RUGBY BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL – SCOPING REPORT

OCTOBER 2023

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2. INTRODUCTION

WHAT IS A LOCAL PLAN?

2.1.   Rugby Borough Council is currently producing a new local plan which will replace the Rugby Borough Local Plan 2011-2031 (adopted June 2019). The new Local Plan will set out the vision, objectives, planning policies and site allocations that will guide development up to 2041. As part of the review, the Council is required to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Local Plan.

2.2.   The purpose of the SA is to promote sustainable development by assessing the extent to which the Local Plan, when judged against reasonable alternatives, will help to achieve relevant environmental, economic, and social objectives. The SA can result in changes to site allocations and planning policies to make them more sustainable and/or recommended options that can mitigate the identified impacts.

2.3.   The legal requirement to undertake SA during the preparation of a local plan comes from Section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Paragraph 32 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the requirement for local plans to be informed throughout their preparation by a sustainability appraisal that meets the relevant legal requirements.

2.4.   The SA should demonstrate how the plan has addressed relevant economic, social and environmental objectives including opportunities for net gains. Significant adverse impacts on these objectives should be avoided and, wherever possible, alternative options which reduce or eliminate such impacts should be pursued. Where significant adverse impacts are unavoidable, suitable mitigation measures should be proposed or, where this is not possible, compensatory measures should be considered.

2.5.   The government's national Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) amplifies the guidance in the NPPF and sets out advice about how sustainability appraisal should be undertaken, detailing the key stages of the process and how they relate to the preparation of a local plan. This process is shown in Figure 1 on the following page.
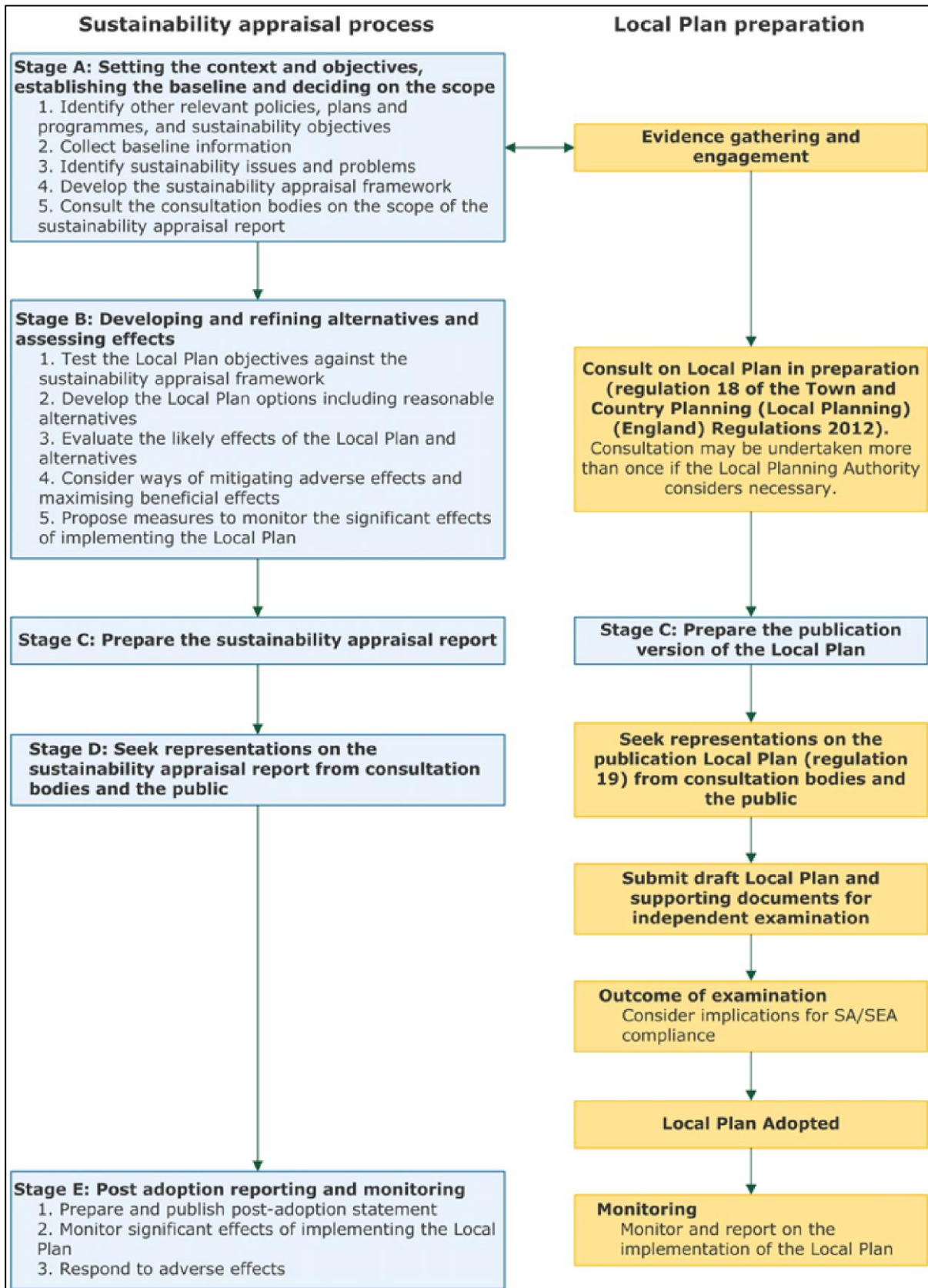
Sustainability appraisal process

Local Plan preparation

Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope
1. Identify other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives
2. Collect baseline information
3. Identify sustainability issues and problems
4. Develop the sustainability appraisal framework
5. Consult the consultation bodies on the scope of the sustainability appraisal report

Evidence gathering and engagement

Stage B: Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects
1. Test the Local Plan objectives against the sustainability appraisal framework
2. Develop the Local Plan options including reasonable alternatives
3. Evaluate the likely effects of the Local Plan and alternatives
4. Consider ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects
5. Propose measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan

Consult on Local Plan in preparation (regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012). Consultation may be undertaken more than once if the Local Planning Authority considers necessary.

Stage C: Prepare the sustainability appraisal report

Stage C: Prepare the publication version of the Local Plan

Stage D: Seek representations on the sustainability appraisal report from consultation bodies and the public

Seek representations on the publication Local Plan (regulation 19) from consultation bodies and the public

Submit draft Local Plan and supporting documents for independent examination

Outcome of examination Consider implications for SA/SEA compliance

Local Plan Adopted

Stage E: Post adoption reporting and monitoring
1. Prepare and publish post-adoption statement
2. Monitor significant effects of implementing the Local Plan
3. Respond to adverse effects

Monitoring Monitor and report on the implementation of the Local Plan

Figure 1 - The Sustainability Appraisal and the local plan process

2.6.   This Scoping Report addresses Stage A – 'the scoping stage'. The scoping stage is the first part of the SA process and identifies what should be covered and in how much detail. It establishes the context, objectives and approach of the appraisal and identifies relevant environmental, economic and social issues and objectives.

2.7.   This document is <u>not</u> the Sustainability Appraisal Report. It forms the first stage in the preparation of the Sustainability Appraisal Report.

2.8.   An overview of the steps involved in Stage A is shown in Figure 2. A detailed breakdown of each section of this report is listed later in this section in Table 1.

Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope

• Identify other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives

• Collect baseline information

• Identify sustainability issues and problems

• Develop the sustainability appraisal framework

• Consult the consultation bodies on the scope of the sustainability appraisal report

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Figure 2: What is addressed in Stage A – 'the scoping stage'

2.9.   The purpose of the SA is to promote sustainable development. The most commonly cited definition of sustainable development stems from the Brundtland Report of 1987 'Our Common Future'. It defines sustainable development as:

> *'Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'[1]*

2.10.   In the United Kingdom, the Government seek to achieve sustainable development in all planning policies and decisions. National Planning Policy sets out three overarching objectives which local plans and decision making need to pursue to achieve sustainable development:

> *an economic objective –to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy.*
> *a social objective –to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities.*
> *an environmental objective –to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment.*

2.11.   It is a statutory requirement for each local planning authority to have an up-to-date local plan.

2.12.   Following this introductory section, the Scoping Report is split into five sections. To fulfil the regulatory requirements of SA the five sections in this report mirror the five steps set out in national Planning Practice Guidance for 'Stage A –the scoping stage'. The content and purpose of each section are set out in Table 1.

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[1] Resolution 42/187 of the United Nations General Assembly

Stage A1–Policies, plans and programmes, & sustainability objectives
• Stage A1 identifies and summarises the relevant policies, plans and programmes from relevant international, national, regional and local strategies and guidance. It also identifies the sustainability objectives which influence the review. • This establishes how the Local Plan is affected by external factors and helps to identify ideas for how constraints can be addressed, and to help to identify SA objectives. • A review of relevant policies, plans and programmes is contained in the Background Papers which will accompany the review plan when published for Regulation 18 consultation later in 2023. A list of the range of policies, plans and programmes reviewed is set out in Appendix 1: Policies, Plans and Programmes.
Stage A2–Collecting Baseline Information (Borough Profile)
• Stage A2 sets out the latest information relating to the Borough that is used to identify issues and trends which may need addressing through the Local Plan. The baseline data includes social, economic and environmental information. Establishing a baseline helps to identify current issues and is useful in monitoring the ongoing effectiveness of the Local Plan. Local information and trends are compared with wider regional and national data where available. • The baseline information provides an evidence base for environmental problems, the prediction of effects, and future monitoring; it also helps in the development of SA objectives. • The baseline information will be updated throughout the plan period.
Stage A3–Identifying sustainability issues and problems
• Stage A3 draws out the key issues and trends that can be seen in the baseline information and the review of relevant policies, plans and programmes. It also identifies key sustainability objectives and sustainability issues which the Local Plan should consider. • This helps to focus and streamline the SA, including the baseline information analysis, the setting of the SA objectives, and prediction of effects and monitoring.
Stage A4–Developing the sustainability appraisal framework
• Stage A4 establishes the sustainability appraisal framework which consists of sustainability objectives that provide a basis for assessing whether the objectives, policies and proposals of the Local Plan are the most appropriate to achieve sustainable development. • SA objectives will test the environmental effects of the plan or compare the effects of alternatives. They provide a framework in which the social, environmental and economic effects of the plan can be tested and success of failure in meeting sustainability objectives can be measured.
Stage A5–Consulting on this scoping report
• Sets out the consultation process for this scoping report. The section details the key bodies who are consulted and how they can view the document and offer their comments. • This helps to ensure the SA covers the likely significant environmental effects of the plan.

