timetable for the SA of the Core Strategy.

Table 3.1 Core Strategy Timetable

Date	Task
November - December 2009	Informal and ongoing consultation on Core Strategy Spatial issues and Options Report (in accordance with Regulation 25[1])



Date	Task
January - July 2010	Predicting sustainability effects of proposals for the Core Strategy, and preparation of the Proposed Submission Document
July - September 2010	Six weeks statutory consultation on the Core Strategy Proposed Submission Document and SA report (in accordance with Regulation 28[2])
October - November 2010	Consideration of consultation responses and appraisal of significant changes
February 2011	Submission of final SA Report and Core Strategy for independent hearing
March 2011	Pre-hearing meeting
April 2011	Start of the hearing by independent Inspector
July 2011	Receipt of Inspector's Report
October 2011	Adoption of Core Strategy / publication of final SA Report

[1]The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008.

[2]The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008.

Section Four

Other Relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes (Stage A1)

4 Other Relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes (Stage A1)

Introduction

- 4.1** The first stage of SA involves reviewing relevant international, national, regional and local policy guidance, plans and strategies to identify their key requirements, and assess their relationship to the Core Strategy.
- 4.2** The review makes specific reference to any environmental protection objectives, targets or requirements established at the International, European or National level to comply with the SEA Directive.
- 4.3** Appendix 1 'Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes' sets out the review of all documents and strategies considered relevant to the Core Strategy. It establishes the environmental, social and economic situation and allows opportunities and synergies between the plans and the Core Strategy to be identified, as well as any potential conflicts. It contains issues and objectives, targets, the implications for the Core Strategy and the implications for the SA.
- 4.4** The sustainability objectives that will be used to assess the Core Strategy will need to demonstrate their compatibility with the aims and objectives of the Government's 'Securing the Future' document, the Integrated Regional Strategy, the Regional Plan SA Objectives, the Mansfield Sustainable Community Strategy, and the Local Area Agreement.
- 4.5** It should be noted that although sustainability objectives, targets and indicators used for the purpose of testing the social, economic and environmental effects of policies are distinct from plan objectives, there are many areas of overlap.
- 4.6** There is no definitive list of plans that must be reviewed, although current government guidance on Sustainability Appraisal suggests a range that will commonly be reviewed in most SAs. A review of these and others that are deemed relevant to the Core Strategy have been included in Appendix 1. The list of relevant documents will be kept under review.

Key Messages Identified from Review

- 4.7** The detailed analysis or 'scoping' of sustainability objectives, targets and indicators derived from the above plans, policies and programmes provided in Appendix 1 considers both the implications for the Core Strategy and for developing the SA Framework.
- 4.8** The following list contains the key messages from the reviews of plans, policies and programmes included in Appendix 1. It shows how each issue is related to the social, economic and environmental themes of SA and the SEA topics.



4.9 The key messages list is split into different themes:

- Accessibility and transport
- Air quality
- Biodiversity and habitats
- Business development and the economy
- Climate change
- Community safety
- Education
- Employment
- Energy
- Flood risk
- Health
- Housing
- Land use
- Landscape
- Resources
- Rural
- Sustainable communities
- Waste
- Water

4.10 Each of the key messages identified relate to sustainable development in Mansfield District.

Table 4.1 Key messages from review of relevant plans, policies and programmes

Key messages	Source of message	Implications for the SA Framework
Accessibility and transport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed accessibility in decisions affecting provision, location, design and delivery of services in both urban and rural areas • Improve social inclusion by making services more accessible • Tackle crime and fear of crime on public transport • Improve the quality and safety of pedestrian and cycling networks • Improve public transport networks • Encourage more people to walk and cycle • Reduce impact of travel on the environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility Planning Guidance • PPS1 (and supplement to PPS1) • PPS6 • PPG13 • PPG17 • RSS8 • Making the Connections • Sustainable Communities: People, Places and Prosperity • The future of transport: a network for 2030 • UK Climate Change Programme • Walking and Cycling Action Plan • Integrated Regional Strategy • East Midlands Urban Action Plan 2005 – 2011 • Regional Economic Strategy • Regional Housing Strategy • Regional Spatial Strategy 	<p>Requires objectives to enable the development of a sustainable transport infrastructure that reduces overall levels of travel and ensures accessibility to key services (e.g. health services, education, employment sites, and leisure facilities), the provision of safe walking and cycling routes, and safe accessible public transport.</p>

Key messages	Source of message	Implications for the SA Framework
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximise the use of existing roads infrastructure and avoid inappropriate development Reduce traffic and in particular journeys made by car Improve public transport Reduce traffic noise, pollution and congestion Improve the freight network to reduce amount of road freight Promote sustainable transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Transport Strategy Regional Freight Strategy North Nottinghamshire Local Transport Plan Mansfield Cycling Strategy Mansfield Local Plan 	
Air quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent and reduce the detrimental impact on human health, quality of life and the environment Reduce pollution Ensure that new development does not reduce air quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU Directive on ambient air quality management PPS23 Nottinghamshire Air Quality Strategy North Nottinghamshire Local Transport Plan Mansfield Air Quality Strategy 	Requires objectives to prevent pollution and protect air quality.
Biodiversity and habitats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and promote biodiversity Conserve threatened species Ensure that land uses (including agriculture) does not threaten biodiversity Protect, restore and improve habitats including woodland, and aquatic ecosystems Create and integrate habitats in urban spaces and in the built environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU Habitats Directive EU Birds Directive Biodiversity Strategy for England Our Countryside: The future RSS8 PPS1 (and supplement to PPS1) PPG2 PPG17 PPS9 Integrated Regional Strategy Draft guide to Planning and Biodiversity for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Local Biodiversity action plan for Nottinghamshire Mansfield Local Plan 	Requires objectives to protect, enhance and improve biodiversity and habitats.
Business development and the economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the location of new business with regard to accessibility and the local environment Ensure that the location of industry and commerce brings benefit and not harm to local communities Support efficient, competitive and innovative retail, leisure and other sectors Regenerate deprived areas through business development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RSS8 Good practice guide on planning for tourism Our Countryside: The future PPS1 (and supplement to PPS1) PPG4 PPS6 Sustainable Communities: People, Places and Prosperity Integrated Regional Strategy East Midlands Urban Action Plan 2005 – 2011 Regional Economic Strategy Regional Housing Strategy Regional Spatial Strategy 	Requires objectives to ensure there is sufficient land for business development; to ensure that businesses are located in the correct places and that local communities (especially deprived communities) benefit from them; to ensure that businesses do not cause harm to the communities in which they are situated; and to encourage diversity and high value, high growth, knowledge intensive economic activities, including tourism.



