



Local Plan

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL SCOPING REPORT

May 2013

Table of Contents

1.	INTRODUCTION	3
1.1	PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT	3
1.2	YORK'S LOCAL PLAN	3
1.3	THE ROLE OF THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL	4
1.4	HOW WILL THE SA INFLUENCE THE LOCAL PLAN?	6
1.5	HABITAT REGULATION ASSESSMENT	6
2.	SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL METHODOLOGY.....	8
3.	STAGE A: THE SCOPING PROCESS	10
3.1	A1: IDENTIFYING OTHER POLICIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES	10
3.2	A2: COLLECTING BASELINE INFORMATION	13
	<i>Data Limitations</i>	26
3.3	A3: IDENTIFYING SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES AND PROBLEMS	26
3.4	A4: DEVELOPING THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK.....	34
	<i>Appraisal Scoring System</i>	38
	<i>Heritage Impact Assessment</i>	39
3.5	A5: CONSULTING ON THE SCOPE OF THE REPORT	41
4.	WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?	42
4.1	STAGES B-E OF THE SA/SEA METHODOLOGY	42
4.2	STAGE B ASSESSMENT OUTCOMES	44
	<i>Policy Appraisal – Assessment of Alternatives</i>	44
	<i>Policy Appraisal – Preferred Option Appraisal</i>	44
	<i>Site Appraisal - Assessment of Alternatives:</i>	45
	<i>Site Appraisal - Preferred Options appraisal:</i>	49
	<i>Who will be undertaking the assessment?</i>	49
	ANNEX 1: GLOSSARY	50
 Separate Annexes:		
ANNEX 2: PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND POLICY REVIEW		
ANNEX 3: BASELINE, CONTEXT AND ISSUES REPORT		
ANNEX 4: COMPARISON OF NEW AND OLD SA OBJECTIVES		
ANNEX 5: SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK		
ANNEX 6: SUSTAINABLE LOCATION ASSESSMENT FOR SITES		
ANNEX 7: SCOPING REPORT CONSULTATION COMMENTS AND ACTIONS TAKEN		
	FIGURE 1: SCOPE OF SA AND SEA.....	4
	FIGURE 2: SIGNPOSTING OF SEA REQUIREMENTS	5
	FIGURE 3: SCOPE OF HRA	7
	FIGURE 4: SETTING THE CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES, ESTABLISHING THE BASELINE AND DECIDING ON THE SCOPE	8
	FIGURE 5: THE LOCAL PLAN AND SA PREPARATION PROCESS.	9
	FIGURE 6: INTERRELATIONSHIP BETWEEN STAGE A TASKS	10
	FIGURE 7: PLAN, POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES REVIEW SUMMARY	12

FIGURE 8A: YORK DISTRICT BOUNDARY AND SURROUNDING DISTRICTS.....	13
FIGURE 8B: YORK IN YORKSHIRE CONTEXT	14
FIGURE 9: KEY MESSAGES FROM THE BASELINE.....	15
FIGURE 10: KEY SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES FACING CITY OF YORK	27
FIGURE 11: SA FRAMEWORK.....	35
FIGURE 12: SA OBJECTIVES RELEVANT TO SEA TOPICS	38
FIGURE 13: STRATEGY OBJECTIVE COMPARED TO SA FRAMEWORK OBJECTIVES.....	40
FIGURE 14: STAGES B – E IN THE SA/SEA METHODOLOGY	42
FIGURE 15: SUMMARY OF THE INTERRELATIONSHIPS IN STAGE B:	43

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1.1 When drawing together a plan for the future of York consideration needs to be given to the effects on the environment, and people's quality of life now and in the future. To be sure the plan is compatible with the aims of sustainable development a process to assess the economic, environmental and social impacts called Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is required.
- 1.1.2 Understanding the environmental impacts of the plan is also required through European Law in the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC. It was brought into English law by virtue of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations 2004 and applies to the production of all plans, programmes and policies which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.
- 1.1.3 This Scoping Report forms part of the Council duty to undertake a SA/SEA of its Local Development Plan. Its sets out:
- A joint assessment for SA/SEA;
 - The economic, social and environmental sustainability issues the council have identified and want to address through the Local Plan;
 - Sets the assessment framework for strategic options and detailed policies and proposals within the Local Plan.

1.2 York's Local Plan

- 1.2.1 The requirement to produce a Local Plan is set under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)¹. York's Local Plan will set out the planning policy for York over the next 15-20 years and will include a strategy for the spatial development of the city, development management policies and sites for achieving the development requirements.
- 1.2.2 The purpose of the Local Plan is to follow a vision for the city by setting out spatial growth policies and development policies to allow York to grow in a high quality sustainable way. It is underpinned with evidence base to ensure that it addresses York's Local circumstances and can justify its plans for the future. The Local Plan is both strategic and site specific and the SA will respond with appropriate analysis of both accordingly. The objectives set within the local plan are still being developed and will inform the SA process in due course.
- 1.2.3 York's Local Plan supersedes work on the York's Local Development Framework. York's Submission Draft Core Strategy was withdrawn from Examination in June 2012. Changes to the approach in the NPPF along with a strategic development permission

¹ National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG, 2012)

within the city lead to the decision to withdraw. The new Local Plan will allow the council to align with the NPPF and contemporary issues within the city.

- 1.2.4 In line with the guidance, a joint SA/SEA process was undertaken alongside the preparation of the Local Development Framework. A Scoping Report for the Core Strategy was adopted in 2006 and updated in 2010. The approach to SA followed the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Spatial Strategy approach and objectives. This scoping report uses the original (2010) edition as a starting point but reviews all stages to ensure it is up-to-date and follows best practice.

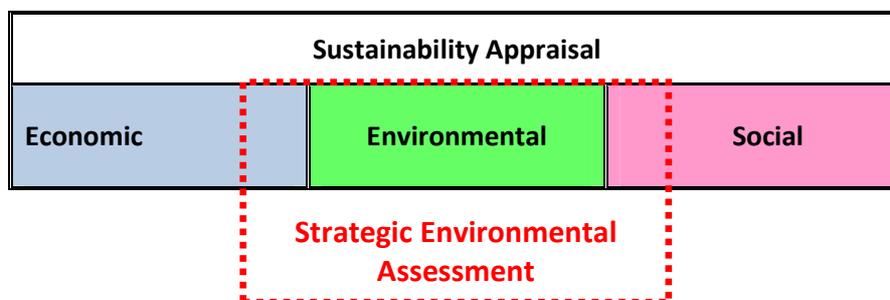
1.3 The role of the Sustainability Appraisal

- 1.3.1 The requirement for sustainability Appraisal is set by Section 39 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) wherein it states that development documents should be prepared with a view to contributing towards sustainable development. The role of an SA is to promote better integration of sustainability considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans to satisfy the Act's requirements. Similarly, paragraph 165 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states:

"A sustainability appraisal which meets the requirements of the European Directive on strategic environmental assessment should be an integral part of the plan preparation process, and should consider all the likely significant effects on the environment, economic and social factors."

- 1.3.2 The SA process for York incorporates the requirement for European legislation (EU Directive 2001/42/EC, transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations)), which requires spatial and land use plans to undergo Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). SEA is an iterative assessment process whereby the potential significant environmental effects arising from the plan/programme are identified, assessed, mitigated and communicated to plan-makers. The cross-over between SA and SEA allows a comprehensive single appraisal document covering all relevant environmental, social and economic issues.

Figure 1: Scope of SA and SEA



1.3.3 This document clearly sets out where the requirements of the SEA Directive have been addressed. Figure 2 indicates where information required by the SEA Directive can be found in this report.

1.3.4 The methodology for York's SA/SEA also takes account of the Government's Plan Making Manual advice on Sustainability Appraisals² and incorporates requirements set out in Government's guidance on SEA³.

Figure 2: Signposting of SEA requirements

Environmental Report Requirements⁴	Relevant report / chapter
a) an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes	Section 1 / Stage A1 / Annex 2
b) the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.	Stage A2 / Annex 3
c) The environmental characteristics of the areas likely to be significantly affected	Stage B analysis in future report
d) Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC	Stage A2 baseline / Annex 3
e) The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.	Stage A1 / Annex 2
f) The likely significant effects ⁵ on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors;	In future report
g) The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme	In future report
h) An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information	In future report
i) A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with article 10	In future report
j) A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	In separate report to come

² See Planning Advisory Service Website <http://www.pas.gov.uk/pas/core/page.do?pageId=152450>

³ A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (DCLG, 2005)

⁴ As listed in Annex 1 of the SEA Directive (Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of plans and programmes on the environment)

⁵ These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects.

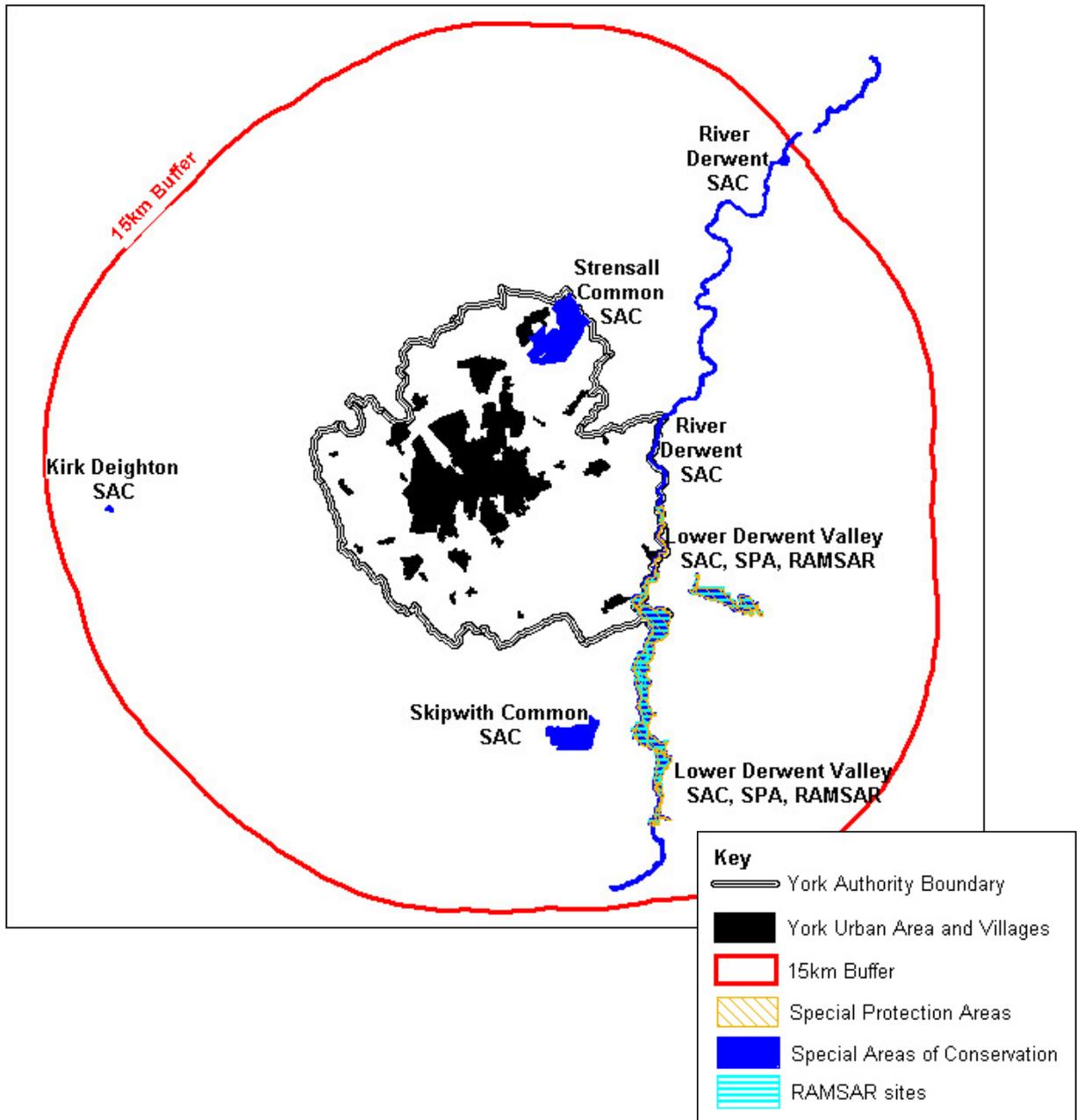
1.4 How will the SA influence the Local Plan?

- 1.4.1 It has always been the council's view that SA is an integral part of the plan production process and is part and parcel of good planning; this is necessary to ensure that development occurring within the district takes the most sustainable form possible in environmental, social and economic terms. Although the council has achieved, to some degree, the successful integration of SA with plan production in the past, it is clear that there will, almost inevitably, be room for improvements in integration. As a result the council is determined to continue with the 'mainstream' approach to production of the Local Plan so that the SA and plan production will not be considered as separate entities.

1.5 Habitat Regulation Assessment

- 1.5.1 The Habitat Regulation Assessments is a statutory document which determines whether the policies and proposals in the City of York Local Plan will have a significant effect on the integrity of European Conservation Sites, known as Natura 2000 Sites, within the vicinity of York.
- 1.5.2 The European Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna (the 'Habitats Directive') provides a legal framework for the protection for habitats and species of European importance. Article 2 of the Directive requires the maintenance or restoration of habitats and species of interest in the EU in favourable condition. This is implemented through a network of protected areas referred to as Natura 2000 sites. The Natura 2000 network of sites is made up of Special Protection Areas (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Offshore Marine Sites (OMS). Whilst Ramsar sites are not included within the European Directive, PPS9 indicates that Ramsar sites should be treated as fully designated European sites for considering developments, which affect them and therefore have been included in the City of York HRA alongside SPA and SACs.
- 1.5.3 For York, the Natura 2000 sites being assessed as part of the HRA are located within 15km of the District boundary to ensure that any cross-boundary effects are considered. The sites included within the HRA for the Local Plan are:

Figure 3: Scope of HRA



- 1.5.4 Whilst consideration for biodiversity, flora and fauna as well as conservation sites will be taken into consideration within the SA, a separate Habitat Regulation Assessment will be undertaken to delineate any significant impacts and mitigation measures for the Natura 2000 sites. The HRA and SA/SEA documents should therefore be read in conjunction to one another.
- 1.5.5 An HRA Scoping Report was produced to accompany the Core Strategy Submission document. This document will be used as a starting point and reference for the consideration of significant effects and vulnerabilities.

2. SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL METHODOLOGY

2.1.1 The purpose of this stage of the process is to formulate a methodology for the SA/SEA assessment to enable the analysis to be used within the preparation of the Local Plan. The Council proposes that the methodology is in line with the guidance set out by the Government's Guidance to SEA⁶. Figure 3 shows stage A of the process

Figure 4: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope

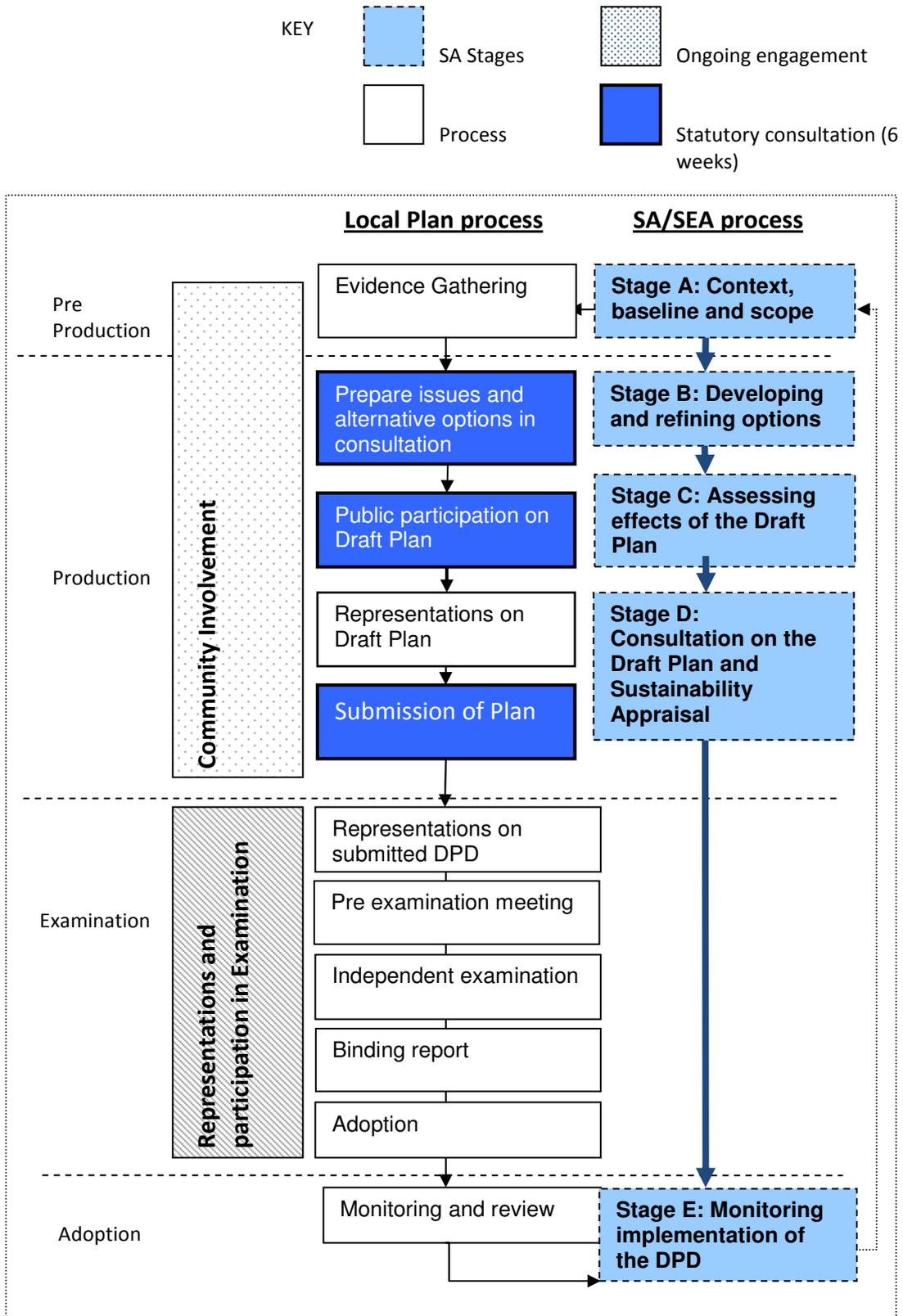
Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope	
A1	Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes and sustainability objectives (Annex I, (a) and (e); Annex II (1)) The purpose of this task is to take account of the relationships between the plan and other policies, plans and programmes (outside factors) which may influence the analysis, suggest how constraints can be managed and to identify environmental protection objectives.
A2	Collecting Baseline information (Annex I, (b) and (c)) The purpose of this task is to collect information on the current characteristics of the district to understand the likely evolution without the implementation of a plan, to understand the characteristics which are likely to be significantly affected, identify sustainability issues and help in the development of the SA objectives.
A3	Identifying Sustainability Issues and problems (Annex I, (a) and (c); Annex II, (1)) The task provides an opportunity to identify key issues from tasks A1 and A2, develop the sustainability objectives and streamline the subsequent stages to be locally specific to the district.
A4	Developing the Sustainability Appraisal Framework (completion of Annex I, (f)) The development of a framework of objectives is a recognised way of considering the environmental effects of the plan or programme and comparing alternatives. The framework will be used to compare the effects of the alternatives and to suggest improvements. The objectives will be derived using information collated during stages A1-A4.
A5	Consulting on the scope of the SA/SEA (Article 5(4)) Consultation with key stakeholders will ensure agreement that the Scoping Report is, and will be, robust and is suitably comprehensive for assessing the likely effects of the plan and policies.

2.1.2 It is intended that tasks A1-A4 inform each other and that the document will be updated post-consultation (A5) to ensure that Stage A of the process is complete.

2.1.3 Following the completion of Stage A of the process, the SA methodology will be used to progress Stages B-E. Figure 4 summarises the key stages of the integral nature of the SA/SEA to the plan's productions. A more in-depth methodology for the following stages is set out in the final section of this report "What Happens next?".

⁶Plan Making manuals on Sustainability Appraisal, PAS website <http://www.pas.gov.uk/pas/core/page.do?pagelid=152450> and A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2005), ODPM (CLG)

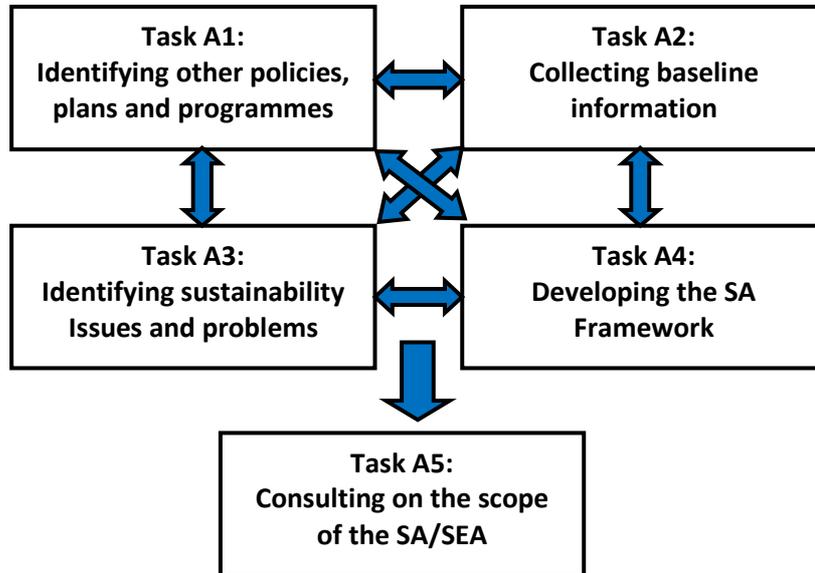
Figure 5: The Local Plan and SA preparation process.



3. STAGE A: THE SCOPING PROCESS

3.0.1 The process follows the guidance set out in “A Practical Guide to Strategic Environmental Assessment”⁷. This section of the report refers to tasks A1 – A4 of the scoping process as outlined in “Sustainability Appraisal Methodology” (page 5).

Figure 6: Interrelationship between Stage A tasks



3.1 A1: Identifying other policies, plans and programmes

Stage A	Stage B	Stage C	Stage D	Stage E
A1	Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes and sustainability objectives			
A2	Collecting Baseline information			
A3	Identifying Sustainability Issues and problems			
A4	Developing the Sustainability Appraisal Framework			
A5	Consulting on the scope of the SA/SEA			

3.1.1 The purpose of this task is to take account of the relationships between the plan and other policies, plans and programmes (outside factors) which may influence the analysis, suggest how constraints can be managed and to identify environmental protection objectives.

3.1.2 The aim of the policy review of to:

- assist in the development of an evidence base (stage A2) by identifying possible sources of data;
- capture information on environmental and sustainable development issues (stage A3) as identified by the policies being reviewed; and

7

- contribute to the development of the objectives in the appraisal framework (stage A4) against which the LDP will be assessed.
- 3.1.3 The previous scoping report for the local plan captured over 100 documents which were thought to be of significance. It was compiled using best practice from other local authorities, advice from Councils Officers and a desktop search. The policy context was thus comprehensively reviewed in 2010 to take into account changes which had occurred since its first adoption in 2006.
- 3.1.4 This scoping report has used the information compiled previously but updates it with relevant plans and policies and removes any which are now redundant or significantly out of date. The list is grouped into International, National, Regional and Local policies.
- 3.1.5 It should be recognised that this is not an exhaustive list of documents but a list 'fit for purpose' to set out the policy context in which the Local Plan and SA is being prepared.
- 3.1.6 The Council will continue to keep this policy framework under review. In particular, it will be necessary to monitor changes in relevant international and national legislation, policy and planning guidance, and other policy documents likely to emerge over the plan preparation period.
- 3.1.7 The following table summarises the documents captured for each theme. Annex 2 sets out the full review of policies, plans and programmes.

Figure 7: Plan, Policies and Programmes Review Summary

International	The Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development	Kyoto Climate Change Protocol	UN Convention on Human Rights	European Spatial Development Perspective 97/150/EC	European Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora 92/43/EEC	European Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds 2009/147/EC	European Directive Nitrates 91/676/EEC	European Directive Water Framework 2000/60/EC	European Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC	European Directive EIA 2003/35/EC	European SEA Directive 2001/42/EC	European Sustainable Development Strategy June 2001	Energy Performance of buildings 2001/91/EC	European Environmental Noise 2002/49/EC
National	Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe 2008/50/EC	Aarhus Convention 1998	EU Sixth Environmental Action Plan 1600/2002/EC	European Biodiversity Strategy (2011)	EU Landfill Directive 99/31/EC	Renewable Energies Directive 2009/28/EC	Directive 2008/1/EC Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control	European Landscape Convention (Florence Convention)	Ramsar Global Convention, 1979	The European on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (Valletta Convention)	United Nations Millennium Declaration (2000)			
	'Securing the Future: Delivering the UK Sustainable Development Strategy (DEFRA 2005)	Planning Act 2008 and 2012	The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012	Localism Act 2011	National Planning Policy Framework and Technical Guidance (2012)	Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004	Quality of Life Counts: Indicators for a Strategy for Sustainable Development for the UK (2004 Update)	Sustainable Communities A Shared Vision, A Shared Agenda, A Guide for Local Authorities	(1979)	Waste Strategy for England and Wales (2007)	The Waste (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2012	PPS.10 Waste Management	Local Growth White Paper – Realising Every Place's Potential (2010)	Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979)
	Climate Change: Adaptation by Design (2007)	The Carbon Plan – Delivering our Low Carbon Future (2011)	Environmental Quality in Spatial Planning	White Paper: The Natural Choice - securing the value of Nature (2011)	Environment Agency Wetland Policies	The 'UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework' (July 2012)	Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010	Countryside and Right of Way Act, 2000	Directing the Flow-Priorities for Future Water Policy (DEFRA)	Future Water (2008)	Flood and Water Management Act (2010)	Ground Water Protection: Policy and Practice (GP3)	(2011)	(2006)
	Culture at the heart of Regeneration (2004)	White Paper: Heritage for the 21 st Century (2007)		Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic environment (2008)	UK Low Carbon Transition Plan (2009)	Mainstreaming Sustainable Development: the Government's vision and what this means in practice (2011)	A Strategy for England Trees, woods and forest (2007)	Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services	Safeguarding our soils: A Strategy for England (2009)	Conservation of Habitats and Species (2012)	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006)	White Paper: Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Strategy for Public Health in England (2010)	
	World Class Place: Government Strategy for improving quality of place (2009)	BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method)	Resource Security Action Plan: making the most of valuable materials (2012)	Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (2012)	UK Low Carbon Industrial Strategy	UK Biomass Strategy (2007)	UK Climate Change Programme (2006)	Micro-generation Strategy (2006)	Energy Paper: Meeting the Energy Challenge (2007)	UK Renewable Energy Strategy (2009)	Adapting to Climate Change in England (2008)	Draft Energy Bill (DECC, 2012)	Energy Act 2011	National Adaptation Scheme (2012)
	Climate Change Act 2008	Climate Change Risk Assessment (2012)	Local Transport Act 2008	Low Carbon Transport: A Green Future (2009)	Low Emissions Strategies (2010)	Environmental Protection Act 1990	Environment Act 1990 and 1995	Model Procedures for the Management of Contaminated Land	Agricultural Land Classification: protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land (2009)	Environmental quality in spatial planning	Rural Strategy (2012)	Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010	Greener Homes for the Future (2008)	Natural England's Green Corridor Technical Paper (2011)
Regional	Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS)	SEA of Revocation of the RSS (2012)	North Yorkshire Local Investment Plan 2011-21	North Yorkshire Housing Strategy and Action Plan 2010-2015	Regional Environmental Enhancement Strategy for Yorkshire and the Humber 2008	Leeds City Region Economic Strategy (2012)	Leeds city region Green Infrastructure Strategy (2010)	York and N.Yorks Cultural Strategy (2009)	N. Yorks Waste and Minerals Local Plans	Vale of York National Character Assessment	Regional Forestry Framework	Yorkshire and Humber Rural Strategy (2006)	Rights of Way Improvement Plan for N. Yorks (2007)	Climate change Plan for Yorkshire and Humber (2009)
	Regional Biodiversity Strategy for Yorkshire and Humber (2009)	Environmental Limits in Yorkshire and Humber	Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Capacity in Yorkshire and Humber Final Report (LGYH, 2011)	Yorkshire Water Water Resources Management Plan (2010)	North Yorkshire Local Transport Plan 2011-16	Economic Impact of Heritage in Yorkshire and Humber (2010)	Water for Life and Livelihoods: Humber River Basin Management Plan (2009)	Howardian Hills AONB Management Plan (2009-2014)	North York Moors Management Plan (2012)	York, North Yorks and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership Plan 2012 - 2013	Derwent Catchment Flood Management Plan (2010)	Ouse Catchment Flood Management Plan (2011)	Sustainable Community Strategy for North Yorkshire 2008-18	North York Moors Core Strategy and Development Policies (2008)
	A Community Plan for Hambleton 2006 - 2011	Imagine Ryedale (Ryedale Strategic Partnership)	Leeds City Region Employment and Skills Strategy (2010)	North Yorkshire Local Authorities Biodiversity Action Plans	Harrrogate District Sustainable Community Strategy (2008)	Selby Local Development Framework	Harrrogate Local Development Framework	Ryedale Local Development Framework	East Riding Local Development Framework	Hambleton Local Development Framework	Yorkshire and Humber Green Infrastructure Mapping Project	Regional Green Infrastructure Map	North Yorkshire and York Landscape Characterisation Project	
Local	Sustainable Community Strategy (Without Walls) 2011	Local Agenda 21 Strategy	The Council Plan 2011	Corporate Fairness and Inclusion Strategy and Equality Scheme	Local Transport Plan 3 (2011)	Life Long Learning and leisure Plan 2005 to 2008	The Education Plan 2005-08	Dream Again: Children's and Young People's Strategy (2012)	Taking Play Forward – A Play Strategy for York (2010)	Low Emission Strategy (2012)	Homelessness Review and Strategy (2008-2013)	Council Housing Strategy 2011-15	Older People's Housing Strategy 2011-15	York's Supporting People Strategy 2005-10
	Contaminated land Strategy (2010)	Community Safety Plan 2011-14	Healthier Lives 2010-15	Reaching Further: York's economic Strategy (2012)	Science City Strategy	Visit York Strategic Plan 2009-2012	Biodiversity Audit and Action Plan	Rights of Way Improvement Plan (draft)	River Ouse Flood Risk Management Strategy	Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies	York Central Transport Study 2005	Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2011	Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2010-15	Renewable Energy Strategic Viability Study (2010)
	York Climate Change Impacts Profile (2010)	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2011)	Adult Learning and Skills Strategy 2007-2012	Heritage Topic Paper (2011)	Greenbelt Appraisal 2003 and Technical paper 2011	York landscape Appraisal (1996)	Houses in Multiple Occupation Technical Paper (2012)	N.Yorks Accommodation Requirements of Showmen (2009)	N.Yorks Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment (2008)	Strategic Openspace Study (2008)	Let's Talk Rubbish: 2006-2026	Green Streets: The neighbourhood carbon footprint of York (2009)	Surface Water Management Plan (2012)	North Yorkshire Health Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2012