Table 1 – Structure of the Scoping Report

3. POLICIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES, & SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES – STAGE A1

3.1.   To meet the requirements of the SEA Directive and national policy and guidance it is necessary to take account of other relevant policies, plans, programmes (PPPs) and the sustainability objectives contained within them.

3.2.   A review has been undertaken of an appropriate range of PPPs and their sustainability objectives which may inform and influence the review plan policies and allocations. Only pertinent PPPs appropriate to the content and level of detail in the new plan are included in the review. While many international and national policies have an indirect influence on the Local Plan, it is considered that these are translated into more immediate national and local documents. For this reason, high-level international policies, plans and programmes (such as those relating to internationally important habitats) are not individually considered.

3.3.   A list of the range of policies, plans and programmes reviewed is set out in Appendix 1: Policies, Plans and Programmes.

4. COLLECTING BASELINE INFORMATION – STAGE A2

4.1.   This section discusses 'Stage A2' and the baseline information applicable to Rugby Borough. This profile contains facts and figures which are used to identify the issues which the new plan needs to address.

4.2.   This baseline information refers to the existing environmental, economic and social characteristics of the area which may be affected by the Local Plan and considers the likely evolution of the area without the implementation of a new Local Plan. Where appropriate, data is included showing historic and potential future trends. This information helps to measure the potential effects of the implementation of the new Local Plan and its policies and site allocations.

4.3.   Schedule 2 of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 sets out the issues which must be covered in the baseline information. Where available the latest information about the Borough is presented.

4.4.   Key issues arising from the information in the profile are summarised using social, economic and environmental indicators in the table at the beginning of each profile section. The information reflects the current situation concerning a particular issue and where information is available it also includes the historic trend. Where appropriate, national and regional targets have been included which have been set by the government and other relevant organisations such as the Environment Agency. Local targets have been included where these have been set

within existing council plans and strategies.

4.5.   An appraisal of relevant key issues arising from the profile will be included in the Sustainability Appraisal. These appraisals will include:

- The social, environmental and economic consequences of particular indicators;
- whether any problems are permanent or temporary;
- whether it would be difficult to remedy these problems; and
- has there been, or will there be significant cumulative effects

CLIMATE CHANGE

4.6.   The Government regularly publishes Local Authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics. Emissions for Rugby Borough have fallen between 2005-2019 from 23.7t per capita to 16.4t per capita. Per capita emissions in the plan area within the scope of influence of the local authorities fell most years between 2005 and 2019 as shown in Table 2.

Year	Total Emissions (kt CO2)	Per capita emissions (t)
2005	2,167.3	23.7
2006	2,225.5	23.9
2007	2,454.2	25.9
2008	2,219.1	23.0
2009	2,087.6	21.4
2010	2,100.5	21.2
2011	2,088.2	20.8
2012	1,931.1	19.1
2013	1,955.1	19.2
2014	1,979.3	19.2
2015	1,839.5	17.6
2016	1,956.0	18.6
2017	1,814.9	17.1
2018	1,862.2	17.4
2019	1,791.0	16.4

Table 2: Carbon dioxide emissions estimates in Rugby 2005-2019

4.7.   Domestic and commercial between 2005 and 2019 saw the greatest drop in carbon dioxide emissions. Within Rugby Borough, industry remained the main contributor of the highest level of emissions mainly related to large industrial installations.

Emission Source (kt)	2005	2019
Industry	1,273.8 (59%)	1,093.9 (61%)
Commercial	130.3	83.6
Public Sector	39.0	19.1
Domestic	240.7 (11%)	157.4 (9%)
Transport	481.4 (22%)	442.9 (25%)
Total	2,167.3	1,791.0

Table 3: Changes in carbon dioxide emissions by sector for Rugby Borough between 2005 and 2019

POPULATION

4.8.   The Office for National Statistics produced a snapshot of changes for each authority between the 2011 and 2021 Censuses. Between the last two censuses (held in 2011 and 2021), the population of Rugby increased by 14.3%, from around 100,100 in 2011 to around 114,400 in 2021. This means Rugby's population saw the largest percentage increase in the West Midlands. The population of the West Midlands increased by 6.2%, while the population of England rose by 6.6%.

4.9.   In Rugby, the percentage who were employed rose from 61.0% in 2011 to 61.4% in 2021. During the same period, the regional percentage fell from 54.4% to 53.3%. The percentage of people aged 16 years and over who were unemployed (excluding full-time students) in Rugby fell from 3.2% to 2.1%, while the percentage of people aged 16 years and over who were retired (economically inactive) decreased from 22.6% to 21.9%.

4.10. In the latest census, around 90,100 Rugby residents said they were born in England. This represented 78.8% of the local population. The figure has risen from just under 84,500 in 2011, which at the time represented 84.4% of Rugby's population. Poland was the next most represented, with just over 3,800 Rugby residents reporting this country of birth (3.3%). This figure was up from just over 2,300 in 2011, which at the time represented 2.3% of the population of Rugby. The number of Rugby residents born in India rose from around 1,100 in 2011 (1.1% of the local population) to around 2,200 in 2021 (1.9%). Rugby saw the West Midlands' joint third-largest percentage-point rise (alongside Coventry) in the proportion of people who did not identify with any national identity associated with the UK (from 7.6% in 2011 to 11.8% in 2021). Every local authority area across the West Midlands saw a rise in the percentage of people who did not identify with any national identity associated with the UK, as the regional percentage grew from 6.2% to 8.7%.

4.11. In 2021, 7.6% of Rugby residents identified their ethnic group within the "Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh" category, up from 5.2% in 2011. The 2.4 percentage-point change was the largest increase among high-level ethnic groups in this area. Across the West Midlands, the percentage of people from the "Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh" ethnic group increased from 10.8% to 13.3%, while across England the percentage increased from 7.8% to 9.6%. In 2021, 85.7% of people in Rugby identified their ethnic group within the "White" category (compared with 90.5% in 2011), while 2.8% identified their ethnic group within the "Mixed or Multiple" category (compared with 2.0% the previous decade). The percentage of people who identified their ethnic group within the "Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African" category increased from 2.0% in 2011 to 2.7% in 2021.

4.12. In 2021, 36.1% of Rugby residents reported having "No religion", up from 24.3% in 2011. The rise of 11.9 percentage points was the largest increase of all broad religious groups in Rugby. Because the census question about religious affiliation is voluntary and has varying response rates, caution is needed when comparing figures between different areas or between censuses. Across the West Midlands, the percentage of residents who described themselves as having "No religion" increased from 22.0% to 32.9%, while across England the percentage increased from 24.8% to 36.7%. In 2021, 50.5% of people in Rugby described themselves as Christian (down from 63.7%), while 5.9% did not state their religion (down from 6.8% the decade before).

4.13. In 2021, 6.2% of Rugby residents were identified as being disabled and limited a lot. This figure decreased from 7.5% in 2011. In 2021, around 1 in 10 people (10.0%) were identified as being disabled and limited a little, compared with 9.6% in 2011. The proportion of Rugby residents who were not disabled increased from 82.8% to 83.8%. The decrease in the proportion of residents who were identified as being disabled and limited a lot was greater across the West Midlands (1.9 percentage points, from 9.9% to 8.0%) than in Rugby (1.3 percentage points). Across England, the proportion fell by 1.6 percentage points, from 9.1% to 7.5%.

DEPRIVATION

4.14. In 2019, Rugby Borough ranked out 222 of 317 local authorities (1 being the most deprived). Rugby performs particularly well in relation to measures relating to IDAOPI (Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index), Employment and Education, Skills & Training. The Borough performs less favourably in relation to Crime (ranked 142 out of 317). It also performed lower than other ranks in relation to Living Environment which considers the quality of housing as well as air quality and road traffic accidents. The majority of the most deprived areas fall around the centre of Rugby town and to the north and west of Rugby Borough.

EDUCATION

4.15. There are 52 schools in Rugby Borough, including 33 primary schools, nine secondary schools, five independent schools and five special needs schools and children centres. The greatest concentration of schools is within Rugby town. Rugby Borough has a high percentage of highly qualified residents in comparison to a relatively low percentage of residents with no qualifications - this enables the Borough to support a range of professional and skilled occupations.

HEALTH

4.16. A general hospital (Hospital of St Cross) lies south the South of Rugby town providing a range of services. The health of the population of Rugby Borough is generally comparable to or better than the England average. However, road casualties are significantly higher.

OPEN SPACE, SPORT AND RECREATION

4.17. Rugby Borough Council is responsible for over 230 hectares of green space within the Borough. This includes a diverse portfolio including Caldecott Park, Diamond Jubilee Wood at Ashlawn Road and Wildlife areas at Newbold Quarry Park. An audit of open spaces within Rugby was carried out in 2008 as part of the evidence base for the Local Plan 2011-2031. For the urban area of Rugby, access to greenspaces is excellent, although there were a number of deficiencies highlighted in certain typologies including allotments and community gardens in the north and central part of the town. In the rural parts of the Borough it was concluded that accessibility is reasonable although local facilities such as play and allotments are in many areas sporadic and accessibility is an issue with some villages not having any provision. However, for the typologies covering natural/semi natural green space and sports pitches, where driving accessibility is more relevant, accessibility was very good with no deficiencies identified. Rugby Borough's first Green Space Strategy was published in 2014 setting out the policies for delivery and management of green space within the Borough over the next 10 years.

4.18. In 2015, an Open Space, Playing Pitch and Sports Facilities Study was carried out to ensure the delivery of a strategic network of open space, sports facilities and playing fields up to 2031. The study concluded that there is sufficient space for athletics, swimming pool space, tennis, rugby and general sports hall space. However, up to 2031 there will be a need for cricket grounds, a hockey pitch, football pitches, gymnastics space and squash courts. Over 60% of the supply of fitness station and studio provision is provided by the commercial sector. The amount of allotment space in Rugby Borough is higher than in similar authorities. As of September 2015 there were 255 people on the Council's waiting list for an allotment.

CRIME

4.19. Rugby is the safest major town in Warwickshire. However, the overall crime rate in Rugby Borough in 2021 was 74 crimes per 1,000 people which compares poorly to Warwickshire's overall crime rate, coming in 14% higher than the Warwickshire rate of 63 per 1,000 residents. The most common crimes in Rugby Borough are violence and sexual offences, with 2,680 offences during 2021. This is 3.9% higher than 2020's figure of 2,576 offences.