Key messages	Source of message	Implications for the SA Framework
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure location of development makes efficient use of existing infrastructure • Understand future demands for business land • Develop economic capacity and expertise • Increase economic diversity • Maximise economic benefit from tourism • Encourage growth in high value, high growth, high knowledge economic activities • Ensure that economic growth goes hand-in-hand with high quality environment • Develop flourishing local economies • Understand future demands for land including type of land and location • Encourage inward investment • Promote the vitality of town centres by promoting and enhancing existing centres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mansfield Local Plan • Mansfield Economic Development Strategy • Mansfield Corporate Plan • Mansfield Economic Development Strategy • Mansfield Retail Study • Mansfield Community Strategy 	
Climate change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage low or zero carbon communities • Minimise the effects of climate change on human health and on the environment • Ensure that new development is able to cope with climate change • Spatial planning should contribute to sustainable communities and the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPS1 (and supplement to PPS1) • PPS22 • UK Climate Change Programme • Walking and Cycling Action Plan • Integrated Regional Strategy • Regional Economic Strategy • Regional Spatial Strategy • Nottinghamshire Climate change Framework 	Requires objectives to reduce carbon dioxide emissions that contribute to climate change; and to ensure that new development is able to cope with the effects of climate change.
Community safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce crime and the fear of crime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPS1 (and supplement to PPS1) • Integrated Regional Strategy • Regional Housing Strategy • Mansfield Crime Reduction Strategy • Mansfield Corporate Plan • Mansfield Community Strategy 	Requires objectives to reduce crime and the fear of crime, and change behaviour that is often linked with crime.
Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the quality of educational facilities • Improve educational attainment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Regional Strategy • East Midlands Urban Action Plan 2005 – 2011 • Regional Economic Strategy • Mansfield Community Strategy 	Requires objectives that will improve educational attainment.

Key messages	Source of message	Implications for the SA Framework
Employment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce worklessness Improve skills to help reduce unemployment and deprivation Ensure supply of employment land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated Regional Strategy Regional Economic Strategy Regional Spatial Strategy 	Requires objectives to improve employment skills and levels, and to ensure supply of employment land.
Energy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek secure, clean affordable energy Reduce amount of energy consumed Generate energy at local levels Increase energy efficiency of homes and businesses Increase the amount of renewable energy produced Invest in the energy infrastructure Recover energy from waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PPS22 Integrated Regional Strategy Regional Economic Strategy Regional Spatial Strategy Nottinghamshire Climate change Framework 	Requires objectives to improve energy efficiency of new development and to encourage alternative ways of generating energy.
Flood risk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguard land used to manage floodwater Avoid inappropriate development on floodplains Ensure new development does not afford risk elsewhere 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RSS8 PPS6 PPS25 Water Framework Directive Mansfield Flood Defence Policy Statement Mansfield Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 	Requires objectives to minimise flood risk by considering where development should take place, and by protecting floodplains.
Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve health and access to quality health facilities More opportunities for walking and cycling Improve access to open space and leisure opportunities Understand the economic benefits of better health in the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PPG17 PPS23 Walking and Cycling Action Plan Integrated Regional Strategy Mansfield Cycling Strategy Mansfield Community Strategy 	Requires objectives to improve health by providing opportunities for walking, cycling, sport and leisure activities.
Housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce homelessness Reduce the number of empty homes Improve affordability across the housing market Increase the supply of houses Provide a supply of high quality, well designed, energy efficient housing appropriate to needs of the community including family homes, homes to meet the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barker Review RSS8 PPS1 (and supplement to PPS1) PPS3 Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites Sustainable Communities: Homes for all UK Climate Change Programme Integrated Regional Strategy Regional Housing Strategy Mansfield Local Plan 	Requires objectives to ensure that the housing stock is of a high quality and meets the requirements of all sectors of the community.



Key messages	Source of message	Implications for the SA Framework
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> needs of the ageing population and social housing New homes to be energy efficient, zero carbon by 2016 and able to cope with the effects of climate change Provide adequate amount of land for gypsies and travellers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mansfield Corporate Plan Mansfield Housing Strategy 	
Land use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased density of housing Maximise the use of brownfield land for housing, business and commercial development Prioritise the re-use of existing buildings Promote good design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PPS1 PPS6 East Midlands Urban Action Plan 2005 – 2011 Regional Economic Strategy Mansfield Local Plan 	Requires objectives to ensure that best use of land is made prioritising the re-use of land and buildings, and housing development at higher densities.
Landscape <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve and enhance the rural and built landscape Open up access to the countryside Provide opportunities to value our heritage Bring improvements to the physical environment through quality design Protect historic buildings, Conservation Areas and the historic environment in general Protect our archaeological and geological heritage Mitigation against harm to the landscape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PPG2 PPG15 PPG16 Integrated Regional Strategy Regional Spatial Strategy Mansfield Local Plan 	Requires objectives to protect and enhance the natural and built environment; and to encourage people to enjoy their local heritage.
Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote development that minimises the use of resources Prevent soil loss 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UK Sustainable Development Strategy Integrated Regional Strategy Mansfield Contaminated Land Strategy 	Requires objectives to promote development that minimises the use of resources.
Rural <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent decline in some rural communities Promote rural renewal Development of dynamic, competitive and sustainable economies in the countryside 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Rural White Paper PPG2 PPG17 Our Countryside: The future Sustainable Communities: Homes for all Sustainable Communities: People, Places and Prosperity 	Requires objectives to ensure sustainable communities in the countryside.

Key messages	Source of message	Implications for the SA Framework
Sustainable communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote social cohesion and inclusion in both urban and rural communities Support vulnerable groups Reduce deprivation, focusing on most deprived areas Tackle poverty in urban and rural areas Increase social interaction Improve social development of children Improve quality of life Create clean, attractive, quality, safe urban spaces Access to quality health, education, housing, transport, shopping and leisure services Ensure equality of opportunity in housing, employment and access to services Recognise that different people have different needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diversity and Equality in Planning good practice guide The Urban White Paper PPS1 (and supplement to PPS1) PPS6 PPG17 Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites Sustainable Communities: Homes for all Sustainable Communities: People, Places and Prosperity UK Sustainable Development Strategy Walking and Cycling Action Plan Integrated Regional Strategy Regional Economic Strategy Regional Housing Strategy Regional Spatial Strategy 	<p>Requires objectives to create attractive, safe, sustainable communities.</p>
Waste <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce amount of municipal and commercial waste produced Recycle, compost or re-use waste Minimise harm to the environment and human health from waste treatment and handling Disposal of waste to be considered the last option 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU Waste Framework Directive RSS8 PPS10 UK Waste Strategy Regional Waste Strategy Integrated Regional Strategy Regional Spatial Strategy Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Waste Local Plan 	<p>Requires objectives to reduce or re-use waste, and to prevent harm to human health and the environment from waste.</p>
Water <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve water efficiency Reduce amount of water used by domestic properties Lessen effects of flood and drought Reduce water pollution Enhance and protect aquatic water systems Promote the use of SUDS where appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU Water Framework Directive UK Water Strategy Water Framework Directive Biodiversity Strategy for England Mansfield Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 	<p>Requires objectives to improve water efficiency, protect water systems, and to lessen the effects of flood and drought.</p>



Question 1

Have all relevant plans, policies and programmes that will affect or influence the Core Strategy been included in Section 4 and Appendix 1. If not, what others should be included?

Question 2

Have the objectives of the various plans, policies and programmes been accurately identified? If not, what other objectives should be identified?

Question 3

Have the implications for the Core Strategy or SA of the various plans, policies or programmes been properly identified? If not, what other implications are there for the Core Strategy or SA, and where do they come from?

Section Five

Baseline Data & Characteristics of Mansfield District (Stage A2)

5 Baseline Data & Characteristics of Mansfield District (Stage A2)

- 5.1** The SA Guidance which includes the SEA Directive require the collection of baseline information on social, economic and environmental characteristics of the area and in order to provide the basis for predicting and monitoring effects of the policies within the Core Strategy. The baseline information will also help to identify sustainability issues and potential ways of dealing with them.
- 5.2** The baseline data collected is set out in Appendix 2 'Baseline Indicators' and includes local, regional and national comparators to provide a baseline against which the current data for the area can be compared. The baseline data table also includes targets and trends where possible.
- 5.3** It should be noted that not all information is currently available but the data will continue to be refined and updated as work on the SA report and Core Strategy DPD proceeds.
- 5.4** The main aim of the SA is that each of the objectives are underwritten with comprehensive and up-to-date baseline information, using indicators that can be monitored over time.
- 5.5** The indicators used to support each of the SA objectives are included in Table 7.2 'Sustainability Appraisal Framework' in Section 7.