3.2 A2: Collecting Baseline Information

Stage A	Stage B	Stage C	Stage D	Stage E
A1	Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes and sustainability objectives			
A2	Collecting Baseline information			
A3	Identifying Sustainability Issues and problems			
A4	Developing the Sustainability Appraisal Framework			
A5	Consulting on the scope of the SA/SEA			

3.2.1 The requirement of the SEA Directive is to provide information on “the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme”. Baseline information provides the basis for predicting and monitoring effects and helps to identify sustainability problems and alternative ways of dealing with them.

- 3.2.2 The baseline information provides data on:
- current conditions;
 - historical trends;
 - likely changes to the baseline conditions without the plan;
 - relationship of current situation to established thresholds and targets;
 - key sensitive receptors;
 - nature and scale of current; and
 - details of cumulative/synergistic effects through time.

3.2.3 The data sources will be revisited during subsequent stages of the appraisal to check for new and updated information against which to predict and assess the effects of the City of York Local Plan.

3.2.4 Figures 8a and 8b sets out York in a spatial context. The scope of the baseline focuses on York but makes linkages to data in the wider region and nationally where applicable. It is important that the baseline information considers information external to the boundary of the district to ensure an understanding of cross-boundary effects and implications through the assessment process. Further more, the Local Plan needs to adhere to

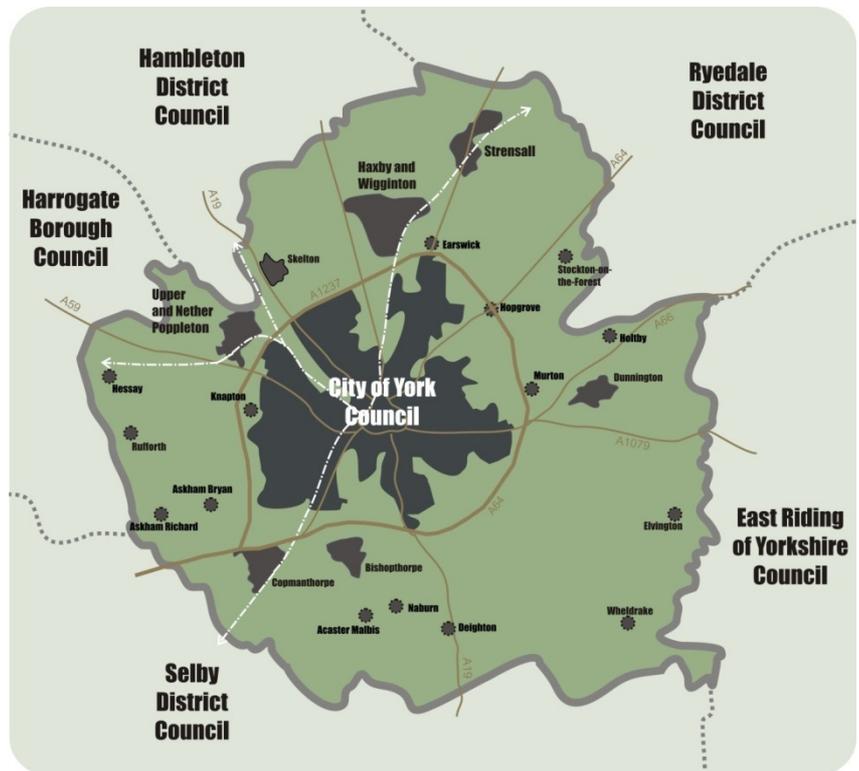


Figure 8a: York District Boundary and surrounding Districts

the Duty-to-Cooperate, a statutory requirement to work with other local planning authorities, county councils and prescribed bodies to maximise the effectiveness of the plan. Including this information in the baseline and considering its effects should help to reinforce this joint working.

Figure 8b: York in Yorkshire context



3.2.5 Figure 9 provides an overview of the key messages arising from the baseline data. Annex 3 presents the characterisation and baseline information collated for York in full. Annex 3 also provides indications of where the most significant effects from development are likely. This will be furthered through the SA Stage B assessment when policy alternatives, the preferred approach and allocations will be specified.

Figure 9: Key messages from the baseline

Theme	Key issues from the Baseline	Likely future scenario based upon the baseline - "Policy off" Scenario
Population and Households	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • York’s population and household numbers is projected to increase; • York has a high need for housing which it needs to addressed; • Housing delivery has decreased; • There is a need to plan for a mix and type of accommodation to suit all household types 	<p>The population and households in York will continue to grow but understanding to what extent will be determined by levels of natural change and migration. Currently the population is estimated to be 198,000 (ONS, 2012) and current trends see this increase by 15.3% between 2010 and 2035. It is anticipated that the number of people aged 18-24 will increase inline with York’s student population at the higher educational establishments in York. Similarly, the projections indicate that the number of older people is increasing, which will put different pressures on service provision and housing needs.</p> <p>Without policy intervention and given the population projections are trend based, it is not unreasonable to assume that an increase of population will occur. However, recent evidence base for York suggests that the economic downturn has had an impact on household formation and that the rate of growth may be below that being predicted in previous trends. There may also be a change in need through changing household structures as evidence suggests more single person households, higher occupancy/ multiple person households and older persons accommodation is growing.</p> <p>The annual number of dwellings being built with York has decreased in line with the economic downturn. As finance is less available for development it is not unreasonable to assume that the lower rate of housing delivery will continue until such time as developers/householders have higher financial capacity. Should no policy be in place, the market would determine the type and location of development. Where suitable housing is less likely to be available locally, it may drive some people to seek housing further away from the city, which is less sustainable than meeting housing need within the authority given the social, economic and environmental implications from trip generation. Furthermore, given the financial pressures, householders are likely to become in more need of affordable housing options, which may not be delivered without policy intervention given current development viability.</p>

		<p>This could make sectors of the population vulnerable or exposed to limited accommodation choices. Evidence in the Strategic Housing Market Assessment already considers that the shortage of suitable property sizes is having a disproportionate effect on the City’s capability to address a backlog of housing need and this situation may become exacerbated should a policy on housing growth and affordable housing delivery not be implemented.</p> <p>The compulsory quality of homes provided on across York in the future will largely be dependent upon national guidance. Any changes to this guidance should be reflected in the development and therefore the provision of good quality and decent homes in the future. Currently, the Government’s Decent Homes Standard, Lifetime Homes – Lifetime Neighbourhoods, the Code for Sustainable Homes and Building Regulations set out the criteria for the quality of housing to be provided.</p>
<p>Employment, business, retail and tourism</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key challenge is to achieve this economic success in a sustainable manner that protects the environment whilst allowing social and economic progress that recognises the needs of all people. • The unemployment rate gap between York and GB has increased through 2011/12 showing York’s unemployment levels are lower than the national average. • York seems fairly resilient to the economic downturn with a highly skilled labour force and the highest number of businesses in 2012 since 1998; • The relative dependence on public 	<p>The recent global recession and associated credit crisis, has made the international economy become increasingly competitive for all. Economic growth has slowed and there is less money available. The result of this is an uncertain and volatile economic climate with increasing competition between cities around the UK and globally for investment, talent and jobs. York has been recognised as one of the most resilient economies in the North of England and is part of wider networks such as the Leeds City Region and North Yorkshire. However, these market forces make the future uncertain.</p> <p>Within the Economic Strategy for the city, there is a determination to make it the most competitive city of its size not only in the UK but globally. Some of the work delivering this strategy is independent to the Local Plan and therefore it is anticipated that progress may be made in a ‘policy-off’ scenario although the timescales for this may be slower without the steer of a complimentary economic planning policy. Furthermore, York is a key tourist destination with tourism benefitting the city across many different industry sectors. This is likely to continue due to the existing historic assets within the city, particularly the city centre. There is ongoing work to ensure York maintains this role and whilst policy intervention would further support this, it is not unreasonable to assume that York would continue to be a desirable destination regardless.</p>

	<p>sector employment is decreasing with the increase in private business;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proportion of people with NVQ4+ is increasing; • The number of city centre vacant shops is decreasing; • Footfall has been negatively effected by external factors effecting spend in the city. 	<p>Should York’s economy grow in line with the aspirations, a key policy for delivering sites/land would be through the Local Plan to ensure it is in the right locations for the future of York. Without this policy, market forces may dictate the location of development and this may conflict with other city assets/visions. The NPPFs ‘presumption in favourable of sustainable development’ in this case would preside and this may be in conflict with what is sustainable for York.</p> <p>For information on skills and training, see Education section.</p>
<p>Deprivation and equality</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • York has become less deprived but still has pockets of high deprivation which need to be addressed; • Demand for Affordable Homes is high; • York has areas which feature within the top 20% most deprived in the country in terms of barriers to housing although the number has decreased between 2007-2010. • A major barrier to housing is the disparity between the cost of housing and how much people earn as well as access to funding such as mortgages. • The provision of other types of homes for the elderly, including nursing homes, residential care homes and warden assisted living as well as support services will also need to be developed to take care of the current demand identified for the future. • There is a recognised need for Gypsy and Traveller and Showpeople sites. 	<p>Evidence from the Index of Multiple Deprivation has shown that York has become less deprived. Improvements have been made due to and independently from the planning system. It is not unreasonable to suggest that this trend may continue without policy.</p> <p>However, one of the main inputs into the IMD is major barriers to housing which may be exacerbated should the market not provide suitable accommodation and the requirements not set through planning policy. Given the current financial pressures, householders are likely to become in more need of affordable housing options, which may not be delivered without policy intervention given current development viability. This could make sectors of the population vulnerable or exposed to limited accommodation choices. Evidence in the Strategic Housing Market Assessment already considers that the shortage of suitable property sizes is having a disproportionate effect on the City’s capability to address a backlog of housing need and this situation may become exacerbated should a policy on housing growth and affordable housing delivery not be implemented.</p> <p>There is a recognised need for Gypsy and Travellers accommodation sites. It is unlikely that this will be provided without planning policy leading to their needs not being address within the authority.</p> <p>Policy support for local provision of services and facilities is also important. Whilst there are parades at present as well as independent shops, it would be beneficial for new development to include or respond to a lack in provision to support the population. It is unlikely that this would be market lead, particularly in small scale schemes, and therefore a policy off scenario</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued access to facilities and services is paramount for local provision and needs to be factored in for the future. 	<p>may see services, facilities and openspace in some areas become overstretched or conversely, unviable.</p>
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The authority has a duty to provide and support education for all for the development of skills and learning; The results attained at primary and secondary level are good. City of York has a highly skilled workforce which is key to York's economic success. 	<p>There is a clear link between York's population and the continuance of a vibrant economy through the working age population. In order to support economic growth, there needs to be a relevant workforce with the skills and/or training ability to support businesses. York will continue to have two universities, two higher and further education colleges and primary/secondary education facilities. York's strength through the economic downturn has been recognised as its highly skilled workforce. These institutions would be better supported through policy should there be any intended growth of the establishments or in the population; particularly for delivery of primary and secondary education to all.</p>
Climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change will have an impact in York at a variety of levels; Targeted campaigns can work including those aimed at design and sustainability as well as lifestyle changes. 	<p>Climate change is accepted to be occurring and will continue regardless of policy intervention but without it, the city's contribution towards it and its effects on the population would be exacerbated. As a Council, York have committed to reducing climate change and its impacts through the Climate Change Framework and Action Plan. Delivery of this is both supported by and independent to planning policy. It would not be unreasonable therefore for progress towards the reducing the city's impact through education and behavioural change although this progress may be more gradual than with the influence of policy intervention.</p> <p>To understand the potential impacts of climate change on York a Local Climate Impact Profile which is a risk based assessment of significant vulnerabilities to weather and climate now and in the future was carried out in 2010. The study shows that with changes in the climatic parameters, York can expect to experience the following effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased frequency of extreme rainfall events Changes in seasonal rainfall distribution causing drier summers and wetter winters Increased average daily temperatures (2.5°C) Increase frequency of heat waves <p>Further to this, the study concludes that the main direct impacts on the City of York area are likely to be:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased flooding (pluvial and fluvial) • Overheating • Changes to biodiversity and ecosystem health • Pressures on water resources • Increased risk of disease and pests (non human) <p>In addition to the direct impacts, the indirect impacts of climate change will be more frequent flood events through more frequent and intense rainfall which may lead to damage to properties, infrastructure and stress on existing and emergency services. This would also have an effect on biodiversity, which could lead to ecosystems changes.</p> <p>A policy-off scenario would particularly leave a gap in determining the location of development and thus support for integrated infrastructure systems and transport networks, which would minimise the use of the car and therefore carbon emissions as poor location of development planning may increase through trips. Furthermore, interrelated to this is ensuring people can live and work within the city to minimise commuting and additional trips to work and services.</p> <p>The compulsory quality of development and requirements for the generation of renewable energy in response to climate change across York in the future will largely be dependent upon national guidance. Any changes to this guidance should be reflected in the development. Currently, the Code for Sustainable Homes and Building Regulations set out the criteria for the quality of development and requirements for sustainability. Furthermore, non-compulsory guidance from BREEAM for commercial premises sets out measures for sustainability. This guidance is not statutory however and would be given more support should it, or the equivalent, be included within planning policy as a requirement.</p>
<p>Transport and accessibility</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic levels in York have remained largely unchanged since 1998, despite continued development over this period • York experiences a net daily in-commute of approximately 7250 trips • The number of people cycling has 	<p>York’s transport network is largely out of the remit of the planning policy. The city currently has 5 park and rides with funding for 2 more to help to decrease traffic to and from the city centre and alleviate the road network and a central railway station with frequent trains accessing the region and beyond. Cycling and walking is high due to the flat topography of the city making it easy for people to use this mode of transport as well as seeing improvements to associated infrastructure through funding and promotional schemes. It would therefore be</p>