TRANSPORT

4.20. Rugby Borough is positioned in a central part of England, within close proximity of key parts of the strategic road network. The principal roads that run through the Borough are the M6, A5, M45 and M69. The M1 and A1 are within close proximity of the eastern boundary of the Borough. Rugby is on the national rail network, providing access to London, the Midlands, the North West and Scotland, with connections to Coventry and Nuneaton in the west and Milton Keynes and Northampton in the east. A regular train service runs from Rugby town to Birmingham. The number of trips at Rugby Train station has increased by 39% over the last five years. A new strategic parkway station at Houlton, close to M1 Junction 18, east of Rugby with 260+ car parking spaces has been proposed with an estimated delivery timescale by 2028.

4.21. Approximately four miles from Rugby Town Centre is the Daventry International Rail Freight Terminal, one of the key rail freight interchanges in Europe. Birmingham Airport is approximately 27 miles east of the Borough.

BIODIVERSITY

4.22. Rugby Borough contains several national and local designated biodiversity and geodiversity sites. There are no sites of international importance within Rugby Borough. However, Rugby Borough contains many national and local designations as set out below:

- Seven Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Four Local Nature Reserves
- Twelve Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)
- Two Regionally Important Geological Sites

4.23. All of the SSSIs are located to the west and south west of the Rugby Urban Area. Rugby Borough contains two geological SSSIs, Ryton and Brandon Gravel Pits and Wolston Gravel Pit. Rugby Borough contains all or parts of five biological SSSIs: Brandon Marsh, Coombe Pool, Ryton Wood, Draycote Meadows and Stockton Railway Cutting and Quarry. The four Local Nature Reserves within Rugby Boundary are Ashlawn Cutting, Newbold Quarry Park, Swift

Valley and Cock Robin Wood. Throughout Rugby Borough the 12 SINCs are Oxford Canal Meadows, Abbotts Farm, Lime Kilns, Osier Meadow, Cawston Spinney, Wolvey Rush Pasture, Manor Farm Meadows, Home Farm Grasslands, Sally's Hole, Brandon Little Wood and Burton Hill Meadows.

4.24. There are no SACs in Rugby Borough. Ensor's Pool, located in Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough and within 10km of the Rugby Borough boundary, has three statutory designations as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a Local Nature Reserve (LNR). Ensor's Pool is designated as part of the Natura 2000 network because of the presence of the white clawed-crayfish. Rugby Borough contains three broad habitats: woodland, grassland and marsh and open water. There is a large concentration of ancient woodland located to the west of Rugby Borough. The Oxford Canal in Rugby provides a valued semi-natural habitat for wildlife and its connectivity to the wider canal network and proximity to other areas of Green Infrastructure.

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

4.25. Within Rugby Borough there are 19 Conservation Areas which are located in a number of the villages throughout the Borough and within the urban area. A Conservation Area covers a larger part of Rugby town centre with an additional designation covering the Rugby School grounds and adjoining residential/commercial areas. Beyond the urban area there is a large Conservation Area covering Coombe Abbey Registered Park and Garden and Listed Buildings. The remaining conservation areas are found in the following villages throughout the Borough: Brandon, Brinklow, Churchover, Clifton upon Dunsmore, Dunchurch, Easenhall, Leamington Hastings, Monks Kirby, Stretton-on-Dunsmore, Thurlaston, Wolston.

4.26. There are six Grade I Listed Buildings, 30 Grade II* Listed Buildings and 460 Grade II Listed Buildings in the Borough. In addition, there are 26 Scheduled Monuments and five Registered Gardens at Bilton Grange (Grade II), Coombe Abbey (Grade II*), Ryton House (Grade II), Newnham Paddox (Grade II) and Dunchurch Lodge (Grade II). There are currently nine assets on the Heritage at Risk Register within the Borough. The majority of these assets consist of Scheduled Monuments with one building (Ryton House, Ryton-on-Dunsmore) which is in an unsatisfactory condition.

LANDSCAPE

4.27. The landscape of Rugby Borough is a gently undulating lowland of hills and vales traversed by the rivers of the Avon and Leam. A plateau rises to the north and ironstone fringe hills lie to the south east. Outside the urban area of Rugby town the area is a generally well-settled rural landscape with major roads running through it, with associated large-scale commercial development. The area includes three national character areas- the Leicester Vales to the north, Dunsmore and Feldon to the south and the Northamptonshire Uplands covering the eastern fringes. There are no nationally or locally designated landscapes within the Borough.

4.28. The most recent landscape character assessment for Rugby Borough was carried out in 2006. It found that the landscape in the north of Rugby is in particularly weak condition. To the south of the town the southern escarpment is of particular importance being highly sensitive and in strong condition. There are a number of sites of local significance around the urban fringe whose condition is in decline. These areas would benefit from further protection and

enhancement measures to ensure their long-term benefit to future generations. These include Hillmorton Locks, Newbold, Cosford, Newton and the River Avon corridor. There are large areas to the east of the town where the condition of the landscape is also in decline but which are in less sensitive locations. There is no landscape located within the urban fringe that is of low sensitivity.

4.29. National Character Area (NCA) profiles created by Natural England are used to define the specific combination of landscape, geodiversity, biodiversity, history, culture and economic activity in the area. NCAs follow natural lines in the landscape instead of administrative boundaries. Rugby Borough lies within three National Character Areas. The parishes of Binley Woods; Brinklow; Long Lawford; Ryton-On-Dunsmore, Stretton-On- Dunsmore; and Wolston lie within National Character Area 96: Dunsmore and Feldon. Wolvey lies within National Character Area 94: Leicestershire Vales.

4.30. Small areas to the east within Rugby Borough lie within National Character Area 95: Northamptonshire Uplands. Much of the west of the Borough, around Coventry, is Green Belt. These National Character Areas are summarised below:

- 94 Leicestershire Vales - Leicestershire Vales National Character Area (NCA) shares many characteristics with the neighbouring Northamptonshire Vales NCA. The Leicestershire Vales extend between the town of Hinckley in the west to Leicester in the northeast and southwards towards Market Harborough and Lutterworth. This is a large, relatively open, uniform landscape composed of low-lying clay vales interrupted by a range of varied river valleys. Its sense of place comes less from its overall landform and more from its visually dominant settlements and views towards surrounding higher ground. The city of Leicester dominates the north-eastern corner of the NCA. Other large- to medium sized settlements include the towns of Market Harborough, Lutterworth and Hinckley, with many attractive small towns, villages and buildings and features of historic interest in between. The north of the area has a predominance of settlements and a general lack of tranquillity; this contrasts strongly with the distinctly more rural feel in the southern part of the area, where a mixture of arable and pastoral farmland is found.

- 95 Northamptonshire Uplands - The Northamptonshire Uplands National Character Area (NCA) is an area of gently rolling, limestone hills and valleys capped by ironstone-bearing sandstone and clay Lias, with many long, low ridgelines. Rivers flow out from the NCA in all directions, including several major rivers – the Cherwell, Avon, Welland, Tove, Ouse, Nene and Ise. While there are areas of differing character, there are strong unifying landscape features across the Northamptonshire Uplands, most importantly the extensive areas of open field systems with ridge and furrow and the earthworks of deserted and shrunken settlements which occur throughout. Other features include the strong, mostly Parliamentary enclosure pattern with high, wide, A-shaped hedgerows bounding the largely rectilinear fields with their frequent mature ash and oak trees; the many country houses and their associated extensive areas of historic and nationally important designed parkland landscapes; the distinctive ironstone, cob and brick nucleated settlements with their large stone churches, often with prominent steeples; the narrow lanes with very wide grassy verges; and the small, scattered but prominent broadleaved woods and coverts. There are also wide, long-distance views from the edges and across the ridgetops throughout the area.

- 96 Dunsmore and Feldon - Dunsmore and Feldon is predominantly a rural, agricultural

landscape, crossed by numerous small rivers and tributaries and varying between a more open character in the Feldon area and a wooded character in Dunsmore. The name Feldon refers to the old English term feld meaning 'open cleared land' and expresses the contrast, in medieval times, with the more wooded Arden area to the north-west. The area is mainly within Warwickshire, with the southern boundary delineated by the steep limestone escarpment of the Cotswolds, and the northern boundary by the Leicestershire Vales. To the west lie the well-wooded pastures of Arden, together with the Severn and Avon Vales, while the undulating pastures and low hills of the Northamptonshire Uplands form the eastern border. It is an important food producing area and the agricultural expanse of large arable fields, improved pasture and small villages forms a transitional landscape between the surrounding National Character Areas (NCAs). The land to the north comprises the wedge-shaped area of low ridges and valleys lying between Leamington Spa, Coventry and Rugby, and is known as Dunsmore. This still retains a character of historic heathland and woodlands such as the Princethorpe Woodlands which are the most important cluster of ancient woodlands in Warwickshire and an outstanding example of a large area of semi-natural habitat. The woods sometimes create a sense of confinement in the generally open landscape. The fringes of the plateaux are all similar in character but have open views framed by low hills and settlements.

AIR QUALITY

4.31.   Air pollution is associated with a number of adverse health impacts. It is recognised as a contributing factor in the onset of heart disease and cancer. Additionally, air pollution particularly affects the most vulnerable in society: children, the elderly, and those with existing heart and lung conditions. There is also often a strong correlation with equalities issues because areas with poor air quality are also often less affluent areas.

4.32.   Rugby Borough Council produces an annual report outlining the air quality monitoring which has taken place and potential impacts to air quality not currently being monitored. The monitoring of air quality focuses on nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter (dust) and sulphur dioxide. The main pollutants within Rugby Borough are from road traffic in particular the M6, M69 and M45. Monitoring data for 2020 showed a continuation of an overall decreasing trend in annual mean NO2 concentrations since 2016.

4.33.   There is an obligation on all local authorities under Part IV of the 1995 Environment Act to review regularly and assess air quality in their areas and to determine whether or not national air quality objectives are likely to be achieved. Where exceedances are considered likely, the local authority must declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and prepare an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) setting out the measures it intends to put in place in pursuit of required air quality improvements.

4.34.   Rugby Borough Council declared an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in 2004 for exceedances of the annual mean NO2 objective. This area covers the whole urban area of Rugby bounded by the southern boundary with West Northamptonshire Council, the A5, M6, minor roads to the west of Long Lawford, A45 and M45. Between 2011 and 2015, Rugby was below the national average for the Public Health Framework Indicator, 'Fraction of mortality attributable to particulate air pollution'.

