



# Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment



## Core Strategy Scoping Report (Amended Version)



November 2005



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## 1.0 THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

- 1.1 The **Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004** has brought in a radical change to the plan-making system in England. The new system came into operation on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2004 (the “Commencement Date”) and changes the form and scope of the **Development Plan** for North West Leicestershire.
- 1.2 The Planning Act requires that planning applications are determined in accordance with the provisions of the Development Plan unless there are good planning reasons for doing otherwise. The Development Plan remains the cornerstone of the planning system in the United Kingdom. However, the old system of County Structure Plans and Local Plans, which together made up the Development Plan, has now been abolished.
- 1.3 In its place the future Development Plan for North West Leicestershire will consist of the following documents:
  - The **Regional Spatial Strategy** – produced by the Regional Assembly but issued by the Secretary of State;
  - **Development Plan Documents** – produced by the District Council (which will be brought together in the District Council’s Local Development Framework (LDF)); and
  - **Minerals and Waste Development Plan Documents** – produced by Leicestershire County Council (to replace the existing Minerals and Waste Local Plans).
- 1.4 The key part of the new plan-making system for the District Council is the **Local Development Framework**. This will replace the Council’s adopted Local Plan.
- 1.5 The District Council will be responsible for the preparation of the Local Development Framework (LDF) for North West Leicestershire. The Council’s LDF will comprise of a range of documents, prepared according to a phased programme which is set out in the District’s Adopted Local Development Scheme (LDS) and can be inspected at the Council Offices or on the District Council’s website.
- 1.6 In the first three year phase the Council will produce Development Plan Documents (DPDs) for a Core Strategy, Development Control Policies and a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). In addition Supplementary Planning Documents considering Housing Land Release and Affordable Housing will also be produced. The current timetable for the production of Development Plan Documents is set out at Appendix 1.
- 1.7 This document is the Scoping Report for a Sustainability Appraisal for North West Leicestershire’s Core Strategy and Development Control Policies Development Plan Documents. The report is a consultation paper which is sent to the four statutory consultation bodies and to other relevant organisations with a sustainability focus or local interest. A list of consultees is set out later in this chapter. Following any revisions made in response to consultee feedback, the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Framework set out in this report will first be used to

assess the sustainability implications of the early Issues and Options stage for the first Development Plan Documents the District Council will produce.

## **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE SPATIAL VISION AND OBJECTIVES**

- 1.8 The Local Development Framework will need to articulate a spatial vision for North West Leicestershire. This spatial vision will set out the future picture of the environment and quality of life within the District and will be based largely on the vision set out in North West Leicestershire's Community Strategy.
- 1.9 Such a vision is likely to include the following issues, however a final 'vision' will be developed following the District Council's consultation on the Core Strategy Issues and Options Paper.
- Improved economic, social and cultural vitality and prosperity across the District;
  - An environmentally, socially and economically sustainable pattern of development taking in the towns and villages of the District;
  - Creation of thriving and vibrant town centres in Coalville and Ashby;
  - A high quality of design in new development involving the minimum use of greenfield land;
  - Improved access to jobs and services across the District;
  - Protection and enhancement of the attractive countryside and natural environment of the District;
  - Progress in achieving the objectives of the National Forest; and
  - High quality public transport.
- 1.10 The 'spatial vision' will set out broad aspirations for future development to 2016 and beyond. The final objectives will set out how to deliver our vision. The objectives will reflect the North West Leicestershire Community Strategy, national and regional planning policy objectives as well as the Adopted Leicestershire Leicester and Rutland Structure Plan. In order to deliver this spatial vision the District Council has identified a number of strategic aims. These are to:
- Provide for all of our community, reliable, well performing and value for money services (Quality, Good Value, Accessible Services);
  - Work in partnership in making well paid and quality jobs available; building a matching employment base (Local Prosperity and Employment);
  - Ensure everyone has equal opportunity to access our services; be socially included though strong communities (Strong, Inclusive Communities);
  - Ensure that everyone has access to accommodation they can afford (Enough Decent and Affordable Homes);
  - Increase opportunities and participation in healthy activities, working in partnership with others and to address public health issues (Sport and Leisure [Partners in Health]);
  - Develop with partners strong and safer communities which will have a reduced level of crime and disorder (Safer Communities); and
  - Provide for the community clean and tidy public areas which are enhanced by attractive parks and open spaces (Attractive, Sustainable Environment).

- 1.11 The following **priorities** will bring about significant improvements and will be the Council's focus with appropriately aligned resources:
- Revitalise Coalville and Ashby De La Zouch Town Centres;
  - Develop strong, inclusive communities;
  - Deliver the outcome of Housing Options Appraisal to meet tenants' expectations;
  - Increase the number of people and specific target groups' participation in healthy activities;
  - Improve the safety of the community;
  - Reduce, recycle and re-use waste; and
  - Improve the streetscene.
- 1.12 The Local Development Framework will provide an opportunity for addressing the spatial aspects of relevant aims and priorities in a cross-cutting manner.
- 1.13 To help meet the Council's aims and help deliver these strategic priorities a number of Development Plan Objectives have been developed for the purposes of this consultation. **These will be refined through the issues and options consultation and as such should only be treated as indicative plan objectives.** These are set out below:

- **Promote sustainable economic development**
- **Promote urban and rural regeneration**
- **Attract and develop new businesses that provide longer-term and higher paid jobs**
- **Bring forward sufficient land for development in the right places at the right time**
- **Focus new residential, retail and employment developments within the existing settlements of Coalville and Ashby-de-la-Zouch**
- **Promote the efficient use of land**
- **Provide an adequate supply of good quality and sustainable affordable housing**
- **Reduce the need to travel particularly by car and encourage public transport provision.**
- **Reduce inequalities in health and educational achievement between different groups and areas within the District and promote communities that are healthy, safe and crime free**
- **Give high priority to ensuring access for all to jobs, health, education, shops, leisure and community facilities.**

- **Give priority to protecting the District's natural and built environment**
- **Protect the District's historic and cultural heritage from loss or damage resulting from new development.**



## **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

- 1.14 The Brundtland Report released by the World Commission on the Environment and Development in 1987 defined sustainable development as:

*“Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.*

- 1.15 In order to promote sustainable development the UK Government has developed a strategy for sustainable development that it uses to guide its own national policy development and implementation. This strategy released in March 2005 sets out a number of guiding principles:

- Living Within Environmental Limits
- Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society
- Achieving a Sustainable Economy
- Promoting Good Governance
- Using Sound Science Responsibly

- 1.16 The UK Government’s Sustainable Development Strategy further sets out a number of priorities for UK action. These are listed below:

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

- 1.17 In addition to the objectives set out in the Government’s overarching Sustainable Development Strategy, Planning Policy Statement 1 (PPS1) *Delivering Sustainable Development* also provides guidance on integrating sustainable development within the spatial planning system. In particular PPS1 promotes urban and rural regeneration that:

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

## **STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

- 1.18 Under the requirements of European Directive 2001/42/EC, on the ‘assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment’, specific types of plans and programmes are identified which must be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). With the exceptions of the timetable for the Local Development Framework (the Local Development Scheme) and the Statement of Community Involvement, a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) must be undertaken for every Development Plan Document and Supplementary Planning Document that together will form the Local Development Framework.

- 1.19 The purpose of Strategic Environmental Assessment is to consider issues such as *biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archeological heritage and landscape* (2001/42/EC annex 1) and determine how the District Councils proposed LDF could influence each of these.
- 1.20 By considering these issues in detail the SEA Directive seeks to ensure that environmental considerations are fully integrated in the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes which are likely to have a significant affect the environment.

## **SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL**

- 1.21 Whilst SEA focuses upon environmental issues, Sustainability Appraisal (SA) widens the approach to include social and economic issues. The purpose of Sustainability Appraisal is to ensure that the principles of sustainable development are taken fully into account when preparing certain plans such as the District Council's proposed Development Plan Documents. In England, the requirements for Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment have been integrated into one process – still called 'Sustainability Appraisal'. In preparing the Core Strategy and Development Control DPDs the *Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act* (2004) requires that the District Council:
- (a) *carry out an appraisal of the sustainability of the proposals in each document;*
  - (b) *prepare a report of the findings of the appraisal*
- 1.22 The process of a Sustainability Appraisal requires an examination of the state of North West Leicestershire as it is today and how it could change in the future, together with an identification of the key issues that could affect the future 'sustainability' of the District. Using this information it is possible to develop sustainability objectives and indicators against which LDF policies can be measured to decide how they could contribute to sustainable development, and enable appropriate amendments to be made to policies.
- 1.23 There are several documents that will be contained within the North West Leicestershire District Council Local Development Framework. At this stage the Sustainability Appraisal will focus on the Core Strategy and Development Control Policies Development Plan Documents. The results of this appraisal process will be published in a 'Sustainability Report' at the same time as the Core Strategy and Development Control Policies preferred options. Other proposed Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents that together will make up the Councils LDF will also require a Sustainability Appraisal, but these will be undertaken at a later date.

## SCOPING REPORT

1.24 This document (itself called a Scoping Report) is the first step in undertaking a Sustainability Appraisal of the LDF. It has been prepared in accordance with the advice set out in *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks* prepared by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM). As such the chapters are arranged under the following headings to reflect this guidance.

- **(Stage A1)** Identifying other relevant plans programmes
- **(Stage A2)** Baseline Information
- **(Stage A3)** Key Sustainability Issues
- **(Stage A4)** SEA/SA Objectives and Indicators (the SA Framework)
- **(Stage A5)** Testing the Plan Objectives Against the SA Framework

1.25 This scoping report also provides additional information on the later stages of Sustainability Appraisal process which the District Council will need to undertake following consultation of this Scoping Report. More detail on the later stages of the Sustainability Appraisal process are set out in Appendix 2 and Chapter 7.

## JOINT WORKING

1.26 It is not the District Council's intention to set up a joint planning board with any neighbouring authority or authorities. However, the Council will work in close consultation with its neighbours in order to ensure a smooth transition to the new Development Plan system.

1.27 None of the Local Development Documents identified for preparation during the first 3-year period will be prepared as joint documents with other authorities. However, the District Council takes the view that consideration will need to be given to such arrangements in the case of the following future Development Plan Documents:

- Review of National Forest policies – all authorities with land falling within the boundary of the National Forest;
- Charnwood Forest Action Area Plan – Charnwood Borough Council and Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council.

1.28 North West Leicestershire District Council recognises that there are a number of benefits that can be derived from partnership working. These include efficiency savings-both in terms of time and financial resources.

## CONSULTATION

- 1.29 The consultation takes account of the requirements in the draft SA guidance to consult the specific environmental consultation bodies set out in the Local Development Regulations, for a period of 5 weeks. The consultation seeks comments on the scope of the appraisal, the key issues and possible options for solutions.
- 1.30 Copies of this Scoping Report are being sent to the four statutory Consultation Bodies:
- Countryside Agency
  - Environment Agency
  - English Heritage
  - English Nature
- 1.31 In addition the following organisations will also be sent copies of this draft scoping report:
- Government Office for the East Midlands (GOEM)
  - East Midlands Development Agency (EMDA)
  - East Midlands Regional Assembly (EMRA)
  - Adjoining Local Planning Authorities
  - Leicestershire County Council
  - Nottinghamshire County Council
  - Derbyshire County Council
  - The National Forest Company
  - The Heart of the National Forest Foundation
  - Highways Agency
  - Network Rail
  - Strategic Rail Authority
  - Severn Trent
  - Transco
  - Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE)
  - Friends of the Earth (FoE)
  - Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
  - Leicestershire Learning and Skills Council
  - Leicestershire Wildlife Trust
  - Local Strategic Partnership (LSP)
  - **House Builders Federation**
  - Forestry Commission
  - North West Leicestershire and Charnwood Primary Care Trust
  - Sport England (East Midlands Region)
- 1.32 Parish Councils and local amenity groups will be informed of where they can view this report by direct mail. Press releases will be used to make the general public aware of how and where this report can be viewed.

- 1.33 This report and all its appendices will be made available to view at the Council Offices in Coalville (address set out below). It will also be posted on the Councils Website at: [http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/development\\_planning](http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/development_planning)
- 1.34 In considering this Scoping Report, consultees are asked to address the following questions

- Have all relevant plans and programmes been referenced?
- Are any significant environmental, social or economic data missing or misrepresented?
- Are any judgments made concerning future baseline in chapter 4 incorrect?
- Are there any additional sustainability issues within North West Leicestershire that need to be considered in the development of the Core Strategy and Development Control Policies DPD?
- Do you agree with the proposed Sustainability Appraisal framework? Are objectives and indicators set out in Chapter 5 appropriate?
- Is the proposed methodology for the next stages of the Sustainability Appraisal correct?
- Are there any other comments you would like to make?

- ~~1.35 Comments regarding this Sustainability Appraisal Report should be sent in writing to:~~

~~The Manager of Planning and Environment  
North West Leicestershire District Council  
Whitwick Road  
Coalville  
Leicestershire  
LE67 3FJ~~

~~Or by email to: [planning.policy@nwleicestershire.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@nwleicestershire.gov.uk)~~

~~**All comments should be received back by the September 14th 2005**~~

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## **2.0 (STAGE A1). IDENTIFYING OTHER RELEVANT PLANS AND PROGRAMMES**

### **INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 Guidance set out in Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks (Consultation Paper) requires that a review of other relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives be carried out whilst undertaking a Sustainability Appraisal of any of the Development Plan Documents or Supplementary Planning Documents that together make up the LDF. This allows the Council to take account of the various ways other plans, programmes and external sustainability objectives, such as those laid down in national policies or legislation may affect its own policies.
- 2.2 Where there are possible relationships between the Council's proposed Core Strategy and Development Control DPDs and other plans, policies and programmes, these should be identified to enable potential synergies to be exploited and any inconsistencies and constraints to be addressed.
- 2.3 The requirement to have regard to other plans and programmes affecting the LDF also accords with the SEA Directive. Annex 1 (a) and (e) of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive requires that an Environmental Report be published that sets out main objectives of the LDF *'and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes'* as well as *'the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the [LDF] and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.'*
- 2.4 Environmental protection objectives at every level have been listed, in compliance with government guidelines on Sustainability Appraisal and the SEA Directive.

### **METHODOLOGY**

- 2.5 To date the District Council has identified in excess of 100 plans and programmes. This list has been collected through partnership working between all Council Sections (a full list of all strategies identified is available on request). This list was refined to those relevant to North West Leicestershire's Development Plan Documents currently in production (The Core Strategy and Development Control Policies). An interim list of relevant plans, policies, programmes and environmental objectives that will influence the District Council's LDF as a whole can be viewed at Appendix 3. Strategies that have been omitted because it is considered that they are unlikely to have any significant relationship with the Development Plan Documents under preparation are available to view at the council offices and on the Council's website.
- 2.6 Work on identifying other plans and programmes influencing the Local Development Framework is ongoing; additional findings and updates, together with revisions following consultees comments on this Scoping Report, will be incorporated within the Final Sustainability Appraisal Report.

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### 3.0 (STAGE A2) BASELINE INFORMATION

- 3.1 Before an assessment is undertaken to determine how well each of the policies in the LDF could contribute to sustainable development, it is useful to understand the state of the District today, together with predictions of how this may change in the future under a no change (or business as usual) scenario. The following chapter seeks to describe the state of North West Leicestershire in December 2004. All references are set out at appendix 4.
- 3.2 'Baseline' information about the District can be used to help to identify sustainability issues that are affecting North West Leicestershire, and from this it is possible to devise 'sustainability objectives' which plans and policies in the LDF can be tested against to examine how they contribute to sustainable development.

#### AN INTRODUCTION TO NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE

- 3.3 North West Leicestershire is a predominantly rural district located - as the name suggests - in the north western part of Leicestershire County, itself located within the East Midlands. In total North West Leicestershire covers an area of 108 square miles (27,933 hectares).
- 3.4 At the 2001 Census there were 85,503 people living within the District. The main settlements within North West Leicestershire are Coalville (33,671 residents) and Ashby-de-la-Zouch (11,578 residents), which between them account for more than half of the District's population. The remainder of the population live in a network of ~~villages~~ **smaller settlements**, the most significant being Castle Donington, Kegworth, Ibstock and Measham.
- 3.5 Some key facts about the district are set out below: These are considered in more detail later in this section:
- At the time of the 2001 Census there were 35,394 households within North West Leicestershire. Of these 76.6% were owner-occupied and 16.0% were rented from the District Council or Housing Associations.
  - The average weekly income for residents within the District in 2004 was £397.13. This equates to an average annual salary of £20,651.
  - The main retail areas of Coalville and Ashby-de-la-Zouch and local centres of Castle Donington, Ibstock and Measham are relatively healthy but there are 23 smaller villages without any grocery provision.
  - Road links within the District are generally good. Major roads include the M1, A42/M42, A50 and A511. However, public transport provision is considered to be relatively poor. There are currently no railway stations within the District and bus service provision is unevenly distributed. Nottingham East Midlands Airport is located in the northern part of North West Leicestershire.
  - 81.3% of Households in the District owned 1 or more cars at the 2001 Census. This is significantly higher than the average for England (73%) and reflects the trend towards higher car dependency in rural areas.

- Overall levels of deprivation in the District are low with no wards ranked within the 10% most deprived in England. However compared to the other Districts within Leicestershire, North West Leicestershire suffers from relatively high levels of deprivation.
- The number of burglaries and crimes against vehicles recorded has remained fairly constant in recent years. In contrast the number of recorded cases of Assault and Criminal Damage has risen rapidly since 1997.
- Educational attainment within the District is significantly lower than the Leicestershire average.
- The District has 17 designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). The River Mease is also a Special Area of Conservation. Together these sites make up around 2% of North West Leicestershire by area. At the national level around 7% of England is designated as SSSIs.
- Just over half of the District falls within the National Forest Area (approximately 15,000 hectares). This area represents a significant Tourism, leisure and recreation resource
- North West Leicestershire District is made up of a range of landscape character areas. Most of the District has a gently rolling or undulating landscape, however the northern tip (which falls within the River Trent floodplain) is characterised by a flat and open landscape, whilst the Charnwood Forest area in the south eastern part of the District provides a hilly landform with exposed crags and rocky knolls.
- There are 634 listed buildings within the District and 23 Scheduled Ancient Monuments. In addition there are 21 conservation areas which are designated for their 'special architectural or historic interest'. In addition there are three historic parks and gardens within the District
- Flooding is a significant issue within the District. There are 1592 buildings that are within the 1:100 flood zone.
- Waste recovery within the District is forecast to reach 30% by the end of 2005.
- 63% of all residential developments were built on previously developed land in 2004/05 within the District. This is significantly higher than the average recorded for 2003/04 (38%).

## POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHY

- 3.6 Changes in the population and demographic profile of the District could have a significant impact on the environment in which we live. For example population growth could increase demand for housing and employment land, which in turn could put additional pressure on the countryside. Population growth could also put additional strain on much of the District infrastructure such as our roads, schools and hospitals.
- 3.7 The population of North West Leicestershire has risen significantly in recent years. At the 2001 Census there were 85,503 residents within the District<sup>i</sup>. Since 1991 the District's population has increased by 6.1%, from 80,566<sup>ii</sup>. In the future it is projected that the District's population will continue to grow reaching 89,300 residents by 2011 and 90,972 by 2016<sup>iii</sup>. Based on these figures the District's population will increase by 6.4% between 2001 and 2016.
- 3.8 As table 1 illustrates below, there is a relatively large working age population within the District (59.2%)<sup>iv</sup>. This is broadly inline with national trends (59.0%)<sup>v</sup>. North West Leicestershire does, however, have a larger than average number of people who are working age but within the 30-59 age bracket and fewer than average below the age of 29<sup>vi</sup>. It should be noted that this could potentially have significant implications on social care provision within the District in the future.

**Table 1: Population by Age in North West Leicestershire.**

	North West Leicestershire (%)	England and Wales (%)
Under 16	19.7	20.2
16 to 19	4.2	4.9
20 to 29	10.8	12.6
30 to 59	44.2	41.5
60 to 74	13.4	13.3
75 and over	7.6	7.6
Average age	39.5	38.6

2001 Census, ONS

## ECONOMY

- 3.9 Until the early 1980s North West Leicestershire's economy was largely dependent on coal mining, which accounted for 35% of all male employment.<sup>vii</sup> Following the run down of the coal mining industry nationally, nearly 10,000 mining jobs were lost District-wide between 1982 and 2002<sup>viii</sup>. However, significant progress has been made to replace the jobs lost during the pit closures. Today unemployment within the District (currently 1.1%) remains significantly lower than both the national and regional averages as well as the average of the other districts within Leicestershire area<sup>ix</sup>.
- 3.10 The release of significant new employment sites has helped create many new jobs within the district. The Structure Plan for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland 1996-2016) allocated 326 hectares of employment land (net) for Industrial, office, warehousing and distribution sectors. This equated to around a quarter of the county requirement of 1,244 hectares.

- 3.11 Employment land starts within the District over the Structure Plan period (1996-2016) were recorded at just over 148 hectares as of March 2005. This equates to an average annual start rate of 16.46 hectares (compared to the annual Structure Plan requirement of 16.3 ha). A further 114 hectares of employment land within the District are recorded as having planning permission as of the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2005.

**Table 2. Employment Land Supply (Figures March 2005)**

	<b>Hectares (Net)</b>
Structure Plan requirement 1996-2016 (A)	326
Starts 1996-2005 (B)	148.14
Planning Permission (C)	113.95
Allocations (D)	35.73
Residual Requirement (A-B-C-D)	26.01

Source: NWLDC 2005

- 3.12 In addition, significant diversification of the District's economy has taken place. In particular growth within the Construction and Transport and Communications sector have been important in off setting the decline within the mining industry. A detailed profile of employment by sector for North West Leicestershire, the East Midlands and Great Britain is set out in Table 2 over the page.

**Table 3: Employment by Sector in North West Leicestershire.**

<b>Employment by Sector</b>	<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>East Midlands</b>	<b>Great Britain</b>
Agriculture and Fishing	1.0%	1.4%	1.0%
Energy and Water	2.1%	1.0%	0.8%
Manufacturing	23.6%	20.4%	14.2%
Construction	7.9%	5.1%	4.5%
Distribution, hotels and restaurants	22.7%	24.0%	24.3%
Transport and Communications	14.8%	5.5%	6.1%
Banking, Finance and Insurance etc	12.6%	14.2%	19.6%
Public Administration, Education and Health	11.9%	24.1%	24.3%
Other Services	3.2%	4.4%	5.2%

Annual Business Inquiry, NOMIS, 2001

- 3.13 Of particular note is the continuing significance of manufacturing employment within the District, which accounts for nearly a quarter of all jobs (See Table 2 above). Whilst the productivity of manufacturers nation-wide has grown by 22% since 1997, relatively small growth in factory output has led to the loss of 580,000 jobs across the same period<sup>x</sup>. Clearly the continuing rationalisation of the manufacturing sector in the UK could have significant implications in terms of job losses for those communities that are most reliant on manufacturing such as North West Leicestershire.
- 3.14 The labour market in North West Leicestershire is not a 'closed system' indeed there are substantial flows of commuters both into and out of the District everyday. In total 20,629 people regularly enter the District to work, whilst only 17,544 people who live in the District travel elsewhere to work<sup>xi</sup>. North West Leicestershire is therefore a net importer of labour.

**Table 4: Origin and Destination of Labour Force by Local Authority District.**

	Origin of Labour Force		Destination of Labour Force	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
North West Leicestershire	24,379	54.2%	24,379	58.2%
South Derbyshire	3,812	8.5%	1,292	3.1%
Charnwood	2,537	5.6%	3,395	8.1%
Derby	2,026	4.5%	855	2.0%
Erewash	1,954	4.3%	353	0.8%
Hinckley and Bosworth	1,376	3.1%	1,766	4.2%
East Staffordshire	810	1.8%	674	1.6%
Leicester	728	1.6%	2,428	5.8%
Other	7,386	16.4%	6,791	16.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>45,008</b> (total jobs)	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>41,933</b> (total workforce)	<b>100.0%</b>

Source SWS101, ONS 2001

- 3.15 North West Leicestershire's position as a net importer of labour is unique amongst other similar sized districts locally. This is illustrated in Table 4 below:

**Table 5: Work Place Jobs Held by Residents.**

	Resident Workers	Workplace Workers	Live and Work in the District	Net Balance
Melton	24,097	19,428	15,069	-4,669
North West Leicestershire	41,919	44,952	24,378	+3,033
Charnwood	73,367	61,932	41,721	-11,435
Hinckley and Bosworth	51,317	42,735	27,377	-8,582
Harborough	39,815	32,663	19,521	-7,152
South Derbyshire	39,998	27,196	15,647	-12,802
Blaby	47,136	41,078	18,044	-6,058
Oadby and Wigston	26,651	19,018	9,128	-7,633

Source: Roger Tym and Partners/Innes England 2005 (based on 2001 Census Date)

- 3.16 In addition, data collected for a recent survey of employment land within the District, undertaken by Roger Tym and Partners indicated that the District has a high level of containment in terms of staffing, with 58% of the District's workforce living within the North West Leicestershire.<sup>xii</sup>
- 3.17 Like other parts of the UK, most businesses in North West Leicestershire are small, employing less than ten staff<sup>xiii</sup>. However, as the following table indicates there are less small businesses in percentage terms within the District than within Leicestershire and Great Britain. Conversely, however, there is a greater proportion of larger businesses employing 200 or more staff within North West Leicestershire than in the region and Great Britain as a whole<sup>xiv</sup>.

**Table 6: Employment Units by Size.**

Number of Employees	% of Units			
	N.W. Leics	Leicester	East Midlands	Great Britain
1-10 employees	82.6%	84.6%	82.5%	83.3%
11-49 employees	13.2%	12.2%	13.6%	12.9%
50-199 employees	3.2%	2.7%	3.2%	3.1%
200 or more employees	1.0%	0.6%	0.7%	0.7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Roger Tym and Partners/Innes England 2005 (based Annual Business Survey 2002)

- 3.18 It is also worth noting NOMIS Data collected in 2002 highlights that the number of VAT registered firms per 10,000 people within the District is significantly higher than both the regional and national averages (471 versus 393 and 409 respectively) and growth in VAT registered firms has been nearly double that experienced in Leicestershire, the East Midlands and Great Britain between 1994 and 2002<sup>xv</sup>. This is further illustrated in Table 6 below.

**Table 7: VAT registered firms.**

	Stock 2002 per 10,000 working age population	Stock 1994 per 10,000 working age population	% change since 1994
<b>North West Leics</b>	471	411	15%
<b>Leicestershire</b>	447	423	6%
<b>East Midlands</b>	393	371	6%
<b>Great Britain</b>	409	379	8%

Source: Roger Tym and Partners/Innes England 2005 (based Annual Business Survey 2002)

- 3.19 This information taken together has recently led consultants to conclude:

*“In many ways, North West Leicestershire is an economically advantaged area. Its residents and workers are especially well off in terms of employment opportunities, given that the District has recovered from the loss of coalmining jobs and now enjoys very low unemployment. Compared to surrounding Districts, it provides employment for a high proportion of its residents and also for many in-commuters from other Districts. The District also has high and rising birth rates of newly VAT-registered firms, pointing to a high level of entrepreneurship”.*

NWLDC Employment Land Study: Roger Tym and Partners 2005.

- 3.20 Despite this conclusion the Council recognises that there on that there is a considerable rural hinterland within North West Leicestershire and as such much of the District is vulnerable to the overall decline in the agricultural sector. As well as the problems caused by traditionally low incomes within the sector, agriculturally based jobs continue to be lost across the District. Between 1982 and 2002 in excess of 35% of all jobs in the Agricultural, Forestry and Fishing sector disappeared<sup>xvi</sup>. And whilst it is acknowledged that the sector no longer contributes significantly to the overall economic performance the District, it is recognised that the sector continues to play a key role in sustaining rural communities and managing much of the District’s landscape for the benefit of wider society. It is therefore important that Central Government’s vision of a ‘forward-looking, competitive and flexible’ farming industry delivered largely by, ‘adding value to existing products and diversifying into new markets be supported by the Council’<sup>xvii</sup>.

- 3.21 The Council recognises that the National Forest is a key resource in helping many rural businesses and land owners diversify into new markets. In particular the growth of tourism, leisure and recreation sectors related to the National Forest could play a key role in sustaining rural communities.

- 3.22 Survey work undertaken by the District Council in Summer 2003 found that there are a number of rural settlements within the District that offer a range of services and facilities to a much wider area than the settlement they are located within. This balance of services and facilities will need to be carefully monitored to ensure there is no loss of service provision that could threaten the vitality or viability of settlements. Already data collected annually is used to identify residential areas with no access to a shop with 500m<sup>xviii</sup>.

## RETAIL

- 3.23 The retail sector is a significant part of the North West Leicestershire Economy employing 7.5% of the District's workforce in 2002<sup>xix</sup>. The largest retail centre in the District is Coalville<sup>xx</sup>. According to the Management Horizon Europe (MHE) retail hierarchy of the largest 1675 retail centres in the United Kingdom, Coalville was the 329<sup>th</sup> largest retail centre in the UK in 2003/04, having increased its position within this index by 65 places since 1995<sup>xxi</sup>. Vacancy rates in the town are slightly lower than the UK average<sup>xxii</sup>. This is illustrated in Table 4. A recent retail health check of the town concluded that Coalville is 'moderately healthy'.

**Table 8: Vacancy Rates in the Districts Main Retail Settlements.**

	Coalville	Ashby	Castle Donington	Great Britain
<b>Vacancy Rate</b>	9.7%	8.9%	5.4%	10.6%

Roger Tym and Partners 2005

- 3.24 The second largest retail centre within the District is Ashby-de-la-Zouch. Ashby's position in the (MHE) retail hierarchy has declined 310 places to 912 between 2001 and 2004<sup>xxiii</sup>. A recent health-check of the retail centre has concluded that Ashby is 'healthy town centre with no acute signs of distress'.<sup>xxiv</sup>
- 3.25 Outside of the main towns there are a number of smaller settlements that offer localised retail provision serving day-to-day convenience and service needs with residents travelling elsewhere to purchase bulk provisions. Such settlements include Castle Donington, Measham and Ibstock. Overall it was considered that these centres were either 'healthy' or reasonably healthy.<sup>xxv</sup>
- 3.26 A recent retail study undertaken within North West Leicestershire highlighted that 83% of convenience expenditure is retained within the district. Furthermore, the same study highlighted that "in both quantitative and qualitative terms the requirement for additional floorspace within the study area is limited"<sup>xxvi</sup>. However, the current retention rate in relation to comparison goods is recognised as being relatively low (32%)<sup>xxvii</sup>. A recent retail capacity study undertaken on behalf of the District Council suggested the capacity to reduce this leakage through new development is relatively limited at present.

**Table 9: Market Share by ten most visited convenience store by North West Leicestershire residents**

Market Share	Destination	% Market Share	Inside or Outside NW Leics District
Highest	Morrisons, Whitwick Road, Coalville	31.1	Inside
2 <sup>nd</sup> Highest	Tesco, Resolution Road, Ashby-de-la-Zouch	27.8	Inside
3 <sup>rd</sup> Highest	Somerfield, Derby Road, Ashby-de-la-Zouch	5.0	Inside
4 <sup>th</sup> Highest	Asda, Midland Street, Long Eaton	3.9	Outside
5 <sup>th</sup> Highest	Co-op, Ashby Road, Ibstock	3.5	Inside
6 <sup>th</sup> Highest	Co-op, Bridge Street, Coalville	3.5	Inside
7 <sup>th</sup> Highest	Kwik Save, Ashby Road, Coalville	2.8	Inside
8 <sup>th</sup> Highest	Sainsbury's, Greenclose Lane, Loughborough	2.3	Outside
9 <sup>th</sup> Highest	Sainsbury's, Civic Way, Swadlincote	2.2	Outside
10 <sup>th</sup> Highest	Co-op, Borough Street, Castle Donington	2.0	Inside

Source: Roger Tym and Partners 2005

- 3.27 Whilst it is recognised that most residents within the District have access to a range of shops (or at least one grocery shop in some smaller villages) there are a number of rural settlements that have no access to a grocery shop within 500m. The planning section monitors this lack of grocery provision annually. In 2004 there were 23 settlements and one housing estate within North West Leicestershire without a grocery store within 500m<sup>xxviii</sup>. A list of settlements without any grocery provision is set out below.

**Table 10: Settlements with No Grocery Provision**

- Appleby Parva
- Acresford
- Bardon
- Battram
- Blackfordby
- Chilcote
- Coleorton Moor
- Donisthorpe
- Griffydham
- Heath End
- Hemington
- Isley Walton
- Lockington
- Lount
- Newbold
- Normanton
- Osgathorpe
- Peggs Green
- Snarestone
- Sweptstone
- Staunton Harold
- Tonge
- Wilson
- Windmill Housing Estate (Ashby)

Source NWLDC 2004

- 3.28 National Planning Policy supports the retention and provision of small-scale local facilities such as village shops, post offices, rural petrol stations, village and church halls and rural public houses. The Council acknowledges that such facilities play a vital role in sustaining rural communities. Historically little data has been recorded on the loss of vital rural services although there is limited anecdotal evidence suggesting the continuing closure of many rural services, in particular shops and public houses. The District Council will explore how best to record the extent of such closures as part of its future monitoring work.

## HOUSING

- 3.29 At the 2001 Census there were 36,838<sup>xxix</sup> household spaces within North West Leicestershire. However, only 35,394 households were occupied<sup>xxx</sup>. Recent vacancy rate data indicates that there were 1,222 empty dwellings in January



2005 (representing 3.1% of the overall dwelling stock- of these 22% had been vacant for more than three years)<sup>xxxii</sup>. In terms of housing tenure 76.6% of dwellings are owner-occupied (compared to the Leicestershire average of 81.2%)<sup>xxxiii</sup>. A further 16.4% of the District's population live in accommodation rented from the council or housing associations<sup>xxxiii</sup>.

- 3.30 The cost of owner-occupied dwellings within the District has risen substantially in recent years. The average price of property within the District increased by 120% between 1999 and 2005. The biggest increases were for flats (+193%) and terraces (+141%)<sup>xxxiv</sup>. Traditionally flats and terraces have provided opportunities for first time buyers entering the housing market. However, based on latest house prices, average annual incomes of £26,171 and £29,624 respectively would be needed to buy a flat or terrace home within the District<sup>xxxv</sup>. Within the private rented sector the average rent within the District was £531 per month during 2004/05. Based on 25% of income being considered an affordable rent an average household income would need to be £25,489 per annum.<sup>xxxvi</sup>

**Table 11: Comparison of Average Dwelling Costs in North West Leicestershire District.**

North West Leicestershire	Detached	Semi Detached	Terraced	Maisonette/Flat	Average
Jan – Mar 2000	£100,384	£62,858	£42,642	£35,243	£76,320
Oct – Dec 2004	£231,402	£133,973	£109,141	£96,421	£166,403

HM Land Registry, 2005

- 3.31 In order to address the problem of high house prices the Council produces a Housing Need Survey annually to assess the number of people in need of affordable housing. According to the current affordable housing needs survey (adopted by the Council in June 2004) there is a need for an additional 520 affordable dwellings to June 2009<sup>xxxvii</sup>. This equates to a need of 104 dwellings per annum. This figure is comparatively high when compared to recent build rates across the District. In 2004 there were 306 new dwellings built, based on this level of building more than one third of new homes would need to be 'affordable'.<sup>xxxviii</sup>
- 3.32 A recent Urban Housing Potential Study (UHPS) undertaken by independent consultants commissioned by the Council has identified that specific sites with a total potential between the base date for the study of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2005 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 of 1567 dwellings. This combined with a potential for an estimated 353 dwellings from unidentified sources, resulting in a total potential output of 1920 dwellings.
- 3.33 Following consultation the District Council has now decided that the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) forms the appropriate basis for considering housing requirements. The RSS states that over the period 2001-2021 a total of 7350 dwellings will need to be built district wide. This equates to 368 dwellings per year. Since 2001 there have been 1509 dwellings built leaving a residual of 5841 dwellings to be built within the District to 2021.
- 3.34 Much of the immediate requirement for housing land will come forward as a result of the redevelopment of brownfield sites identified in the Urban Housing Potential

Study (UHPS), however over the medium term it is likely that a number green field sites (already allocated in the North West Leicestershire Local Plan) will need to be released in order that the Council can achieve its strategic requirement to build 5841 dwellings to 2021. The District Council will produce supplementary planning document, which will be subject to consultation to help it decide which allocated sites should be released to help deliver housing requirements

- 3.35 The Council has recently appointed consultants to undertake an external housing needs assessment to consider the current and future housing needs of the district, across all tenures and dwelling types having regard to the local housing market. The Council will be able to provide a more detailed description of housing issues following this assessment.