General Characteristics

- 5.6** The district of Mansfield is a relatively compact and largely urban district situated in north Nottinghamshire with the City of Nottingham located 24 km south. It covers an area of 78 square kilometres has an estimated population of 100,600 residents (ONS 2008 mid-year estimate) and provides jobs for 39,500 people (2007 Annual Business Inquiry).
- 5.7** The district is dominated by the town of Mansfield and Mansfield Woodhouse which has a population of over 85,000. It is the largest urban centre in the County outside the City of Nottingham, and along with the adjacent urban area of Sutton-in-Ashfield, is the largest sub-regional centre in the East Midlands northern sub-region.
- 5.8** Market Warsop, a former mining town lying some 8 km to the north with a population of about 12,000, is the district's other urban area. It serves a number of smaller communities at Spion Kop, Warsop Vale, Church Warsop and Meden Vale and acts as the main local service centre for shopping and other services in the northern part of the district.
- 5.9** Despite its predominately urban character, approximately 64% of the district's area is countryside. This surrounds the two urban areas and provides a degree of separation between them. It is characterised by the Forest Sandlands which includes the heartland of Sherwood Forest and the fringe of the Nottingham Dukeries. The western half of the district is covered by the Limestone Farmlands which is distinctively arable with large estate woodlands and a gently rolling landform.



- 5.10** Within the district flow two main rivers. The River Maun flows from Kings Mill Reservoir in neighbouring Ashfield District making its way through Local Nature Reserves at the Hermitage, Oakham and Quarry Lane in the south of the district. Once through Mansfield town centre, where it disappears underground in two culverts, it emerges and flows northeast towards the Maun Valley Local Nature Reserve and into countryside towards Edwinstowe. The Maun supports white clawed cray fish and water voles which are nationally protected species.
- 5.11** In contrast, the River Meden which flows through the Pleasley area along the Meden trail towards Sookholme and up through Market Warsop and Meden Vale has a more rural backcloth. It supports rare habitats such as wet grasslands and wet woodlands, ancient lime woodlands and historic water meadows.

Social Characteristics

- 5.12** The long-term trend of population decline which was linked to the demise of the area's mining and textile industry has begun to reverse with an estimated rise in the district's population of 2,419 (2.5%) between 2001 and 2008 (ONS mid-year estimate). However, despite this the district has a higher proportion of people who are aged 65 and over compared to England as a whole. The corollary to this is that there are lower proportions in other age groups with young adults aged 15-29 particularly under represented. If the impact of the RSS housing figures are factored in, the district's population is projected to grow to 113,600 in 2026, an increase of 13%. Under this scenario, the percentage of the population who are of retirement age is projected to rise from 20% in 2006 to 25% in 2026.
- 5.13** The ethnicity profile of the district's population is broadly similar to that of England as a whole. In 2007 97% of the people in the district were white. The second largest ethnic group was Asian or Asian British (1.2%) followed by Black or Black British (0.5%) (ONS experimental mid-2007 population estimates).
- 5.14** Mansfield is a district that suffers from a high level of acute social problems that present a number of wide ranging challenges. The health of Mansfield's population is a particular issue. This is illustrated by a life expectancy that is lower than the national average. Male life expectancy is 75.6 which is 1 year lower than the national average of 76.6, whilst female life expectancy stands at 80.4 which is 1.4 years lower than national figures. Mansfield also has a higher percentage of early deaths of people under the age of 75 caused by heart attacks, strokes and cancer. The percentage of people in the district categorised as obese at 28% is 4.4% higher than England as a whole. In addition, 18,032 households in the district contain one or more people suffering from a long-term limiting illness. It represents just under half of all households in the district and is higher than the national figure of 33% (2001 census).
- 5.15** In terms of a range of socio-economic factors certain parts of the district are much worse off than others and display some of the highest levels of multiple deprivation in the Country. The 2007 Index of Multiple Deprivation revealed 12 of the 66 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA's) were in the 10% most deprived nationally. All of these are in the Mansfield and Mansfield Woodhouse urban area falling within the Ravensdale, Oaktree, Portland, Ladybrook, Lindhurst,

Pleasley, Robin Hood and Sherwood wards. Other areas with LSOA's in the worst 20% nationally fall within Cumberlands, Eakring, Broomhill, Grange Farm, Priory, and Forest Town East wards and the two wards of Meden and Birklands which make up the communities in the northern part of the district.

- 5.16** The housing tenure across Mansfield broadly reflects the national picture, with 70% of properties being owner occupied, 21% social rented and 9% private rented. With regard to housing mix the district has a smaller proportion of homes at the lower and upper ends of the housing ladder with 26.4% having 4 rooms or less compared with 32.6% nationally and 12.9% having 7 or more rooms compared with 19.8% nationally (2001 census). On the whole whilst house prices for all types of housing are generally lower than other parts of the region, lower average income levels and other factors combine to mean that affordability is one of the main housing issues.
- 5.17** Although the overall crime rate in the district is falling, mirroring regional and national trends, instances of burglary has risen steadily since 2006. In addition, there are parts of the district which still suffer from high crime rates. These areas are concentrated within the Mansfield and Mansfield Woodhouse urban area with 16 out of the 66 LSOA's falling in the most 10% deprived nationally in relation to crime in the 2007 Index of Multiple Deprivation.

Economic Characteristics

- 5.18** Economic activity and employment rates have consistently been below national and regional figures but have recently risen above such that 82% of people of working age are economically active and 76% are in employment, compared with 79% and 74% nationally. The district has a lower proportion of people of working age qualified to NVQ level 1 and above, and a higher proportion of people of working age with no qualifications. This is reflected in average weekly wage levels which are £412.70, and lower than national and regional figures at £484.00 and £449.60 respectively. Therefore, there remain significant challenges around improving people's skills and qualifications which need to be addressed if the economy is to move towards becoming more service based and knowledge orientated. As yet the full extent of the economic downturn is not represented in these baseline figures and as such the data will be kept under review through the stages of the SA.

Environmental Characteristics

- 5.19** Although it contains no nationally designated landscapes the district's countryside and open spaces combine to provide a network of green infrastructure which shapes the district's urban form and adds to its local distinctiveness.
- 5.20** The district is custodian to 6 Sites of Special Scientific Interest covering 167 hectares which are of national importance and has declared 9 Local Nature Reserves namely Oakham, Quarry Lane, Hermitage, Oak Tree Heath, Ravensdale, Maun Valley, Meden Trail at Mansfield and Mansfield Woodhouse, and The Carrs and The Bottoms Local Nature Reserves at Market Warsop and Meden Vale. The biodiversity value of the district is also recognised in the



designation of a number of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation which collectively covers 9.2% of the district's area. This compares favourably with the figure for Nottinghamshire of 7.8%. Within and outside these designated areas there is also a wide range of important natural and semi-natural habitats such as Oak-Birch Woodland and Lowland Heathland which are identified in the Nottinghamshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

- 5.21** Mansfield District has an important role to play in addressing climate change given this issue is now widely recognised as the most significant ones for spatial planning, cutting across all land uses with consequential effects for the environment, economy and people's quality of life. The district is fortunate that despite their prominence the risk of flooding from the Rivers Maun and Meden present only a localised problem impacting upon a very small part of the district's area (3%). However, this impact is a cause for concern in Mansfield town centre where major change and development is planned for the future. With the onset of climate change putting safeguards in place with new development across the district that mitigate against the risk of flooding from other sources such as surface water run-off and sewers will need to be addressed if the district is to become more climate resilient.
- 5.22** The air quality in the district has consistently remained above acceptable levels and there are currently no Air Quality Management Area's designated in the district.
- 5.23** In Mansfield access to a primary school, secondary school, further education establishment and hospital is higher than the County average with more households within the 15 minute and 30 minute timebands by public transport. Although slightly lower than the County average access to a GP is still reasonably high with 86% of all households within 15 minutes by public transport time.
- 5.24** The total percentage of household waste recycled is increasing across the district. This increase has narrowed the gap between the recycling rates currently achieved across the county and nationally which have remained fairly static.