	<p>increased since the introduction of the Cycling City York programme High frequency bus services match well to the areas in York with the highest number of households without a car</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicle ownership levels are significantly higher in rural areas of the York area • York is well connected by rail to many other areas of the country, but services to Harrogate are of a low frequency and rail links to the south east of the city including Hull are relatively poor. • Killed and seriously injured road casualties have reduced by at least 45% (from the 1994/98 average) • In the past two years City of York Council has made successful bids to Government for funding programmes to improve public transport and encourage travel behaviour change to reduce dependency on the private car for travel. 	<p>reasonable to anticipate that a continuation of the current situation is likely in terms of bus travel, access to trains and cycling and walking access. Evidence suggests that car ownership is growing and with this there may be an equivalent increase in traffic that may have negative effects, particularly at peak hours where certain roads are known to be at capacity.</p> <p>Transport planning under the Local Transport Plan sets the framework for improvements to the network based upon need some of which would be delivered through the Local Plan and the rest independently to planning policy. Planning policy would certainly support and help to deliver the aspirations set out in the transport plan.</p> <p>A policy-off scenario would particularly leave a gap in determining the location of development and thus support for integrated infrastructure systems and transport networks, which would minimise the use of the car and support sustainable travel modes. Co-location of development with sustainable transport is paramount and without policy intervention may negatively effect the City’s ambition to become a more sustainable and environmentally friendly city. Whilst behavioural change and education can go so far in influencing the population, planning policy and the location of development could dramatically support sustainable development through its location helping to minimise any impact of new development on the existing infrastructure. Furthermore, the city aspires to become the first low emission city which may not be delivered to its full potential without delivery mechanisms and requirements set out in planning policy.</p> <p>Interrelated to transport is ensuring people can live and work within the city to minimise commuting and additional trips to work and services. Currently the city supports a net inward commute to work which is thought to be exacerbated due to the affordability of living within the authority. This imbalance impacts on the road network particularly at peak time and is not likely to be rectified without policy intervention and a balance sort between housing and economic growth factoring in infrastructure improvements.</p>
<p>Health and well-being</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The general health of citizens in York is good • The main priorities to address are obesity, particularly in children, alcohol 	<p>The populations’ health is out of the direct influence of planning policy and relies on education and personal commitment of individuals. It is likely that current health trends will continue and that obesity will continue to become increasingly prevalent. The city has a number of sports centres, parks and greenspaces to support physical exercise and health and</p>

	<p>and physical activity</p>	<p>well-being.</p> <p>A policy-off scenario would see the status quo position with incremental improvements to different areas. Planning policy could help support the identified need for openspace, green infrastructure and built sports facilities through protection and delivery of facilities and spaces. This would help to support the health of the population more than by incremental changes alone.</p>
<p>Resource consumption, energy and waste</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • York has reduced its overall consumption of energy resources over the past few years and this trend is likely to continue; • A key consumer of resources is transport; • External factors such as the weather is likely to continue to impact on consumption; • The Council is committed to resource and carbon reduction through energy efficiency; • Water resources are not likely to have a significant effect on York as the household consumption has been built into Yorkshire water’s model. Water efficiency however is still required; The amount of waste produced in York is reducing whilst the levels of recycling and composting has increased in line with a decrease in landfill. 	<p>Legislation, publicity and education has been focussed on ensuring the message to reduce, re-use and recycle to minimise waste, the use of materials and overall consumption is implemented through appropriate schemes and adopted through behavioural change. Trends in York are in line with this with the amount of waste recycled increasing and the amount landfilled, decreasing. In addition, evidence from DECC shows that energy consumption in York continues to decrease and that its consumption is now consistently below the national average. As recycling schemes and energy efficient measures continue to be implemented, it is reasonable to assume that these trends will continue.</p> <p>The compulsory quality of development and requirements for the generation of renewable energy and use of materials in response to climate change and efficiency across York in the future will largely be dependent upon national guidance. Any changes to this guidance should be reflected in the development. Currently, the Code for Sustainable Homes and Building Regulations set out the criteria for the quality of development and requirements for sustainability, including renewable energy generation. Furthermore, non-compulsory guidance from BREEAM for commercial premises sets out measures for sustainability. This guidance is not statutory however and would be given more support should it, or the equivalent, be included within planning policy as a requirement.</p> <p>Water for York is abstracted from the River Ouse and River Derwent. Increase in development and population will lead to further water resource abstraction. The depletion of the Sherwood aquifer is a priority consideration for development in the York sub zone. Yorkshire Water’s final Water Resources Management Plan 2009: “Striking the Balance” has weighed up the demand and supply of water for the forthcoming 25 years and as a result of revised demand forecasts, they are not</p>

		forecasting a deficit in the supply/demand balance and plan to remain in surplus throughout the planning period to 2034/35.
Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> York's air quality continues to get worse in the city centre. A combination of measures is needed in order to tackle improving air quality including a modal shift in Transport and moving to low emission technologies with supporting infrastructure. York's ambition is to become the first low emission city. 	<p>York's air quality continues to get worse within the city centre. There are currently 3 designated Air Quality Management Areas and numerous hotspots wherein the recommended legislative objectives for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) continue to be breached. Nitrogen dioxide is formed during all combustion processes (primary NO₂), and can also be formed in the atmosphere from other pollutants (secondary NO₂) but the main source of nitrogen dioxide in York is traffic. Poor air quality is a leading factor in people's health and continually high pollutant levels negatively this.</p> <p>Improvements to air quality do not solely rely on planning policy as other changes can be made to commercial transport fleets to use low emissions technologies for example. However, the Council aspires to be the first low emission city and has adopted a Low Emission Strategy (LES) to provide a holistic and consistent approach to dealing with this issue. The LES could not be fully implemented without the Local Plan as a delivery mechanism meaning that air quality would continue to decline and continue to negatively effect the health of the population. Planning policy would help to ensure a consistent and cumulative approach to the consideration and mitigation of air quality within development and planning applications.</p>
Water and flood risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> York has a history of flooding which needs to be taken into consideration in the planning for the future of the city. Flooding is still likely and will effect people and businesses in York; There is a need to minimise future flood risk arising from the impacts of climate change; Water quality is generally good with the main reasons for poor quality linked with agricultural farming practices. 	<p>York has a well documented history of flood risk as the city lies at the confluence of the Rivers Ouse and Foss. Flood protection measures are already in place with improvements to these out of the remit of planning. York is legally obliged under the Water Act to deal with flood risk management and policy. However, flood risk in the future is set to get worse under the influence of climate change and may see York having more frequent flood events with negative effects on people, property and businesses.</p> <p>The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment sets out the areas at most risk from flooding. A policy off scenario may have a negative effect should development not be located where it is at low risk from flooding. A policy off scenario may attract inappropriate development in high flood risk areas which could cause harm to people and contribute to the exacerbation of flood risk downstream. This would be particularly significant in areas of functional floodplain (3b) and high risk zone 3a of which York has significant areas.</p>

		<p>Development needs to be focussed in low risk areas to avoid negative impacts on fluvial and pluvial flooding. Policy intervention would have a positive influence in using the evidence base to direct development and mitigate its effects in the future in both new schemes as well as existing areas.</p> <p>The 2008 survey results from the Environment Agency state that the quality of the Rivers Ouse and Foss are very good in terms of their chemistry, biology, phosphates and nitrate concentrations. Improvements to river quality are not held directly within planning policy and therefore is it reasonable to assume that this trend will continue. It is acknowledged that subject to the flooding events.</p>
<p>Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whilst open space in York includes approximately 480 hectares of parks and open spaces it is not distributed in a uniform manner across the city and therefore some areas are deficient in certain types of openspace; • Quality of large parks and gardens in York is good with 5 designated as green flag award status; • York has an abundance of important site for nature conservation at international, national, regional and local levels; • The city’s nature conservation sites support a diverse range of flora and fauna; • Initiatives are ongoing to support nature conservation/openspace around the city to make a more environmentally friendly and healthy city. 	<p>York has a vast variety of openspace, sport and recreation spaces within the city with the majority of the city having access to different types of space. The maintenance of these are outside the control of planning. However, there are identified deficiencies of some types of openspace as identified in the evidence base. Without policy intervention this may remain the case in the future with incremental improvements to openspace around the city on an adhoc basis. The positive contribution planning policy could make would be to support and protect openspace and improve deficiency through delivery within new developments and designations.</p> <p>York has a number of international, national, regional and locally recognised nature conservation sites. The designation and quality of these are out of the remit of planning and there are ongoing schemes to ensure their quality and maintenance. There are also ongoing initiatives to support nature conservation and biodiversity, including stewarding schemes and the Treemendous project which aims to plant more trees within the authority as part of an overall economic vision. It is reasonable to assume that in these cases the current situation would remain as the status quo.</p> <p>Biodiversity and nature conservation are vulnerable to changes however and lack of policy to support their integrity through sensitive location of development may have a negative effect on overall biodiversity and natural assets. This would be exacerbated in York where areas were previously covered through the greenbelt policy and lack of this designation would potentially open land up greenfield land for development.</p>

Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • York's Landscape is a primary feature of York's historic character and setting; • There are specific elements of the landscape that need to be preserved in order to appreciate the whole of York's context. • Views from and to the landscape and built environment features are an important feature of York's character. 	<p>York is set with a flat vale which allows views across the city to key assets such as the Minster. This forms one of York's key historic character and setting attributes. It is vulnerable to change and in the future pressures from development could negatively affect it through the loss of important open areas which contribute to the setting of the historic City and through developments which fail to respond sensitively to their local context. Currently the draft Greenbelt designation secures the majority of vulnerable land which surrounds the main urban area..This policy has been saved from the now withdrawn Regional Strategy due to its recognition as a key policy for retaining York's historic character and setting. Whilst this protection is in place, there is commitment to protect this aspect of York. However, lack of a formal policy directly for York through the Local Plan and the absence of any defined Greenbelt Boundaries, would place increasing pressure on parcels of land, particularly adjacent to the main urban areas, to be released for development. This is one of the most serious impacts of a policy-off scenario.</p>
Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic character and setting is an integral part of the city's past and future; • The attractive and unique historic environment contributes to/influences the economy, social and environmental functioning of the city of York; • Appreciating the value of heritage assets is key to preservation and enhancement as well understanding any future impacts. • Consideration needs to be given to the key views and assets which are identified to have a positive experience for the city. 	<p>York's historic environment is a key defining feature of the city. Its character derives not only from its designated assets, such as listed buildings, Schedules Ancient Monuments and Conservation Areas, but also its non-designated assets, including its below ground archaeological deposits. York has also been designated as an area of archaeological importance. Whilst it is reasonable to assume that the majority of the designated heritage assets will remain since works to them invariably require consent, elements which contribute to their significance could be harmed through inappropriate development in their vicinity.</p> <p>The Heritage Topic Paper sets out those key attributes which contribute to the special historic character and setting of York. Whilst the formally designated sites may afford some statutory protection through the planning system, other non-designated elements which contribute to the character of the historic city could be harmed without a clear policy framework. Pressures from development in terms of density or building height in various locations could compromise unique features in York. Whilst design can be subjective, without the necessary policy or in a 'policy-off' scenario there could be significant detrimental impact the overall historic built environment and its setting.</p>
Geology and Soils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are contaminated land sites across the city which would require remediation should it be taken forward for development. 	<p>Within the city there exists a number of locations which are contaminated either due to an historic or current use. Legislation is in place to ensure that appropriate mitigation ensues on parcels of land which are to be developed or pose risk to human health. It is reasonable to assume therefore that this national legislation would govern the need for York to</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are crossovers between land contamination with natural resources and people's health and well-being; • Agricultural Land in York is predominantly of good quality and therefore valuable for farming. 	<p>contain/mitigate land in the future.</p> <p>The majority Agricultural land quality in York is good categorised within grades 2 and 3. This equates to the land being a valuable resource for farming although the quality of farmland is vulnerable to flood events and changes to nutrient levels. Planning policy influencing flood risk and location of development may have an indirect effect on this. A no-policy scenario could lead to impacts on land either through loss to development or changing patterns of flooding which leaves silt/nutrients on the land.</p>
Community safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People generally think York is a safe place to live; • Crime rates are decreasing; • Support for the future should be aimed at helping to meet the objectives and identified priorities set out in the Community Safety Plan. 	<p>Delivering key safety protection measures are primarily out of the remit of the Local Plan. The community Safety Plan sets out a number of objectives to deliver a safer city and other organisations, such as the safer York Partnership, would ensure that initiatives and schemes were in place for the safety of residents and businesses. It would be reasonable to assume that the current crime trends would continue.</p>

Data Limitations

- 3.2.6 Much of the data presented is either collected by external bodies or collected in partnership between them and the district council. Therefore the council has limited control over the temporal and spatial scope of the data collected and whether data collection methods may change in the future. These factors may limit the ability to make reliable comparisons.
- 3.2.7 As part of the previous Local development Framework process a comprehensive evidence base was provided. This evidence helped to plug known gaps in information at this time and has informed this SA scoping process. However, inevitably some of this information is becoming out-of date and is not available for recent time periods. As part of the preparation of the Local Plan, evidence base updates are in-progress and will feed into the SA scoping process, plan production process and future Annual Monitoring Reports in due course.
- 3.2.8 A significant new source of data that will become available is the 2011 Census. The latest Census will be the most comprehensive source of socio-economic information at a small geographical area. This will compare to and update Census 2001 data, which will need to be taken into account when it is fully available.
- 3.2.9 It is not considered that currently there is a lack of information significant enough to not be able to carry out the SA analysis. Where new evidence is available, the SA will document what this is and include it within a revised baseline.