## **TRANSPORT**

- 3.36 At the 2001 Census the majority of households within North West Leicestershire had access to at least 1 car or van (81.3%). This is higher than the average for England<sup>xxxix</sup> and reflects the trend towards higher car dependency in rural areas.
- 3.37 The District is well served by the Motorway network. Junctions 23a, 24 and 24a of the M1 lie within North West Leicestershire itself. A further three junction's are also located close to the District boundary (Jct. 22 Markfield, Jct. 23 Shepshed and Jct. 25 Long Eaton). There are 3 junctions within the District that serve the A42/M42 (Jct. 11, Stretton en le Field, Jct. 12 Packington and Jct. 13 Ashby De La Zouch).
- 3.38 Other major roads include the A50 and A453 both of which serve the northern part of the District. Further south the A511 serves much of the National Forest area from Burton on Trent in the west to Coalville in the east and the A512, which runs from Ashby to Loughborough, are the most significant routes.
- 3.39 Public transport provision in North West Leicestershire is recognised as being variable. Whilst Coalville, Ashby-de-la-Zouch and Ibstock are relatively well served by a range of bus services, outside of these centres service provision is poor. And whilst 95% of the District's population is forecast to have access to an hourly or better bus service within 800m walking distance by 2005<sup>xl</sup> there will remain a significant proportion (albeit sparsely populated) part of the District that does not receive an hourly bus service. It is anticipated that demand responsive transport (DRT) services will be ~~used~~ required to provide transport to the District's most isolated communities.
- 3.40 At present there are no train stations within North West Leicestershire. However, East Midland Parkway Station once opened, possibly in late 2007, will be located near Ratcliffe on Soar just outside the District. The nearest existing railways stations to the main settlements within the District are set out below:

**Table 12: Distance of Districts Main Settlements to Nearest Railway Station**

Town	Nearest Train Station	Distance
Coalville	Loughborough	12.9 km
Ashby De La Zouch	Burton on Trent	13.3 km
Castle Donington	Long Eaton	6.1 km
Measham	Polesworth	7.4 km
Kegworth	Long Eaton	5.5 km
Ibstock	Polesworth	16.1 km

Source: NWLDC 2005

- 3.41 North West Leicestershire also contains the region's only international airport, Nottingham East Midlands Airport (NEMA), which is situated near Castle Donington. NEMA had a passenger throughput of in excess of 4.3 million passengers in 2004 (having grown from 2.38 million in 2001 - largely as a result of the growth in low cost operators based at NEMA)<sup>xli</sup>. Nottingham East Midlands is also the UK's largest pure cargo airport carrying circa 290,000 tonnes of freight and Mail in 2004<sup>xlii</sup>.
- 3.42 There is also considerable scope to further development waterborne (inland) freight within the District's navigable waterways. In particular the River Trent handles 2.3 million tonnes of freight along its length annually (DfT 2003) and the further development of waterborne transport within the District could help meet the regional target of doubling the tonnage of freight carried on the regions waterways by 2010 (from year 2000 levels).
- 3.43 According to recent figures published by the Department for Transport the number of walking trips fell by a fifth in the last 10 years, with women now making 27 per cent of their trips on foot compared with 23 per cent for men<sup>xliii</sup>. Over the same period, the average number of bicycle trips per person per year has fallen from 18 in 1992/1994 to 15 in 2004<sup>xliv</sup>. Within North West Leicestershire District travel to work data indicates that walking accounts for 8.29% of journeys to work whilst walking accounts for a mere 2.11%<sup>xlv</sup>.
- 3.44 The relatively poor provision of public transport choice within the District is reflected within the 'journey to work' data collected within the 2001 Census. This indicated that 74.6% of the District's population travel to work by car. This is significantly higher than the UK average (70.6%) being the 13<sup>th</sup> highest result by Local Authority in the United Kingdom<sup>xlvi</sup>. In addition, data taken from the 2001 census indicates that average journey to work distances in the District at 11.1km is higher than the East Midlands and England and Wales 9.7 and 9.6km respectively<sup>xlvii</sup>, reflecting the rural nature of the District.
- 3.45 Available data suggests that car dependency and use have in recent years continued to grow within the District. Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) flows recorded for the M1 Motorway and A42 have all recorded year on year increases<sup>xlviii</sup>. Between 1998-2003 a 12.4% increase in (two way) traffic volume was recorded north of Junction 11 of the A42 at Stretton en le Field<sup>xlix</sup>. Similarly on the M1 between Junctions 22-23 AADT (two-way) flows increased by 17% between 1998-2003 from 86,900 to 101,700<sup>l</sup>. Similarly a 15% increase in traffic was recorded between Junction 23 and 23a on the M1 between 1998 and 2003<sup>li</sup>.

- 3.46 In line with trends on the motorway network within the District there is also evidence that car usage on the District's major classified roads continues to increase. Traffic flows on county A and B classified roads within Leicestershire increased 2.9% from May 2003 to May 2004. This is in addition to average growth of 1.2% per annum for the previous three years<sup>lii</sup>. Without significant improvements in public transport provision it is likely that traffic flows will continue to increase.

## **SOCIAL INCLUSIVENESS AND DEPRIVATION**

- 3.47 The Government uses an Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) to measure how deprived local communities are. This index takes into account:
- Income Deprivation
  - Employment Deprivation
  - Health Deprivation and Disability
  - Education, Skills and Training Deprivation
  - Barriers to Housing and Services
  - Living Environment Deprivation
  - Crime
- 3.48 Overall Levels of deprivation in the District are low with no wards ranked within 10% most deprived in England<sup>liii</sup>. However, according to the IMD some of the highest levels of deprivation in the County are found in North West Leicestershire with 10.6% of the District's population living in the poorest 25% of wards in England<sup>liv</sup>. The wards experiencing the highest levels of deprivation include Greenhill, Measham and Coalville. On a national scale North West Leicestershire is ranked 195<sup>th</sup> out of 354 districts (where 1 = most deprived and 354 = least deprived).<sup>lv</sup>
- 3.49 In terms of income deprivation there are 7,438 people within North West Leicestershire who are classified as being income deprived<sup>lvi</sup>. However, whilst the majority of the District's population live in areas considered to be relatively affluent, part of Greenhill Ward is recognised as being within the top 10% most income deprived areas nationwide<sup>lvii</sup>. Of the 7,348 people within the District who are income deprived, 2,155 (37%) are children<sup>lviii</sup>. This accounts for 12.8% of all children within the District aged 16 years or under. This is the highest proportion of all the districts in Leicestershire<sup>lix</sup>. Conversely, levels of deprivation amongst older people within North West Leicestershire are relatively low. That said, there are still 1,837 people aged over 60 living in income-deprived households<sup>lx</sup>. This accounts for 24.7% of all income deprived people within the district and 11.2% of all people who are 60 or over living in North West Leicestershire<sup>lxi</sup>.
- 3.50 Overall employment deprivation is relatively low across North West Leicestershire. A total of 4,079 are employment deprived<sup>lxii</sup>. However, there are particular pockets of deprivation, the worst being in Greenhill, Measham and Coalville wards. Similarly Health Deprivation and Disability is generally low across the District, however it is recognised that half of the ten most deprived areas relating to Health Deprivation and Disability in Leicestershire as a whole are located in North West Leicestershire<sup>lxiii</sup>.

- 3.51 With regard to Education, Skills and Training Deprivation and Crime Deprivation, North West Leicestershire experiences levels higher than that of Leicestershire's average. With regard to Barriers to Housing and Services and Living Environment Deprivation, North West Leicestershire is considered to experience average or relatively low levels of deprivation<sup>lxiv</sup>.

## **HEALTH AND CARE PROVISION**

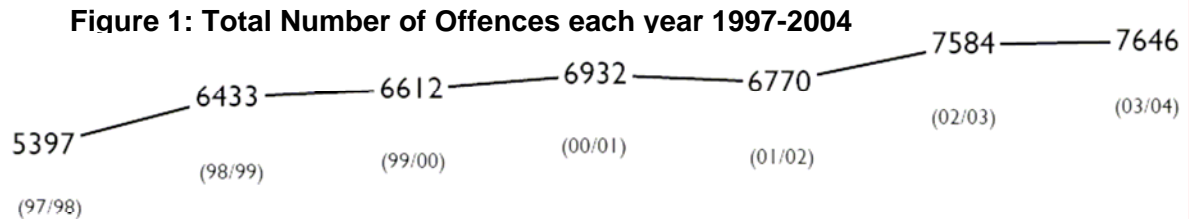
- 3.52 Overall the health of North West Leicestershire's population is relatively good. Male life expectancy at birth is 77.2 years whilst female life expectancy at birth is 81.1 years<sup>lxv</sup>. This is higher than the average for the East Midlands 76.1 (male) 80.5 (female)<sup>lxvi</sup>. In terms of the District's own perception of their health 7.8% of the population consider themselves to be in 'not good health', 23.0% in 'fairly good health' and 69.3% in 'good health'<sup>lxvii</sup> (note this data is for Charnwood and North West Leicestershire). In contrast figures for the East Midlands region record 9.1% considering themselves to be in 'not good health', 23.3% in 'fairly good health' and 67.6% in 'good health'<sup>lxviii</sup>. It is also noted that the number of people within the Charnwood and North West Leicestershire Primary Care Trust area with limiting long-term illness (15.8%) is less than the regional average 18.5%<sup>lxix</sup>. It should be noted, that the general trends highlighted above do mask significant variation across the District.
- 3.53 In terms of health care facilities within the District the Council is aware many of the facilities located within our community are nearing or already at capacity or in need of replacement or renewal. Through working with Charnwood and North West Leicestershire Primary Care Trust it is hoped that detailed understanding of the Trusts needs can be developed and taken into account in policy formation.
- 3.54 Within North West Leicestershire the Census (2001) recorded that 9,358 people are responsible for providing care for relations, friends or neighbours. This is equivalent to 11% of the total District population). Of this total 69% of carers provide support to others for 1-19 hours a week, 11% are providing care between 20 to 49 hours a week, 20% are providing care over 50 hours a week.

## **ETHNICITY AND RELIGION**

- 3.55 The BME (Black and Minority Ethnic) population of North West Leicestershire is 2,247 or 2.6% of the population. (2001 census) The largest ethnic groups are Other White (742 people), Irish (460 people) and Indian (294 people).
- 3.66 In North West Leicestershire, 66,835 people identified themselves as Christian, equivalent to 78% of the population. The largest non-Christian religious group being Hindu (0.2% of the population). A large minority (over 21%) stated that they had no religion, or did not state their religion.

## CRIME AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

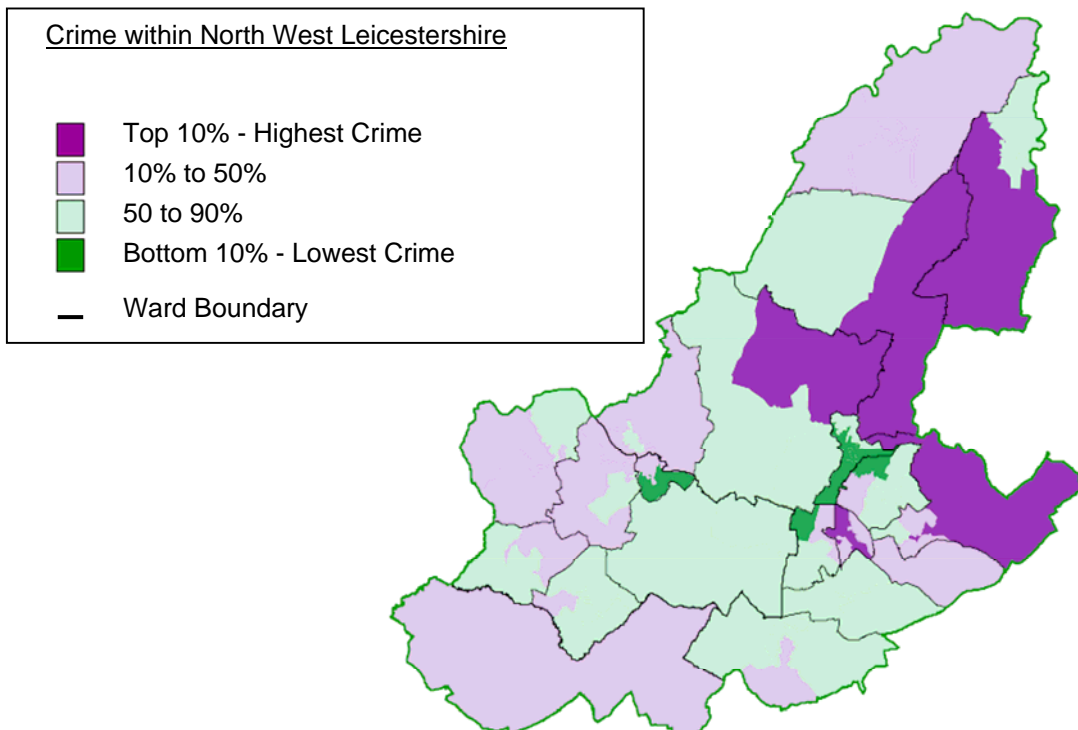
- 3.67 Overall, since 1997 the number of recorded incidences of crime within the District has increased from 5,397 in the financial year 1997-98 to 7,646 in the financial year 2003-04<sup>lxx</sup>. The total number of offences recorded for each year is illustrated below in Figure 2.



Source NWLPSC 2005

- 3.68 In terms of recorded offences by type in North West Leicestershire over the 3 years to 2004, 20% of all recorded crimes have been classified as criminal damage, whilst all other theft (shoplifting, theft from a machine or meter, theft by employee etc) accounted for 19% of all crime. Theft from a vehicle, assault and burglary accounted for 15%, 14% and 10% of all recorded crime respectively.<sup>lxxi</sup>
- 3.69 As the Map below illustrates the highest crime rates within the District are recorded in Coalville, and Greenhill wards. As previously stated these areas are recognised as being some of the most deprived in the District. Interestingly however, there are also significant crimes 'hotspots' located within the North Eastern part of the District. This is partly attributable to the location of the Racetrack, Nottingham East Midlands Airport and Moto Motorway Service Area (MSA) at Castle Donington.

**Figure 2: The Incidence of Crime Across North West Leicestershire**



- 3.70 A recent survey undertaken by North West Leicestershire District Council indicated that whilst 96% of people within North West Leicestershire feel safe at home and 83% in their local neighbourhood, 62% feel unsafe visiting a town centre and 52% felt unsafe going out alone at night<sup>lxxii</sup>. Clearly the fear of crime is a significant issue within the District. More than three quarter of respondents to the same survey (79%) stated that a more visible police presence was the most important factor in helping them to feel safe in the community<sup>lxxiii</sup>.
- 3.71 It is very difficult to predict future crime levels but there is some indication that reported incidents of crime since 2004 have fallen. **In 2004/2005 reductions have been recorded in both the main crime hotspots within the District. There was a reduction of 5% in the output area hotspot in Coalville. In addition there was a reduction of 8% in the vicinity the Moto Services at Donington. This compares to a slight reduction of the 2% for the district as a whole. (Leicestershire Constabulary, CIS). Although it is hoped that they will continue to fall in the long term it is recognised planning has a role to play in ensuring that crime levels are kept low. For example, by ensuring the design and layout of new developments does not encourage crime, and by providing youth facilities that can help reduce the occurrence of antisocial behaviour.**

## LEISURE AND RECREATION

- 3.72 The Council has recently appointed consultants to undertake a PPG17 assessment to assess the provision, quality and accessibility of open space sport and recreation facilities across the District. The Council will be able to provide a detailed description of green infrastructure and leisure and sport facilities across the District following this assessment.
- 3.73 Tourism is seen as an increasingly important contributor to North West Leicestershire's Local Economy. Within the National Forest **area**, the National Forest Company aim to *'create a new, national tourism destination based upon substantial outdoor activity and a variety of indoor attractions'* (National Forest Strategy 2004-14). According to the National Forest Company the forest area is developing far quicker than predicted into a major, new tourism resource, with 5 million visitors spending £164 million and contributing 4,500 jobs to the area annually<sup>lxxiv</sup>. Important visitor attractions within North West Leicestershire (and the National Forest) include Conkers (Waterside and Discovery Centres), Moira Furnace, Ashby Castle, Snibston Discovery Park and Ashby Canal. A further tourism attraction (the Heart of the National Forest Park) is proposed for the area surrounding Conkers.
- 3.74 **The Council also recognises the value of the National forest as a local resource providing leisure and recreation opportunities to the residents of North West Leicestershire. To date some 84% of all land so far committed to the National Forest has some form of public access. In particular the National Forest will make a significant contribution towards creating new footpaths and new forest trails for horse-riding and cycling.**



- 3.75 District Wide North West Leicestershire has a target to create an additional 1km of cycle path, multi-use trails and footpaths per year set out within its Adopted Community Strategy. Between 2002-04 the Council has helped develop 5km of paths. Work in 2005 has been undertaken to increase and upgrade existing footpaths and cycle routes within Coalville Town Centre as part of the Phoenix Green Link.
- 3.76 In the northern part of the District River's Trent and Soar and Sawley Marina (which provides berths for approximately 600 boats and associated facilities), Donington Park race circuit, and Staunton Harold are also major tourism and leisure destinations that make a significant contribution to the local economy.

## EDUCATION AND SKILLS

- 3.77 Within North West Leicestershire there are 43 Primary Schools (2 of which have special needs units) 7 Secondary Schools (one of which has a special needs unit) and one dedicated special needs school. In terms of further education provision there are two sixth form centres located at Ashby School and King Edward the VII School in Coalville<sup>lxxv</sup>. There is one college within the District (Stephenson's College), which from September 2005 will be located at Thornborough Road in Coalville.
- 3.78 Within the District there is a total of 12,856 pupils recorded as being on the School role in 2004. The majority of pupils are in primary education (55.4%); the vast majority of the remainder (43.8% of the total) are in secondary education<sup>lxxvi</sup>.

**Table 13: Number of Pupils on Roll by School Type.**

	Primary/Nursery	Secondary	Special	Total	% of Total
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	7,119	5,632	105	12,856	13.3%
<b>All Leicestershire Districts</b>	49,742	46,744	534	97,020	100%

Source Annual Schools Census, LCC 2004

- 3.79 Within Leicestershire as a whole, data taken from the Leicestershire Learning and Skills Council Strategic Plan 2002-2005 states that of the 7945 year 11 pupils who left school in 2001 73.7% went on to further education. In addition 5.8% went on to full time employment with training, 3.4% went on to employment without training whilst 3.3% went on to Government supported training (non employed status). A further 6.2% of respondents were classed as unemployed whilst no response was received from 3.1% of all school leavers<sup>lxxvii</sup>.
- 3.80 In terms of skills and educational attainment within the District 33.2% of the working age population (people aged 16-74) have no qualifications<sup>lxxviii</sup>. This is higher than the Leicestershire average (28%)<sup>lxxix</sup>. Conversely, educational attainment at NVQ level 3 (equivalent) is lower in North West Leicestershire in the County as a whole 6.7% against 8.6%<sup>lxxx</sup>. This trend is also mirrored for higher-level qualifications. Only 16.2% of the working age population in North West Leicestershire are educated to NVQ level 4 or above compared to 18.2% in Leicestershire County<sup>lxxxi</sup>. In short North West Leicestershire has a comparatively



low skilled workforce when compared to surrounding districts. At a more local level part of Greenhill and Measham wards are ranked within the top 10% most deprived super output areas nationally in terms of skills and educational attainment. A further 10 super output areas are ranked within the 20% most deprived nationally.