Question 4

Does Appendix 2 identify an appropriate range of relevant baseline data to enable a comprehensive range of sustainability issues and problems to be identified? If not, what other baseline data (and sources) should be included?

Question 5

Are there any errors in the baseline data?

Section Six

Identifying Sustainability Issues (Stage A3)

6 Identifying Sustainability Issues (Stage A3)

- 6.1** Through the analysis of the baseline data a number of sustainability issues have been identified.
- 6.2** Where possible the following table sets out the role of the Core Strategy in tackling identified issues. The key issues are set out under the four themes used by the East Midlands Integrated Regional Strategy to group the regional sustainability objectives, although some will be crosscutting issues. The key issues are listed in no particular order of importance.
- 6.3** SEA requires that consideration is given to the likely evolution of each of the issues without the implementation of the Core Strategy. This will be explored in more details at later stages of the SA.

Table 6.1 Key Sustainability Issues

Key issue	Supporting Evidence	Potential influence of Core Strategy Likely evolution of issue without Core Strategy
Social		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor health and health inequalities 	<p>Addressing the social, economic and environmental determinants of health and supporting healthy lifestyles are key aims for the region (Investment for Health – A Public Health Strategy for the East Midlands).</p> <p>Indicator 'Average life expectancy' is relatively low.</p> <p>Indicator 'Percentage of adults participating in physical activity' is relatively low.</p> <p>Indicator 'Percentage of obese adults' is relatively high.</p> <p>Men from the most deprived areas have 9 years shorter life expectancy than those from the least deprived areas (APHO and Department of Health, Health Profile 2008).</p>	<p>Moderate - The Core Strategy should recognise the importance of issues associated with health and the role of development in addressing health and health inequalities. Both physical and mental health is affected by the planning and design of the urban environment. Many of the key determinants of health such as housing, levels of crime, feelings of community safety, employment, access to many types of services, and social environments can be affected by planning and design considerations.</p> <p>Without the Core Strategy / Development Management policies there is less likelihood of achieving sustainable planning, good design and the development of community resources all of which contribute towards increasing people's overall health and wellbeing.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor quality and unfit housing 	<p>The Mansfield Housing Strategy states that a report by the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies ('Background Information on the Housing Market in the East Midlands') identified Mansfield as having areas with dwellings at risk of low demand (areas characterised by high levels of voids or difficult to let housing in the social rented sector and higher vacancies in the private sector).</p>	<p>Major - The Core Strategy should recognise the need to improve areas of poorer quality housing which can in turn contribute to the positive revitalisation of urban areas.</p> <p>Without a Core Strategy / Development Management policies to direct new development to areas in need of regeneration it is more likely that issues of low demand housing will continue</p>



Key issue	Supporting Evidence	Potential influence of Core Strategy Likely evolution of issue without Core Strategy
	<p>The Council is working towards the Decent Homes programme although has a large percentage of properties that do not currently meet the standard set by Government.</p> <p>The Meden Valley Making Places, a special purpose vehicle, was set up in partnership with the Council in 2003 to target specific areas in need of housing regeneration.</p>	<p>with consequential negative effects to the physical environment and overall image of the area.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of sufficient housing 	<p>Over the plan period (2006 – 2026) an average annual requirement of 530 dwellings has been set in the Regional Plan. The 2009 Housing Monitoring Report reveals that recent completion rates are below this target with an annual average of 322 completions between 2006 and 2009.</p> <p>A substantial increase in house building is therefore required in order to meet the targets set out in the Regional Plan.</p>	<p>Major - The Core Strategy should aim to ensure that the required number of new homes are built in the most sustainable locations and with appropriate infrastructure in line with the Regional Plan.</p> <p>Without the Core Strategy / Development Management policies it is more likely that planned housing growth will proceed in ad-hoc manner and without integration with necessary physical and other community infrastructure.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imbalances in the housing stock 	<p>The 2001 Census reveals that the the district has a smaller proportion of homes at the lower and upper ends of the housing ladder with 26.4% having 4 rooms or less compared with 32.6% nationally and 12.9% having 7 or more rooms compared with 19.8% nationally</p> <p>Council tax banding information highlights that there is a large percentage of properties within the district which are in band's A and B. These bands relate to property at the lower end of the market and points to an overall imbalance in the housing stock in the context of property values.</p>	<p>Moderate - The Core Strategy has a role to play in ensuring appropriate mix of housing. Without the Core Strategy / Development Management policies it is less likely that the district's housing needs will be fully met the needs of the existing and expanded population.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High homelessness rate. 	<p>The Mansfield Inter-agency Homelessness Strategy 2008-2013 identifies a number of issues in relation to homelessness, with major concerns being homelessness amongst young people and the amount of rough sleepers.</p> <p>Indicator 'Homelessness rate' for Mansfield District is relatively high in relation to regional and national levels.</p>	<p>Minor - Should affordable housing policies within the Core Strategy be successful, this could have a slight impact upon the homelessness rate by making housing/renting more affordable. However, it is recognised that there can be many causes of homelessness, many of which cannot be influenced by the planning system.</p>

Key issue	Supporting Evidence	Potential influence of Core Strategy Likely evolution of issue without Core Strategy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High (but decreasing) crime figures. 	<p>The Mansfield District Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy identifies that whilst the gap is closing, overall crime rates in Mansfield District are still higher than the national and county averages.</p> <p>Figures from Nottinghamshire Police show that the amount of reports of criminal damage, drug offences, robbery, theft of and from motor vehicles and violent attacks against a person all decreased in 2008.</p>	<p>Moderate - Core Strategy / Development Management policies are likely to have an impact on new development but are unlikely to reduce the crime rate significantly.</p>
<p>Possible role of Core Strategy</p> <p>Core Strategy policies should aim to create a more prosperous and thriving district, which in turn should influence the housing market. However, current economic conditions will make this a difficult task. Furthermore, Core Strategy policies will need to address the shortage of affordable housing, in turn helping to achieve the Council's corporate objective of decent homes for all. In order for the Core Strategy to have any influence over future crime rates policies should aim to ensure that the design of all new development considers security measures, as well as being sited in suitable locations, for example where there is good natural surveillance.</p>		
Economic		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relative deprivation 	<p>In the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS), Mansfield falls within the Northern Sub-area of the East Midlands Region where the economic, social, and environmental regeneration of the area is a priority (Policy 7)</p> <p>The Index for Multiple Deprivation for 2007 (published in 2009) ranks Mansfield as the 34th most deprived area in the country. It revealed 12 of the 66 lower super output areas (LSOA's) were in the 10% most deprived nationally. All of these are in the Mansfield and Mansfield Woodhouse urban area falling within the Ravensdale, Oaktree, Portland, Ladybrook, Lindhurst, Pleasley, Robin Hood and Sherwood wards.</p> <p>These wards present a range of economic, social and environmental challenges and are priority locations for co-ordinated action through the 'Neighbourhood Element' of the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund. These disadvantaged areas also benefit from a programme funding through the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI) which focuses on promoting an entrepreneurial ethos, providing access to employment for local people, and enhancing the performance of local business.</p>	<p>Moderate - The Core Strategy can aim to provide new housing and job opportunities in the most deprived areas which can in turn help to improve the environment and secure better social and community facilities. Without a Core Strategy / Development Management policies it is more likely that issues of deprivation will continue to affect parts of the district with consequential effects on quality of life.</p>