WASTE

4.35. Warwickshire County Council has adopted the Warwickshire Waste Core Strategy Local Plan 2013-2028 which sets out the spatial strategy, vision, objectives and policies for managing waste for a 15-year plan period up to 2028. It also provides the framework for waste development management including implementation and monitoring. There are currently five active landfills in the county receiving the complete range of waste including stabilised non-reactive hazardous waste cells at two landfills. New waste facilities will be developed on industrial estates, brownfield industrial land and existing waste management facilities.

4.36. Between 2019-2020, a total of 44,246 tonnes of waste was collected within Rugby Borough, of which 39,750 tonnes was household waste. This compares with 47,146 tonnes and 43,680 tonnes respectively in 2014-2015. In 2019-2020, 17,989 tonnes of household waste were sent for recycling/composting/re-use, equating to 45% of waste collected. This figure is slightly higher than the overall recycling rate for England of 43.2% of all waste. Between 2014-2015 within Rugby Borough, 46% of household waste was recycled/composted/re-used.

SOIL

4.37. The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) system provides a framework for classifying land according to the extent to which its physical or chemical characteristics impose long-term limitations to agricultural use. The principal factors influencing agricultural production are soil wetness, drought and erosion. These factors, together with interactions between them, form the basis for classifying land use into one of five grades, where 1 describes land as excellent (land of high agricultural quality and potential) and 5 describes land as very poor (land of low agricultural quality and potential). Land falling outside these scores is deemed to be 'primarily in non-agricultural use', or 'predominantly in urban use'. Grade 3 can be further separated into grades 3a and 3b, although this requires further local surveys and therefore such data is only available for small areas. Grades 1, 2 and 3a are considered to be best and most versatile agricultural land. According to Natural England's Agricultural Land Classification, land within Rugby Borough mainly comprises Grade 3 agricultural land, although there are small areas of Grade 2 land in the north and west of the Borough as well as to the south of Rugby town.

GEOLOGY AND MINERALS

4.38. The geology of Rugby Borough consists predominantly of sedimentary rocks and is represented by three major geological periods from the older Permian rocks through the Triassic to the younger Jurassic period. The Permian rocks make up less than 0.5% of the geology consisting of some Sherwood Sandstones. The Borough is dominated by Triassic limestone rocks, which make up approximately 60% of the geology. Limestones are impervious and do not allow water to percolate so readily but tend to be indicative of well-drained land due to their common well-jointed characteristics. The remaining 40% of the geology in the Borough is represented by Jurassic argillaceous rocks; clay rich rocks where soils are not so well drained.

4.39. There are two sites designated as Local Geological Sites (formerly Regionally Important Geological Sites, RIGS) in the Borough (Parkfield Road Quarry, and Royal Oak Gravel Pit & Cutting). Parkfield Road Quarry was designated as it is a good example of Rugby Limestone, while Royal Oak

4.40. Gravel Pit and Cutting is a good example of the Hillmorton Member of the Middle Pleistocene

Wolston Formation.

CONTAMINATED LAND

4.41. Land can be contaminated by a variety of sources, such as waste disposal, industry or naturally occurring substances. For land to be classed as contaminated, it must pose a significant risk to either humans, wildlife or water resources. Rugby Borough published its Contaminated Land Strategy in 2001. The Contaminated Land Strategy sets out the steps taken to identify, inspect and remediate contaminated land. By law, a local authority must keep a public register of contaminated land. There are currently no entries on the Rugby Borough register of contaminated land.

WATER

4.42. The major river running through Rugby Borough is the River Avon which flows through Rugby town and eventually meets the River Severn. The other main rivers in Rugby Borough are the River Swift, River Anker, Clifton Brook, Withy Brook, River Leam, Millholme Brook, Birdingbury Brook, River Itchin and Sow Brook.

4.43. The EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) looks at the ecological and chemical health of both groundwater and surface water with the aim of achieving 'moderate or good ecological status' and 'good chemical status' by 2027, and to ensure that there is no deterioration from existing statuses. The House of Commons published a water quality in rivers report in 2022. Only 14% of rivers in England can currently claim to have good ecological status. The Government is not on track to meet the Water Framework Directive requirement for all rivers to reach good status by 2027.

4.44. The Environment Agency collects data in relation to the Avon Warwickshire Management Catchment. The latest published data was 2019. Within this catchment there are three operational catchments, all of which fall within Rugby Borough: Avon Rural Rivers and Lakes; Avon – Midlands West and Avon Urban Rivers and Lakes. Across the Avon Warwickshire Management Catchment there are 78 water bodies mainly consisting of river, canals and surface water transfers and lakes. All of the 78 waterbodies failed the chemical status. In relation to ecological status, one waterbody was rated as good; 54 waterbodies were rated as moderate; 22 were rated as poor and one was rated as bad.

FLOOD RISK

4.45. Flood risk in the Borough is implicitly linked to climate change considering the changes predicted in weather patterns and the impact this will have on river levels and the ability for safe infiltration of surface water. The most substantial areas of flood risk lie along the main water bodies of Rugby Borough particularly the River Avon which flows through Rugby town. The floodplains along the River Avon and its tributaries largely fall within Flood Zone 3 with small areas within Flood Zone 2. There are multiple water storage areas along the River Avon within and on the edges of Rugby town. A large area on either side of the southern end of the A5 which cover mainly undeveloped land lies within Flood Zone 3.The risk of flooding in the Borough has been determined through the production of a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA), which identifies the Main Rivers, ordinary watercourses and flood zones, including the functional floodplains and provides an assessment of the implications of climate change on flood risk.

5. IDENTIFYING SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES AND PROBLEMS – STAGE A3

5.1.   An analysis of the review of relevant policies, plan, programmes and sustainability objectives and the baseline data in the profile has highlighted the economic, environmental and social issues that need to be considered in the Local Plan and SA appraisal.

5.2.   The key sustainability issues that need to be addressed by the Local Plan are shown in Table 2. These key issues are drawn together and summarised thematically. The issues identified are taken forward and developed into similar themes in the SA framework with individual sustainability objectives seeking to address the identified issues.

5.3.   A key sustainability issue has been identified where:
- An issue is considered to be of significance in international and/or national policy and can be influenced by local planning policy; and/or
- a relevant indicator/measurement is approaching or has breached a recognised target in Rugby Borough; and/or
- the Borough performs significantly worse in comparison with national averages, county averages or other appropriate geographies; and/or
- there is a common consensus among local stakeholders that the matter is a critical sustainability issue for the Borough.

5.4.   It is recognised that the sustainability issues facing the Borough will change over time and need to be continually reviewed using the most up to date information and to reflect identified priorities. Table 2 sets out the key sustainability issues for the Borough; fourteen have been identified.

5.5.   The Council is aware that the Covid-19 pandemic/Brexit will continue to impact on economic, social and environmental objectives over the medium and long-term future. These impacts will not yet be fully understood. Consequently, it is recognised that the key sustainability issues set out in Table 2 may need further review as the new plan is progressed. However, it is considered that Table 2 identifies the key issues facing the Borough.

ISSUE 1: MITIGATING AND ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE
The Local Plan needs to: • deal with the consequences of climate change in a proactive way by taking into account the long-term implications for flood risk, water supply, biodiversity and landscapes, and the risk of overheating from rising temperatures; and   • include measures which support the transition to net zero carbon by 2050 thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
ISSUE 2: USING RESOURCES SUSTAINABLY
The Local Plan needs to: • ensure development minimises the use of resources including water, energy and materials and that these are from sustainable sources;   • ensure development minimises waste;

- help reduce air pollution including traffic-borne pollution on the network and the impact on residents of the borough;
- facilitate the development of renewable energy sources; and
- develop brownfield sites within urban areas and thereby help regenerate the Borough and reduce the pressure on greenfield sites in the sub-region.

ISSUE 3: REGENERATING THE LOCAL ECONOMY AND IMPROVING LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND SKILL OPPORTUNITIES

The Local Plan needs to:
- enable the development of brownfield sites for employment purposes to compensate for job losses on these sites;
- assist in regenerating the local economy to provide a significant number of local jobs to help alleviate deprivation and social exclusion, and reduce out-commuting;
- ensure there is sufficient employment land available to meet the needs of a range of modern businesses including those of existing clusters (advanced manufacturing) as well as emerging sectors (environmental technology);
- facilitate diversification of the economy;
- consider ways in which the local skill levels can be enhanced;
- facilitate the refurbishment of existing sites;
- continue to develop the tourism and leisure sector to help diversify the rural economy; and
- ensure a green recovery following the significant economic implications of the Covid-19 pandemic/Brexit to meet net-zero carbon requirements.

ISSUE 4: IMPROVING ACCESSIBILITY AND REDUCING CAR USAGE

The Local Plan needs to:
- ensure that employment, services and facilities are conveniently accessible to residents;
- encourage less car-use and more travel by other more sustainable modes;
- ensure public transport links are significantly improved to services and employment areas within the borough and the wider sub-region; and
- ensure cycling and pedestrian networks are safe and convenient.

ISSUE 5: IMPROVING HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

The Local Plan needs to:
- ensure that existing health facilities are safeguarded and land is available for new facilities in accessible locations;
- recognise that there will be long-term health and social care implications arising from the Covid-19 pandemic;
- ensure open spaces including natural green spaces are accessible to residents to allow opportunities for passive and active recreation to assist with an individual's physical and mental well-being; and
- ensure places are safe and accessible so that crime and disorder to not undermine people's quality of life or community cohesion.

ISSUE 6: MEETING HOUSING NEEDS

The Local Plan needs to:
- meet the requirements of the Borough's ageing population and ensure the increasing number of households are accommodated;
- ensure sufficient affordable housing is provided to meet local needs;
- ensure there are an appropriate range and mix of dwellings to meet local needs at each stage of life;
- ensure new housing contributes towards the regeneration of the Borough;
- ensure housing at an appropriate density is located on sites which are accessible to public transport and local services; and
- enable ageing stock to be refurbished or redeveloped to meet modern housing standards.

ISSUE 7: MAINTAINING A VIBRANT TOWN CENTRE

The Local Plan needs to:
- ensure the continued viability and vitality of Rugby town centre, which is considered vulnerable from competition; and
- ensure the town centre has a more diverse range of uses, recognising the significant shift in retail spending patterns that continue to occur, and has been accelerated by the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic; and
- ensure that all the centres have a range of facilities and services appropriate to their size to serve the local neighbourhood.