**Table 14: Highest Qualification (NVQ Equivalence) by all residents in North West Leicestershire**

Area	Highest Qualification Obtained		
	No Qualifications	NVQ level 3	NVQ level 4/5
North West Leicestershire	33.2%	6.68%	16.22%
Leicestershire	28.21%	8.6%	18.21%

Source Census 2001

## ENVIRONMENT

### HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

- 3.81 North West Leicestershire District has a rich and varied heritage which is reflected within the District's Landscape and Built Environment. There are at present 23 Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMS) within North West Leicestershire. In addition there are 634 buildings and other structures that have been listed, and 21 Conservation Areas designated for their 'special architectural or historic interest.<sup>lxxxii</sup> There are three registered Historic Parks and Gardens located within North West Leicestershire. These are Staunton Harold, Whatton House (Long Whatton) and Coleorton Hall.
- 3.82 The historical and built heritage of the District is finite, and pressure for development and change in the District has the potential to adversely affect archaeological sites, or the features and character of historical buildings and areas landscapes. The District Council recognises that a number of historic landscapes exist within the district, such as ridge and furrow medieval field systems, which whilst not designated are diminishing. It is further recognised that some undesignated archeological sites could be of national importance and as such the Council is keen to ensure that the effects of development on the District's heritage are adequately assessed, minimised or where necessary mitigated.
- 3.83 It is expected that further baseline data on the areas of historic landscape survival within the District will be published following work by County Council to produce a historic landscape characterisation of Leicestershire.

### LANDSCAPE

- 3.84 There are no nationally designated landscapes designations within North West Leicestershire. However, there are a number of locally designated landscapes areas within the District. Areas of Particularly Attractive Countryside a cover 15% of the District. In total there are three APACs with the largest being located to the east of Greenhill, Thringstone, Whitwick and Worthington and comprising part of

the Charnwood Forest. Further sites are located in the vicinity of Staunton Harold in the North of the District and to the South of the District around Gopsall's Wharf, (Snareston).

- 3.85 In addition to Areas of Particularly Attractive Countryside there are also a number green wedges within the District's main urban centre of Coalville. These seek to protect structurally important areas of open land, which influence the form and direction of urban development, however these sites also form important areas of attractive countryside easily accessible to local communities. Similarly there are 5 areas of separation allocated in the Adopted Local Plan which also seek to protect areas of countryside between existing urban areas which may be lost due to coalescence.
- 3.86 To date there has been no comprehensive district wide assessment of landscape character undertaken within North West Leicestershire. However, Leicestershire County Council undertook a landscape character assessment, the results of which were published in 2001. This sets out a range of landscape character areas taking into account significant recent events affecting the Leicestershire landscape. These include
- Continued urban growth
  - New road building (including the A42)
  - Continuing agricultural decline
  - Closure of pits in the Coalfield
  - Development of the national forest
- 3.87 The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Landscape and Woodland strategy identifies 6 landscape character areas within North West Leicestershire. In addition it provides objectives for each landscape area. These are set out in the following table.

**Table 15: Character Areas within North West Leicestershire**

<b>Character Areas Within N. W. Leics.</b>	<b>Objective</b>
Trent Valley	To restore and enhance the river floodplain character of the valley landscape
Langley Lowlands	To Conserve and enhance the areas rural character and well wooded appearance
Soar Valley	To restore and enhance the traditional valley floodplain landscape
The Coalfield	To create a new wooded landscape as part of the National Forest, whilst conserving existing areas of special value.
Charnwood Forest	To restore and enhance the well wooded upland character of the area and gain national recognition for its special character
Mease/Sence Lowlands	To restore and enhance the rural character of the of the lowland agricultural landscape

Source LCC 2001

- 3.88 In addition, to the County-wide landscape assessment further work has been undertaken by the National Forest Company to inform its own strategy and objectives. The National Forest Company have identified four main landscape types within that part of the forest that falls within North West Leicestershire. These are
- Melbourne Parklands
  - Leicestershire and South Derbyshire Coalfield
  - Charnwood
  - Mease Sense Lowlands
- 3.89 Outside North West Leicestershire the National Forest Company have identified a further two landscape character areas; Needwood and South Derbyshire Claylands and Trent Valley Washlands.
- 3.90 The Forest's landscape character areas coincide with the national countryside character map of England produced by the Countryside Agency. The Forest's landscape assessment also relates well to the County based assessment undertaken by Leicestershire County Council.

## BIODIVERSITY

- 3.91 According to the East Midlands Biodiversity Forum the East Midlands has the poorest biodiversity of all the English regions<sup>lxxxiii</sup>. The East Midlands region has a low level of statutory protection for nature conservation and has the lowest proportion of land area designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest in England. In total less than 2% of the region outside of Derbyshire is classified as being a SSSIs compared to a national average of 7%.<sup>lxxxiv</sup>
- 3.92 North West Leicestershire mirrors this regional trend. Only a small fraction of the District is protected through National or International designations for the purposes of ~~landscape~~ **ecological** protection **(species or habitat protection)**. There are currently 17 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) within the North West Leicestershire, of which 2 have further designations; Charnwood Lodge (which is also a National Nature Reserve) and the River Mease (which is a Special Area of Conservation)<sup>lxxxv</sup>. Combined, these sites make up a tiny fraction of the District- around 2% of the total land area<sup>lxxxvi</sup>. Further information on The District's SSSIs is set out below:

**Table 16: SSSIs within North West Leicestershire.**

	Site	Designation	Area (Acres)	Date Originally Notified*
1	Ashby Canal	SSSI	61.50	1988
2	Bardon Hill Quarry	SSSI	194.72	1987
3	Bardon Hill	SSSI	32.60	1981
4	Blackbrook Reservoir	SSSI	95.40	1981
5	Breedon Cloud Woods	SSSI	156.60	1956
6	Breedon Hill	SSSI	11.61	1956
7	Charnwood Lodge	National Nature Reserve/ SSSI	340.00	1956
8	Coalville Meadow	SSSI	15.30	1981
9	Dimmingsdale (Staunton Harold)	SSSI	91.40	1981
10	Donington Park	SSSI	92.40	1981
11	Grace Dieu & High Sharpley	SSSI	220.60	1956
12	Lockington Marshes	SSSI	27.13	1981
13	Lount Meadows	SSSI	24.20	1981
14	Newton Burgoland	SSSI	20.00	1981
15	Oakley Wood	SSSI	121.05	1956
16	Pasture & Asplin	SSSI	103.50	1981
17	River Mease	Special Area of Conservation/SSSI	54.02	2000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1662.03</b> (672.73 ha)	

Source English Nature 2004

- 3.93 The condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) within the District are generally quite poor especially when considered against national datasets. Only one quarter of sites are classified as being in a favourable condition, whilst a further 29% are classed as being unfavourable but recovering.<sup>lxxxvii</sup> Just over 44% of all sites (by area) within the District are classed as being unfavourable (with no change since the last assessment) or unfavourable and declining<sup>lxxxviii</sup>. Just over 1% of the District's SSSIs was classified as being destroyed in an assessment undertaken in September 2003<sup>lxxxix</sup>. The Government has set a target to bring 95% of Nationally Important Wildlife sites (SSSIs) into favourable condition by 2010.<sup>xc</sup>

**Table 17: Condition of SSSIs National to District Breakdown.**

	Percent Meeting PSA Target	% Area Favourable	% Area unfavourable recovering	% Area unfavourable no change	% Area unfavourable declining	% Area destroyed part/destroyed
England	64.23	45.85	18.38	22.28	13.39	0.1
East Midlands Region	49	40.67	8.33	18.92	32.06	0.02
Leicestershire	67.1	23.24	43.86	22.86	9.82	0.23
North West Leicestershire District Council	54.72	25.39	29.33	21.3	22.85	1.13

Source: Based on data published by English Nature 2004

- 3.94 In addition to SSSIs there are a range of wildlife sites (also known as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation) located within the District. These sites are important places for wildlife, being important reservoirs of rare, local and declining native species, but do not receive the legal protection of designated sites such as sites of special scientific interest and special areas of conservation. Because most wildlife in the District lives outside managed nature reserves, the countywide

network of SINC's plays a key role in supporting wildlife in the wider countryside and in open spaces within the District's settlements.

- 3.95 To date North West Leicestershire District Council has been unable to access up to date information regarding SINC's within the District. The Council acknowledges the importance of this data and will endeavour to obtain information in order that key issues can be identified and relevant sustainability objectives and indicators can be set out in the Sustainability Appraisal set out in stage A4.
- 3.96 Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPS) are strategies to focus nature conservation work. They usually cover specific areas such as a county or a designated area. They outline the work required to achieve the necessary protection and conservation of habitats and species at the Local level. LBAPS are produced and implemented locally but together deliver the UK governments' commitment to conserving biodiversity as signatories to the 1992 convention on Biological Diversity at the Rio Earth Summit.
- 3.97 Within North West Leicestershire, BAPs produced by the County and National Forest set out objectives and targets for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity. Within the National Forest BAP there are 16 Habitat Action Plans and 9 Species Action Plans. The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland BAP, produced in 1998 contains action plans for eighteen priority habitats and also fourteen species action plans all listed below.

**Table 18: Action Plans for Habitats and Species within the National Forest BAP**

Habitat action Plans	Species Action plan
Ancient semi natural woodland	Adder ( <i>Vipera berus</i> )
Orchards	Barn Owl ( <i>Tyto alba</i> )
Plantation woodland	Bats
Wet Woodland	Black Poplar ( <i>Populus nigra</i> ssp. <i>Betulifolia</i> )
Lowland wood pasture and parkland with mature trees	Bluebell ( <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i> )
Lowland dry acid grassland	Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> )
Neutral grass land	Redstart ( <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i> )
Roadside verges	Ruddy Darter ( <i>Sympetrum sanguineum</i> )
Wet Grassland and floodplain grazing marsh	Water Vole
Lowland heathland	
Linear waters	
Open water (ponds and lakes)	
Reedbeds	
Ancient and species rich hedgerows	
Field margins	
Urban	

Source National Forest Biodiversity Action plan (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) 2004

**Table 19: Priority Action Plans for habitats and species within the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland BAP**

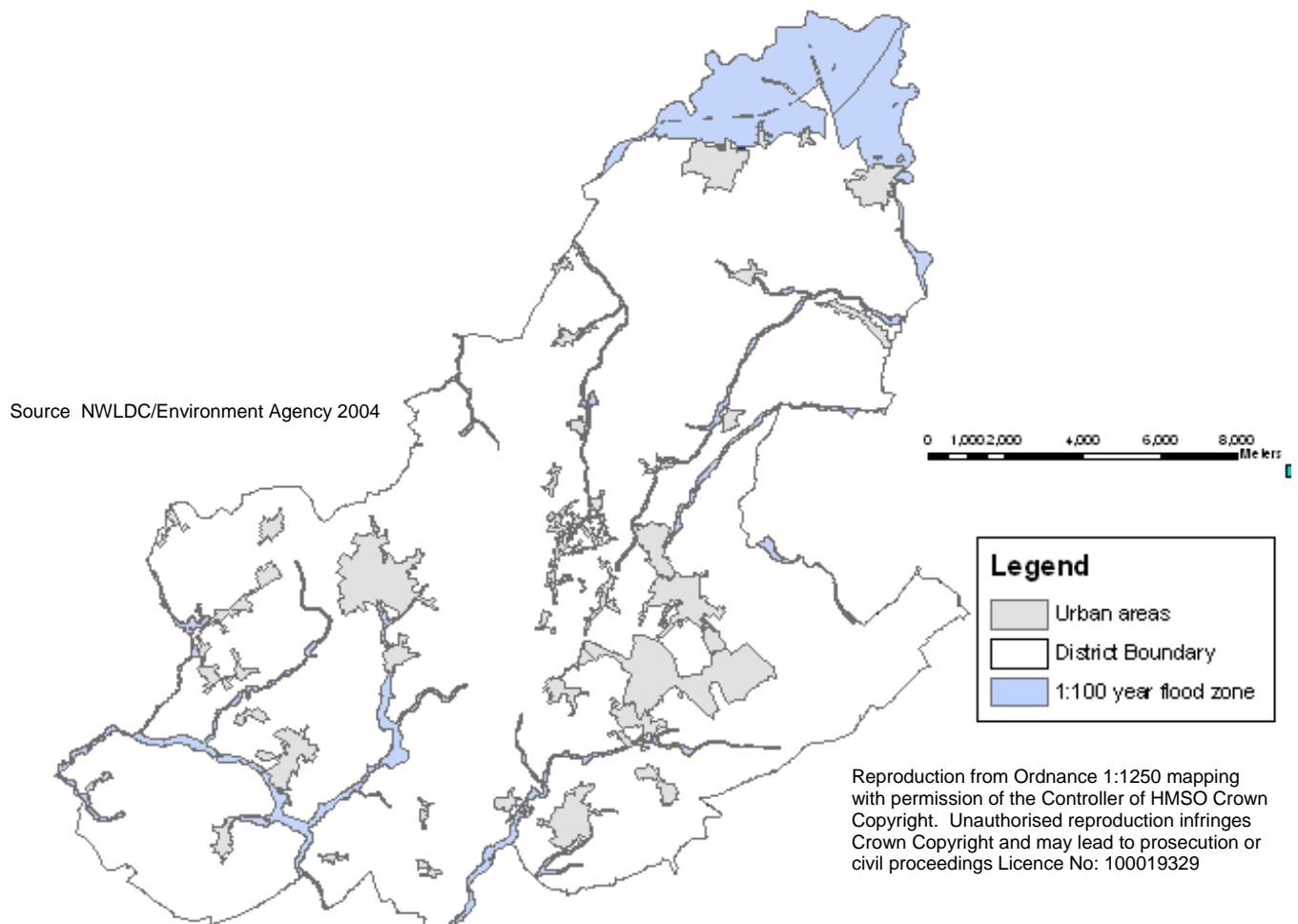
Priority Habitat action Plans	Priority Species Action plan
Heath-grassland	Otter
Hedgerows	Dormouse
Mature Trees	Water vole

Calcareous grassland	Bats
Neutral grassland	Barn owl
Field margins	Redstart
Floodplain wetland	Nightingale
Reedbeds	Sand martin
Mesotrophic lakes	Black hairstreak
Fast-flowing streams	White-clawed crayfish
Sphagnum ponds	Black poplar
Springs and flushes	Violet helleborine
Field ponds	Wood vetch
Rocks and built structures	Purple small-reed
Wet woodland	
Sessile oakwood	
Roadside verges	
Lowland wood pasture and parkland	

Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action plan, produced in 1998

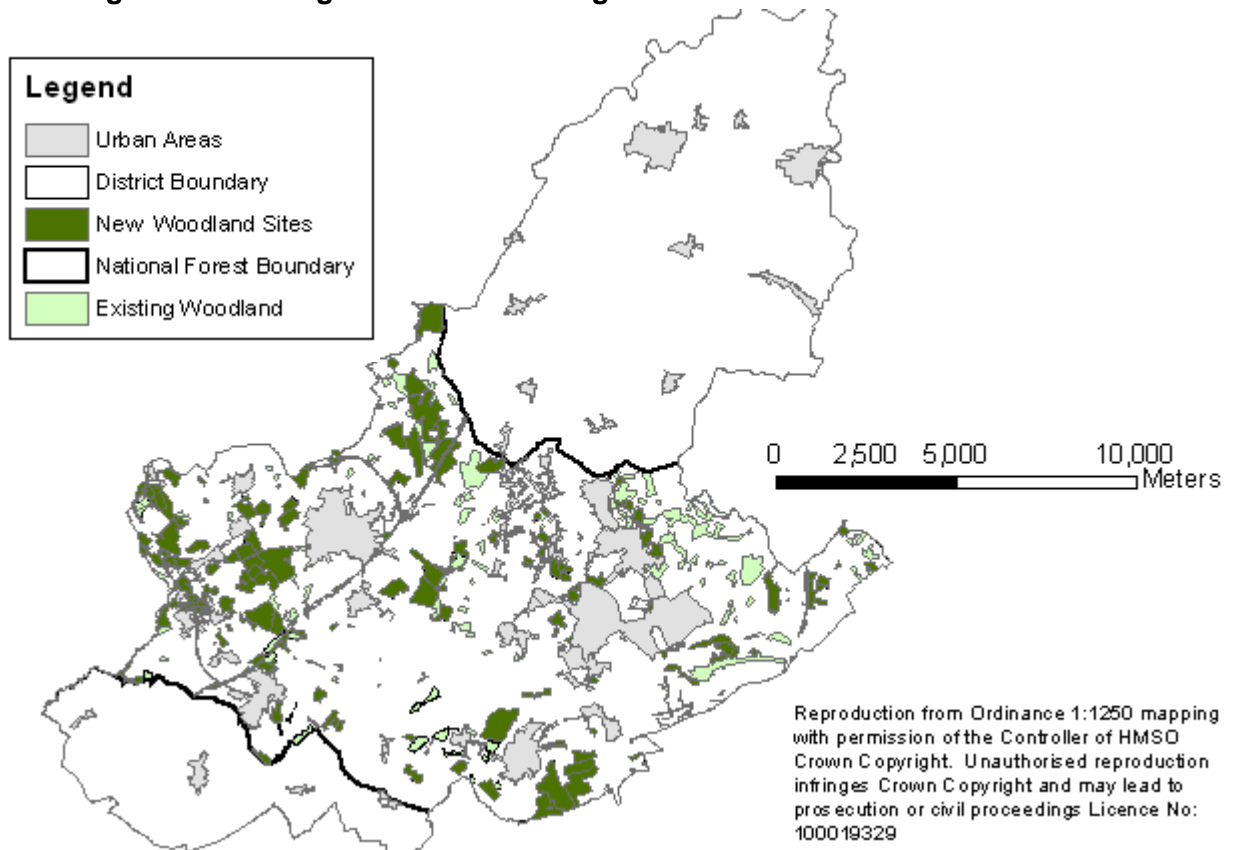
- 3.98 The Environment Agency assesses the quality of rivers and canals by looking at nutrients, chemistry, and biology along 3500 km of watercourses in the East Midlands. In total 95-97% of watercourses have a good or fair biological or chemical quality, but 59% have a poor nitrate quality and 64% have a poor phosphate quality<sup>xcii</sup>. Three quarters of watercourses within the East Midlands have reached their Resource Quality Objective (RQO)<sup>xcii</sup>. The Government has an overall Target of 91% of all watercourses to meet their RQO by 2005.<sup>xciii</sup>

**Figure 3: Extent of the 1:100 year probability flood plain within North West Leicestershire.**



- 3.99 There are 1592 buildings within the 1:100 year probability flood zone area within the District<sup>xciiv</sup>. Many of these buildings are commercial, industrial or outbuildings such as stables, although the majority are residential dwellings. As the Illustrative map above indicates the largest areas of flood risk are in the northern part of the District around Castle Donington and Kegworth and are associated with the rivers Trent and Soar, which make up the northern boundary of the District. There are also a number of properties at risk from flooding in the southern part of the District associated with the rivers Sence and Mease.
- 3.100 In terms of woodland the Forestry Commission's National Inventory of Woodland and trees published in 2002 estimates that Leicestershire and Rutland have only 3.8% woodland cover (the average for the English Counties is 7.3%)<sup>xcv</sup> making it one of the least wooded areas in England. The Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) seeks to promote the planting of an additional 65,000 hectares of woodland to 2021. Within North West Leicestershire, one of the main drivers of tree planting is the National Forest. Within the National Forest Area (which covers about half of the District) there is a target to achieve 33% woodland cover. To date considerable progress has been made towards achieving this target. In 1990/91 existing woodland cover within the National Forest was around 6%<sup>xcvi</sup>. By March 2003 this had increased to 14.3%<sup>xcvii</sup>. New tree planting is now being achieved at around 500 hectares per annum across the whole forest area. An indicative map set out below illustrates the current extent of woodland within the National Forest Area.
- 3.101 Current figures held by the District Council suggest that there is just over 500 hectares of ancient woodland within North West Leicestershire. This is spread over 22 sites the largest being Bardon Hill, Bardon and Spring Wood Staunton Harold. The District Council acknowledges that ancient woodlands are of historic interest and may contain significant archeology.