3.3 A3: Identifying Sustainability Issues and Problems

Stage A	Stage B	Stage C	Stage D	Stage E
A1	Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes and sustainability objectives			
A2	Collecting Baseline information			
A3	Identifying Sustainability Issues and problems			
A4	Developing the Sustainability Appraisal Framework			
A5	Consulting on the scope of the SA/SEA			

- 3.3.1 The review of relevant plans and programmes (Task A1) and baseline information (Task A2), has highlighted a number of key sustainability issues to consider. The identification of sustainability problems is an opportunity to define key issues to address. These issues will inform the development of the SA Framework and streamline the subsequent stages to be locally specific to the district.
- 3.3.2 The key issues have been split into environmental, social and economic problems to make them distinct (Figure 10). However, it is recognised that many issues cut across these three main topic headings. Reasons for the identification of the sustainability issues and how the local plan may influence them are included with reference to the most applicable baseline sections (in Annex 3) and whether or not this was a previously identified issue or originating from the current baseline and/or the context review.

Figure 10: Key sustainability issues facing City of York

Sustainability Issue	Derivation of Issue Summary	Refer to SA Baseline (Annex 3)
Social		
Reduce inequality and deprivation, particularly income deprivation	<p>PREVIOUS ISSUE/ CURRENT BASELINE :</p> <p>This issue has been previously identified in the LDF Core Strategy Scoping Report. It is still relevant when compared against the current baseline information. The Index of Multiple Deprivation for York still identifies pockets of deprivation for a variety of the IMD indices with 2 areas still within the top 20% most deprived areas in the country.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 3: Economy and Employment • Section 4: Deprivation and Equality
Improving access to and provision of services and essential facilities including access by sustainable means of transport	<p>PREVIOUS ISSUE IDENTIFIED/CONTEXT REVIEW:</p> <p>This issue has been previously identified in the LDF Core Strategy Scoping Report. It is still relevant when compared against the current baseline information and context review. It is recognised nationally, regionally and locally that in order to be sustainable and meet the local needs of the population, the provision of services and facilities is paramount. It is also recognised that sustainable travel modes and reducing the need to us the car through local provision of services and transport services is important for social sustainability and equality as well as the economy and environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 3: Economy and Employment • Section 4: Deprivation and Equality • Section 7: Transport
Provision of affordable housing and suitable accommodation for all	<p>PREVIOUS ISSUE IDENTIFIED/ CURRENT BASELINE / CONTEXT REVIEW:</p> <p>This issue has been previously identified in the LDF Core Strategy Scoping Report. It is still relevant when compared against the current baseline information and context review. The projections for population and households in York and wider area show that the numbers will continue to increase. Affordability of property in York has been shown to be difficult due to difference between wages and house prices. Consequently, the number of people projected to be in housing need is set to increase and there is a need for the provision of housing. The NPPF states that the number of dwellings developed should be based upon local evidence base. Furthermore, the needs of the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 2: Population and Households • Section 4: Deprivation and Equality

	population will diversify as household composition changes to include more single person and aging households meaning that the type of accommodation needed is varied.	
Improving health and well-being;	<p>CURRENT BASELINE / CONTEXT REVIEW: Evidence for York suggests that health of the population is relatively good. However, similarly to national trends, the city has identified problems to address in obesity, alcohol and physical activity. Health and well-being is identified in local and national programmes and strategies as a key programme for now and the future.</p> <p>In order to promote and maintain a healthy lifestyle it is important that people have access to recreational openspace where they can enjoy themselves through leisure activities. Studies have recognised that access to openspace and the natural environment has a positive outcome on peoples' general health and well-being. This should support the overall agenda for a healthy population in York.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 8: Health • Section 9: Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity
Enhance access to the natural environment, openspace and recreational opportunities		
Reducing traffic intrusion and congestion through provision of a sustainable transport network	<p>PREVIOUS ISSUE IDENTIFIED/ CURRENT BASELINE/ CONTEXT REVIEW: These issues have been previously identified in the LDF Core Strategy Scoping Report. It is still relevant when compared against the current baseline information and context review. Transport as an issue covers all three strands of sustainability in different ways. Accessibility via different modes in a safe and efficient way is key to the social and economic functioning of the city by keeping it moving and allowing people to where they need to be. The Local Transport Plan 3 (2012) shows a number of previous achievements in travel reduction measures and sets targets as well as implementation measures for the future. The impacts on social sustainability will be in terms of overall accessibility, health improvements through traffic/pollution reduction and the expansion of sustainable modes such as pedestrian and cycle routes. Furthermore, environmental positives will be gained through a reduction in emissions, noise and pollution.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 7: Transport •
A safe and decent place to live;	<p>BASELINE: The perception from the public is that York is a relatively safe place to live. There are still a number of crimes which take place however, and although trends show improvement, this agenda should be supported for social sustainability.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 16: Community Safety

Provision of pitches for Gypsies and Traveller and Showpeople.	<p>BASELINE/ CONTEXT REVIEW:</p> <p>The respective studies carried out for both Gypsies and Travellers and Showpeople show that they have requirements for suitable pitches to live. Meeting the requirements would help to promote to promote equality and a good quality of life for those who need their requirements to be met.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 4: Deprivation and Equality
Environmental		
Encourage the use and clean up of previously developed land	<p>PREVIOUS ISSUE IDENTIFIED/ CURRENT BASELINE / CONTEXT REVIEW:</p> <p>This issue has been previously identified in the LDF Core Strategy Scoping Report. It is still relevant when compared against the current baseline information and context review. Previously the use of brownfield land was set out as a priority for development. There is a potential for the character of the landscape and townscape to be harmfully effected by change through insensitive development. York has got a number a brownfield sites available for development and it therefore would be prudent for environmental sustainability to promote the development of these prior to greenfield sites.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 14: Land and Soils
<p>Reduce City of York's Ecological and Carbon Footprint</p> <p>Reduce greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation)</p> <p>Reduce the impact of Climate Change (adaptation)</p>	<p>PREVIOUS ISSUE IDENTIFIED/ CURRENT BASELINE / CONTEXT REVIEW:</p> <p>These issues have been previously identified in the LDF Core Strategy Scoping Report. It is still relevant when compared against the current baseline information and context review. Recent evidence shows that whilst York's carbon emissions are reducing, there is still a way to go to meet national legislation. Overall, there is a lot of support through legislation and locally to support the reduction of carbon emissions and to meet the challenges of climate change through mitigation as well as adaption through design for example.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 6: Climate Change

Reduce the impact of flooding	<p>PREVIOUS ISSUE IDENTIFIED/ CURRENT BASELINE/ CONTEXT REVIEW:</p> <p>These issues have been previously identified in the LDF Core Strategy Scoping Report. It is still relevant when compared against the current baseline information and context review. Flooding has been a major issue in York due to the its location within the river basin and the confluence of two major rivers within the city centre. Whilst flood risk management has helped to reduce risk through ongoing development of defences and managing development, flooding of homes and businesses still occurs and is thought to be becoming more frequent in severity. The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) specifies areas applicable for development and those high risk areas where further tests are required for proof that it is a suitable use.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 10: Flooding and Flood Risk
Protection and enhancement of biodiversity, geodiversity and the natural environment	<p>PREVIOUS ISSUE IDENTIFIED/ CURRENT BASELINE/ CONTEXT REVIEW:</p> <p>These issues have been previously identified in the LDF Core Strategy Scoping Report. It is still relevant when compared against the current baseline formation and context review. York has internationally, nationally and locally designated nature conservation sites and boasts a diverse range of habitats, flora and fauna. Work to understand the number of locally significant sites has revealed a further network of nature conservation sites around the district. In order to ensure their protection and enhancement there needs to be an understanding for the overall natural environment and particular vulnerabilities from development, changing landscape and water quality.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 9: Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity
Protection and enhancement of York's heritage assets and unique landscape character and setting	<p>PREVIOUS ISSUE IDENTIFIED/ CURRENT BASELINE/ CONTEXT REVIEW:</p> <p>These issues have been previously identified in the LDF Core Strategy Scoping Report. It is still relevant when compared against the current baseline formation and context review. Design and conservation issues are very important considerations for York. Much of the unique attractiveness of the City as a place to live and work and for leisure and tourism arise from the historical and cultural assets and the special relationship between its buildings, streets, squares, openspaces as well as its overall compact form. The special character has been documented in several studies, the most recent of which is the Heritage Topic Paper (CYC, 2012) which also specifies the potential vulnerabilities of the built landscape to development in an impact assessment process. The City of York of one of only 5 cities designated as an Area of Archaeological</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 11: Heritage Assets and Conservation

	Importance and contains nearly over 1200 listed buildings as well as 34 conservation areas.	
Increase energy and water usage efficiency, decrease the use of non renewable energy and increase generation of renewables	PREVIOUS ISSUE IDENTIFIED/ CURRENT BASELINE/ CONTEXT REVIEW: These issues have been previously identified in the LDF Core Strategy Scoping Report. It is still relevant when compared against the current baseline formation and context review. York's consumption figure for the majority of resources has decreased over the last few years as exemplified within the baseline for electricity and gas. However, it has been internationally and nationally recognised that the contribution towards decreasing carbon emissions and waste of natural resources means the implementation of high design and construction standards, use of renewable energy technologies and resource use efficiency. In order to meet the wider environmental agenda, it is important that York also considers increase efficiency and renewable alternatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 15: Resource Consumption and Waste
Reduce, reuse and recycle waste	PREVIOUS ISSUE IDENTIFIED/ CURRENT BASELINE/ CONTEXT REVIEW: These issues have been previously identified in the LDF Core Strategy Scoping Report. It is still relevant when compared against the current baseline formation and context review. Waste management in York has seen an increase in recycling over the last few years in line with campaigns and the implementation of regular recycling collections and a reduction in the amount going to landfill. There is an overall strategy drive at all levels to minimise the amount of waste generated and land-filled whilst maximising the level of reuse and recycling. York shares a joint approach to this with North Yorkshire in the strategy "Let's Talk Rubbish" which aims to support the waste hierarchy: reduce, re-use and recycle.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 15: Energy Consumption and Waste
Improve air quality	PREVIOUS ISSUE IDENTIFIED/ CURRENT BASELINE: These issues have been previously identified in the LDF Core Strategy Scoping Report. It is still relevant when compared against the current baseline information and context review. York has 3 Air quality management areas and several hotspots on the main arterial routes into the city which frequently breach and/or have high pollutant concentrations. The main issue for York is nitrogen dioxide which is formed through all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 13: Air Quality

	combustion processes and in the atmosphere from other pollutants. York has an ambition to become the first low emission city (set out in the Low Emission Strategy, 2012), which needs to be supported through low emission infrastructure and a shift to sustainable transport modes. Poor air quality impacts on peoples health and improving it therefore has positive implications for peoples' health.	
Minimise any noise, odour or lighting impacts	The issue of pollution from noise, odour and light are an environmental and social concern. This issue has arisen from the current baseline data and context review which set out the need to minimise these types of pollution. Legislation is in place to regulate these elements and needs to be implemented at the local level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 8: Health
Protection of the soil resource within the York boundary and the best and most versatile agricultural land	The Council has a strategy to manage contaminated land within the authority arising from a number of past and present uses. There is also national legislation, which established the legal framework for dealing with land contamination that the authority needs to adhere to. York has a number of brownfield opportunities for development prior to which remediation of any contamination will be required for health and safety reasons. This agenda should therefore be supported through the environmental sustainability process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 14: Geology and Soils
Economic		
Address areas in need of economic regeneration and stimulate growth	<p>PREVIOUS ISSUE IDENTIFIED/ CURRENT BASELINE:</p> <p>These issues have been previously identified in the LDF Core Strategy Scoping Report. It is still relevant when compared against the current baseline information and context review. A key challenge as a modern commercial city renowned for its unique heritage is to achieve this economic success as a sustainable manner that protects the environment whilst also allowing social progress that recognises the needs for all people. York has been recognised as one of the fastest growing cities within the UK. The recent economic downturn has had an effect on the city but research by the Centre for Cities has indicated that the city has been more resilient when compared to others. Recent forecasts have shown that York is however, growing a slower rate than pre-recession and not meeting its national and international potential. There is still a need to invest and support all sectors the city's economy to provide employment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 3: Economy and Employment
Encourage sustainable economic growth		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 3: Economy and Employment