ISSUE 8: PROVIDING INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

The Local Plan needs to:
- consider ways in which existing infrastructure deficiencies can be addressed; and
- ensure the provision of the appropriate level of infrastructure and services to meet the needs generated by new development.

ISSUE 9: IMPROVING LEISURE AND CULTURAL FACILITIES

The Local Plan needs to:
- enable the provision of improved leisure and cultural facilities to improve the quality of life for residents and visitors.

ISSUE 10: CREATING A LOCAL AND SUB-REGIONAL GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK

The Local Plan needs to:
- protect and enhance its existing green infrastructure network;
- identify new green infrastructure opportunities within the Borough and linkages to neighbouring areas within the sub-region;
- protect and enhance the Borough's recreational assets to reduce pressure on protected habitats in the sub-region and reduce the need to travel to other recreational areas outside of the Borough; and
- facilitate improvements to open space facilities to meet identified deficiencies in terms of quality, quantity and accessibility (sports pitches, allotments, cemetery, play areas).

ISSUE 11: PROTECTING AND IMPROVING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The Local Plan needs to:

- ensure all new development results in a biodiversity net gain and resist the loss of habitats which support a range of species; and
- protect and enhance the Borough's nationally and locally important habitats and species which face pressure from direct and indirect habitat loss, deteriorating air and water quality, climate change and recreational disturbance.

ISSUE 12: MAINTAINING AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Local Plan needs to:
- preserve and enhance the Borough's rich historic environment and character which contributes to the local distinctiveness of the Borough;
- ensure new development is designed to a high quality; and
- ensure areas are safe and attractive places to live, work and visit, including designs which can reduce crime, disorder and the fear of crime.

ISSUE 13: PRESERVING AND ENHANCING THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

The Local Plan needs to:
- meet the Borough's development needs without harming the historic environment;
- ensure all development maximises opportunities to ameliorate the condition of heritage at risk; and
- ensure opportunities to improve areas where past development or current activity negatively affects the quality of the historic environment or how its experienced are realised.

ISSUE 14: DEALING WITH THE CONSEQUENCES OF AN AGEING POPULATION

The Local Plan needs to:
- ensure there are appropriate and sufficient housing and care facilities for older people; and
- ensure there are sufficient transport, health and leisure facilities for older residents.

Table 2: The Key Sustainability Issues

6. DEVELOPING THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK – STAGE A4

6.1. The development of a SA framework is a recognised method used to describe, analyse and compare the likely environmental and sustainability effects of a local plan. The SA framework is made up of SA objectives and decision-making criteria. Figure 3 shows the structure of the SA framework and how the SA objectives and decision-making criteria relate to each other.

6.2. The review plan will be assessed by testing the plans objectives, policies and proposals against the SA framework. The appraisal will help to determine whether the objectives, policies and proposals in the Local Plan are appropriate in helping to achieve relevant environmental, economic and social objectives. It will also test the social, environmental and economic effects of the plan and compare the effects of alternatives while measuring success or failure in meeting the SA objectives.

Sustainability Appraisal Framework	→	This term is given to the overall framework.
Sustainability Theme	→	The sustainability theme groups the SA objectives. These sustainability themes come from the review of the policies, plans and programmes and the issues emerging from the baseline data.
SA Objective	→	The SA Objectives are specific measures which can be used to appraise the effects of the Local Plan and effects of alternative options. They allow the success or failure of the plan in meeting the objectives to be tested.
Decision Making Criteria	→	The Decision Making Criteria focus the appraisal by breaking down the SA objective into quantifiable issues.

6.3. The SA objectives are grouped by themes and mirror many national and international sustainability objectives, they have been adapted to suit the Borough's local circumstances. While the SA objectives are distinct from the Local Plan objectives, in many cases they overlap. The SA objectives have been derived from the findings of the review of relevant policies, plans and programmes, the evidence set out above and the identification of sustainability issues.

6.4. Given the broad nature of sustainability objectives, to assist in assessing whether the objectives, policies and proposals of the Local Plan are the most appropriate in sustainability terms and the degree to which they meet the sustainability objectives, the Council will use decision-making criteria.

6.5. Each SA objective has a different number of decision-making criteria depending on the key issues which have arisen from the policies, plans and programmes review and the collection and analysis of baseline data. Table 3 (overleaf) shows the proposed SA framework and its SA

objectives and decision-making criteria, which are grouped by sustainability themes.

6.6. The framework covers a broad range of sustainability issues including economic, social and environmental factors. Using the findings of the review of relevant existing policies, plans and programmes and the most recent baseline information in the Borough Profile, the objectives and framework have been revised, building upon those used in the adopted Local Plan (Rugby Borough Local Plan 2011-2031).

6.7. The appraisal of each Local Plan policy/site option will be presented in SA matrices. The matrices will include a coded symbol showing the score for the policy/site option against each of the SA objectives along with a concise justification for the given score. The SA matrices for each policy/site option will be summarised in the body text of the SA report and presented in full in an addendum to the report.

6.8. The use of symbol coding in the matrices allows for likely significant effects (both positive and negative) to be readily identified. Figure 4 presents the key showing the symbols that will be used in the matrix.

The effects over time	
Key	++ major positive + positive o neutral – negative – – major negative ? uncertain

Figure 4: SA matrix key

Sustainability Theme	SA Objective	Decision-making Criteria	Baseline Indicator
Climate Change	SA1 – To address climate change issues through reducing greenhouse gas emissions.	1. Will it help to reduce carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions? 2. Will it support the transition to net zero carbon by 2050? 3. Will it deliver energy efficient buildings? 4. Will it support the charging of plug-in and other ultra-low emission vehicles?	• Per capita CO2 emissions • Percentage of new build homes built to 'zero-carbon ready' or Passivhaus standard or equivalent
Transport and Accessibility	SA2 - To reduce the need to travel and to reduce the effects of traffic on local communities.	1. Will it reduce traffic volumes and congestion? 2. Will it reduce road traffic accidents?	• Commuting flows • Killed and seriously injured (KSI) casualties on roads

Sustainability Theme	SA Objective	Decision-making Criteria	Baseline Indicator
	SA3 - To facilitate modal transfer away from use of the private car to other forms of travel including walking, cycling and public transport.	3. Will there be an increase in traffic related air pollution? 4. Will it increase the proportion of journeys using modes other than the private car? 5. Will it provide for high quality walking and cycling networks and supporting facilities such as cycle parking?	(per 100,000 population) • Air quality statistics • Main mode of travel to work • Access to good quality cycle parking
Community Activity	SA4 – To provide opportunities for community interaction	1.Will it provide opportunities for community engagement?	• Number of community facilities available
Crime and Disorder	SA5 – To reduce crime and disorder	1.Will it reduce crime levels?	• Local crime statistics
Poverty and Deprivation	SA6 - To reduce poverty and social exclusion	1. Will it reduce poverty and social exclusion in those areas most affected?	• Indices of Deprivation and Index of Multiple Deprivation
Health and Well-being	SA7 - To improve the health and wellbeing of the population	1. Will it reduce health inequalities in those areas most affected?	• Indices of Deprivation: Health deprivation and disability deprivation
Housing	SA8 - To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home.	1.Will it reduce homelessness? 2.Will it increase the range and affordability of housing for different groups in the community? 3. Will it increase the number of decent homes?	• Households on the Housing Register • Affordable housing completion figures • Decent Homes Standard
Employment	SA9 - To provide opportunities for residents to work locally rather than out-commute and thereby provide greater potential for people to	1.Will it improve accessibility to work by public transport, walking and cycling? 2.Will it provide job opportunities for	• Proposed development/impr ovements of key infrastructure/servi ces • Unemployment figures

Sustainability Theme	SA Objective	Decision-making Criteria	Baseline Indicator
	use public transport, cycle or walk to work. SA10 – To ensure high and stable levels of employment so all can benefit from economic growth in the borough	those most in need of employment?	• Proportion of lone parents, long-term ill and disabled people who are economically active
Economy	SA11 - To increase investment in Rugby's economy to facilitate the sustainable regeneration of the Borough.	1.Will it make land and property available for business development?	• Proposed development of key sites • Employment land availability
Town Centre	SA12 - To ensure the vitality and viability of Rugby town centre.	1.Will it improve the vitality and viability of the centre.	• Amount and location of new floor space for different types of town centre uses • Vacancy rates
Leisure	SA13 - To improve the quality and accessibility of leisure opportunities within the Borough. SA14 - To ensure that the Borough protects and enhances the quality of its public areas and green spaces.	1. Will it improve the range of sporting facilities in the Borough? 2. Will it protect or enhance the Borough's network of greenspace?	• Amount and location of existing and new facilities • Location of different types of existing and new open space
Biodiversity	SA15 - To conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity assets.	1. Will it result in a biodiversity net gain? 2. Will it enhance biodiversity through the restoration and creation of well-connected multifunctional green infrastructure?	• Biodiversity net gain secured • Length of greenways permitted • Number of planning approvals that generated any adverse impacts on sites of

Sustainability Theme	SA Objective	Decision-making Criteria	Baseline Indicator
		3. Will it maintain and enhance sites designated for their nature conservation interest? 4. Will it conserve and enhance local habitats and species diversity, and avoid harm to protected species?	acknowledged biodiversity importance • Number of characteristic rare species and priority habitats
Heritage & Design	SA16 - To protect and enhance the historic environment. SA17 - To ensure that there is a high quality townscape incorporating good design principles for buildings and surrounding spaces.	1. Will it protect and enhance the historic environment? 2. Will it improve the condition of any heritage asset identified as at risk? 3. Will the design enhance the quality of the townscape?	• Number of planning approvals that enhance listed buildings and conservation areas • Change in the number and % of Listed Buildings on the Heritage at Risk Register • Number of approvals complying with local design guide.
Air Quality	SA18 - To reduce air pollution and ensure air quality continues to improve.	1. Will it improve air quality?	• Measurement of nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter
Use of energy	SA19 - To increase energy efficiency and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources in the Borough.	1. Will it reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by reducing energy consumption?	• Percentage of new build homes built to 'zero-carbon ready' or Passivhaus standard or equivalent • Percentage of new commercial development achieving BREEAM excellent standard
Use of land	SA20 - To improve efficiency in land use through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings.	1. Will it re-use previously developed land?	• Percentage of new homes built on previously developed land • Percentage of employment uses

Sustainability Theme	SA Objective	Decision-making Criteria	Baseline Indicator
			on previously developed land
Water Management	SA21 - To maintain and improve the water quality of the Borough. SA22 - To reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment.	1. Will it improve compliance with the Water Framework Directive? 2.Will it minimise the risk of flooding from all sources to people and property? 3.Will development be avoided in flood risk areas? 4.Will it reduce water consumption per head?	• Waterbodies meet "good" status or above under WFD • Properties at risk from flooding • Approvals in areas at risk of flooding • Number of approvals with a water limiting condition
Natural Resources	SA23 - To achieve the sustainable consumption of natural resources and management of waste.	1. Will it lead to reduced consumption of materials and resources?	• % of household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting

Table 3: SA Framework for the review of the Rugby Borough Local Plan 2021-2041 (with indicators)

7. CONSULTING ON THIS SCOPING REPORT – STAGE A5

7.1.   The production of this formal Scoping Report is not required by law, but it is a useful way of presenting the information from the scoping stage of the SA process to the public and other organisations.