**Figure 4: Existing Woodland Coverage in the National Forest**



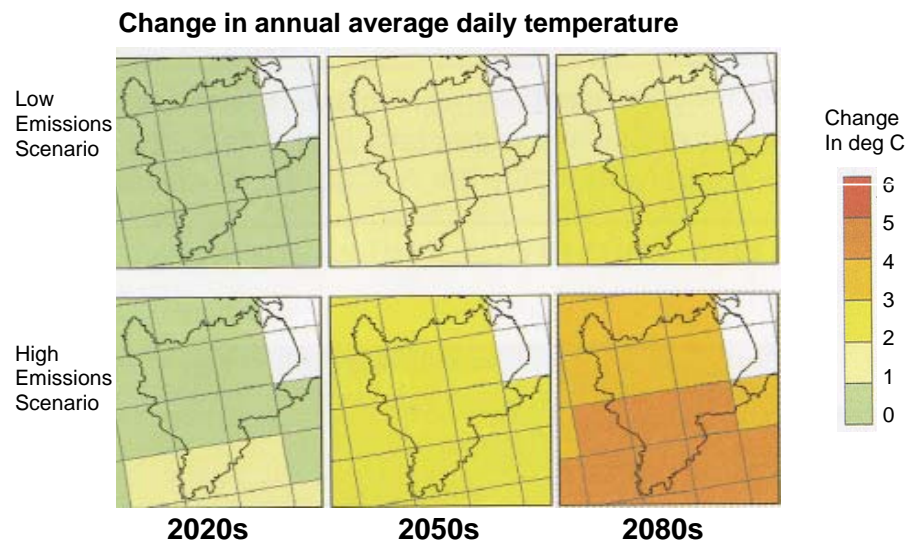


- 3.102 It is also noted that woodland creation can help improve local air quality and lock up carbon dioxide playing a small role in removing carbon released from the burning of fossil fuels

## CLIMATE

- 3.103 Climate change (regardless of cause) is now widely recognised as a significant issue. Annual mean temperatures over central England showed a warming trend of  $+0.6^{\circ}\text{C}$  between 1901 and 1998<sup>xcviii</sup>. Annual rainfall totals across central and eastern England have increased slightly ( $+3\%$ ) since the 1930s<sup>xcix</sup>. December rainfall totals increased by 38% and July totals fell by 31% over the same period<sup>c</sup>.
- 3.104 The UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP) predicts that by the 2020s the average annual temperature in the East Midlands will have increased by between  $0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $1^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Region-wide, it is forecasted that temperatures could increase by  $3^{\circ}\text{C}$  by the end of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century<sup>ci</sup>. This is illustrated overleaf in figure 5.

**Figure 5: Projected Climate Change Models for the East Midlands**



Source: UKCIP02 Climate Change Scenarios

## WATER

- 3.105 Rainfall within North West Leicestershire is typically in the range of 600mm to 700mm per annum. This range is broadly comparable with the East Midlands average - typically less than 700mm per year. This is compared to an average of around 900mm for England and Wales<sup>cii</sup>. Parts of the East Midlands are among the driest in the country. In addition the East Midlands has limited natural or artificial facilities to store water<sup>ciii</sup>. According to the scoping report for the East Midlands Regional Plan surface water through the majority of the East Midlands is fully committed to existing abstractions so no significant additional resource is available (in the summer), with the possible exception of the Trent and Soar.



- 3.106 Of the rainfall received in the East Midlands some is taken up by trees and crops, whilst some evaporates. What is left over (known as effective rainfall) is equivalent to about 2000 litres per person per day across the whole region<sup>civ</sup>. According to the scoping report for the East Midlands Regional Plan Severn Trent Water predict that climate change could result in a further reduction of water yields of the Trent and Derwent Valley reservoir system. At the same time future population growth could put further pressure on constrained resources. With these issues in mind there is a need to safeguard current usable water sources and incorporate efficiency measures within any new built development.
- 3.107 There is now broad consensus that one of the major causes of climate change is the emission of greenhouse gases-mainly carbon dioxide. These are released by burning fossil fuels such as coal, petrol, gas and oil. Within the East Midlands power stations emit 46% of greenhouse gases, road transport and domestic energy both emit 14% of carbon dioxide whilst industry emits a further 7%<sup>cv</sup>. Clearly climate change is now viewed as a significant issue. There is therefore a need to promote energy efficiency through the spatial planning system in order to reduce the emission of CO<sup>2</sup> and hence the severity of climate changes resulting from the release of greenhouse gases.

## **AIR**

- 3.108 Unfortunately, there is no data on ambient air quality within the District. Where North West Leicestershire District Council collects information it is because there is a recognised problem with air quality in a particular area. There are presently two Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA's) within North West Leicestershire. These are located near Molehill Farm, Kegworth and around the A6 also in Kegworth<sup>cvi</sup>. In both cases the main source of pollutants is (road) transport related.
- 3.109 Noise (defined as unwanted sound) are significant issues in the northern part of the District especially around Castle Donington and Kegworth. Key noise generators are the Nottingham East Midlands Airport (NEMA), Donington Park Race Circuit and the M1 motorway.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

### **WASTE AND RECYCLING**

- 3.110 Within North West Leicestershire approximately 39,500 tonnes of rubbish are produced every year. In 2002/3 the District Council recycled around 6% of the waste it collected<sup>cvi</sup>. By 2004/05 this had increased to 23% and is expected to reach approximately 30% by 2005/06<sup>cvi</sup>. This is slightly higher than the District Council's recycling target of 24%<sup>cix</sup>.
- 3.111 Within the whole of Leicestershire, the Leicestershire Municipal Waste Management Strategy sets out objectives to recover 40% of municipal waste by 2005 45% of all municipal waste by 2010 and 67% by 2015. In terms of Biodegradable waste there are targets to reduce waste to 75% of 1995 levels by 2010 and 35% of 1995 levels by 2020.

- 3.112 Housing developments on previously developed land (also known as Brownfield land) within the District have historically accounted for around 40% of all new housing developments. Monitoring work undertaken for 2004/05 by the Council now indicates that the District is meeting Central Government requirements to build 60% of all dwellings on previously developed land. Of the 306 dwelling built within North West Leicestershire in 2004-05, 63% were built on reused land<sup>cx</sup>. . Where green field sites are required to meet the district's residual housing need the Council will seek to ensure that policies are adopted that allow the most sustainable development locations to be released ahead.

## **RENEWABLE ENERGY**

- 3.114 Within the East Midlands the majority of energy is generated from fossil fuels. The regions coal fired power stations account for approximately 10-15% of the UKs total generating capacity<sup>cxii</sup>. The East Midlands Draft Sustainable Energy Strategy (2003) predicts that the East Midland's total energy consumption in the domestic, commercial; industrial and transport sectors will increase by 15% by 2020<sup>cxiii</sup>. At present renewable energy sources only make a minor contribution to the regions electricity-generating capacity (about 1.4%) and most of this is from the combustion of landfill gas<sup>cxiii</sup>.
- 3.115 Although there is no electricity generating station in North West Leicestershire at present it is recognised that within North West Leicestershire there could be potential to promote renewable forms of energy linked to energy crops (Biomass). Wood is a form of biomass and sustainable management of woodland and energy crop resources makes wood a renewable energy source. As long as trees are planted to replace those cut for fuel, wood-fuel is carbon neutral. Energy derived from wood could play a limited, but important, role in helping the district to contribute to regional renewable energy targets.

## **GEOLOGY AND SOILS**

- 3.116 There are two forms of protection for geological heritage within North West Leicestershire, SSSI's and Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Sites (RIGS). SSSI's are nationally recognised and RIGS are of county or regional importance. The Council acknowledges the importance of this data and will endeavour to obtain information in order that key issues can identified and relevant sustainability objectives and indicators can be set out in the Sustainability Appraisal set out in stage A4.
- 3.117 The character of North West Leicestershire is diverse. The area combines both large tracts of rolling countryside with its industrial heritage. The southern part of the District falls into the former category. Here the population lives in the dispersed rural communities such as Chilcote and Stretton en le Field or the rural villages of Appleby Magna, Swepstone, Snarestone and Newton Burgoland.
- 3.118 The belt of land running from Moira and Albert Village to the west of Coalville contains much of the District's industrial legacy. In the recent past, this area has been subject to extensive mineral workings, such as coal, clay and rock. The area

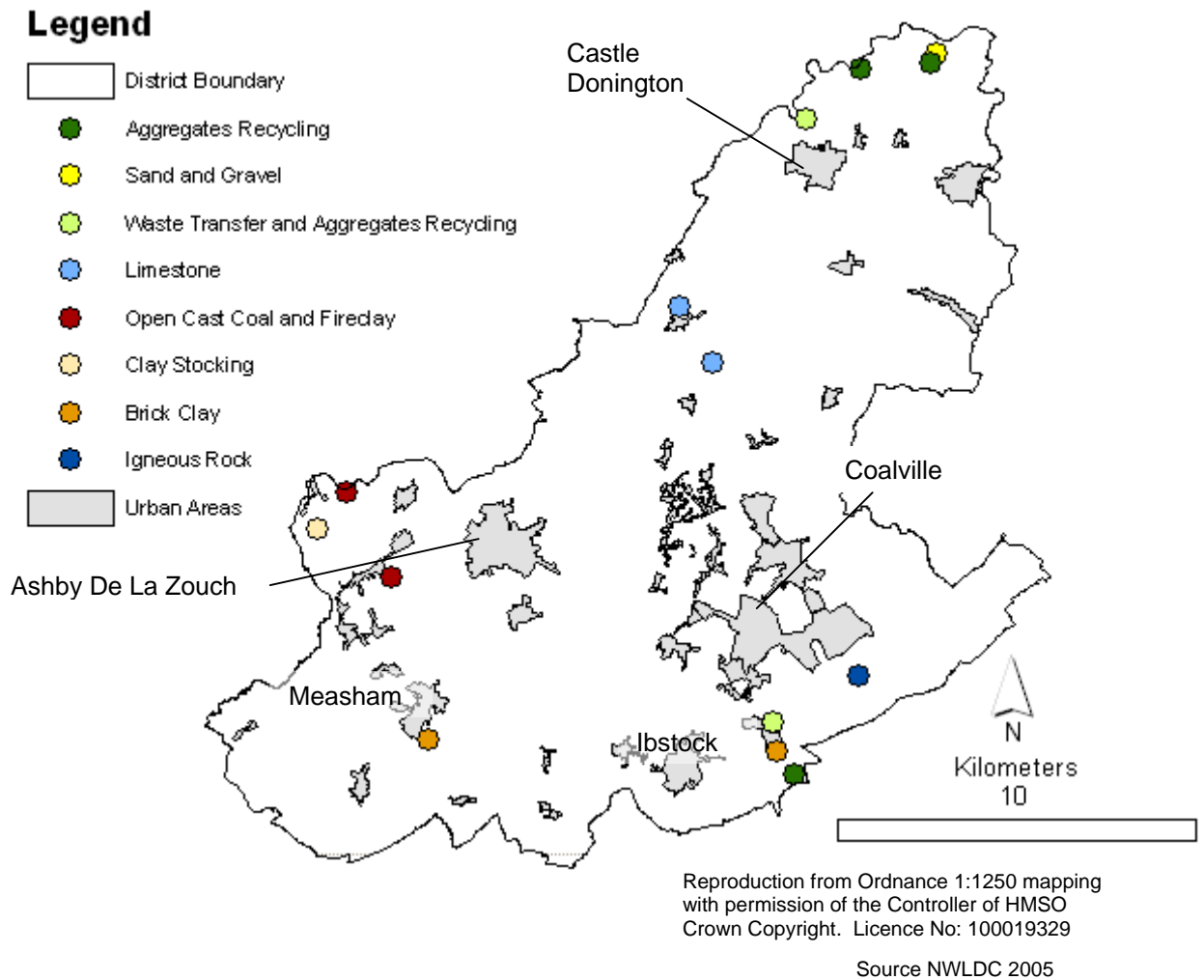
around Moira is now being reclaimed by, largely to forestry, as the Heart of the National Forest.

- 3.119 The extreme east of the District comprises the peaks of Charnwood. This is an area formed from Precambrian rocks, which are some of the oldest rocks in England and contain internationally important fossils of the earliest known life recorded in the country. Charnwood Forest has a variety of habitats including extensive woodlands, acid grassland and lowland heath on the hills.
- 3.120 In the northern part of the District mineral workings have helped shape the landscape in the form of gravel pits along the River Trent and in the limestone quarries found in the villages of Breedon on the Hill and Worthington.
- 3.121 Currently there is limited data available that considers soil quality within North West Leicestershire. Whilst the Council acknowledges that biodiversity and agriculture depends on healthy soil it also recognises that changes in farming, pressure from development (including farm diversification) and climate change could threaten soil quality across the District in the future.

## MINERALS

- 3.122 North West Leicestershire possesses a wide range of mineral resources, including nationally important reserves of igneous rock. Other minerals extracted within the District include; sand and gravel; brick clay; limestone and coal<sup>cxiv</sup>. The locations of minerals workings are illustrated below. Where sites are approaching the end of their useful life, they, will be returned to a beneficial use in the shortest possible time. These are usually comprised of woodland planting, restoration to forestry, water recreation or nature conservation. In addition, the best and most versatile agricultural land could also be restored to a standard suitable for long-term agricultural use.
- 3.123 Within the east midlands there is a target supply 70 million tonnes of recycled and secondary aggregates between 2001-2016. The Council is also aware of the potential of the National Forest to support alternative building materials such as timber from certified sources. Currently there is no record of the number of developments within the District Constructed from alternative building materials. The District Council will explore the options for monitoring both the reuse of recycled materials and the use of alternative building materials

**Figure 6. Minerals Sites Within the District**



## 4.0 (STAGE A3) KEY ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES

### INTRODUCTION

- 4.1 The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (annex 1) requires that
- “the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan be addressed”... and... “any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of particular importance, such as areas designated in pursuance to Directives 79/409/EEC [the ‘Birds Directive’] and 92/43/EEC [the ‘Habitats Directive’]”* are considered whilst undertaking any assessment.
- 4.2 For the purposes of this Scoping Report the identification of environmental issues has been extended to include social and economic issues in line with the requirement to integrate the requirements for Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment. Through analysis of the baseline data set out in the previous chapter a number of key sustainability issues affecting North West Leicestershire have been identified. These are set out under four headings to reflect the goals of the UK Sustainable Development Strategy (see below), rather than in the order that issues are considered in the baseline study provided in the previous chapter.
- 4.3 As stated previously in Paragraph 1.16 (chapter 1) the UK Sustainable Development Strategy sets out a number of priorities:
- Sustainable Consumption and Production
  - Sustainable Communities
  - Natural Resource Production and Environmental Enhancement
  - Climate Change and Energy
- 4.4 The following table summarises the key issues currently affecting North West Leicestershire and examines the evolution of each issue in the District without the influence of the proposed Local Development Framework. The LDF is predominantly focused on issues of land use and for this reason it is recognised that it has a particularly strong emphasis on new development within the District. That said, it is also recognised that the Local Development Framework can affect any plans, policies or programmes that have a spatial element. Where possible the following table sets out the possible role of Local Development Framework in tackling identified issues.

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**Table 20 Key Issues within North West Leicestershire**

Key Issue (and comment)	Likely Evolution without the Local Development Framework	Potential Influence of Local Development Framework	Possible Role of Local Development Framework
<b>SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</b>			
<b>There is a lack of small business premises within the District</b>	Continuation of the current trend	Moderate	Small commercial sites/allocation including home office developments could be promoted through the LDF process. Such sites could help propagate the growth of indigenous companies within the District
<b>There is a need to diversify the employment base of the District</b>  The District continues to be heavily reliant on three employment sectors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manufacturing,</li> <li>• Distribution, hotels restaurants</li> <li>• Transport and communications</li> </ul> There is a recognised need to diversify the employment base particularly into the Banking, Finance and Insurance, and Public Administration Sectors (which are significantly under represented within the District).	Continuation of the current trend	Minor-Moderate	Non-manufacturing employment sites (business parks) could be protected for continuing employment uses. New business parks could be bought forward where need is proved.
<b>There is a need to encourage the economic diversification within the district's rural communities.</b>  Traditional agriculturally based industries have continued to decline within the district. The promotion of leisure, tourism and other appropriate rural diversification within the district (for example the development of a woodland based economy) could be used to offset this decline	Continuation of the current trend (although other programmes and strategies may have an impact n this trend (for example EU support)	Moderate	The LDF could provide policies that support appropriate leisure and tourism and recreation development in the Countryside particularly within the national forest area but also throughout the rest of the district. In addition rural or farm diversification policies could provide planning policy support for farmers wishing to diversify into appropriate new businesses. The development of wood based industries and energy generation could be supported within countryside policies set out in the Districts LDF.
<b>70% of the Districts waste is still disposed of at Landfill sites.</b>  Significant improvement have recently been made towards recycling domestic waste, however the District still under performs compared to most other District's in Leicestershire.	Continuation of the current trend	Minor	Policies could be set out within the LDF to encourage the provision of Bring Sites (for glass bottles, cans, paper etc) on all new major development schemes. Policies can also be included in the LDF to promote the positive reuse of existing building rather than demolition and rebuild.