Key issue	Supporting Evidence	Potential influence of Core Strategy Likely evolution of issue without Core Strategy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low educational attainment 	<p>A key theme of the Sustainable Community Strategy is learning, and priorities for action include increasing educational attainment levels through amongst other things developing a new further education college for the people of Mansfield and Ashfield (The Big Picture Mansfield Sustainable Community Strategy 2007 – 2015).</p> <p>Indicator 'Percentage of working age people with no qualifications' is relatively high.</p>	<p>Moderate - The Core Strategy has a role to play in facilitating the delivery of new and improved education provision. It should recognise the links between education, skills and jobs. Without a Core Strategy / Development Management policies to deliver improved facilities it is more likely the issues of low education attainment will continue to affect the district.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low level of skills 	<p>Improving skill levels in the workplace and promoting community based learning opportunities is a priority for action (The Big Picture Mansfield Sustainable Community Strategy 2007 – 2015).</p> <p>Lack of graduates in the local labour force is perceived as a constraint/threat to the creation of a more diverse and stronger local economy (The Big Picture Mansfield Sustainable Community Strategy 2007 – 2015).</p> <p>Indicator 'Percentage of people of working age qualified to NVQ Level 4 or above' is relatively low.</p>	<p>Moderate - The Core Strategy has a role to play in facilitating the delivery of new and improved education provision. It should recognise the links between education, skills and jobs. Without a Core Strategy / Development Management policies to deliver improved facilities it is more likely the issues of low skills will continue to affect the district.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pockets of high and hidden unemployment 	<p>Unemployment in parts of the district is significantly higher than the national average namely in Eakring, Sherwood, Cumberlands, Robin Hood, Oak Tree, Pleasley Hill, Ladybrook, Lindhurst, Portland and Ravensdale wards (Employment Bulletin: NCC Nov 08).</p> <p>Indicator 'Percentage of working age people claiming Incapacity Benefit' is relatively high.</p>	<p>Moderate - The Core Strategy can aim to provide new job opportunities in the most deprived areas which can in turn help to improve employment prospects. Without a Core Strategy / Development Management policies it is more likely that issues of worklessness will continue to affect parts of the district with consequential effects on quality of life.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of diverse economic base 	<p>The Regional Economic Strategy (RES) highlights our area as a regional economic priority. Structural weaknesses are identified in the RES related to the need to address the low pay-skill equilibrium and to develop a knowledge intensive economy to address the productivity gap. This is taken forward in the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) which highlights regeneration of the Northern Sub area a regional priority (Policy 7).</p>	<p>Moderate - Addressing the Regional Plan priorities of developing a knowledge intensive economy will help to diversify the local economy. Without a Core Strategy / Development Management policies to seek to ensure an appropriate supply of good quality employment land that is attractive to a range of business it is unlikely that the aim for a more prosperous economy will be fully realised.</p>

Key issue	Supporting Evidence	Potential influence of Core Strategy Likely evolution of issue without Core Strategy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of good quality employment land 	<p>The lack of good quality industrial land in the Northern Sub-Region is identified as a particular issue (Regional Spatial Strategy).</p> <p>The Mansfield Ashfield Regeneration Route is identified as a potential broad location to assist with the economic regeneration objectives for the Northern Sub-Region (Northern Sub-Regional Strategy Policy 3 of the Regional Spatial Strategy).</p> <p>Indicator 'Take up of employment land' is relatively low.</p>	<p>Major - The Core Strategy can seek to establish how much employment land should be provided in the district and its broad location to meet projected demands. Without the Core Strategy / Development Management policies it is unlikely that increase in take-up rates of employment land will be realised.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vulnerable town centre 	<p>The Mansfield Retail Study (2005) by GVA Grimley identifies that Mansfield Town Centre needs to expand and adapt in order to maintain and enhance its position within the region. The cumulative impact of competition from Nottingham, Sheffield, Derby and Meadowhall, and recent improvements to these shopping destinations, makes Mansfield vulnerable and at risk of decline should improvements not be made to its retail offer.</p> <p>The 2008 Retail Monitoring Report highlights a 15% retail vacancy rate within the Town Centre.</p>	<p>Major - The Core Strategy has a role to play in ensuring that Mansfield town centre remains a vibrant and vital centre. Without a Core Strategy / Development Management policies to support the town centre it is less likely it will maintain its role as a retail and service centre of sub-regional importance.</p>
<p>Possible role of Core Strategy</p> <p>The Core Strategy should aim to promote economic growth and competitiveness by providing for the infrastructure requirements to raise skill levels, develop service sector and high value manufacturing jobs and create innovative businesses which encourage the growth of more knowledge intensive industries in the district. It should aim to support key sectors and clusters of national, regional and local importance which present opportunity to create a more diverse economic base. In order to achieve economic objectives the Core Strategy should aim to provide for a flexible and varied supply of employment sites to meet strategic and local needs including safeguarding suitable existing employment sites.</p>		
<p>Environmental</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing pressure on biodiversity resource 	<p>Research at the regional level reveals major declines in regional biodiversity with remaining wildlife habitats becoming increasingly small, isolated and fragmented.</p> <p>Mansfield has a rich natural heritage comprising a wide range of important habitats and a rich diversity of plant and animal species. This includes nationally rare habitats</p>	<p>Moderate - The district has a rich diversity of nature conservation interests which will need to be safeguarded. The Core Strategy has a key role to play in protecting and enhancing biodiversity.</p>



Key issue	Supporting Evidence	Potential influence of Core Strategy Likely evolution of issue without Core Strategy
	<p>such as heathland, acid grassland, limestone grassland (also known as calcareous grassland), and ancient oak-birch woodland. In addition, wetland habitats are present within the river corridors of the Maun and Meden including reedbeds, wet woodlands and water meadows. Within the district nationally important species include white-clawed crayfish, night jar, skylark and water vole (MDC, GI IPG11).</p> <p>Indicator 'Percentage of Sites of Special Scientific Interest in unfavourable recovering condition' is high.</p> <p>The enhancement of local biodiversity resource is a priority for action in the Sustainable Community Strategy (The Big Picture: Mansfield Sustainable Community Strategy 2007-2015).</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Threats to green infrastructure 	<p>The emerging RSS highlights the delivery, protection and enhancement of environmental and green infrastructure (GI) as a regional priority (Policy 28 & Northern SRS Policy 4).</p> <p>The Mansfield GI IPG reveals a wide variety of environmental, historical and recreational resources which add to the GI resource in our area. This includes a network of sites important for wildlife, recreation and landscape value (MDC IPG11: Green Infrastructure).</p>	<p>Moderate - The Core Strategy should aim to create a well designed and integrated network of green infrastructure that delivers economic, social and environmental benefits. Without Core Strategy / Development Management policies on green infrastructure it is likely that the positive impacts on quality and liveability at the local level will be more difficult to achieve.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood risk 	<p>PPS25: Development and Flood Risk and the Regional Plan emphasise the importance of flooding and land drainage as a spatial planning issue especially in the light of climate change. In addition, both national and regional policy expect our development plans to be informed by a SFRA setting out a high level overview of flood risk issues within our district.</p> <p>The Mansfield SFRA identifies the River's Maun and Meden as the main sources of fluvial flooding. The main high flood risk areas in the district are localised along these main Rivers, especially around structures with limited flow capacity. Overall, whilst these high risk areas affect only a small</p>	<p>Minor – Without a Core Strategy / Development Management policies to restrict development in areas which have been identified as having flooding issues it is likely that flooding incidences would increase, putting life and property at risk.</p>