7.2.   This Scoping Report was published for consultation and sent to the 'consultation bodies' (Historic England, the Environment Agency and Natural England) as required by Regulation 12 (5) of the UK SEA Regulations 2004. The Borough Council welcomes any comments on the report and the proposed sustainability appraisal framework to ensure all relevant sustainability issues are considered in the SA of the new Rugby Borough Local Plan.

7.3.   The consultation period will run for five weeks from **Thursday 13 July to 5pm on Thursday 7 September**. Responses received will be reflected in the final SA Scoping Report.

7.4.   Following the five-week consultation period, all responses will be considered and appropriate changes made to the sustainability appraisal framework. The latest sustainability appraisal framework will be taken forward to inform the Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Plan.

7.5.   The draft Local Plan will be appraised, and a Sustainability Appraisal report will be produced. This will accompany the new Rugby Borough Local Plan for public consultation in accordance with the provisions of the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) available online https://www.rugby.gov.uk/directory_record/941/statement_of_community_involvement. The SA report will present information on the effects of the plan and will clearly show how the SEA directive's requirements have been met. A non-technical summary will provide an overview of the SA process and the findings and will be published alongside the SA report.

7.6.   Comments received on the draft Local Plan during the public consultation will be considered and any resulting changes appraised in a revised SA report. When the new Rugby Borough Local Plan is finalised and approved by the Borough Council, it will be submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination accompanied by the SA Report and the consultation statement.

7.7.   Following the examination and successful adoption of the Local Plan, its significant effects will be monitored using the proposed method of monitoring which will be included in the SA Report. Continual monitoring will highlight specific issues and significant effects and lead to more informed decision-making. Monitoring will also form a useful source of baseline information for future updates to the Council's planning policy documents.

APPENDIX 1 – POLICIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

The following section sets out a list of key policies, plans and programmes (PPPs) which influence the preparation of the new Rugby Borough Local Plan and Sustainability Appraisal. The key aims, objectives and requirements of the PPPs and the key implications for the new Local Plan will be analysed in detail in the Background Papers for the Local Plan. At the end of January 2020 the UK left the EU although a transition period was in place until 31st December 2020. As set out in the Explanatory Memorandum accompanying the Brexit amendments, the purpose of the Brexit amendments to the SEA Regulations was to ensure that the law functions correctly after the UK has left the EU. No substantive changes were made by this instrument to the way the SEA regime operates. Relevant international plans and policy (including those at the EU level) were transposed into national plans, policy and legislation and these are considered below.

The European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 created the concept of 'retained EU law'. At the time of writing the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill is in the House of Lords. This proposes to revoke retained EU law at the end of 2023. This would revoke the EU directives listed below at the end of 2023. This bill would also revoke the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, which gives effect to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive.

INTERNATIONAL PLANS AND PROGRAMMES OF MOST RELEVANCE FOR THE LOCAL PLAN REVIEW

A.1 The Glasgow Climate Pact 2021 was adopted at the COP26 UN climate conference in November 2021. The Pact sees signatory countries increase climate ambition and action from the Paris Agreement in 2015 and sets out new rules to reduce greenhouse gas emissions including phasing down coal and a global carbon market. The Glasgow Climate Pact is the first global agreement to explicitly include parties pledging to reduce the use of fossil fuels.

A.2 The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015): This initiative, adopted by all United Nations Member States, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet and includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), designed to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. Relevant to this topic are:

SDG 1: No Poverty
SDG 2: Zero Hunger
SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being
SDG 4: Quality Education
SDG 5: Gender Equality
SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities
SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

A.3 United Nations Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (the 'Aarhus Convention') (1998) - Establishes a number of rights of the public (individuals and their associations) with regard to the environment. The Parties to the Convention are required to make the necessary provisions so that public authorities (at national, regional or local level) will contribute to these rights to become effective.

A.4 United Nations Declaration on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Declaration) (2002) - Sets broad framework for international sustainable development, including building a humane, equitable and caring global society aware of the need for human dignity for all, renewable energy and energy efficiency, sustainable consumption and production and resource efficiency.

A.5 European Environmental Noise Directive (2002) - Sets out a hierarchy for the avoidance, prevention and reduction in adverse effects associated with environmental noise, including noise generated by road and rail vehicles, infrastructure, aircraft and outdoor, industrial and mobile machinery.

A.6 European Nitrates Directive (1991) - Identifies nitrate vulnerability zones and puts in place measures to reduce water pollution caused by the introduction of nitrates.

A.7 European Urban Waste Water Directive (1991) - Protects the environment from the adverse effects of urban waste water collection, treatment and discharge, and discharge from certain industrial sectors.

A.8 European Air Quality Framework Directive (1996) and Air Quality Directive (2008) - Put in place measures for the avoidance, prevention, and reduction in harmful effects to human health and the environment associated with ambient air pollution and establish legally binding limits for the most common and harmful sources of air pollution.

A.9 European Drinking Water Directive (1998) - Protects human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean.

A.10 European Landfill Directive (1999) - Prevents and reduces the negative effects on the environment from the landfilling of waste by introducing stringent technical requirements for waste and landfills.

A.11 European Water Framework Directive (2000) - Protects inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater.

A.12 European Waste Framework Directive (2008) - Sets out the waste hierarchy requiring the reduction of waste production and its harmfulness, the recovery of waste by means of recycling, re-use or reclamation and final disposal that does not harm the environment, including human health.

A.13 European Industrial Emission Directive (2010) - Lays down rules on integrated prevention and control of pollution arising from industrial activities. It also lays down rules designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions into air, water and land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole.

A.14 European Floods Directive (2007) - A framework for the assessment and management of flood risk, aiming at the reduction of the adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity.

A.15 European Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (2010) - Aims to promote the energy

performance of buildings and building units. Requires the adoption of a standard methodology for calculating energy performance and minimum requirements for energy performance.

A.16 United Nations Paris Climate Change Agreement (2015) – International agreement to keep global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

A.17 International Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention) (1976) - International agreement with the aim of conserving and managing the use of wetlands and their resources.

A.18 European Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) (1979) - Aims to ensure conservation and protection of wild plant and animal species and their natural habitats, to increase cooperation between contracting parties, and to regulate the exploitation of those species (including migratory species).

A.19 International Convention on Biological Diversity (1992) – International commitment to biodiversity conservation through national strategies and action plans.

A.20 European Habitats Directive (1992) - Together with the Birds Directive, the Habitats Directive sets the standard for nature conservation across the EU and enables all 27 Member States to work together within the same strong legislative framework in order to protect the most vulnerable species and habitat types across their entire natural range within the EU. It also established the Natura 2000 network.

A.21 European Birds Directive (2009) - Requires the maintenance of all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state in the European territory at a level which corresponds in particular to ecological, scientific and cultural requirements, while taking account of economic and recreational requirements.

A.22 United Nations Declaration on Forests (New York Declaration) (2014)- Sets out international commitment to cut natural forest loss by 2020 and end loss by 2030.

A.23 United Nations (UNESCO) World Heritage Convention (1972) - Promotes co-operation among nations to protect heritage around the world that is of such outstanding universal value that its conservation is important for current and future generations.

A.24 European Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (1985) - Defines 'architectural heritage' and requires that the signatories maintain an inventory of it and take statutory measures to ensure its protection. Conservation policies are also required to be integrated into planning systems and other spheres of government influence as per the text of the convention.

A.25 European Landscape Convention (2002) - Promotes landscape protection, management and planning. The Convention is aimed at the protection, management and planning of all landscapes and raising awareness of the value of a living landscape.

NATIONAL PLANS AND PROGRAMMES (BEYOND THE NPPF) OF MOST RELEVANCE FOR THE LOCAL PLAN REVIEW

Climate change adaption and mitigation
A.26 Defra, The National Adaptation Programme and the Third Strategy for Climate Adaptation

Reporting: Making the country resilient to a changing climate (2018) – sets out the strategy for adapting both to the climate change that is already evident, and that which we might see in the future.

A.27 The Transport Decarbonisation Plan: a better, greener Britain (TDP), published in July 2021, sets out the Government's commitments and the actions needed to decarbonise the entire transport system in the UK.

A.28 Defra and the Environment Agency, Understanding the risks, empowering communities, building resilience: The National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England (2020) - sets out the national framework for managing the risk of flooding and coastal erosion. It sets out the roles for risk management authorities and communities to help them understand their responsibilities. An update to the document was adopted on 25th September 2020.

A.29 Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, National Planning Policy for Waste (NPPW) (2014) – sets out a number of key planning objectives. It requires that local planning authorities help deliver sustainable development through measures including driving waste management up the waste hierarchy; ensuring that waste management is considered alongside other spatial planning concerns; and providing a framework in which communities can take more responsibility for their own waste.

A.30 The Industrial Decarbonisation Strategy (2021) aims to support existing industry to decarbonise and encourage the growth of new, low carbon industries to protect and create skilled jobs and businesses in the UK encouraging long-term investment in home-grown decarbonisation technology. The strategy builds in the Prime Minister's 10 Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution and sets out the government's vision for building a competitive, greener future for the manufacturing and construction sector and is part of the government's path to net zero by 2050.

A.31 Defra, Waste Management Plan for England (2013) – sets out the measures for England to work towards a zero waste economy.