Key Issue (and comment)	Likely Evolution without the Local Development Framework	Potential Influence of Local Development Framework	Possible Role of Local Development Framework
<b>SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES</b>			
<b>There is a lack of Affordable Housing within the District</b>	Continuation of the current trend	Major	The LDF can ensure that the right quantity of housing is bought forward at the right time. It can also set out clear policies to help deliver affordable housing through the both the LDF process and through development control system.
<b>The District has a higher than average car usage</b>  NW Leics District has 13 <sup>th</sup> highest number of people traveling to work by car in the UK (74.6%). In contrast less than 3.4% of the District's residents travel to work on public transport	Continuation of the current trend	Moderate	The LDF can promote developments in locations well served by public transport thereby placing less emphasis on the need to travel by car. It can also set out requirements for new developments to provide additional bicycle and walking routes, and associated facilities as well as safeguard existing routes.  The LDF can also safeguard existing railway station sites and existing line where reinstatement for passenger use could be possible in the future
<b>Nottingham East Midlands Airport is a major transport and freight hub</b> , but air travel has significant global and local environmental and social impacts	Future growth predicted	Minor - Moderate	The future of the airport is largely determined at the National level through the Aviation White Paper. However, wherever possible growth will be restricted to the existing operational area of the airport site. Where <del>growth is inevitable</del> <b>it is proven that there is need for further growth</b> the Local Planning Authority will seek to minimise the impacts of such growth and promote sustainable surface access to and from the Airport. Over the longer term the Local Planning Authority will consider producing an Airport Area Action Plan.
<b>There is a need to expand and improve retail offer and enhance and/or conserve the physical environment of Coalville and Ashby Town Centres the District's main retail centres.</b>  The viability and vitality of Coalville and Ashby could be threatened by the growth of larger centres outside the District such as Loughborough or Burton on Trent. The failure to lever in additional retail offer to compete against such higher order settlements could also affect the future vitality of both centres.	Continuation of the current trend	Moderate	The LDF can allocate appropriate new retail, leisure and commercial sites and help maintain the vitality and viability of key town centres within the District.  The LDF can also be used to establish policies that allow the District Council to protect existing facilities, remedy deficiencies in local provision and promote the regeneration of under used or run down areas of the District's main towns.



<b>Key Issue (and comment)</b>	<b>Likely Evolution without the Local Development Framework</b>	<b>Potential Influence of Local Development Framework</b>	<b>Possible Role of Local Development Framework</b>
<p><b>Lack of key services (including grocery provision in rural settlements within the District)</b></p> <p>There are an number of smaller villages within the district without grocery provision, a post office or other banking facilities, doctors surgeries etc. Public transport provision is patchy.</p>	Continuation of the current trend	Moderate-Major	<p>Policies can be included within the LDF which can safeguard existing facilities. Policies which promote the development of shops, post offices and rural banks in village locations can also be included within the LDF.</p> <p>New developments out of major settlements can also be located where existing facilities are already located contributing to their long-term viability</p>
<p><b>The district has an over representation of people aged over 30 and fewer than average people aged under 30.</b></p> <p>As the average age of the district continues to increase this will have significant repercussions on social care provision in the future.</p>	Continuation of the current trend	Minor-moderate. The allocation of housing and employment land could continue to draw new residents from surrounding districts.	The LDF can ensure that an appropriate range of home, jobs and community facilities (and supporting infrastructure) are made available in the right location at the right time to serve an aging population.
<p><b>The District has a relatively healthy population but there are significant variations in health between wards.</b></p>	Continuation of the current trend. (Although other strategies could have an impact on this trend)	Moderate-Major	The Local Development Framework is instrumental in protecting existing leisure facilities from development and bringing new sites forward where significant development will take place. It can help address issues of deprivation and increase the potential for walking, cycling, formal and informal sport and recreation. It can also set policies which make the provision of health facilities through the planning system a priority over other areas of planning gain.
<p><b>There are concentrations of deprivation in some parts of the District</b></p>	Continuation of the current trend (although other strategies could have an impact on this trend)	Moderate-Major	New employment land provision, housing and associated community facilities could help reduce deprivation within the most disadvantaged parts of the District. Within the Ashby Wolds Area the National Forest could help reverse economic and environmental decline associated with the run down of the mining industry and provide opportunities for new tourism related employment and community facilities.
<p><b>There are concentrations of crime in some parts of the District</b></p>	Continuation of the current trend (although other strategies such as the Leicestershire Partnership in Safer Communities, Crime Disorder and Drugs Strategy 2005-08 will potentially have an impact on this trend)	Minor	Crime has been linked to deprivation. By targeting deprivation through regeneration crime could be reduced. In the Northern part of the District higher crime rates are linked to the Motorway network, airport and race circuit. It is unclear whether the LDF can significantly tackle this issue. Fear of crime could be reduced by promoting new developments that are well designed and in accordance with wider government guidance.

KEY ISSUE	Likely Evolution without the Local Development Framework	Potential Influence of Local Development Framework	Possible Role of Local Development Framework
<p><b>There remains considerable difference between educational attainments between wards in school leavers.</b></p> <p>The district has a comparatively low skilled population compared to surrounding local authority areas. One third of all residents within the District have no qualifications. Only 16% of residents are educated to NVQ level 4 or Higher</p>	Slight Improvement likely	Minor	<p>LDF can facilitate new schools and colleges where need is identified.</p> <p>The LDF can also ensure education contributions from new development to ensure facilities in place can meet the demands placed upon them.</p>
<p><b>There are an increasing number of accessible green spaces within the district, but the quality of, and access to such spaces is uneven.</b></p>	Slight Improvement likely	Minor-moderate	<p>Planning contributions can continue to require the development of formal and informal recreation areas, (for example open space areas). In addition policies can be set out in the LDF that protect existing open spaces and green infrastructure</p>
<b>NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT</b>			
<p><b>The District has significant historical and cultural assets that could be under threat from development</b></p>	Continuation of current trend	Minor-Moderate	<p>Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Scheduled Ancient Monuments and their immediate surroundings can all be protected through the LDF, or more Specifically through the policies set out in the Development Control Policies (DPD).</p> <p>In addition further policies relating to the economic reuse of rural building not listed or within conservation areas could be included within the LDF</p>
<p><b>Available information indicates that the Biodiversity Resource of the District is poor and that habitat and species loss persist.</b></p>	Continuation of current trend although changes in agricultural practice associated with changes to the Common Agricultural Policy could have significant beneficial effects	Moderate	<p>The Local Development could set out</p>
<p><b>Only a small proportion of the district has any statutory protection.</b></p>	Continuation of current trend	Minor	<p>May be potential to promote the Statutory designation of the Charnwood Forest through the LDF.</p>
<p><b>The landscape character of the district is under pressure from continued urban growth, continuing agricultural decline. The development of the National Forest and closure of the pits are also changing the districts landscape</b></p>	<p>Uncertain trend</p> <p>The Development framework can exert considerable control over development, but non development issues such as agricultural practices and tree planting associated with the national forest will also play a key role in shaping the landscape of North West Leicestershire in the future</p>	moderate	<p>The LDF can ensure that new development preserves and wherever possible enhances the character of identified landscape character areas. The LDF can also seek to minimise the level of new development in the countryside. Where minerals developments are proposed in sensitive landscapes development control policies can be developed to ensure that restoration of sites is undertaken in a timely and appropriate way.</p>

KEY ISSUE	Likely Evolution without the Local Development Framework	Potential Influence of Local Development Framework	Possible Role of Local Development Framework
<p><b>Many of those landscapes wildlife habitats that have statutory protection are in a poor environmental state</b></p> <p>44% of all protected sites (SSSIs) within the district are in an unfavourable condition although slight improvements to the quality of sites have been achieved in recent years</p>	Continuation of current trend (although other strategies and initiatives may well reduce this decline).	Minor	The LDF is restricted to controlling development on and around protected sites. Changes in the landscape arising from changing agricultural or management practices cannot be addressed through the LDF.
Prior to the establishment of the National Forest the district had low woodland coverage.	Woodland cover Increasing. Continuation of the current trend. Much of the woodland planting undertaken is carried out by the National Forest	Minor	<p>The Local Development Framework should support the work of the National Forest. In particular new tree planting associated with new developments should continue to be supported through the Development Control Process</p> <p>The LDF should also take account of the National Forest Strategy to help deliver the National Forest tree planting targets within the District.</p>
The District has a significant number of underused or derelict previously developed sites in need of remediation or reuse.	Reducing current trend (Government Policy and the existing Local Plan already promote the reuse of previously developed land ahead of Greenfield sites)	Major	<p>Future policies should continue to promote the reuse of previously developed land ahead of Greenfield sites (only allowing development on sustainable Greenfield sites where insufficient brownfield sites exist to meet local need) <del>to ensure land is used efficiently.</del> LDF policies can also seek to facilitate the remediation and protection of brownfield sites</p>
Consumption of minerals	Between 1990 and 2000 the sale of igneous rock, open cast coal, limestone, sand and gravel and brickclay have all shown a downward trend.	Minor-moderate	<p>The LDF could help minimise the amount of new aggregates required for new development schemes encouraging the recycling of construction and demolition waste. Policies that promote the use of alternative building materials such as wood from sustainable sources could also be promoted through the LDF as a mechanism to reduce need for newly won minerals.</p> <p>The LDF can also play a key role in restoring minerals sites to beneficial use following extraction.</p>

KEY ISSUE	Likely Evolution without the Local Development Framework	Potential Influence of Local Development Framework	Possible Role of Local Development Framework
<p><b>Much of the District is subject to flood risk</b></p> <p>There are almost 1600 buildings situated within the 1:100 year flood risk zone.</p>	Continuation of the current trend (but probably at a slower pace), as national planning guidance has elevated the issue of flood risk through the Development Control process	Moderate-Major	<p>The Local Development Framework can ensure <del>that areas of flood risk are not developed in the future.</del> In addition, policies on Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems and rainwater harvesting could help reduce runoff into the Districts water courses reducing the risk of flooding elsewhere. In addition Development Control Policies could be set out in the LDF to manage the redevelopment of brownfield sites in accordance with sound flood risk management principles. The district can also adopt a precautionary principle through the LDF - not allocating any new development sites within areas subject to significant flood risk.</p>
<p><b>There is a lack of additional water resources in the East Midlands Area.</b></p> <p>New development will put additional pressure on existing (fully committed water sources)</p>	Worsening current trend	Minor	Promotion of Rain Water Harvesting could significantly reduce non potable water demand in new development providing water to clean cars, water gardens, flush toilets etc.
<p><b>Uncertain but declining air quality</b></p> <p>There are currently two AQMA within the district. A further two are proposed. All are (road) traffic related.</p>	Worsening current trend	Minor	LDF can control air quality indirectly by promoting sustainable developments that minimise the need for car usage and promote public transport use. It can also direct new development away from areas where air pollution is known to be a particular problem
<b>CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY</b>			
<p><b>North West Leicestershire's contribution to climate change should be reduced</b></p>	Worsening current trend	Moderate-Major	<p>Energy reduction could be delivered through minimising the need to travel and locating new development in existing areas well served by public transport and close to local services and facilities. New developments could also be encouraged to provide on site renewable energy and embrace energy efficiency measures. Policies to promote energy efficiency measures in all new developments and the conversion of existing buildings should be promoted through clearly stated policies set out in the LDF.</p> <p>The District has significant potential to contribute to renewable energy targets through Biomass. The National Forest Area could accommodate forestry related enterprises such as wood pelltiting to help achieve renewable energy targets set out in the Regional Spatial Strategy.</p>

## **5.0 (STAGE A4) THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK – OBJECTIVES AND INDICATORS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

- 5.1 The draft Government Guidance for Sustainability Appraisal recommends the development of objectives and indicators with which to appraise Local Development Documents and plan options. Objectives should, where possible, be expressed in terms of targets, the achievement of which should be measurable using the indicators selected. In contrast the SEA Directive does not specifically require the use of objectives or indicators, however, they are a recognised way in which environmental and sustainability effects can be described.

### **METHODOLOGY**

- 5.2 A set of draft objectives and indicators for North West Leicestershire have been developed, under the four headings of the current UK sustainable development strategy. Objectives are proposed to tackle the key issues identified in the previous key issues table (Table 16).
- 5.3 Good practice suggests that the number of Sustainability objectives should be limited, to ensure that they do not make the Sustainability Appraisal of plans and plan options unmanageable. An initial list of 19 Sustainability Objectives has been devised. These draft objectives have been assembled through information gathered by the review of other plans and programmes (developed through joint working across the Council) and the collection of baseline data that has flagged up issues affecting North West Leicestershire District.
- 5.4 For each objective, a small number of indicators have been selected, to allow the status of the District's performance on that issue to be gauged, now and in the future. The objectives and indicators proposed are shown together in Table 17 on the following page.

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**Table 21 Proposed Sustainability Appraisal Framework for North West Leicestershire**

	Objective	Indicator(s)	SEA/SA TOPIC
<b>SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</b>			
1	<b>Provide an Adequate Supply of Good Quality Employment Land Needed to Encourage and Accommodate Indigenous and Inward Investment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employment land provision - start rates (in Ha) (AMR indicator)</li> <li>• Area of Employment land lost to residential development housing or other uses. (AMR indicator)</li> <li>• Amount of floorspace developed by employment type (AMR indicator)</li> <li>• Amount of floorspace developed for employment by type and, in employment or regeneration areas (AMR indicator)</li> <li>• Amount of floorspace by employment type, which is on previously developed land (AMR indicator)</li> <li>• Employment land availability by type (AMR indicator)</li> </ul>	<b>Material Assets</b>
2	<b>Help Develop a Prosperous, Competitive and Diverse Rural Economy which Adds Value to Existing Agricultural, Forestry and Leisure Sectors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percentage of planning applications for rural diversification schemes that have been granted permission (annually)</li> </ul>	<b>Material Assets Population</b>
3	<b>Make the Most Efficient use of Land</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <del>Proportion of land stock that is derelict or under used (to be taken from the District's National Land Use Database Return)</del></li> <li>• Amount of vacant and derelict land and buildings (AMR indicator)</li> <li>• Percentage of new and converted dwellings housing development on previously developed land (AMR indicator)</li> <li>• <del>Housing Density of New Developments</del></li> <li>• Percentage of new dwellings completed at: (AMR indicator) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Less than 30 dwellings per hectare</li> <li>Between 30-50 Dwellings per hectare</li> <li>Above 50 dwellings per hectare</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>Soil Material Assets</b>
4	<b>Reduce Waste Generation and Promote the Re-use and Recycling</b>	<p>Percentage of the total tonnage of household waste that has been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• recycled</li> <li>• composted</li> <li>• used to recover heat, power and other energy sources</li> <li>• landfilled</li> </ul>	<b>Landscape Soil</b>
5	<b>Reduce Water Consumption</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percentage of new properties built incorporating water efficiency measures.</li> </ul>	<b>Water</b>
<b>SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES</b>			
6	<b>Provide Good Quality, Affordable Homes That Meet Local Needs and Reflect Local Circumstance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing Completions by type and size per annum (AMR indicator)</li> <li>• Affordable housing (house price/earnings affordability ratio (annual trends taken over 5 year period)</li> <li>• <del>Proportion of housing stock that is long term vacant</del></li> <li>• Vacant dwellings by tenure (AMR indicator)</li> <li>• Number of unfit homes per 1,000 dwellings</li> </ul>	<b>Material Assets Population</b>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The percentage of new housing that is affordable (against requirement)</li> <li>• Affordable Housing Completions (AMR indicator)</li> <li>• Housing completions by location (AMR indicator)</li> <li>• House prices by dwelling type(AMR indicator)</li> </ul>	
7	<b>Reduce the Need to Travel and Extend Transport Choice for Non Car Modes (Public Transport, Walking and Cycling)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percentage of new houses developed within 13 minutes walk of an hourly or better daytime bus service</li> <li>• Percentage of new employment developed within 13 minutes walk of an hourly or better daytime bus service</li> <li>• Percentage of people using a car to travel to and from work (AMR indicator)</li> <li>• Percentage of people using non-car modes to travel to and from work (AMR indicator)</li> <li>• Number of schools that have adopted a green travel plans.</li> <li>• Percentage of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of a GP, hospital primary school, secondary school, employment and major retail centres. (AMR indicator)</li> </ul>	<b>Population</b>
8	<b>Enhance the Vitality and Viability of Existing Town and Village Centres</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of villages without any shopping provision</li> <li>• Loss of retail to other uses</li> <li>• Gross additional annual retail development within Coalville and Ashby De La Zouch</li> <li>• Amount of completed retail, office and leisure development (by useclass) (AMR indicator)</li> <li>• Percentage of completed retail, office and leisure development in town centres(AMR indicator)</li> <li>• Proportion of vacant street level property in town and local centres (AMR indicator)</li> <li>• Shop vacancy rates in key towns and rural settlements</li> </ul>	<b>Material Assets Population</b>
9	<b>Improve the Health and Well Being of the District's Population</b>	<p>Death rate by cause (standardised mortality rate per 100,000 population in the following categories):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• all accidents – all ages</li> <li>• cancer in under 75s</li> <li>• Coronary Heart Disease in under 75s</li> <li>• Percentage of residents who regularly participate in sport or physical activity within the District</li> </ul>	<b>Population Human Health</b>
10	<b>Promote Social Inclusion and Reduce Inequalities Across the District</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proportion of the population who live in wards that rank within the most deprived 10 per cent and/or 25 per cent of wards in the country</li> <li>• Number of Settlements without a community centre/village hall</li> <li>• Unemployment rate by Ward</li> <li>• Household income by Ward</li> <li>• Educational attainment by ward</li> </ul>	<b>Population</b>
11	<b>Reduce Crime and Fear of Crime</b>	<p><b>Crimes committed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vehicle crimes (per 1,000 population)</li> <li>• domestic burglaries (per 1,000 households)</li> <li>• violent offences (per 1,000 population)</li> </ul>	<b>Population Human Health</b>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of residents surveyed who feel 'fairly safe' or 'very safe' after dark whilst outside in the local authority area</li> <li>Percentage of residents surveyed who feel 'fairly safe' or 'very safe' during the day whilst outside in the local authority area</li> </ul>	
12	<b>Increase Educational Attainment and Promote Lifelong Learning and Training</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of resident adults with No Qualifications within the District</li> <li>Proportion of resident adults within the District with highest Qualification obtained NVQ level 3</li> <li>Proportion of resident adults within the District with highest Qualification obtained NVQ Level 4 or higher</li> <li>Proportion of 19 year olds with Level 2 qualifications (that is 5 GCSEs A*–C or NVQ equivalent)</li> <li>Number of Businesses with Investor In people Accreditation within the District</li> </ul>	<b>Population</b>
13	<b>Encourage Jobs that Match the Skills and Needs of Local Residents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Unemployment rate and change (district only) (AMR indicator)</b></li> <li>Percentage of District's residents working within the District (Employment Containment)</li> <li>Number of people leaving the District to Work</li> <li>Number of people commuting into the District to work</li> <li>Net balance of working age residents versus jobs based in District</li> </ul>	<b>Population Material Assets</b>
<b>NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT</b>			
14	<b>Conserve and Enhance the Character, Diversity and Local Distinctiveness of the District's Cultural Historic and Archaeological Heritage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total number of listed buildings/scheduled ancient monuments within the district</li> <li>Total Number of listed buildings/ scheduled ancient monuments at risk</li> <li>Loss of archaeological sites</li> </ul>	<b>Cultural Heritage</b> (including architectural and archaeological heritage)
15	<b>Conserve and Enhance the Character, Diversity and Local Distinctiveness of the Districts Built Environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Total number of conservation areas designated within the District in the local authority area</b></li> <li><b>Percentage of conservation areas within the District with an up to date character appraisal</b></li> <li><b>Percentage of Conservation Areas with published management proposals</b></li> <li>Number of settlements within the District which have undertaken a Village <b>Design Statement</b> <del>assessment</del> or have a parish plan</li> </ul>	<b>Cultural Heritage</b> (including architectural and archaeological heritage)
16	<b>Conserve and Enhance the Quality of the District's Landscape Character</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number (and total area) of land designated as a SSSI in a local authority area</li> <li>Percentage of SSSIs assessed within the District that are in favourable and unfavourable recovering condition.</li> <li>Area of Local Nature Reserve per 1000 population (ha)</li> <li>New woodland creation within the National Forest Area</li> <li><b>Area of new woodland and other habitats created</b></li> <li><b>Reference to landscape assessments (if done on where marked changes inconsistent with character have occurred</b></li> </ul>	<b>Landscape Biodiversity Flora Fauna</b>
17	<b>Protect and Enhance the Districts Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Change in priority habitats and species by type (AMR indicator)</b></li> <li><b>Change in areas designated for their intrinsic environmental value including sites of international national, regional or sub-regional significance (AMR indicator)</b></li> </ul>	<b>Flora Fauna Biodiversity</b>