Key issue	Supporting Evidence	Potential influence of Core Strategy Likely evolution of issue without Core Strategy
	<p>proportion of the district they predominately impact upon the Mansfield central area where regeneration and development is a priority.</p> <p>In addition, the SFRA identifies moderate risks of flooding in the district from surface water run-off and sewers associated with particular topographical and drainage capacity limitations. In the recent floods of June 2007, although flooding arose from overtopping of the River's Maun and Meden, a number of flood incidents also occurred away from the main rivers. Most of these were repeats of historic flood incidents, mainly attributable to excessive surface run-off or sewer flooding. The SFRA therefore recommends a cautious approach when considering development around these particular locations.</p> <p>With regard to groundwater flooding, the SFRA highlights the existence of natural springs away from the main river within the River Meden catchment. In such locations, where there is low lying ground we may see the emergence of new springs or temporary streams when groundwater levels are elevated in the underlying Limestone aquifer. However, overall the SFRA concludes the indicative risks of groundwater flooding within the district are relatively low. (SFRA, 2008)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High and increasing pressure on water resources and related infrastructure 	<p>Mansfield sits on two major aquifers within the Idle and Torne catchment area namely the lower Magnesium Limestone aquifer and the Triassic Sherwood Sandstone outcrops. These aquifers provide a strategically important groundwater resource and are the source of significant public water supply, industrial and agricultural abstractions (The Idle and Torne Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy, 2007).</p> <p>Research undertaken at the regional level indicates potential water supply deficits in many parts of the East Midlands over the plan period. However, this assumes a continuation of current levels of leakage and water useage, and that no new water resources over and above those proposed in existing water resource plans are developed. In terms of water quality, the</p>	<p>Major - The water supply issues affecting the district highlight the necessity for effective water demand management in new development. In order to treat additional waste water from significant new development may require additional capital investment by STW. The Core Strategy has a key role to play in ensuring that necessary infrastructure is integrated with new development.</p>



Key issue	Supporting Evidence	Potential influence of Core Strategy Likely evolution of issue without Core Strategy
	<p>Study highlights Mansfield as having particular problems with regard to the capacity of existing sewerage networks and sewage treatment works to accept discharges from new development. (Spatial Review of Water Supply and Quality in the East Midlands, 2006).</p> <p>In addition, the Mansfield SFRA identifies parts of our area suffering from particularly low flow conditions as a result of high water abstraction and low inflow which has implications for water quality and biodiversity (SFRA, 2008).</p> <p>The Water Cycle Strategy Scoping Study reveals that the district is not an area that is currently over abstracted. However, the draft WRMP prepared by STW indicates that the East Midlands WRZ as a whole will be in supply demand-deficit by 2011/2102, and that the shortfall will become increasingly negative throughout the 25 year plan period. STW will have insufficient water available to meet long term demand without further investment.</p> <p>In addition, the Scoping Study highlights that the collection and treatment of waste water is the major water cycle infrastructure constraint to significant growth in the district. There are capacity restrictions within the waste water infrastructure which may struggle to cope with new development that resulted in significantly increased volumes unless remediation measures are incorporated.</p>	
Spatial		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The need to support sustainable travel patterns 	<p>Indicator 'Percentage of households without access to a car' is relatively low in the Mansfield urban area.</p> <p>There is high demand for public transport in those parts of our area with low income households, households without a car and high population density and this is largely matched by the supply of commercially viable bus services (North Nottinghamshire Local Transport Plan). The provision of public transport particularly by bus is therefore a key issue in the quality of life of many</p>	<p>Moderate - The Core Strategy has a role to play in helping to reduce the need to travel and people's travel choices by locating new development in accessible locations well served by public transport and other sustainable modes. Without Core Strategy / Development Management Policies it is more likely that the need to travel will increase with consequential effects on traffic, congestion, and CO2 emissions.</p>

Key issue	Supporting Evidence	Potential influence of Core Strategy Likely evolution of issue without Core Strategy
	<p>existing residents in the context of accessibility to jobs, shops and other services.</p> <p>Whilst current levels of congestion across North Nottinghamshire highway network are unlikely to be detrimental to health or economic well-being now or in the near future there are localised problems including into Mansfield town centre from main radial routes at peak periods. However, no air quality management area's (AQMA's) have been declared in Mansfield (North Nottinghamshire Local Transport Plan).</p> <p>Traffic flows in the Mansfield have steadily increased from late 1990's levels (North Nottinghamshire Local Transport Plan).</p> <p>Mansfield Public Transport Interchange is selected as LTP2's top priority major scheme (North Nottinghamshire Local Transport Plan). The scheme is seen as an essential to address the issues of growth in use of cars, combined with a general decline in bus patronage whilst at the same time acting as a catalyst for town centre redevelopment and regeneration (North Nottinghamshire Local Transport Plan).</p> <p>Pleasley by-pass (the off-line single carriageway option) is selected as the second priority major scheme. It meets many of the core priorities of the LTP2 strategy and provides in effect the second phase of the Mansfield Ashfield Regeneration Route (MARR). It is an important scheme for economic regeneration as it improves links from the MARR redevelopment areas to the motorway (North Nottinghamshire Local Transport Plan).</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change 	<p>Addressing climate change is the Government's principal concern for sustainable development. The UK's target is to reduce CO2 emissions to 29% below 1990 levels by 2020, and greenhouse gas emissions to 80% below by 2050 (Climate Change Bill 2008).</p>	<p>Moderate - The Core Strategy has a key role in helping to tackle the issue of climate change by reducing CO2 emissions through more sustainable patterns and forms of development. Without Core Strategy / Development Management policies it is less likely that new development will be located in the most sustainable locations and designed and built to harness renewable and low carbon energy sources.</p>



Key issue	Supporting Evidence	Potential influence of Core Strategy Likely evolution of issue without Core Strategy
	<p>Reducing the district's carbon footprint by reducing CO2 emissions from transport and buildings is one of the key outcomes identified in the Sustainable Community Strategy (The Big Picture 2007 – 2015).</p> <p>The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) highlights the potential likely impacts of climate change in terms of increasing flood depths from the River Maun, and exacerbating the impact of surface water run-off from new development.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low levels of recycling 	Indicator 'Percentage of all household waste recycled' is relatively low.	<p>Minor - The Core Strategy has a role to play in supporting the objective to reduce, re-use and recycle resources where possible. Although not having a direct impact the policies can ensure that development is well designed to adapt to changes in the overall consumption of resources. Without Core Strategy / Development Management Policies it is likely that consumption of resources will continue unchecked with consequential environmental and other effects.</p>
<p>Possible role of Core Strategy</p> <p>Core Strategy policies will need to ensure that any impact on flood zones/low permeable areas is kept to a minimum. This is likely to be through the use of mitigation measures within new development in these areas.</p> <p>Core Strategy policies will need to ensure that the impact of new development upon water quality and availability is kept to a minimum.</p> <p>Core Strategy policies will need to ensure that impact on air quality is kept to a minimum.</p> <p>Core Strategy policies will need to ensure that the impact of new development upon the natural environment is kept to a minimum, and where possible improvements achieved.</p> <p>Core Strategy policies will need to protect and enhance the range of historical assets within the district.</p>		

Question 6

Are the key sustainability issues identified in Section 6 correct for the Core Strategy? If not, which issues should be added or removed? Please identify how any other sustainability issues that should be included are likely to impact upon the Core Strategy.