A.32 HM Government, The Clean Growth Strategy (2017) – sets out the approach of the government to secure growth of the national income while cutting greenhouse gas emissions. The key policies and proposals of the Strategy sit below a number of overarching principles: acceleration of clean growth including through recommendations for private and public investment to meet carbon budgets; providing support to improve business and industry energy efficiency; improving energy efficiency in the housing stock including through low carbon heating; accelerating the shift to low carbon transport; delivering clean, smart, flexible power; enhancing the benefits and value of our natural resources; leading in the public sector to meet emissions targets; and ensure Government leadership to drive clean growth.

A.33 The UK Hydrogen Strategy (2021) sets out the approach to developing a substantial low carbon hydrogen sector in the UK and to meet the ambition for 5GW of low carbon hydrogen production capacity by 2030.

A.34 British Energy Security Strategy (2022) seeks to reduce the UK's reliance on international fossil fuel markets to strengthen energy security and cut bills over the next decade. To enable this is a new ambition to produce 95% of the country's electricity from low-carbon sources by 2030. The strategy includes a range of new targets to accelerate the deployment of key low carbon technologies,

alongside renewed support for domestic oil and gas production.

A.35 The Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations (2021) seek to improve the energy efficiency of buildings, reducing their carbon emissions and lessening the impact of climate change. The Regulations require the adoption of a standard methodology for calculating energy performance and minimum requirements for energy performance, reported through Energy Performance Certificates and Display Energy Certificates.

A.36 The Energy white paper: Powering our net zero future (2020) builds on the Prime Minister's Ten point plan for a green industrial revolution. The white paper addresses the transformation of the UKs energy system, promoting high skilled jobs and clean, resilient economic growth during its transition to net-zero emissions by 2050.

A.37 The Heat and Buildings Strategy (2021) sets out the government's plan to significantly cut carbon emissions from the UK's 30 million homes and workplaces. This strategy aims to provide a clear direction of travel for the 2020s, set out the strategic decisions that need to be taken this decade, and demonstrate how the UK plans to meet its carbon targets and remain on track for net zero by 2050. Key aims of the strategy include:

- Reduce direct emissions from public sector buildings by 75% against a 2017 baseline by the end of carbon budget 6.
- Significantly reduce energy consumption of commercial, and industrial buildings by 2030.
- Phase out the installation of new natural gas boilers beyond 2035.
- Significantly grow the supply chain for heat pumps to 2028: from installing around 35,000 hydronic heat pumps a year to a minimum market capacity of 600,000 per year by 2028.
- Reduce the costs of installing a heat pump by at least 25-50% by 2025 and to ensure heat pumps are no more expensive to buy and run than gas boilers by 2030.
- Achieve 30-fold increase in heat pumps manufactured and sold within the UK by the end of the decade.
- Grow the market for heat pumps notably via a £450 million Boiler Upgrade Scheme to support households who want to switch with £5,000 grants.
- Improve heat pump appeal by continuing to invest in research and innovation, with the £60 million Net Zero Innovation Portfolio 'Heat Pump Ready' Programme supporting the development of innovation across the sector.
- Ensure all new buildings in England are ready for Net Zero from 2025. To enable this, new standards will be introduced through legislation to ensure new homes and buildings will be fitted with low-carbon heating and high levels of energy efficiency.
- Establish large-scale trials of hydrogen for heating, including a neighbourhood trial by 2023.
- Ensure as many fuel poor homes in England, as reasonably practicable, achieve a minimum energy efficiency rating of band C by the end of 2030.
- Support social housing, low income and fuel poor households via boosting funding for the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund and Home Upgrade Grant, which aim to improve the energy performance of low income households' homes, support low carbon heat installations and build the green retrofitting sector to benefit all homeowners.
- Scale up low-carbon heat network deployment and to enable local areas to deploy heat network zoning- Heat Network Transformation Programme of £338 million (over 2022/23 to 2024/25).

A.38 The Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener (2021) - sets out policies and proposals for

decarbonising all sectors of the UK economy to meet net zero targets by 2050. It sets out strategies to keep the UK on track with carbon budgets, outlines the National Determined Contribution (NDC) and sets out the vision for a decarbonised economy in 2050. Its focus includes:

- Policies and proposals for reducing emissions across the economy in key sectors (power, fuel supply and hydrogen, industry, heat and buildings, transport, natural gas and waste); and,
- Policies and proposals for supporting transition across the economy through innovation, green investment, green jobs, embedding net-zero in government, local climate action, empowering people and businesses, and international leadership and collaboration.

A.39 The 25 Year Environment Plan - sets out policy priorities with respect to responding to climate change, are using and managing land sustainably; and protecting and improving our global environment. Actions that will be taken as part of these two key areas are as follows:

- Using and managing land sustainably:
- Take action to reduce the risk of harm from flooding and coastal erosion including greater use of natural flood management solutions.
- Protecting and improving our global environment:
- Provide international leadership and lead by example in tackling climate change and protecting and improving international biodiversity.

A.40 The National Adaptation Programme and the Third Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting (2018) sets out visions for the following sectors:

- People and the Built Environment – "to promote the development of a healthy, equitable and resilient population, well placed to reduce the harmful health impacts of climate change...buildings and places (including built heritage) and the people who live and work in them are resilient and organisations in the built environment sector have an increased capacity to address the risks and make the most of the opportunities of a changing climate.
- Infrastructure – "an infrastructure network that is resilient to today's natural hazards and prepared for the future changing climate".
- Natural Environment – "the natural environment, with diverse and healthy ecosystems, is resilient to climate change, able to accommodate change and valued for the adaptation services it provides."
- Business and Industry – "UK businesses are resilient to extreme weather and prepared for future risks and opportunities from climate change."
- Local Government – "Local government plays a central in leading and supporting local places to become more resilient to a range of future risks and to be prepared for the opportunities from a changing climate.

A.41 UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017: sets out six priority areas needing urgent further action over the next five years. These include:

- flooding and coastal change risks to communities, businesses and infrastructure,
- health, well-being and productivity from high temperatures, shortages in public water supply, and for agriculture, energy generation and industry with impacts on freshwater ecology, natural capital, including terrestrial, coastal, marine and freshwater ecosystems, soils and biodiversity,
- domestic and international food production and trade and
- new and emerging pests and diseases and invasive non-native species affecting people, plants and animals

A.42 The Energy Efficiency Strategy (2012) aims to realise the wider energy efficiency potential that is available in the UK economy by maximising the potential of existing dwellings by implementing 21st century energy management initiatives on 19th century homes.

A.43 The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan: National Strategy for Climate and Energy (2009): sets out a five-point plan to tackle climate change. The points are as follows: protecting the public from immediate risk, preparing for the future, limiting the severity of future climate change through a new international climate agreement, building a low carbon UK and supporting individuals, communities and businesses to play their part.

A.44 The UK Renewable Energy Strategy (2009) describes out the ways in which we will tackle climate change by reducing our CO2 emissions through the generation of a renewable electricity, heat and transport technologies. Health and well-being

A.45 National Design Guide (2021) - sets out the Government's priorities for well-designed places in the form of ten characteristics: context, identity, built form, movement, nature, public spaces, uses, homes and buildings, resources and lifespan.

A.46 Build Back Better: Our Plan for Health and Social Care (2021) sets out the government's new plan for health and social care. It provides an overview of how this plan will tackle the electives backlog in the NHS and put the NHS on a sustainable footing. It sets out details of the plan for adult social care in England, including a cap on social care costs and how financial assistance will work for those without substantial assets. It covers wider support that the government will provide for the social care system, and how the government will improve the integration of health and social care. It explains the government's plan to introduce a new Health and Social Care Levy.

A.47 Covid-19 mental health and wellbeing recovery action plan (2021) - sets out the government's plan to prevent, mitigate and respond to the mental health impacts of the pandemic during 2021 and 2022. Its main objectives are to support the general population to take action and look after their own mental wellbeing, to take action to address factors which play a crucial role in shaping mental health and wellbeing outcomes, and to support services to meet the need for specialist support.

A.48 The Charter for Social Housing Residents: Social Housing White Paper (2020) sets out the Government's actions to ensure residents in social housing are safe, listened to, live in good quality homes and have access to redress when things go wrong.

A.49 Using the planning system to promote healthy weight environments (2020), Addendum (2021) provides a framework and starting point for local authorities to clearly set out in local planning guidance how best to achieve healthy weight environments based on local evidence and needs, by focusing on environments that enable healthier eating and help promote more physical activity as the default. The Addendum provides updates on the implications for planning for a healthier food environment, specifically on the hot food takeaways retail uses, and sets out recommended actions in light of changes to the Use Class Order (UCO) in England from 1 September 2020.

A.50 Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England: Sets out how the Government's approach to public health challenges will:
- Protect the population from health threats – led by central Government, with a strong system to the frontline.

- Empower local leadership and encourage wide responsibility across society to improve everyone's health and wellbeing and tackle the wider factors that influence it.
- Focus on key outcomes, doing what works to deliver them, with transparency of outcomes to enable accountability through a proposed new public health outcomes framework.
- Reflect the Government's core values of freedom, fairness and responsibility by strengthening self-esteem, confidence and personal responsibility; positively promoting healthy behaviours and lifestyles; and adapting the environment to make healthy choices easier.
- Balance the freedoms of individuals and organisations with the need to avoid harm to others, use a 'ladder' of interventions to determine the least intrusive approach necessary to achieve the desired effect and aim to make voluntary approaches work before resorting to regulation.

A.51 Fair Society, Healthy Lives (2011) - investigated health inequalities in England and the actions needed in order to tackle them. Subsequently, a supplementary report was prepared providing additional evidence relating to spatial planning and health on the basis that there is "overwhelming evidence that health and environmental inequalities are inexorably linked and that poor environments contribute significantly to poor health and health inequalities".

A.52 Homes England Strategic Plan 2018 to 2023: Sets out a vision to ensure more homes are built in areas of greatest need, to improve affordability, and make a more resilient and diverse housing market.

A.53 Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change report Ready for Ageing? (2013) - warns that society is underprepared for the ageing population. The report states "longer lives can be a great benefit, but there has been a collective failure to address the implications and without urgent action this great boon could turn into a series of miserable crises". The report highlights the under provision of specialist housing for older people and the need to plan for the housing needs of the older population as well as younger people.

A.54 Public Health England, PHE Strategy 2020-25 - identifies PHE's priorities upon which to focus over this five-year period to protect people and help people to live longer in good health.

A.55 HM Government, Laying the foundations: a housing strategy for England (2011) – aims to provide support to the delivery of new homes and to improve social mobility.

A.57 Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (2015) sets out the Government's planning policy for traveller sites. The Government's overarching aim is to ensure fair and equal treatment for travellers, in a way that facilitates the traditional and nomadic way of life of travellers while respecting the interests of the settled community.