	<p>opportunities and continue to grow the city's economic success and remain resilient to the wider economic climate..</p> <p>The York Economic Strategy (2012) states: <i>"These issues present a challenge to the city to "raise its game" – to not only tackle the issues, but to work across sectors to build on what we have to become an internationally leading, enterprising and competitive city."</i></p>	
Provide for sustainable tourism	<p>PREVIOUS ISSUE IDENTIFIED/ CURRENT BASELINE:</p> <p>These issues have been previously identified in the LDF Core Strategy Scoping Report. It is still relevant when compared against the current baseline information. York's has always been a popular tourist destination for its unique heritage assets. The reasons why people come to York –heritage, built environment etc - should be protected for these reasons whilst also supporting the city's wider economic and environmental objectives. York attracts 7 million visitors a year and needs to maintain its offer as a tourist destination to ensure the economic benefits continue in a sustainable way into the future.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 3: Economy and Employment
City centre, town and local centre vitality and viability	<p>PREVIOUS ISSUE IDENTIFIED/ CURRENT BASELINE:</p> <p>These issues have been previously identified in the LDF Core Strategy Scoping Report. It is still relevant when compared against the current baseline information. York has always been healthy having low vacancy rates and a high level interest from a variety of operators. A challenge for the city centre is to maintain its vitality and viability against the current economic downturn and popularity from alternative shopping destinations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 3: Economy and Employment
Support York's educational establishments, training and skills development for an effective workforce	<p>PREVIOUS ISSUE IDENTIFIED/ CURRENT BASELINE/ CONTEXT REVIEW:</p> <p>These issues have been previously identified in the LDF Core Strategy Scoping Report. It is still relevant when compared against the current baseline information and context review. York's educational attainment is recognised to be good with a high percentage of people having qualifications of NVQ Level 4 or above. This has helped make York more resilient to the economic downturn than comparator cities. To ensure that the city maintains this through a challenging economic climate, wider training and skills development needs to be supported to ensure York's workforce have the necessary skills for employment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 3: Economy and Employment

3.4 A4: Developing the Sustainability Appraisal Framework

Stage A	Stage B	Stage C	Stage D	Stage E
A1	Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes and sustainability objectives			
A2	Collecting Baseline information			
A3	Identifying Sustainability Issues and problems			
A4	Developing the Sustainability Appraisal Framework			
A5	Consulting on the scope of the SA/SEA			

- 3.4.1 The Sustainability Appraisal Framework is a key component of the SA/SEA process. The framework forms the key test against which the Local Plan's alternative options, policies and proposals and site specific options will be assessed. The different elements of the plan will be assessed against the sub-objectives set out for a clear understanding of the sustainability benefits or consequences as well as the mitigation measures which may be needed to prevent adverse effects of the plan, policy or site.
- 3.4.2 The Sustainability Appraisal Framework was originally included in the Scoping Report (2006, 2010) accompanying the Core Strategy. The objectives and sub-objectives derived from the completion of tasks A1-A3 and were predominantly in line with the Former Yorkshire and Humber Regional Spatial Strategy SA Objectives. Originally there were 22 objectives split into economic, social and environmental categories. A copy of the previous framework compared to the revised framework is available in Annex 4.
- 3.4.3 This scoping report has reviewed the previous SA Framework and updated it in line with new evidence and issues arising since 2010. Best practice has seen a shift towards a more succinct framework which aligns more closely with the SEA topics. This shift is a result of the need to ensure compliance with the SEA Directive as set out by the NPPF and recent legal appeals upheld due to compliance issues of SA/SEAs with the legalisation.
- 3.4.4 The SA framework (Figure 11) sets out the key objectives and sub-objectives for York following the streamlined structure. It has grouped previous objectives where necessary to still provide a comprehensive analysis framework for the Local Plan and its proposals. The framework shows how the new objectives cut across the social, environmental and economic categories to still reflect which objective is relevant to which category.
- 3.4.5 Annex 5 to the report sets out the full SA Framework with reference to the SEA Topics, relevant Monitoring Indicators.

Figure 11: SA Framework

SEA Topic	No.	Sustainability Framework Objective	Sub-objectives (Will the policy...?):	Economic	Social	Environment
Population	1	To meet the diverse housing needs of the population in a sustainable way.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver homes to meet the needs of the population in terms of quantity, quality; • Promote improvements to the existing and future housing stock; • Locate sites in areas of known housing need; • Deliver community facilities for the needs of the population; • Deliver pitches required for Gypsies and Travellers and Showpeople. 	✓	✓	
Human health	2	Improve the health and well-being of York's population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid locating development where environmental circumstances could negatively impact on people's health; • Improve access to openspace / multi-functional openspace • Promotes a healthier lifestyle though access to leisure opportunities (walking / cycling) • Improves access to healthcare; • Provides or promotes safety and security for residents; • Ensure that land contamination/pollution does not pose unacceptable risks to health. 		✓	✓
N/a	3	Improve education, skills development and training for an effective workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide good education and training opportunities for all; • Support existing higher and further educational establishments for continued success; • Provide good quality employment opportunities available to all; 	✓	✓	
N/a	4	Create jobs and deliver growth of a sustainable, low carbon and inclusive economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help deliver conditions for business success and investment; • Deliver a flexible and relevant workforce for the future; • Deliver and promote stable economic growth; • Enhance the city centre and its opportunities for business and leisure; • Provide the appropriate infrastructure for economic growth; • Support existing employment drivers; • Promote a low carbon economy.. 	✓	✓	

n/a	5	Help deliver equality and access to all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address existing imbalances of equality, deprivation and exclusion across the city; • Provide accessible services and facilities for the local population; • Provide affordable housing to meet demand; • Help reduce homelessness; • Promote the safety and security for people and/or property. 	✓	✓	
Air / Climatic factors	6	Reduce the need to travel and deliver a sustainable integrated transport network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver development where it is accessible by public transport, walking and cycling to minimise the use of the car; • Deliver transport infrastructure which supports sustainable travel options; • Promote sustainable forms of travel; • Improve congestion. 	✓	✓	✓
Climatic factors	7	To minimise greenhouse gases that cause climate change and deliver a managed response to its effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce or mitigate greenhouse gas emissions from all sources; • Plan or implement adaptation measures for the likely effects of climate change; • Provide and develop energy from renewable, low and zero carbon technologies; • Promote sustainable design and building materials that manage the future risks and consequences of climate change; • Adhere to the principles of the energy hierarchy;. 		✓	✓
Biodiversity /Flora / Fauna	8	Conserve or enhance green infrastructure, bio-diversity, geodiversity, flora and fauna for accessible high quality and connected natural environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance international and nationally significant priority species and habitats within SACs, SPAs, RAMSARs and SSSIs ; • Protect and enhance locally important nature conservation sites (SINCs); • Create new areas or site of bio-diversity / geodiversity value; • Improve connectivity of green infrastructure and the natural environment; • Provide opportunities for people to access the natural environment. 			✓
Soil/ material assets	9	Use land resources efficiently and safeguard their quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-use previously developed land; • Prevent pollution contaminating the land and remediate any existing contamination; • Safeguard soil quality, including the best and most versatile agricultural land; • Protect or enhance allotments; • Safeguard mineral resources and encourage their efficient use. 			✓
Water	10	Improve water efficiency and quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve water resources and quality; • Improve the quality of rivers and groundwaters; 			✓

Material assets	11	Reduce waste generation and increase level of reuse and recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote reduction, re-use, recovery and recycling of waste Promote and increase resource efficiency 			✓
Air / climatic factors / Human Health	12	Improve air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce all emissions to air from current activities; Minimise and mitigate emissions to air from new development (including reducing transport emissions through low emission technologies and fuels); Support the development of city wide low emission infrastructure; Improve air quality in AQMAs and prevent new designations; Avoid locating development where it could negatively impact on air quality. Avoid locating development in areas of existing poor air quality where it could result in negative impacts on the health of future occupants/users; Promote sustainable and integrated transport network to minimise the use of the car. 		✓	✓
Human Health/ climatic factors / Water	13	Minimise flood risk and reduce the impact of flooding to people and property in York	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce risk of flooding; Ensure development location and design does not negatively impact on flood risk; Deliver or incorporate through design sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDs). 		✓	✓
Cultural Heritage/ Landscape	14	Conserve or enhance York's historic environment, cultural heritage, character and setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserve or enhance the special character and setting of the historic city; Promote or enhance local culture; Preserve or enhance designated and non-designated heritage assets and their setting; Preserve or enhance those elements which contribute to the 6 Principle Characteristics of the City as identified in the Heritage Topic Paper 	✓	✓	✓
Cultural heritage/ Landscape	15	Protect and enhance York's natural and built landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserve or enhance the landscape including areas of landscape value Protect or enhance geologically important sites; Promote high quality design in context with its urban and rural landscape and in line with the "landscape and Setting" within the Heritage Topic Paper 	✓	✓	✓

FIGURE 12: SA objectives relevant to SEA topics

SEA Theme	Relevant SA Objective
Population*	1
Human Health	2, 12, 13
Biodiversity	8
Fauna	8
Flora	8
Soil	9
Water	10, 13
Air	6, 7, 12
Climatic Factors	6, 12, 13
Material Assets*	9, 11
Cultural Heritage including architectural and archaeological	14, 15
Landscape	14, 15

*These terms are not clearly defined in the SEA Directive.

Appraisal Scoring System

3.4.6 In order to comply with the SEA Directive in terms of assessing the impacts of the DPD against the SEA topics, the commentary and impact of each policy and site allocation will be attributed a symbol as below based upon the overall effect against the objective. When determining the significance of effects, consideration will be given to the characteristics of the effects and the sensitivity of the receptors involved. The character of the city and sustainability issues set out in Key Task A2 and A3 have also been taken into account when making this distinction.

Symbol	Likely effect on the SA Objective
++	The option is likely to have a very positive impact
+	The option is likely to have a positive impact
0	No significant effect / no clear link
?	Uncertain or insufficient information on which to determine impact
-	The option is likely to have a negative impact
--	The option is likely to have a very negative effect
I	The option could have a positive or negative impact depending on how it is implemented

3.4.7 In addition to this, the effects which have been recognised will also be documented for the following as per Annex II of the SEA Directive:

- Probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;
- The cumulative nature of the effects;
- The transboundary nature of the effects;
- The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects.

Heritage Impact Assessment

3.4.7 The Heritage Topic Paper sets out existing evidence relating to the City of York's historic environment and how the evidence is translated into our understanding of the city's special qualities and its complex history. In order to understand how the vulnerabilities arising from this would be effected by the development plan policies, a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) was developed. Previously the HIA assessed the Submission Core Strategy policies and the intention is that a similar process is undertaken for the Local Plan.

3.4.8 The key outcomes of the HIA are categorised as follows:

Impact Key



Positive: Potential for positive benefit through enhancement as well as adding value.



Minor: Potential for harm to historic character and significances but identified policy framework in place to provide mitigation.



Serious: Highly likely to cause significant harm leading to loss of historic character or substantial harm to its significance.



Neutral: Negligible impact and negligible benefit

3.4.9 It is the intention that the outcomes of the HIA will be the key input into the analysis for Objective 13 and 14 in the SA Framework as well as the planning policy focussing on the city's heritage.

Links with the Corporate Strategy

3.4.10 The City of York Corporate Strategy provides the Council's strategic priorities between 2011-2015. Its sets out 5 key priority areas for the Council to achieve progress in:

1. Create Jobs and Grow the Economy;
2. Get York Moving;
3. Building Stronger Communities;
4. Protect Vulnerable People;
5. Protect the Environment.

3.4.11 The following table shows the SA objectives in the framework have in relation to the strategy headings to reflect the wider influence of the sustainability objectives in achieving the overall aim of the plan.

Figure 13: Strategy objective compared to SA Framework Objectives

Corporate strategy objectives	SA Framework Objectives
1. Create Jobs and Grow the Economy;	3. Improve education, skills development and training for an effective workforce 4. Create Jobs and deliver growth of a low carbon, sustainable and inclusive economy.
2. Get York Moving;	6. Reduce the need to travel and deliver a sustainable integrated transport network
3. Building Stronger Communities;	1. To meet the diverse housing needs of the population in a sustainable way; 2. Improve the health and well-being of York's population.
4. Protect Vulnerable People;	5. Help deliver equality of access to all
5. Protect the Environment.	7. To minimise greenhouse gases that cause climate change and deliver a managed response to climate change; 8. Conserve and enhance biodiversity, geodiversity flora and fauna for an attractive and accessible natural environment; 9. Use land resources efficiently and safeguard their quality; 10. Improve water efficiency and quality; 11. Reduce waste generation and increase level of reuse and recycling; 12. Improve air quality; 13. Minimise flood risk and reduce the impact of flooding to people and property in York; 14. Conserve and enhance York's historic environment, cultural heritage, character and setting; 15. Protect and enhance York's natural and built landscape.

3.5 A5: Consulting on the scope of the report

Stage A	Stage B	Stage C	Stage D	Stage E
A1	Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes and sustainability objectives			
A2	Collecting Baseline information			
A3	Identifying Sustainability Issues and problems			
A4	Developing the Sustainability Appraisal Framework			
A5	Consulting on the scope of the SA/SEA			

- 3.5.1 The purpose of this task is to ensure that the SA covers the likely significant environmental effects of the plan and to ensure that the SA process is and will be robust and suitably comprehensive in order to support production of the plan. The scoping reports undertaken for the LDF Process (2006 and 2010 editions) were both subject to public consultation. The comments received during these consultations informed the published Scoping Report and subsequently the SA process.
- 3.5.2 As part of the statutory consultation for this Scoping Report, the council is required to consult with the following three bodies:
- Environment Agency
 - Natural England
 - English Heritage
- 3.5.3 Consultation on the scoping report was undertaken in February- March 2013. The report was also circulated to neighbouring districts and North Yorkshire County Council to continue the statutory requirement of the Localism Act's Duty to Cooperate.
- 3.5.4 So that the scoping report is as robust as possible and to promote engagement in the Local Plan, the consultation was open for anyone to make comments by being made available on the Councils website.
- 3.5.5 The submitted consultation comments and actions have been taken into consideration in finalising this report. The comments received and actions taken are available in **Annex 7**.

4. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- 4.0.1 This Scoping Report sets out the baseline, issues and context in which the SA Framework for analysis has been developed. Following consultation and adoption of this document, Stage B of the process will commence with the testing of alternatives and the preferred policies.

4.1 Stages B-E of the SA/SEA methodology

- 4.1.1 The production of the SA/SEA is an integral part of the Local Plan production process. Preparation of the SA/SEA should be carried out in tandem with the plan to ensure it is done effectively and not in isolation. Stages B – E of the SA/SEA methodology outlined below (figure 14) integrate into plan's production process as set out by Figure 5.