Section Seven

Developing the SA Framework (Stage A4)

7 Developing the SA Framework (Stage A4)

- 7.1** Following the review of plans, policies and programmes and taking into account the analysis of the baseline data and the identification of sustainability issues, a series of sustainability objectives have been devised. Indicators are taken from these objectives in order to test the sustainability of the Core Strategy.
- 7.2** The objectives are based on those in the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) SA framework but have been adapted to address the key sustainability issues most relevant to Mansfield District.

Table 7.1 Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

SA1	To ensure that the housing stock meets the housing needs of the district
SA2	To improve health and reduce health inequalities
SA3	To provide better opportunities for people to value and enjoy the district's heritage
SA4	To improve community safety, reduce crime and the fear of crime
SA5	To promote and support the development and growth of social capital across the district
SA6	To increase biodiversity levels across the district
SA7	To protect and enhance the rich diversity of the natural, cultural and built environmental and archaeological assets of the district
SA8	To manage prudently the natural resources of the district including water, air quality, soils and minerals
SA9	To minimise waste and increase the re-use and recycling of waste materials
SA10	To minimise energy usage and to develop the district's renewable energy resource, reducing dependency on non-renewable sources
SA11	To make efficient use of the existing transport infrastructure, help reduce the need to travel by car, improve accessibility to jobs and services for all and to ensure that all journeys are undertaken by the most sustainable mode available
SA12	To create high quality employment opportunities
SA13	To develop a strong culture of enterprise and innovation
SA14	To provide the physical conditions for a modern economic structure, including infrastructure to support the use of new technologies

Each of the SA objectives has been matched with detailed decision making criteria. These criteria comprise the key questions that will be asked to ascertain whether or not a proposal or option works towards the SA objective.

The justification for selecting the SA objectives is set out in Appendix 5 'Justification of SA Objectives'.



During Stage B of the SA (appraising the effects of the plan), the SA framework will allow the potential impacts of each of the options for the Core Strategy to be assessed against the SA objectives.

Table 7.2 Sustainability Appraisal Framework

SA Objective		Decision making criteria	Indicators
SA1	To ensure that the housing stock meets the housing needs of the district	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it increase the range and affordability of housing for all social groups? Will it reduce homelessness? Will it reduce the number of unfit homes? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affordable housing House prices; housing affordability Homelessness Housing completions (type and size) Housing tenure LA stock declared non decent Sheltered accommodation Vacant dwellings by tenure
SA2	To improve health and reduce health inequalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it reduce health inequalities? Will it improve access to health services? Will it increase the opportunities for recreational physical activity? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adults taking part in sport Health inequalities Life expectancy at birth New/enhanced health facilities People killed/seriously injured in road accidents Teenage conception rates
SA3	To provide better opportunities for people to value and enjoy the district's heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it provide new open space? Will it improve the quality of existing open space? Will it help people to increase their participation in cultural activities? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open spaced managed to green flag award standard New and enhanced open space Satisfaction with open space Museums
SA4	To improve community safety, reduce crime and the fear of crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it provide safer communities? Will it reduced crime and the fear of crime? Will it contribute to a safe secure built environment? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crimes – by category and total Fear of crime Noise complaints
SA5	To promote and support the development and growth of social capital across the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it improve access to, and resident's satisfaction with community facilities and services? Will it encourage engagement in community activities? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community centres Gains/losses of community facilities Leisure centres Libraries/mobile library stops Participation involuntary and community activities A place where people from different backgrounds get on well together Satisfaction with leisure facilities
SA6	To increase biodiversity levels across the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it help protect and improve biodiversity and in particular avoid harm to protected species? Will it help protect and improve habitats? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local/National nature reserves Local wildlife sites (Biological SINCS) SSSIs

SA Objective		Decision making criteria	Indicators
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it increase, maintain and enhance sites designated for their nature conservation interest? Will it maintain and enhance woodland cover and management? 	
SA7	To protect and enhance the rich diversity of the natural, cultural and built environmental and archaeological assets of the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it protect and enhance existing cultural assets? Will it protect and enhance the historical and archaeological environment? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ancient woodland Conservation Areas Historic Parks and Gardens Listed Buildings/Buildings at risk/locally listed buildings Scheduled ancient monuments Woodland areas/new woodland
SA8	To manage prudently the natural resources of the region including water, air quality, soils and minerals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it improve water quality? Will it improve air quality? Will it lead to reduced consumption of raw materials? Will it promote the use of sustainable design, materials and construction techniques? Will it minimise the loss of soils to development? Will it maintain and enhance soil quality? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greenfield land lost Carbon dioxide emissions Contaminated land Flood risk Households in Air Quality Management Areas Number of days moderate/high air pollution Employment and housing developed on PDL Density of dwellings Developments incorporating SUDS Planning applications granted contrary to advice of EA Biological/chemistry levels in rivers, canals and freshwater bodies Production of primary and secondary/recycled aggregates
SA9	To minimise waste and increase the re-use and recycling of waste materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it reduce household waste? Will it increase waste recovery and recycling? Will it reduce hazardous waste? Will it reduce waste in the construction industry? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Controlled waste produced Capacity of new waste management facilities by alternative to landfill Household waste arisings composted, land filled, recycled, used to recover energy
SA10	To minimise energy usage and to develop the region's renewable energy resource, reducing dependency on non-renewable sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it improve energy efficiency of new buildings? Will it support the generation and use of renewable energy? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy use – renewables and petroleum products Energy use (gas/electricity) by end user Renewable energy capacity installed by type
SA11	To make efficient use of the existing transport infrastructure, help reduce the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it utilise and enhance existing transport infrastructure? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accessibility to education sites, employment sites, health care, leisure centres, open space, shopping centres



SA Objective		Decision making criteria	Indicators
	need to travel by car, improve accessibility to jobs and services for all and to ensure that all journeys are undertaken by the most sustainable mode available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it help to develop a transport network that minimises the impact on the environment? Will it reduce journeys undertaken by car by encouraging alternative modes of transport? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of transport infrastructure that assists car use reduction Levels of bus and light rail patronage New major non-residential development with travel plans People using car and non-car modes of travel to work Railway station usage
SA12	To create high quality employment opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it improve the diversity and quality of jobs? Will it reduce unemployment? Will it increase average income levels? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Average annual income Benefit claimants VAT business registration rate, registrations, de-registrations Businesses per 1000 population Employment rate Jobs New floor space Shops, vacant shops Unemployment rate
SA13	To develop a strong culture of enterprise and innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it increase levels of qualification? Will it create jobs in high knowledge sectors? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 year olds achieving 5 or more GCSEs at Grade A* - C 19 year olds qualified to NVQ level 2 or equivalent 21 year olds qualified to NVQ level 3 or equivalent Working age population qualifications
SA14	To provide the physical conditions for a modern economic structure, including infrastructure to support the use of new technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it provide land and buildings of a type required by businesses? Will it improve the diversity of jobs available? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed business development floorspace Land developed for employment Employment land lost Employment land allocated Profile of employment by sector

7.3 The relationship between SEA topics and SA objectives is shown in the table below.

Table 7.3 Relationship between SEA & SA

SEA topic	SA objective
• Biodiversity	6, 7
• Population	1, 2, 4, 5, 12, 13, 14
• Human health	2, 9
• Fauna	6, 7
• Flora	6, 7
• Soil	8, 7, 9
• Water	8, 7
• Air	8, 9
• Climatic factors	1, 6, 7, 8, 11
• Material assets	1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 14
• Cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage	3, 7
• Landscape	7



7.4 The relationship between SA objectives and the three SA themes is shown in the table below, where ☺ is used to show when there is a relationship, and X is used to show when there isn't.