A.58 Environment (biodiversity/geodiversity, landscape and soils)The Environment Act 2021 - sets out the UK's new framework for environmental protection. It includes the creation of Conservation Covenant agreements between a landowner and a responsible body for the purposes of conservation of the natural environment of the land or its natural resources, or to conserve the place or setting of the land for its 'archaeological, architectural, artistic, cultural or historic interest.'

A.59 Defra, Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (2011) - Guides conservation efforts in England up to 2020 by requiring a national halt to biodiversity loss,

supporting healthy ecosystems and establishing ecological networks.

A.60 Defra, Biodiversity offsetting in England Green Paper (2013) - sets out a framework for biodiversity offsetting. Offsets are conservation activities designed to compensate for residual losses.

A.61 Defra, Safeguarding our Soils – A Strategy for England (2009) – Sets out how England's soils will be managed sustainably. It highlights those areas which Defra will prioritise and focus attention in tackling degradation threats, including: better protection for agricultural soils; protecting and enhancing stores of soil carbon; building the resilience of soils to a changing climate; preventing soil pollution; effective soil protection during construction and; dealing with contaminated land.

A.62 Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (2011) guides conservation efforts in England up to 2020 by requiring a national halt to biodiversity loss, supporting healthy ecosystems and establishing ecological networks. The Strategy includes 22 priorities which include actions for the following sectors: Agriculture, Forestry, Planning & Development, Water Management, Marine Management, Fisheries, Air Pollution and Invasive Non-Native Species.

A.63 England Biodiversity Strategy Climate Change Adaptation Principles (2008): sets out principles to guide adaptation to climate change. The principles Appendix A Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes Rugby Borough Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD 120 are: take practical action now, maintain and increase ecological resilience, accommodate change, integrate action across all sectors and develop knowledge and plan strategically. The precautionary principle underpin all of these.

Historic environment
A.64 The Heritage Alliance, Heritage 2020 – sets out the historic environment sector's plan for its priorities between 2015 and 2020.

A.65 Historic England, Corporate Plan 2018-2021 - contains the action plan which sets out how the aims of the corporate plan will be delivered. The plan includes priorities to demonstrate how Historic England will continue to work towards delivering the heritage sector's priorities for the historic environment.

A.66 Historic England, Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment: Historic England Advice Note 8 (2016) – sets out Historic England's guidance and expectations for the consideration and appraisal of effects on the historic environment as part of the Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment processes.

Water and air
A.67 Environment Agency, Managing Water Abstraction (2016) - is the overarching document for managing water resources in England and Wales and links together the abstraction licensing strategies.

A.68 Defra, Water White Paper (2012): Sets out the Government's vision for the water sector including proposals on protecting water resources and reforming the water supply industry. It states outlines the measures that will be taken to tackle issues such as poorly performing ecosystem, and the combined impacts of climate change and population growth on stressed water resources.

A.69 Defra, Clean Air Strategy (2019) - sets out the comprehensive action that is required from across all parts of government and society to meet goals relating to ensuring cleaner air. This is to be underpinned by new England-wide powers to control major sources of air pollution, in line with the risk they pose to public health and the environment, plus new local powers to take action in areas with an air pollution problem. The UK has set stringent targets to cut emissions by 2020 and 2030.

A.70 Our Waste, Our Resources: A strategy for England (2018) - aims to increase resource productivity and eliminate avoidable waste by 2050. The Strategy sets out key targets which include: a 50% recycling rate for household waste by 2020, a 75% recycling rate for packaging by 2030, 65% recycling rate for municipal solid waste by 2035 and municipal waste to landfill 10% or less by 2035.

A.71 The UK Plan for Tackling Roadside Nitrogen Dioxide Concentrations (2017) provides the Government's ambition and actions for delivering a better environment and cleaner air, including £1 billion investment in ultra-low emission vehicles (ULESvs), a £290 million National Productivity Investment Fund, a £11 million Air Quality Grant Fund and £255 million Implementation Fund to help local authorities to prepare Air Quality Action Plans and improve air quality, an £89 million Green Bus Fund, £1.2 billion Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy and £100 million to help improve air quality on the National road network.

A.72 The Waste (Circular Economy) (Amendment) Regulations (2020) - amend a range of legislation to prevent waste generation and to monitor and assess the implementation of measures included in waste prevention programmes. They set out requirements to justify not separating waste streams close to source for re-use, recycling or other recovery operations, prohibit incineration and landfilling of waste unless such treatment process represent the best environmental outcome in accordance with the waste hierarchy. The Regulations set out when waste management plans and in waste prevention programmes are required. The Regulations focus on the circular economy as a means for businesses to maximise the value of waste and waste treatment.

A.73 The Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations focus on the quality of water for drinking, washing, cooking and food preparation, and for food production. Their purpose is to protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring it is wholesome and clean.

A.74 The Road to Zero (2018) sets out new measures towards cleaner road transport, aiming to put the UK at the forefront of the design and manufacturing of zero emission vehicles. It explains how cleaner air, a better environment, zero emission vehicles and a strong, clean economy will be achieved. One of the main aims of the document is for all new cars and vans to be effectively zero emission by 2040.

A.75 Defra, A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (2018) - sets out goals for improving the environment over the next 25 years. It details how the Government will work with communities and businesses to leave the environment in a better state than it is presently. The gov.uk website notes that the 25 Year Plan sits alongside two other important government strategies: the Industrial Strategy and Clean Growth Strategy (the former summarised in the Economic growth section below, the latter under Climate Change above).

A.76 The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (2007) sets out a way forward for work and planning on air quality issues by setting out the air quality standards and objectives to be achieved. It introduces a new policy framework for tackling fine particles and

identifies potential new national policy measures which modelling indicates could give further health benefits and move closer towards meeting the Strategy's objectives. The objectives of the Strategy are to:

- Further improve air quality in the UK from today and long term.
- Provide benefits to health quality of life and the environment.

Economic growth

A.77 National Infrastructure Strategy (2020) - sets out the government's plans for different types of infrastructure to support delivery of housing and social infrastructure.

A.78 HM Government, Industrial Strategy: building a Britain fit for the future (2017) – sets out a long-term policy framework for how Britain will be built to be fit for the future in terms of creating successful, competitive and open economy. It is shaped around five 'foundations of productivity' – the essential attributes of every successful economy: Ideas (the world's most innovative economy); People (good jobs and greater earning power for all; Infrastructure (a major upgrade to the UK's infrastructure); Business Environment (the best place to start and grow a business); Places (prosperous communities across the UK).

A.79 Build Back Better: Our Plan for Growth (2021) - Sets out a plan to 'build back better' tackling long-term problems to deliver growth that delivers high quality jobs across the UK while supporting the transition to net zero. This will build on three core pillars of growth: infrastructure, skills and innovation.

Transport

A.80 Transport Investment Strategy (2017): Sets out four objectives that the strategy aims to achieve:

- Create a more reliable, less congested, and better connected transport network that works for the users who rely on it;
- Build a stronger, more balanced economy by enhancing productivity and responding to local growth priorities;
- Enhance our global competitiveness by making Britain a more attractive place to trade and invest; and
- Support the creation of new housing.

A.81 Highways England Sustainable Development Strategy and Action Plan (2017): This strategy is designed to communicate the company's approach and priorities for sustainable development to its key stakeholders. Highways England aims to ensure its action in the future will further reduce the impact of its activities seeking a long-term and sustainable benefit to the environment and the communities it serves. The action plan describes how Highways England will progress the aspirations of their Sustainable Development and Environment Strategies. It describes actions that will enable the company to deliver sustainable development and to help protect and improve the environment.

SUB-NATIONAL PLANS AND PROGRAMMES OF MOST RELEVANCE FOR THE LOCAL PLAN REVIEW

Coventry & Warwickshire

A.82 The Health and Wellbeing Strategy (HWS) is Warwickshire's high-level plan for improving health and wellbeing and reducing differences, or inequalities, in health within Warwickshire

https://api.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/WCCC-1350011118-2972

A.83 Warwickshire County Council have a number of strategies that will impact on Rugby's environment, these are not listed in priority order
https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/directory-record/2244/voluntary-and-community-sector-strategy-2020-2025

https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/directory-record/2243/warwickshire-s-heritage-and-culture-strategy-2020-2025

https://democracy.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/s16027/Appendix%20for%20Warwickshire%20Waterway%20Canal%20Strategy%202020-2025.pdf

https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/directory-record/2149/local-transport-plan-2011-2026

https://democracy.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/s9533/Digital%20Strategy%20for%205G%20and%20Digital%20Connectivity.pdf

https://api.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/WCCC-359457248-38 (Economic Growth Strategy)
https://api.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/WCCC-680-282 (Waste Development Framework)

https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/flooding/flood-risk-management-surface-water-management-plan

https://api.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/WCCC-970487194-283 (Electric Vehicles Infrastructure)

https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/biodiversitystrategy

https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/directory-record/2138/energy-strategy-and-policy

https://api.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/WCCC-970487194-271 (Levelling Up)

A.84 The authorities around Rugby have adopted local plans or are in the process of updating them.
- Coventry https://www.coventry.gov.uk/planning-policy/coventry-local-plan-2011-2031
- North Warwickshire https://www.northwarks.gov.uk/downloads/download/2682/adopted_local_plan_2021
- Nuneaton & Bedworth have an adopted local plan but are undertaking an early review https://www.nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk/downloads/download/819/borough_plan_review_preferred_options
- Warwick District Council https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/downloads/file/4623/new_local_plan Stratford on Avon https://www.stratford.gov.uk/templates/server/document-relay.cfm?doc=173518&name=SDC%20CORE%20STRATEGY%202011%202031%20July%202016.pdf
- Stratford and Warwick have decided to produce a joint local plan https://www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp/

Rugby

A.85 All the evidence that underpinned the adoption of the Rugby Local Plan (2011-2031) may still be of relevance and is available here

https://www.rugby.gov.uk/info/20004/planning_strategy/348/local_plan_2011-2031/2

A.86 The Council adopted a Corporate Strategy 2021-2024 that sets out the overall direction for the work of local public services in Rugby

https://www.rugby.gov.uk/downloads/file/2813/corporate_strategy_2021-24

A.87 The Council's Town Centre Regeneration Strategy for Rugby was adopted in December 2022. This can be accessed here:

https://www.rugby.gov.uk/downloads/file/3558/rugby_town_centre_regeneration_strategy