		sites of international national, regional or sub regional significance (AMR indicator)	<b>Soil</b>
18	<b>Reduce Flood Risk and Impact From Flooding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of properties within the district at risk from flooding</li> <li>Percentage of major residential and commercial planning applications incorporating SUDS</li> <li>Number of Planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the environment agency (AMR indicator)</li> </ul>	<b>Water Climatic Factors</b>
19	<b>Reduce Water, Air, Light and Noise Pollution to Levels that Do Not Damage Natural Systems</b>	<b>Water Pollution</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of main rivers and canals rated as 'good' or 'fair' quality (regional indicator)</li> </ul> <b>Air pollution</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PM10 concentrations at selected sites across the District</li> <li>Nitrogen dioxide concentrations at selected sites across the District</li> </ul> <b>Noise</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total number of noise complaints received per year</li> </ul> <b>Soil</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Area of Greenfield land lost to new development per annum</li> </ul>	<b>Water Air Human Health Soil</b>
20	<b>Maintain and Enhance Open-Space, Sport and Recreation Provision.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sport facilities usage</li> <li>Percentage of eligible open spaces managed to green flag award standard (AMR indicator)</li> <li>Area of playing fields lost to development</li> <li>Percentage of households within 400m of a public green space</li> </ul>	<b>Population Material Assets</b>
21	<b>Support sustainable extraction and the reuse and recycling of minerals and aggregate resources.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Production of primary land won aggregates (tonnes) by minerals planning authority</li> <li>Production of secondary/recycled aggregates (tonnes) by minerals planning authority</li> </ul>	<b>Material Assets Soil</b>
<b>CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY</b>			
22	<b>Reduce Energy Requirements Across the District and Increase the Proportion of that Requirement Met From Renewable Sources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Household energy use (gas and electricity) per household (regional figures)</li> <li><del>Output of renewable energy schemes within the district.</del></li> <li>Renewable energy capacity installed by type (AMR indicator)</li> <li>Number of planning applications for small scale renewable energy schemes per annum</li> </ul>	<b>Climatic factors Air</b>

## INTERNAL COMPATIBILITY OF DRAFT SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES

5.5 The internal compatibility of the draft Sustainability Appraisal Objectives have been tested for conflicts. The outcomes of this exercise are considered in Figure 7 below.

**Figure 7: Internal Compatibility of Draft Suitability Objectives.**

1																						
2	✓																					
3	?	-																				
4	?	-	✓																			
5	x	?	?	✓																		
6	?	✓	✓	-	x																	
7	-	✓	✓	✓	-	?																
8	?	?	✓	-	-	✓	✓															
9	-	✓	-	?	-	✓	✓	?														
10	✓	✓	?	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓													
11	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓												
12	✓	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	-											
13	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	?	?	✓	✓	-	✓										
14	?	✓	?	✓	-	?	?	?	✓	-	?	-	-									
15	?	✓	?	✓	-	?	✓	?	✓	-	?	-	-	✓								
16	?	?	✓	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	✓							
17	?	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓						
18	x	?	?	-	✓	x	?	-	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓					
19	x	?	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	-	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	?	✓	✓				
20	?	?	✓	-	-	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?			
21	?	?	✓	✓	?	✓	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	?		
22	x	?	-	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	?	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	?	✓	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22

Key

✓

x

-

?

Compatible

Incompatible

No link/insignificant

Uncertain/unknown

- 1 Provide an Adequate Supply of Good Quality Employment Land Needed to Encourage and Accommodate Indigenous and Inward Investment
- 2 Help Develop a Prosperous, Competitive and Diverse Rural Economy which Adds Value to Existing Agricultural, Forestry and Leisure Sectors
- 3 Make the Most Efficient use of Land
- 4 Reduce Waste Generation and Promote the Re-use and Recycling
- 5 Reduce Water Consumption
- 6 Provide Good Quality, Affordable Homes That Meet Local Need and Reflect Local Circumstance
- 7 Reduce the Need to Travel and Extend Transport Choice for Non Car Modes (Public Transport, Walking and Cycling)
- 8 Enhance the Vitality and Viability of Existing Town and Village Centres
- 9 Improve the Health and Well Being of the District's Population
- 10 Promote Social Inclusion and Reduce Inequalities Across the District
- 11 Reduce Crime and Fear of Crime
- 12 Increase Educational Attainment and Promote Lifelong Learning and Training
- 13 Encourage Jobs that Match the Existing Skills and Needs of Local Residents
- 14 Conserve and Enhance the Character, Diversity and Local Distinctiveness of the District's Cultural and Historic and Archaeological Heritage
- 15 Conserve and Enhance the Character, Diversity and Local Distinctiveness of the Districts Built Environment
- 16 Conserve and Enhance the Quality of the District's Landscape Character and Wildlife Habitats
- 17 **Protect and Enhance the Districts Biodiversity and Geodiversity**
- 18 Reduce Flood Risk and Impact From Flooding
- 19 Reduce Water, Air, Light and Noise Pollution to Levels that Do Not Damage Natural Systems
- 20 **Maintain and Enhance Open-Space, Sport and Recreation Provision**
- 21 **Support sustainable extractions and the reuse and recycling of minerals and aggregate resources**
- 22 Reduce Energy Requirements Across the District and Increase the Proportion of that Requirement Met From Renewable Sources

- 5.6 As the previous table indicates most of the Sustainability Objectives selected are internally compatible or have no significant impact on each other. However, a small number of objectives, mostly associated with the development of new industrial or residential areas have clear conflicts with objectives that seek to reduce pollution, and natural resource consumption. Possible conflicts may also arise as a result of the need to provide new housing (affordable or otherwise) at higher densities in existing town centers. Clearly in such circumstances there is a need to ensure that new development respects existing townscapes.

## 6.0 (STAGE A5): TESTING THE PLAN OBJECTIVES AGAINST THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK

6.1 The draft Sustainability Appraisal Framework set out in this Scoping Report will, following refinement be used to appraise the emerging Development Plan Documents for North West Leicestershire District Council, commencing with the Issues and Options for the Core Strategy and Development Control DPDs.

6.2 The draft objectives of the Core Strategy must conform with sustainability principles and must therefore themselves be tested against the SA Framework. This process will help to improve the draft objectives of the Core Strategy and assist in the identification of options. Testing the plan objectives against those of the SA Framework also ensures that the plan objectives are consistent with one another. Where conflicts between objectives are revealed, the Council will need to determine which must be prioritised. At present, however, the order of the objectives does not imply any ranking of importance or significance.

6.3 North West Leicestershire District Council's draft plan objectives have been tested against the objectives of the Sustainability Appraisal Framework. The results of this process are set out in the compatibility matrix below.

**Figure 8: Matrix Comparing Plan Objectives and Sustainability Appraisal Objectives**

		Sustainability Objectives																		
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Plan Objectives	A	✓	✓	✓	?	X?	✓	✓	✓	✓?	✓	-	✓	✓	?	?	?	X	X	X
	B	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	?	?
	C	✓	✓	?	?	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	?	?	?	X	X	X
	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	?	?	-	-	?	?	?	X?	?	?	?
	E	-	-	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	-	?	?	-	-	?	?	✓	✓	✓	✓
	F	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	✓	-	-	-	-	-	?	?	✓	?	✓	✓
	G	✓	✓	✓	?	X?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓	✓	X?	X?	X
	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	I	✓	✓	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-
	J	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-
	K	X?	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	L	?	✓?	✓?	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

### Key

✓ — Compatible

X — Incompatible

- — No link/insignificant

? — Uncertain/unknown

## DOWN (Plan Objectives)

- A Promote sustainable economic development
- B Promote urban and rural regeneration
- C Attract and develop new businesses that provide longer term and higher paid jobs
- D Bring forward sufficient land for development in the right places at the right time
- E Focus new residential, retail and employment developments within the existing settlements of Coalville and Ashby-de-la-Zouch
- F Promote the efficient use of land
- G Provide an adequate supply of good quality, sustainable and affordable housing
- H Reduce the need to travel particularly by car and encourage public transport provision.
- I Reduce inequalities in health and educational achievement between different groups and areas within the District and promote communities that are healthy, safe and crime free
- J Give high priority to ensuring access for all to jobs, health, education, shops leisure and community facilities.
- K Give priority to protecting the District's natural environment
- L Protect the District's historic and cultural heritage from loss or damage resulting from new development.

## ACROSS (Sustainability Objectives)

- 1 Provide an Adequate Supply of Good Quality Employment Land Needed to Encourage and Accommodate Indigenous and Inward Investment
- 2 Help Develop a Prosperous, Competitive and Diverse Rural Economy which Adds Value to Existing Agricultural, Forestry and Leisure Sectors
- 3 Make the Most Efficient use of Land
- 4 Reduce Waste Generation and Promote the Re-use and Recycling
- 5 Reduce Water Consumption
- 6 Provide Good Quality, Affordable Homes That Meet Local Need and Reflect Local Circumstance
- 7 Reduce the Need to Travel and Extend Transport Choice for Non Car Modes (Public Transport, Walking and Cycling)
- 8 Enhance the Vitality and Viability of Existing Town and Village Centres
- 9 Improve the Health and Well Being of the District's Population
- 10 Promote Social Inclusion and Reduce Inequalities Across the District
- 11 Reduce Crime and Fear of Crime
- 12 Increase Educational Attainment and Promote Lifelong Learning and Training
- 13 Encourage Jobs that Match the Existing Skills and Needs of Local Residents
- 14 Conserve and Enhance the Character, Diversity and Local Distinctiveness of the District's Cultural and Historic and Archaeological Heritage
- 15 Conserve and Enhance the Character, Diversity and Local Distinctiveness of the Districts Built Environment
- 16 Conserve and Enhance the Quality of the District's Landscape Character and Wildlife Habitats
- 17 Reduce Flood Risk and Impact From Flooding
- 18 Reduce Water, Air, Light and Noise Pollution to Levels that Do Not Damage Natural Systems
- 19 Reduce Energy Requirements Across the District and Increase the Proportion of that Requirement Met From Renewable Sources

### 6.4 The main findings of this exercise are as follows:

- The promotion of economic development and the attraction of new businesses to the District, however sustainable, are likely to create further demand for water and energy resources. Furthermore it is likely new development could further exacerbate flood risk, and lead to greater levels of air or noise pollution. However, ensuring that any new developments are energy efficient, constructed using sustainable building techniques and developed on previously developed land (where possible) will help to ensure that negative impacts are reduced.
- The development of new residential properties is also likely to further increase demand for water and energy although such demand could be reduced by requirements to adopt energy efficiency measures, on-site energy generation, grey water recycling and rainwater harvesting.
- There may be a conflict in promoting rural diversification. New economic development in the countryside could have a negative impact on landscape character and biodiversity. Policies may need to be included within the LDF

~~to minimise the impacts of new developments associated with rural diversification.~~

- ~~The Local Development Framework Objectives to 'promote urban and rural regeneration'; 'reduce the need to travel (particularly by private car)'; 'reduce inequalities in Health and Education' and 'ensure access for all to jobs, health, education, shops, community and leisure facilities' are the objectives that appear to be least likely to conflict with the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives proposed by the District Council.~~

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## 6.0 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- 6.1 Following this consultation, the remaining stages of the Sustainability Appraisal process are as follows:

**Stage B** – Developing and Refining Options

**Stage C** – Appraising the Effects of the Plan

**Stage D** – Consulting on the Plan and Sustainability Appraisal Report

**Stage E** – Monitoring Implementation of the Plan

### (STAGE B) DEVELOPING AND REFINING OPTIONS

- 6.2 During the preparation of the issues and options for the Core Strategy and Development Control Policies DPDs, the Council will develop various policy options capable of meeting the spatial planning objectives of the Local Development Framework. Each reasonable policy option including the “do nothing” option will be tested against the Sustainability Appraisal Framework to determine their performance in sustainability terms.
- 6.3 Initially the various policy options will be appraised against sustainability objectives in order to identify whether their effects are positive, negative or uncertain and whether such effects will arise in the short, medium or long term and be temporary or permanent. It is likely that a matrix similar to that set out in the Government’s Consultation Paper *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial strategies and Local Development Frameworks* will be adopted.

**Table 22. Likely format of matrix to be used to appraise the Plan Policy Options.**

OPTION ONE- DESCRIPTION OF THE POLICY OPTION					
Sustainability Objective	Predicted Effects				Justification for assessment
	Nature of Effect	Assessment of Effect			
		Short term	Med Term	Long Term	
1					
:					
22					

### (STAGE C) APPRAISING THE EFFECTS OF THE PLAN

- 6.4 The next stage of the Sustainability Appraisal process is to assess, in more detail, each preferred policy option in the Core Strategy and Development Control DPDs in order to determine whether it is likely to have a significant effect on the environment and sustainable development. The purpose of this stage is to predict and evaluate the effects of the DPD policies so that where adverse effects are predicted consideration will be given to what mitigation measures may be required. This stage will lead to the production of the Final Sustainability Appraisal Report.
- 6.5 Each preferred policy option will be assessed using the table set out below with recommendations for refining the policy options included in the process. At this

stage it is expected that the predictions regarding the policy impacts may be broad based and qualitative rather than detailed and quantitative, if there are limitations in the data that is available. Where possible the potential effects will be quantified. Where this is not possible, a subjective judgement will need to be made.

**Table 23: Likely format of matrix to be used to compare Plan Options.**

<b>LDF ISSUE</b>				
	<b>Option 1</b>		<b>Option 2</b>	
SEA/SA Objective	Performance	Comments/ explanation	Performance	Comments/ explanation
1				
:				
22				

- 6.6 Completion of this process will make it possible to decide if any of the policies are likely to have any adverse impacts. Where adverse impacts are predicted, information will be presented on the measures proposed to prevent, reduce or offset these adverse effects. Where an adverse effect can not be mitigated the District Council will consider deleting or modifying the policy. If a policy does not have any adverse impacts, North West Leicestershire District Council will try and enhance its positive and beneficial effects.
- 6.7 Where policies are proposed for alteration in light of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process these will be highlighted in the Final Sustainability Appraisal Report. The SA process will also provide a commentary on any sustainability issues that arise during the refinement of the preferred policy options. Conclusions on the overall sustainability effects of the preferred policy options will also be provided as part of the Final SA Report.

## **CONTENTS OF THE FINAL SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL REPORT**

- 6.8 The following table taken from the Government's consultation paper on *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks* (itself based on information set out in Annex 1 of the SEA Directive) sets out the likely content for the Sustainability Appraisal Report.

**Figure 8. Likely Structure and Content of the Final Sustainability Appraisal**

<b>Components making up the Environmental Report</b>	<b>Information that will be included</b>
<b>1. Summary and outcomes</b>	1.1. Non-technical summary 1.2. Statement on the difference the process has made 1.3. How to comment on the report
<b>2. Appraisal Methodology</b>	2.1. Approach adopted to the SA 2.2. When the SA was carried out 2.3. Who carried out the SA 2.4. Who was consulted, when and how
<b>3. Background</b>	3.1. Purpose of the SA and the SA Report 3.2. Plan objectives and outline of contents 3.3. Compliance with the SEA Directive/Regulations

<b>4. Sustainability objectives, baseline and context</b>	4.1. Links to other strategies, plans and programmes and sustainability objectives 4.2. Description of the social, environmental and economic baseline characteristics and the predicted future baseline 4.3. Difficulties in collecting data and limitations of the data 4.4. The SA framework, including objectives, targets and indicators 4.5. Main social, environmental and economic issues and problems identified
<b>5. Plan issues and options</b>	5.1. Main strategic options consider and how they were identified 5.2. Comparison of the social, environmental and economic effects of the options 5.3. How social, environmental and economic issues were considered in choosing the preferred options 5.4. Other options considered, and why these were rejected 5.5. Proposed mitigation measures
<b>6. Plan policies</b>	6.1. Significant social, environmental and economic effects of the preferred policies 6.2. How social, environmental and economic problems were considered in developing the policies 6.3. Proposed mitigation measures 6.4. Uncertainties and risks
<b>7. Implementation</b>	7.1. Links to other tiers of plans and programmes and the project level (environmental impact assessment, design guidance, etc) 7.2. Proposals for monitoring

## **(STAGE D) CONSULTING ON THE PLAN AND SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL**

- 6.9 The Final Sustainability Appraisal Report will be available for consultation at the same time as Core Strategy DPD Preferred Options Report. This is currently programmed for March 2006 in the District Council's Local Development Scheme (LDS). The final report will be available to view on the Council's website or at the Council Offices. A number of organisations (listed at paragraph 1.31) will be sent a copy on the Final Sustainability Appraisal Report directly. All interested parties contained on the District Council's consultees database will be informed of the reports release by direct mail and/or email alert.

### **SUBMISSION**

- 6.10 The Final Sustainability Appraisal Report (revised to take account of consultation responses) will be submitted to the Secretary of State alongside the submission Core Strategy and the Development Control Policies Development Plan Documents (DPD), which will be subject to the independent Examination process. The independent Examination will consider whether the Sustainability

Appraisal process has been incorporated into the production of submitted DPDs and whether the requirements of the SEA Directive have been met.