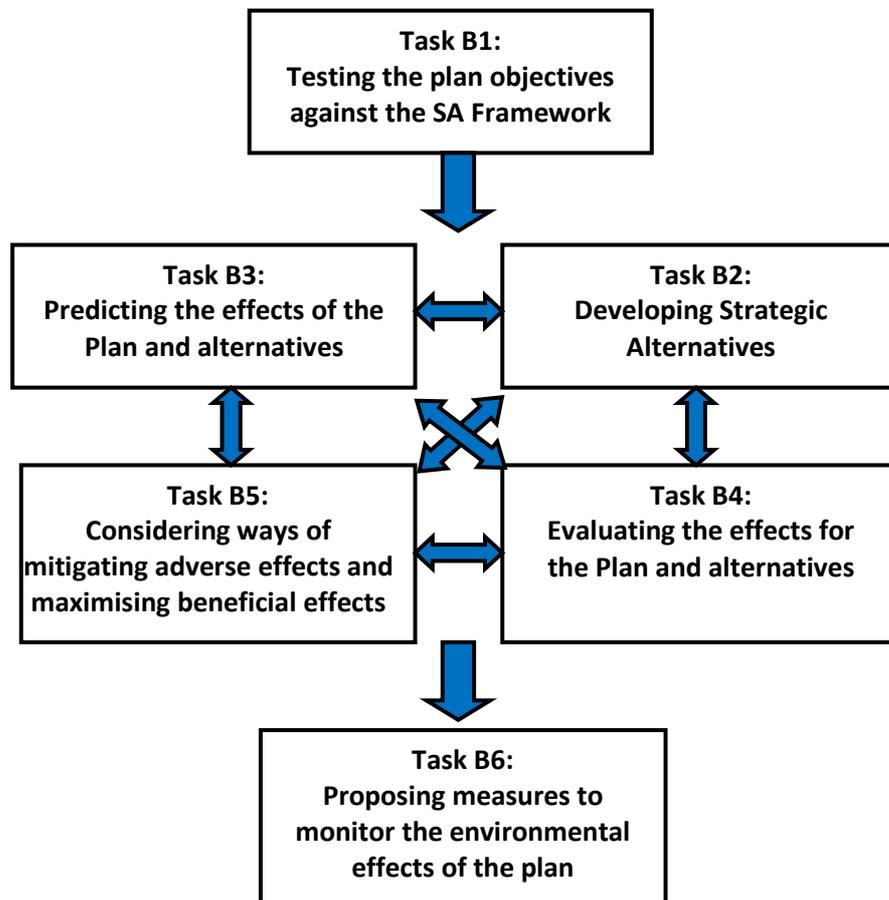
Figure 14: Stages B – E in the SA/SEA methodology

Stage B: Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects	
B1	Testing the plan objectives against the SA Framework (Annex I, (f)) This allows potential synergies and inconsistencies between the plan's objectives and the SA objectives to be identified.
B2	Developing Strategic Alternatives (Annex I (f)) The purpose of this task is to help define and develop strategic options.
B3	Predicting the effects of the Plan and alternatives (Article 5 (1); Annex I (f) and (h)) In task B2 distinct strategic alternatives will to be generated to show consideration of different policy approaches. This task allows the alternatives to be assessed against the SA Framework to understand the sustainability implications of different approaches. This stage is iterative with task B2.
B4	Evaluating the effects for the Plan and alternatives (Annex 1, (f) and (h); Annex II, (2)) The evaluation involves forming a judgement on whether or not the predicted effects will be significant. Criteria for this include considering the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects as well as their cumulative impacts. This stage may also refer back to indicators defined within Stage A of the SA methodology.
B5	Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects (Annex I, (g)) The SA must identify measures to prevent, reduce or offset significant adverse effects of the Plan or policies. These are called 'mitigation measures' but also include pro-active avoidance of adverse effects and recommendations for improving beneficial effects.
B6	Proposing measures to monitor the environmental effects of the plan (Article 10) The plan must be monitored post-adoption to identify any unforeseen effects against those identified in the assessment and to enable appropriate remedial action to take place. Monitoring should be considered early in the preparation process and draw upon stage A of the methodology.
Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report	
C1	Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report (Article 5; Annex 1 (f) – (j)) The SA report is the key output of the appraisal process, presenting information on the effects of the plan on which formal consultation is carried out. The SA report must clearly show that the requirements of the SEA Directive have been met.
Stage D: Consulting on the Draft plan and Sustainability Appraisal	

D1	Public participation on the Draft Plan and Sustainability Appraisal (Article 6 (1) and (2)) Both the draft Plan and SA must go out to consultation with the public and Consultation Bodies to allow them to express their opinions on the findings of the SA report and to use the SA as a reference point for commenting on the plan. This task also allows further gathering of opinions and concerns of the public.
D2	Appraising Significant Changes (Annex I, (f)) The purpose of this task is to ensure that the implications of any significant changes to the draft plan are assessed and taken into account. This may be considering new options or combination of options taken forward.
D3	Decision-making and providing information This task fulfils the Directive’s requirement to taken into account consultation responses before the final decision is taken to adopt the plan. A summary of how the findings have been integrated into the plan and the alternatives chosen or rejected will be produced.
Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Plan	
E1	Developing aims and methods for monitoring The purpose of this task is to track the effectiveness of policies and identify where or not they are as predicted and if subsequent adverse effects have arisen.
E2	Responding to adverse effects This task allows the authority to react and respond if monitoring reveals adverse effects.

4.1.2 Figure 15 summarises the methodology and interrelationships to consider for stage B.

Figure 15: Summary of the interrelationships in Stage B:



4.2 Stage B Assessment Outcomes

Policy Appraisal – Assessment of Alternatives

4.2.1 The alternatives will be tested against the appraisal scoring system set out in on page 19. This will form a matrix of analysis with each alternative/policy assessed against each of the SA framework Objectives. An example of how this will look is below:

SA Objective	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
1			
15			
General			
Preferred Approach			
Recommendations			

4.2.2 Through this assessment of alternatives, further alternatives may be suggested by the SA. Any additional alternatives will be assessed in the same way (as above) for consistency.

Policy Appraisal – Preferred Option Appraisal

4.2.3 As part of the process for understanding the chosen Preferred Option, two further matrices will be completed to gain a full understanding of the policies and/or allocations where applicable. The factors set out in Matrix 2 are a requirement under the SEA Directive. The duration of effects will be in line with the time period set for the Local Plan to ensure that they are compatible to the start and end of the plan period. An example of how the Preferred Option matrices will look is set out below:

SA Objective	Score symbol	Preferred Option Analysis
1		
15		
General		
Recommendations		

SA Objective	Duration of effect					Type of Impact				
	Short-term	Medium-term	Long-term	Temporary	Permanent	Direct Impact	Indirect Impacts	Secondary Impacts	Cumulative Impact	Synergistic Impact
1										

15										
Recommendations for Mitigation										

4.2.4 In order to understand the compatibility of the Local Plan objectives against the SA Framework Objectives and the SA objectives against each other, two further matrices will be presented in the Preferred Options Sustainability Appraisal report. Identifying the compatibility of the each set of objectives is important to establish where there are potential synergies and conflicts.

OBJECTIVES COMPATIBILITY MATRIX			
Objective	Objective 1	→	Objective 15
1	N/a		N/a
			N/a
15			N/a
Conflicts			
Synergies			
Recommendations			

Site Appraisal - Assessment of Alternatives:

4.2.5 As part of determining the most sustainable site allocations to meet the need of the city, it is proposed that the sites to be considered are subject to a Sustainable Location Assessment which is presented as a joint evidence base for the SA and Local Plan allocations. This will enable the site selection, SA process and evidence base to be iterative.

4.2.6 The following 4 stage assessment criteria methodology will be used to reduce the sites down into a list of potentially sustainable sites:

Criteria	Compatibility with SA/SEA:		
	Environmental Objectives	Social objectives	Economic objectives
<p>Criteria 1: Environmental Assets protection Is the site wholly or partly within:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic Character and Setting • High Flood Risk (Zone 3b) • Statutory Nature Conservation designations (SACs, SPAs, SSSIs, RAMSARs) • Regional Green Infrastructure Corridors • Sites of Special Interest for Nature Conservation (SINC) • Local Sites of Nature Conservations Interest (LNRs) • Ancient Woodland (Site boundary amended as appropriate)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Criteria 2: Openspace retention Is the site or does it contain existing openspace? (Site boundary amended as appropriate)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Criteria 3: Greenfield and high flood risk protection Is the site greenfield and within flood zone 3a? (Site boundary is amended as appropriate)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Size threshold Applied			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites under 0.2 hectares were considered as under threshold Sites 0.2 ha – 5 ha: considered for site allocations Sites over 5ha: considered for Strategic Sites 			
Criteria 4a: Access to facilities and services Is the site within distance of facilities and services? (NB: specific distances relate to facility or service)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Criteria 4b: Access to Transport Is the site within distance of transport modes/routes? (NB: specific distances relate to mode of transport/routes)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Environmental Considerations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

4.2.7 The 4 stage assessment would be a desktop GIS based assessment using mapped data. At each stage of the criteria assessment, sites will be sieved out should they fail the criteria. Where only part of the site fails the criteria, the site boundary will be amended and taken forward to the next stage.

4.2.8 In order to inform further decision making it was deemed appropriate to include further environmental considerations not included within the 4 stage criteria assessment. These factors were not included in the assessment process as they would not limit development but may inform the design, layout or appropriate use of the site. Similarly to the previous stages, the analysis was a desktop GIS assessment.

4.2.9 The following table sets out the compatibility of SA Objectives and Site Appraisal Indicators for Allocated sites.

SA Objective	Relevant Assessment Criteria	
	Criteria Stage	Indicator
1: To meet the diverse housing needs of the population in a sustainable way.	Not applicable at location level assessment	
2: Improve the health and well-being of York's population	Criteria 4a	Access to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> doctors openspace

SA Objective	Relevant Assessment Criteria	
	Criteria Stage	Indicator
3: Improve education, skills development and training for an effective workforce	Criteria 4a	(Housing) Access to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> nursery provision primary schools secondary schools higher education facilities (Employment) Access to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> nursery provision
4: Create jobs and deliver growth of a sustainable and inclusive economy	Not applicable at location level assessment Linked to Criteria 4b: All Transport accessibility given relationship to commuting	
5: Help deliver equality and access to all	Criteria 4b	Access to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> non-frequent bus routes frequent bus routes park and ride bus stops railway station by walking railway station by cycling adopted highways Cycle routes Additional access for Housing sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neighbourhood parade Supermarket
6: Reduce the need to travel and deliver a sustainable integrated transport network		
7: To minimise greenhouse gases that cause climate change and deliver a managed response to its effects	Linked to all criteria stages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Transport accessibility indicators given relationship to trip generation and emissions All flood risk indicators given its link to managing the effects of climate change All Green infrastructure indicators given its link to managing the effects of climate change Air Quality Management Areas given its link to emissions. 	
8: Conserve and enhance green infrastructure, bio-diversity, geodiversity, flora and fauna for high quality and connected natural environment	Criteria 1	Distance to/ incorporates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statutory nature conservation designations; Regional Green Infrastructure Corridor; Site of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINC) site; Area of Local Nature Conservation (LNC) Interest;

SA Objective	Relevant Assessment Criteria	
	Criteria Stage	Indicator
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ancient Woodland; • Existing Openspace.
	Environmental Considerations	Distance to/ incorporates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Green Infrastructure Corridor • Local Green Infrastructure Corridor; • Tree Protection orders
9: Use land resources efficiently and safeguard their quality	Environmental Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brownfield / Greenfield/ Mixed • Agricultural Land Classification
10: Improve water efficiency and quality	Not applicable at location level assessment	
11: Reduce waste generation and increase level of reuse and recycling	Not applicable at location level assessment	
12: Improve air quality	Environmental considerations	Within/proximity to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air quality management area (AQMA)
13: Minimise flood risk and reduce the impact of flooding to people and property in York	Criteria 1	Within: Flood risk zone 3b
	Criteria 3	Within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood risk zone 3a
	Environmental considerations	Within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood risk zone 2
14: Conserve and enhance York's historic environment, cultural heritage, character and setting	Environmental Considerations	Distance to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listed Buildings • Scheduled Ancient Monuments • Areas of Archaeological Importance
15: Protect and enhance York's natural and built landscape	Criteria 1	Within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an area of Historic Character and setting
	Environmental Considerations	Within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Areas • Central Historic Core Character Appraisal Zone

4.2.10 Annex 6 sets out the full assessment methodology for sites as a flow diagram. Following this process, the sites will be subject to officer and Member workshops as part of determining the final site selection.

Site Appraisal - Preferred Options appraisal:

4.2.11 Following the outcomes of the site selection process, sites will be subject to the SA Framework objectives. Understanding the implications of the final site selection process is necessary to comply with the SEA Directive. Furthermore, the SA will set our challenges and opportunities to taking forward strategic sites, where applicable, to help inform the progression of the site allocations process.

4.2.12 The following matrix is an example of how this is proposed:

Strategic Site Assessment: [SITE NAME]		
Sites size:		
Location:		
Allocated for:		
SA Objective	Score symbol	Strategic Site Analysis
1		
↓		
15		
Key opportunities		
Key challenges		
Recommendations		
Mitigation		

Who will be undertaking the assessment?

4.2.13 The assessment will be undertaken jointly by in-house officers and consultants. The analysis relies upon professional judgement of officers as well as work previously carried out within the Scoping Report. The analysis relies on an element of both qualitative and subjective assessment. In order to understand the wider implications, evidence has also been drawn from evidence base documents produced for the production of the Local Plan.

4.2.14 This Scoping Report and subsequent stages of the report will also be subject to 'critical friend' analysis who will advise on the structure and content of the reports against the requirements of the SEA Directive.

ANNEX 1: GLOSSARY

Affordable Housing: **Affordable housing:** Social rented, affordable rented and intermediate housing, provided to eligible households whose needs are not met by the market. Eligibility is determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices. Affordable housing should include provisions to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households or for the subsidy to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision.

Social rented housing is owned by local authorities and private registered providers (as defined in section 80 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008), for which guideline target rents are determined through the national rent regime. It may also be owned by other persons and provided under equivalent rental arrangements to the above, as agreed with the local authority or with the Homes and Communities Agency.