Table 7.4 Relationship between SA Objectives and SA Themes

SA Objective		SA Theme		
		Soc	Econ	Env
SA1	To ensure that the housing stock meets the housing needs of the district	☺	☺	X
SA2	To improve health and reduce health inequalities	☺	X	X
SA3	To provide better opportunities for people to value and enjoy the district's heritage	X	☺	☺
SA4	To improve community safety, reduce crime and the fear of crime	☺	☺	X
SA5	To promote and support the development and growth of social capital across the region	☺	X	X
SA6	To increase biodiversity levels across the region	X	☺	☺
SA7	To protect and enhance the rich diversity of the natural, cultural and built environmental and archaeological assets of the region	X	☺	☺
SA8	To manage prudently the natural resources of the region including water, air quality, soils and minerals	X	☺	☺
SA9	To minimise waste and increase the re-use and recycling of waste materials	X	☺	☺
SA10	To minimise energy usage and to develop the region's renewable energy resource, reducing dependency on non-renewable sources	X	☺	☺
SA11	To make efficient use of the existing transport infrastructure, help reduce the need to travel by car, improve accessibility to jobs and services for all and to ensure that all journeys are undertaken by the most sustainable mode available	☺	☺	☺
SA12	To create high quality employment opportunities	☺	☺	X
SA13	To develop a strong culture of enterprise and innovation	X	☺	X
SA14	To provide the physical conditions for a modern economic structure, including infrastructure to support the use of new technologies	X	☺	X

7.5 The internal compatibility of the SA objectives has been tested to identify any particular tensions or inconsistencies.

7.6 A number of SA objectives have been identified as having a potential impact on each other.

7.7 Even though potential incompatibilities exist, it is not necessary to re-write the SA objectives on these grounds. As stated in the ODPM guidance of November 2002 “there may be tensions between objectives that cannot be resolved; the compatibility assessment should clarify these so that subsequent decisions are well based, and mitigation can be considered”.

Table 7.5 Compatibility of SA Objectives

01														
02	☺													
03	-	-												
04	☺	-	☺											
05	☺	☺	☺	☺										
06	-	-	☺	-	-									
07	X	-	☺	-	☺	☺								
08	X	☺	☺	-	☺	☺	☺							
09	X	☺	☺	-	☺	☺	☺	☺						
10	X	-	☺	-	-	-	☺	☺	☺					
11	-	☺	☺	☺	☺	-	☺	☺	-	☺				
12	-	☺	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	☺			
13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	☺	-	☺		
14	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	☺	-	☺	☺	
	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14

☺ = Compatible

X = Incompatible

- = No link

7.8 As Table 7.5 indicates, most of the SA objectives are internally compatible or have no significant impact on each other. However a small number of objectives, mostly associated with employment and the economy, and the provision of housing, have clear conflict with objectives that concern the protection of the environment and biodiversity.



Question 7

Do the SA objectives adequately cover the key sustainability issues facing Mansfield District? If not, which objectives should be added or removed, bearing in mind that the number of objectives should be manageable?

Section Eight

Consultation (Stage A5)

8 Consultation (Stage A5)

- 8.1** In accordance with the SEA Directive, copies of this SA Scoping Report have been sent to designated Consultation Bodies for England: Natural England, English Heritage, and the Environment Agency.
- 8.2** This Scoping Report has also been sent to other relevant authorities and stakeholders having an interest in the plan area.
- 8.3** This Scoping Report has been made available for 5 weeks from Thursday 24th September 2009 to Wednesday 28th October 2009 from the following locations:
- Civic Centre Reception
 - Mansfield Library
 - Mansfield Woodhouse Library
 - Market Warsop Library
- 8.4** Paper copies of this Scoping Report can be obtained by contacting the Planning Policy Team on 01623 463182, ldf@mansfield.gov.uk, or by writing to:

The Planning Policy Manager, Mansfield District Council, Civic Centre, Chesterfield Road South, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, NG19 7BH.

- 8.5** An electronic copy of this Scoping Report can be viewed on the Council's Local Development Framework Consultation Portal http://mansfield.limehouse.co.uk/portal/sa_scoping_report from Thursday 24th September 2009.
- 8.6** Consultation questions have been included within this document to assist consultees with their response.

The Next Steps

- 8.7** The SA of the Core Strategy will take place over several stages (identified in Appendix 4 'Stages in SA').
- 8.8** A final SA Report will be published detailing the assessment of alternative options, including the preferred option, alongside the proposed submission document. It will detail how options may have been refined as part of the SA process.
- 8.9** The Council will try to simplify the outcomes of the appraisal by producing concise, non-technical summaries.



Question 8

Does this Scoping Report and intended SA Framework meet the requirements of the SEA Directive and PPS12?

Question 9

Do you have any other comments about the SA Scoping Report?

This leaflet can be provided in a variety of formats if required. Please do not hesitate to contact us on 01623 463463 if you require interpretation of this form or need help reading it.

Polish

W razie potrzeby możemy dostarczyć tę broszurę alfabetem Braille'a lub w powiększonym formacie. Jeżeli potrzebuje Pan(i) wyjaśnienia tego tekstu lub pomocy w przeczytaniu go, prosimy o skontaktowanie się z nami pod numerem 01623 463463.

Turkish

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Cantonese (Chinese Traditional)

如果需要，我們可以提供這份傳單的盲文版本或大字印刷體版本。如果你要求翻譯或者需要幫助來閱讀這份表格，請別猶豫，致電 01623 463463 與我們聯係。

Latvian

Šī buklete ir pieejamā Brailja vai palielinātajā drukā, ja tas ir nepieciešams. Ja jums nepieciešams šī bukleta tulkojums vai palīdzība tā lasīšanā, lūdzu, sazinieties ar mums pa tālruni – 01623 463463.

Russian

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Urdu

یہ لیف لیٹ، بوقتِ ضرورت، بریل یا بڑے پرنٹ میں بھی مہیا کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ اگر آپ کو اس فارم کا ترجمہ چاہئے ہو یا آپ کو اس کے پڑنے میں مدد چاہئے ہو تو برائے مہربانی ہم سے اس نمبر پر 01623 463463 رابطہ کرنے میں بالکل نہ ہچکچائے گا۔

Bengali

প্রয়োজন অনুযায়ী এই লীফলট ব্রইল অথবা বড় অক্ষরের আকারে দেওয়া যাবে। এই ফর্মের অনুবাদ প্রয়োজন হলে অথবা এটা পড়তে সাহায্যের দরকার হলে 01623 463463 নাম্বার আমাদের সাথে যোগাযোগ করতে দ্বিধা করবেন না।