Affordable rented housing is let by local authorities or private registered providers of social housing to households who are eligible for social rented housing. Affordable Rent is subject to rent controls that require a rent of no more than 80% of the local market rent (including service charges, where applicable).

Intermediate housing is homes for sale and rent provided at a cost above social rent, but below market levels subject to the criteria in the Affordable Housing definition above. These can include shared equity (shared ownership and equity loans), other low cost homes for sale and intermediate rent, but not affordable rented housing.

Homes that do not meet the above definition of affordable housing, such as “low cost market” housing, may not be considered as affordable housing for planning purposes.

Air Quality: The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland sets maximum objectives (targets) for the following pollutants: Benzene, 1-3 Butadiene, Carbon Monoxide, Lead, Nitrogen dioxide, Particles (PM10), Sulphur dioxide and Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. These pollutants, which largely result from traffic and industrial processes, are monitored and the identified levels are used to measure air quality.

Allocated site: Site identified in the Plan for a specific use.

Annual Monitoring Report (AMR): part of the *Local Development Framework*, the annual monitoring report will assess the implementation of the Local Development Scheme and the extent to which policies in *Local Development Documents* are being successfully implemented.

AONB : Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Aquifer: Rock, which provides a natural underground store for water.

Archaeological Sites: Evidence of the past development of our civilisation, including places of worship, defence installations, burial grounds, farms and fields, housing and sites of manufacture.

Area Action Plan: used to provide a planning framework for areas of change and areas of conservation. Area Action Plans will have the status of *Development Plan Documents*.

Best and most versatile agricultural land: Land in grades 1, 2 and 3a of the Agricultural Land Classification.

Biodiversity - the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, their genes and the ecosystems of which they are a part.

Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP): A plan prepared by the Council and nature conservation organisations to reverse the decline in the variety of species of animals and plants.

Biomass: is the shared description for the controlled release and use of the energy potential locked up in **trees and plants** – straw, reeds or willow - or created as a part of regularly recurring natural processes – the bi-products of the process of decomposition or the bacterial **digestion** of natural things i.e. sewerage, various farm wastes or decaying material such as garden clippings and/or other largely natural materials such as paper.

Birds Directive: Council Directive 79/409/EEC on Conservation of wild birds, commonly referred to as the Birds Directive.

Brownfield land or site: Brownfield land is another term for previously developed land, or land that contains or contained a permanent structure and associated infrastructure.

Carbon Emissions - Emissions to the atmosphere principally from the burning of fossil fuels and deforestation.

Cofiring - Cofiring is a near term, low-cost option for efficiently and cleanly converting biomass to electricity by adding biomass as a partial substitute fuel in high-efficiency coal boilers.

Community Infrastructure Levy: A levy allowing local authorities to raise funds from owners or developers of land undertaking new building projects in their area.

Community Strategy: the plan which local governments are required to prepare through community partnerships.

Contaminated Land: Statutorily defined as 'any land which appears to the local authority in whose area it is situated to be in such a condition by reason of substances in, on or under the land that – a) significant harm is being caused or there is a significant possibility of such harm being caused; or b) pollution of controlled waters is being or is likely to be caused'.

Core Strategy: Core document within the *Local development Framework*, which set out the long-term spatial vision for the local planning authority area, the spatial objectives

and strategic policies to deliver that vision. The Core Strategy previously has the status of a *Development Plan Document*.

Development Plan: A development plan is an aspect of town and country planning in the United Kingdom comprising a set of documents that set out the local authority's policies and proposals for the development and use of land in their area. The development plan guides and informs day-to-day decisions as to whether or not planning permission should be granted. The *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)* dictates that authorities should produce a *Local Plan* as its main Development Plan. This includes adopted Local Plans, neighbourhood plans and the London Plan, and is defined in section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. (Regional strategies remain part of the development plan until they are abolished by Order using powers taken in the Localism Act. It is the government's clear policy intention to revoke the regional strategies outside of London, subject to the outcome of the environmental assessments that are currently being undertaken.)

Designated heritage asset: A World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield or Conservation Area designated under the relevant legislation.

Ecological Footprint (Ecofootprint): a measure of the land area (in global hectares or gha) that is required to sustain human activity, including through food production and transport, provision of resources, energy generation, waste assimilation and greenhouse gas generation. Calculating an ecofootprint helps to explore and understand our impact on the environment and the planet, and to identify ways to reduce it.

Economic development: Development, including those within the B Use Classes, public and community uses and main town centre uses (but excluding housing development).

Ecological networks: These link sites of biodiversity importance.

Ecosystem services: The benefits people obtain from ecosystems such as, food, water, flood and disease control and recreation.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): a systematic procedure to determine the likely significant effects of a proposed development project on the environment. The EIA is prepared by and is the responsibility of the applicant and the resulting documentation is termed an 'Environmental Statement'. The EIA aims to ensure the likely environmental effects of proposed developments are highlighted at an early stage in the process to assist the decision-making authority in determining planning permission.

Geodiversity: The range of rocks, minerals, fossils, soils and landforms.

Greenhouse Gases (GHG) – a group of gases that absorb solar radiation, storing some of the heat in the atmosphere. The major natural greenhouse gases are water vapor, carbon dioxide, and ozone. Other greenhouse gases include, but are not limited to: methane, nitrous oxide, sulfur hexafluoride, and chlorofluorocarbons.

Green infrastructure: A network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities.

Historic Environment/Assets: refers to the historic buildings, streetscapes, landscapes and parks, which together form an important aspect of the character and appearance of York.

Ground source heat pumps (GSHP)- transfer heat from the ground into a building to provide space heating and, in some cases, to pre-heat domestic hot water. They rely on the absorption of the heat produced by the sun being drawn into a compression unit with an evaporator coil heat exchanger which works like a fridge in reverse; making it possible to produce heat from external air temperatures of as little as -15°C , or constant UK ground (12°C), or water temperatures.

Habitats Directive: Council Directive 92/43/EEC 21st May 1992 on the Conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora.

Habitats Regulations Assessment: The Habitats Regulations Assessment is required under the European Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora' for plans that may have an impact on sites designated at a European level for nature conservation.

Hydroelectric power - Hydroelectric power is electricity produced from the energy of falling water. The basic theory of hydroelectricity is to harness the potential energy within falling water. The potential energy is harnessed with the same principles used by a water wheel, the force of gravity makes the water fall making the wheel turn.

Issues and Options: produced during the early production stage of the preparation of *Development Plan Documents* and may be issued for consultation.

Landscape - means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.

Landscape policy – means an expression by the public authorities of the need to frame an official policy on landscape. It sets out the basic general principles, strategies and guidelines that permit the specific measures aimed at the protection, management and planning of landscapes.

Landscape quality objective – means for a specific landscape (once a particular landscape has been identified and described) a detailed statement of the characteristics which local people want recognised in their surroundings.

Landscape protection – actions to conserve and maintain the significant or characteristic features of a landscape.

Landscape management – means action from a perspective of sustainable development, to ensure the regular upkeep of a landscape, so as to guide and harmonise change which are brought about by social, economic and environmental processes.

Landscape planning means strong forward-looking action to enhance, restore or create landscapes

Local planning authority: The public authority whose duty it is to carry out specific planning functions for a particular area. All references to local planning authority apply to the district council, London borough council, county council, Broads Authority, National Park Authority and the Greater London Authority, to the extent appropriate to their responsibilities.

Local Development Document (LDDs): the collective term in the Act for *Development Plan Documents, Supplementary Planning Documents* and the *Statement of Community Involvement*.

Local Development Framework (LDFs): the name for the portfolio of *Local Development Documents* required under the previous planning system, which is now superseded by the National Planning Policy Framework. It did consist of *Development Plan Documents, Supplementary Planning documents, a Statement of Community Involvement, the Local Development Scheme* and *Annual Monitoring Reports*. Together these documents formed the framework for delivering the spatial planning strategy for a local authority area and may also include local development orders and simplified planning zones.

Local Development Scheme (LDS): sets out the programme for preparing *Local Development Documents*. All authorities must submit a Scheme to the Secretary of State for approval within six months of the commencement of the Act.

Local Nature Reserves (LNRs):

All LNRs are owned or controlled by local authorities and some, but not all, are SSSIs. Local authorities consult English Nature on all new proposals for LNRs in England.

Local Plan: A document which forms part of the *Development Plan* for a specified area. The Local Plan consists of a written statement and a proposals map. It sets out detailed policies and proposals for the development and use of the land within the District. Local Plans are prepared by local planning authorities at District level, following statutory procedures, including public consultation exercises and an examination in public. This is required under the *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)*.

Local Strategic Partnership: an over arching partnership of key stakeholders responsible for producing the Community Strategy for the city.

Local Transport Plan (LTP): 5-year strategy prepared by each local authority for the development of local, integrated transport, supported by a programme of transport improvements. It is used as a bid to Government for funding transport improvements.

Mitigation measures: Actions to prevent, avoid or minimise the actual or potential adverse effects of a development, action, project, plan, policy etc.

National Planning Policy Framework: The National Planning Policy Framework sets out the government's planning policies for England and how they are expected to be applied. It provides guidance for local planning authorities and decision-takers, both in drawing up plans and making decisions about planning applications. This document sets out the requirement for local planning authorities to complete a *Local Plan*.

Natura 2000: A European Union wide network of nature protection areas established under the 1992 Habitats Directive. It is comprised of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designated by Member States under the Habitats Directive and also Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the 1979 Birds Directive. These sites are part of a range of measures aimed at conserving important or threatened habitats and species.

Neighbourhood plans: A plan prepared by a Parish Council or Neighbourhood Forum for a particular neighbourhood area (made under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004).

Offshore wind – wind turbines situated a distance from the shore

Onshore – wind turbines situated near or in the sea

Photovoltaic – solar cells which directly convert sunlight into electricity, are made of semi conducting materials.

Pollution: Anything that affects the quality of land, air, water or soils, which might lead to an adverse impact on human health, the natural environment or general amenity. Pollution can arise from a range of emissions, including smoke, fumes, gases, dust, steam, odour, noise and light.

Preferred Options: A report on the Council's Preferred Options will offer alternative proposals and policy options for consultation over 6 weeks, however the Council will highlight those options which it feels is most appropriate and why alternatives discarded.

Previously developed land: Land which is or was occupied by a permanent structure, including the curtilage of the developed land (although it should not be assumed that the whole of the curtilage should be developed) and any associated fixed surface infrastructure. This excludes: land that is or has been occupied by agricultural or forestry buildings; land that has been developed for minerals extraction or waste disposal by landfill purposes where provision for restoration has been made through development control procedures; land in built-up areas such as private residential gardens, parks, recreation grounds and allotments; and land that was previously-developed but where the remains of the permanent structure or fixed surface structure have blended into the landscape in the process of time.

Proposals Map: the adopted proposals map illustrates on a base map, (reproduced from, or based upon a map to a registered scale) all the policies contained in the *Development Plan Documents*, together with any saved policies. It must be revised each time each new *Development Plan Documents* is adopted, and it should always reflect the up-to-date planning strategy for the area. Proposals for changes to the adopted proposals map accompany submitted *development plan documents* in the form of a submission proposals map.

RAMSAR: The UK Government signed the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (the Ramsar convention) in 1973. Under the Convention the Government is committed to designate 'Wetlands of International Importance' (Ramsar sites) and to use the wetlands within its territory wisely.

Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS): sets out the region's policies in relation to the development and use of land and forms part of the development plan for local planning authorities. Planning Policy Statement 11 'Regional Spatial Strategies' provides detailed guidance on the function and preparation of Regional Spatial Strategies.

Renewable Energy: Term used to describe energy that occurs naturally and repeatedly in the environment – e.g. energy from the sun, wind, water, land, plant material. Combustible or digestible waste materials are also regarded as renewable sources of energy.

SEA Directive: European Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment.

Setting of a heritage asset: The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral.

Site Allocations: allocation of development sites for specific or mixed uses or development to be contained in a DPD. Policies will identify any specific requirements for individual proposals.

Solar Water Heating (SWH) - is a system for heating water using energy from the sun. Solar energy is collected by a panel, which is connected by pipes to a hot water storage device such as a hot water cylinder.

Special Area of Conservation (SAC): SACs are areas which have been given special protection under the European Union's Habitats Directive. They provide increased protection to a variety of wild animals, plants and habitats and are a vital part of global efforts to conserve the world's biodiversity.

Special Protection Areas (SPA): The Government is bound by the European Communities Council Directive of April 1979 on the Conservation of Wild Birds. Under this directive the Government has to designate Special Protection Areas to conserve the habitat of certain

rare or vulnerable birds (listed under the directive) and regularly occurring migratory birds. It has to avoid any significant pollution or disturbance to or deterioration of these designated sites.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs):

Sites of Special Scientific Interest are notified by English Nature because of their plants, animals, or geological or physiographical features. Most SSSIs are privately owned or managed. About 40% are owned or managed by public bodies such as the Forestry Commission, Ministry of Defence and The Crown Estate, or by the voluntary conservation movement.

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI): sets out the standards which authorities will achieve with regard to involving local communities in the preparation of local development documents and development control decisions. The Statement of Community Involvement is not a *development plan document* but is subject to an independent examination.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA): a generic term used to describe environmental assessment as applied to policies, plans and programmes. The European 'SEA Directive' (2001/42/EC) requires a formal 'environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes, including those in the field of planning and land use'.

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment: is a planning tool, which is used to assess flood risk within an area. It is designed to inform the spatial planning process of relevant issues of flood risk.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA): tool for appraising policies to ensure they reflect sustainable development objectives (i.e. social, environmental and economic factors) and required in the Act to be undertaken for all local development documents.

Sustainable Development: environmentally responsible development, commonly defined as 'development, which meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'.

Sustainable energy - Energy which is replenishable within a human lifetime and causes no long-term damage to the environment or future generations.

Supplementary planning documents: Documents which add further detail to the policies in the Local Plan. They can be used to provide further guidance for development on specific sites, or on particular issues, such as design. Supplementary planning documents are capable of being a material consideration in planning decisions but are not part of the development plan.

Sustainable transport modes: Any efficient, safe and accessible means of transport with overall low impact on the environment, including walking and cycling, low and ultra low emission vehicles, car sharing and public transport.

Wildlife corridor: Areas of habitat connecting wildlife populations.

Wind turbines – convert power in the wind into electrical energy using rotating wing-like blades which drive a generator.