## **(STAGE E) MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN**

6.11 The Directive states:

*'Member states shall monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans...in order, inter alia, to identify at an early stage unforeseen adverse effects, and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action' (Article 10.1)*

6.12 The significant sustainability effects implementing the Core Strategy and Development Control Policies Development Plan Documents must be monitored to identify any unforeseen adverse effects and to enable appropriate remedial action to be taken

6.13 Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring will allow the District Council to answer the following questions:

- Were the assessment's predictions of sustainability effects accurate?
- Is the plan contributing to the achievement of desired Sustainability Appraisal objectives and targets?
- Are mitigation measures performing as well as expected?
- Are there any adverse effects? Are these within acceptable limits, or is remedial action desirable

6.14 At present the Council has yet to determine how monitoring will be undertaken. However, it is likely that monitoring will be undertaken annually (following adoption of the relevant DPDs) inline with the requirement to produce an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR).

6.15 Further information on monitoring will be set out in the Final Sustainability Appraisal Report.

## APPENDIX 1:

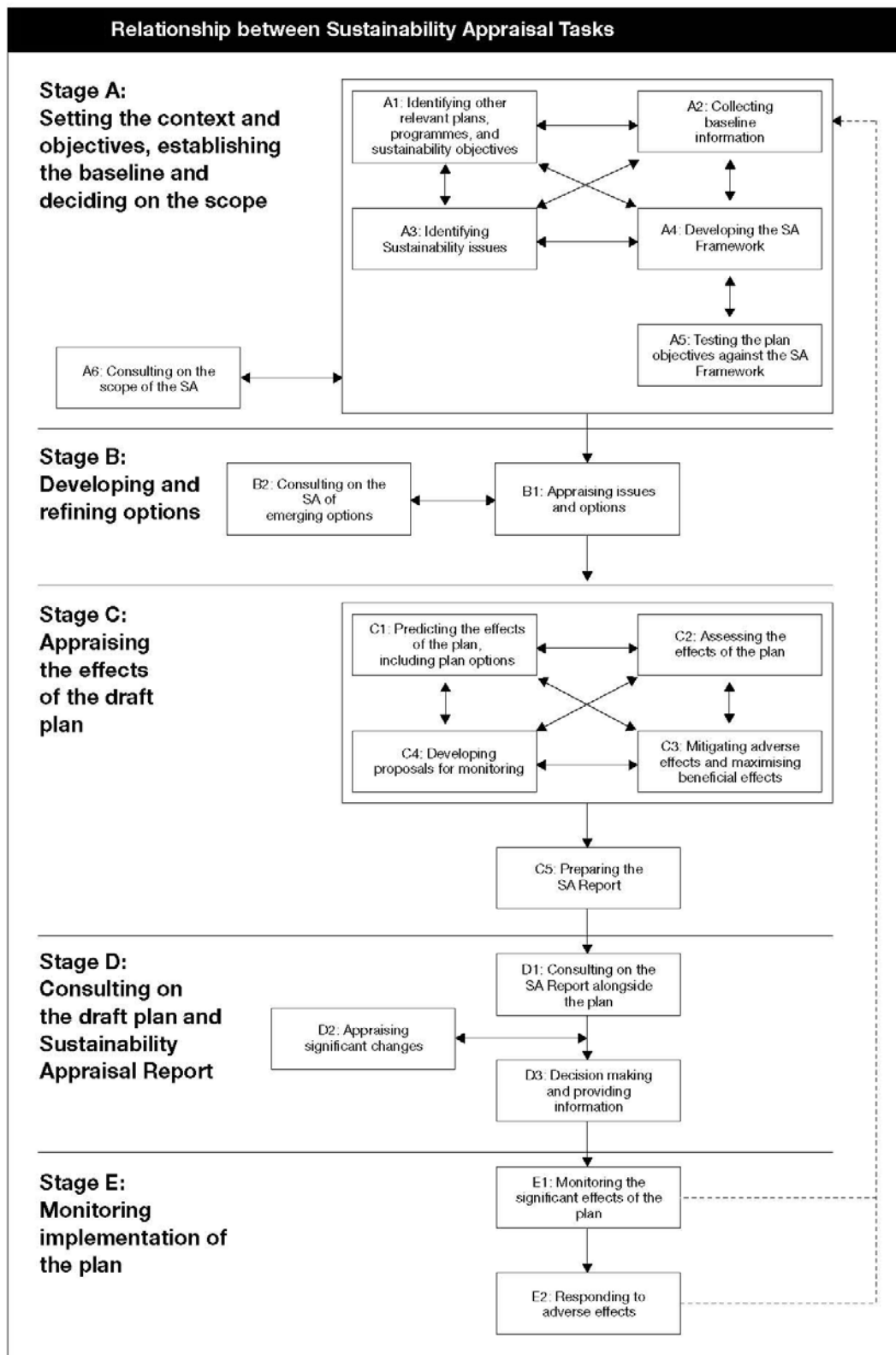
## LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK PREPARATION TIMETABLE

[illegible]

(A) – Consists of Housing (DPD3), Employment Land (DPD4) and Green Wedge, Areas of Separation and Limits to Development (DPD5) DPDs taken through all stages **up to Examination** simultaneously. **A single examination is envisaged.**

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## APPENDIX 2: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL TASKS



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## APPENDIX 3 PLANS AND PROGRAMMES LIKELY TO INFLUENCE THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

### International Strategies

Level of Policy / Programme	Name of Policy / Programme	Justification for considering plan strategy for Core Strategy and Development Control Policies DPD	Broad Aims/Objectives of the Strategy
International	Kyoto Protocol (1997)	Translated into National Planning Guidance	Enhancement of Energy Efficiency, limit and/or reduce emissions of Greenhouse gases including carbon dioxide and methane
International	Agenda 21 Declaration	Translated into National Planning Guidance	Committed countries to the principle of sustainable development.
International	The Johannesburg Declaration	Translated into National Planning Guidance	Reaffirms nation's commitment to the principle of sustainable development
Supranational (EU Level)	The European Spatial Development Programme	Translated into National Planning Guidance	Seeks to foster the more sustainable development of EU member states.
Supranational (EU Level)	SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)	LDF Must be undertaken alongside SEA	Requires the environmental effects of certain plans and programmes are assessed, documented and mitigated against where necessary
Supranational (EU Level)	EU Sixth Environmental Action Plan	Translated into National Planning Guidance	Aims for a high level of protection of the Environment and Human Health and for general improvement of the Environment and Quality of Life
Supranational (EU Level)	Habitats Directive (1992/43/EC)	One Candidate Special Area of Conservation in the District Translated into National Planning Guidance	Ensure Protection of habitats and species of European importance.
Supranational (EU Level)	Water Directive Framework (2000/60/EC)	LDF Policies need to ensure water quality is protected and Enhanced within the District Translated into National Planning Guidance	Achievement of good ecological status by 2015

## National Strategies

Level of Policy / Programme	Name of Policy / Programme	Justification for considering plan strategy for Core Strategy and Development Control Policies DPD	Broad Aims/Objectives of the Strategy
National	The Urban White Paper Our Towns and Cities: The Future (2000)	Sets out central governments overarching vision for urban living.  <b>Implementation of objectives partially dependent on planning system and likely to have an impact on the content of the core strategy</b>	Sets out a vision for attractive, well kept towns with good quality design and planning and good quality services.
National	The Rural White Paper: Our Countryside the Future A fair deal for rural England	Outlines the Government's vision of a living, working, protected and vibrant countryside  <b>Implementation partially dependent on the planning system and likely to have an impact on the content of the core strategy</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. a living countryside, with thriving rural communities and access to high quality public services;</li> <li>2. a working countryside, with a prosperous and diverse economy, giving high and stable levels of employment;</li> <li>3. a protected countryside, in which the environment is sustained and enhanced, and which all can enjoy; and</li> <li>4. a vibrant countryside which can shape its own future and whose voice is heard by government at all levels.</li> </ol>
National	The Aviation White Paper The Future of Air Transport	Sets out the strategic framework for the development of air capacity in the UK.  <b>Growth of NEMA partially dependent on the planning system and likely to have an impact on the content of the core strategy</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recognises the importance of air travel to economic prosperity</li> <li>2. Seeks to reduce and minimise the impacts of airports on the environment (natural and social)</li> <li>3. Minimise the need for airport development</li> </ol>

National	The Energy White Paper	<p>Sets Government policy for the development of the Energy Industry in the UK to 2050.</p> <p><b>Particular emphasis on the need for planning that promotes new (renewable) energy infrastructure and likely to have an impact on the content of the core strategy</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Put ourselves on a path to cut the UK's carbon dioxide emissions - the main contributor to global warming - by some 60% by about 2050, as recommended by the RCEP, with real progress by 2020;</li> <li>2. To maintain the reliability of energy supplies;</li> <li>3. To promote competitive markets in the UK and beyond, helping to raise the rate of sustainable economic growth and to improve our productivity; and</li> <li>4. To ensure that every home is adequately and affordably heated.</li> </ol>
National	The Transport White Paper: Better for Everyone	<p>Sets out the strategic framework for the development of transport in the UK.</p> <p><b>Implementation partially dependent on the planning system and likely to have an impact on core strategy</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Extend choice in transport</li> <li>2. Secure mobility in a way that supports sustainable development</li> <li>3. Create a safe, efficient, clean and fair transport system</li> </ol>
National	Planning Policy Statement 1 Creating Sustainable Communities	<p>Planning Policy Statements (PPS) set out the Government's national policies on different aspects of land use planning in England. PPS1 sets out the overarching planning policies on the delivery of sustainable development through the planning system.</p> <p><b>Statutory Requirement to take into account policy set out within PPS in preparing Local Development Frameworks</b></p>	<p>Objectives include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Promoting urban and rural regeneration</li> <li>2. Promoting regional, sub-regional and local economies</li> <li>3. Promoting communities which are inclusive healthy, safe and crime free</li> <li>4. Bringing forward sufficient land of a suitable quality in the right locations</li> <li>5. Giving high priority to ensuring access for all to jobs, health education, shops leisure and community facilities</li> <li>6. Focusing development that attract a large number of people, especially retail development in existing centres</li> <li>7. Protect biodiversity and address climate change, pollution and waste and water and resource management impacts</li> <li>8. Promoting the more efficient use of land</li> <li>9. Reducing the need to travel.</li> </ol>
National	Planning Policy Guidance Note 3 (Planning Policy Statement 3) Housing	<p>Sets out government policies relating to the provision of Housing.</p> <p><b>Statutory requirement to take into account policy set out within PPG in preparing Local Development Frameworks</b></p>	<p>Objectives include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Meet housing requirements for the whole community</li> <li>2. Provide wider housing opportunity</li> <li>3. Provide sufficient housing land but give priority to reusing previously developed land, bringing empty homes back into use and converting existing buildings</li> <li>4. Make more efficient use of land</li> </ol>

			5. Place needs of people before the needs of traffic in designing schemes
National	Planning Policy Guidance Note 4: Industrial and Commercial Development and Small Firms	<p>Guidance on the industrial and commercial development of small firms</p> <p><b>Statutory requirement to take into account policy set out within PPG in preparing Local Development Frameworks</b></p>	<p>Development need to balance economic and environmental issues.</p> <p>There needs to be choice, flexibility and competition in locating employment land and be realistic of the needs of business.</p>
National	Planning Policy Statement 6 Town Centres	<p>Guidance on managing retail economy</p> <p><b>Statutory requirement to take into account policy set out within PPS in preparing Local Development Frameworks</b></p>	<p>key objective for town centres is to promote their vitality and viability by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• planning for the growth and development of existing centres; and</li> <li>• promoting and enhancing existing centres, by focusing development in such centres and encouraging a wide range of services in a good environment, accessible to all.</li> </ul>
National	Planning Policy Statement 7 Sustainable Development in Rural Areas	<p>Guidance on development within rural areas</p> <p><b>Statutory requirement to take into account policy set out within PPS in preparing Local Development Frameworks</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To raise the quality of life and the environment in rural areas through the promotion of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- thriving, inclusive and sustainable rural communities, ensuring people have decent places to live by improving the quality and sustainability of local environments and neighbourhoods;</li> <li>- sustainable economic growth and diversification;</li> <li>- good quality, sustainable development that respects and, where possible, enhances local distinctiveness and the intrinsic qualities of the countryside; and</li> <li>- continued protection of the open countryside for the benefit of all, with the highest level of protection for our most valued landscapes and environmental resources.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. To promote more sustainable patterns of development: Promoting the development of the English regions by improving their economic</li> <li>3. performance so that all are able to reach</li> </ol>

			<p>their full potential</p> <p>4. To promote sustainable, diverse and adaptable agriculture sectors</p>
National	Planning Policy Guidance Note 9 Nature Conservation	<p>Planning Guidance on Conserving the Natural Environment</p> <p><b>Statutory requirement to take into account policy set out within PPG in preparing Local Development Frameworks</b></p>	<p>1. To ensure that its policies contribute to the conservation of the abundance and diversity of British wildlife and its habitats,</p> <p>2. To minimise the adverse effects on wildlife where conflict of interest is unavoidable, and to meet its international responsibilities and obligations for nature conservation.</p> <p>3. Promote sound stewardship of wildlife and natural features.</p>
National	Planning Policy Statement 9 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation	<p>Draft Planning Guidance on Conserving the Natural Environment</p> <p><b>Statutory requirement to take into account policy set out within PPS in preparing Local Development Frameworks</b></p>	<p>1. <b>To promote sustainable development</b> – by ensuring that biodiversity is conserved and enhanced as an integral part of economic, social and environmental development.</p> <p>2. <b>To conserve, enhance and restore the diversity of England's wildlife and geology</b> – by sustaining, and where possible improving, the quality and extent of natural habitat and geological and geomorphologic sites.</p> <p>3. <b>To contribute to an urban renaissance</b> – by enhancing biodiversity in green spaces and among developments in urban areas so that they are used by wildlife and valued by people, recognising that healthy functional ecosystems can contribute to a better quality of life and a sense of well-being for those who live and work in urban areas.</p> <p>4. <b>To contribute to rural renewal</b> – by ensuring that developments in rural areas take account of the role and value of biodiversity in supporting economic diversification and contributing to a high quality environment.</p>
National	Planning Policy Statement 10 Planning and Waste Management	<p>The role of the land-use planning system in achieving sustainable waste management</p> <p><b>Statutory requirement to take into account policy set out within PPG in preparing Local Development Frameworks</b></p>	<p>Objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• help deliver sustainable development through driving waste management up the waste hierarchy,</li> <li>• provide a framework in which communities take more responsibility</li> </ul>

		<b>Frameworks</b>	<p>for their own waste,;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• help implement the national waste strategy, and supporting targets, are consistent with obligations required under European legislation</li> <li>• help secure the recovery or disposal of waste without endangering human health and without harming the environment, and enable waste to be disposed of in one of the nearest appropriate installations;</li> <li>• reflect the concerns and interests of communities, the needs of waste collection authorities, waste disposal authorities and business, and encourage competitiveness;</li> <li>• ensure the design and layout of new development supports sustainable waste management.</li> </ul>
National	Planning Policy Guidance Note 13 Transport	<p>government policies on promoting sustainable development in relation to transport issues</p> <p><b>Statutory requirement to take into account policy set out within PPG in preparing Local Development Frameworks</b></p>	<p>Links planning to transport issues with a view to promoting accessibility through the provision centrally located development which can be reached through a choice of transport alternatives.</p>
National	Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 Planning and the Historic Environment	<p>Planning policies on conserving, protecting and enhancing the UK historic environment</p> <p><b>Statutory requirement to take into account policy set out within PPG in preparing Local Development Frameworks</b></p>	<p>Objectives include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Protect and enhancing the environment in town and country</li> <li>2. Preserving the built and natural heritage</li> <li>3. Reconcile the need for economic growth with the need to protect the historic environment</li> </ol>
National	Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 Archeology and Planning	<p>Sets out the Government policy on archaeological remains on land and how they should be preserved or recorded both in an urban setting and in the countryside.</p> <p><b>Statutory requirement to take into account policy set out within PPG in preparing Local Development Frameworks</b></p>	<p>Objectives include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The need to reconcile need for sustainable development with the interest of conservation and archaeology</li> <li>2. The need to protect enhance and preserve sites of archaeological interest and their setting</li> <li>3. Protect national and local sites through the adoption of development policies</li> </ol>
National	Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 Planning for Open Space Sport and Recreation	<p>Sets out the Government's policy on managing the supply and quality of open space sports and recreation facilities.</p>	<p>Objectives include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Supporting an urban renaissance</li> <li>2. Supporting a rural renewal</li> </ol>

		<b>Statutory requirement to take into account policy set out within PPG in preparing Local Development Frameworks</b>	3. Promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion 4. Health and well-being 5. Promoting more sustainable development
National	Planning Policy Statement 22 Renewable energy	Sets out Government policies on promoting sustainable development in relation to renewable energy.  <b>Statutory requirement to take into account policy set out within PPS in preparing Local Development Frameworks</b>	Objectives include: 1. Target to generate 10% of all electricity by 2010 and 20% by 2020 2. Development renewable energy alongside improving energy efficiency of development 3. Encourage small scale on site renewable energy production where viable.
National	Planning Policy Guidance Note 25 Development and Flood Risk	Sets out Government Policies on controlling development in the flood plain.  <b>Statutory requirement to take into account policy set out within PPG in preparing Local Development Frameworks</b>	Objectives include: Ensure that new development is safe and not exposed to flooding Move away from the use for hard engineered flood defences and move towards soft flood protection measures, i.e. protecting the flood plain. Update referring to precautionary principle and flood risk management rather than defence EA
National	The UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy	<b>Requirement for Core Strategy DPD to deliver sustainable policy. DPD should take account of Nationally based sustainability strategy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guiding Principles are as follows</li> <li>Living Within Environmental Limits</li> <li>Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society</li> <li>Achieving a Sustainable Economy</li> <li>Promoting Good Governance</li> <li>Using Sound Science Responsibly</li> </ul>
National	Waterways for tomorrow	Sets the framework for the promotion the inland waterways, encouraging a modern, integrated and sustainable approach to their use.	The Government's overall aims for the waterways are <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To see an improving quality of infrastructure;</li> <li>a better experience for users through more co-operation between navigation authorities;</li> <li>increased opportunities for all through sustainable development.</li> </ul>

## Regional Strategies

Regional	Regional Planning Guidance (Regional Spatial Strategy) (RPG8) Policies 17-20	Sets out Planning Policy at the regional level  <b>Need for Core Strategy DPD to be in general conformity of Planning Guidance set out in RPG8</b>	Regional Government's Key Objectives are:  1. Ensuring that sufficient housing land is provided 2. Creating sustainable neighbourhoods 3. Ensuring that sufficient affordable housing (to local circumstances is provided) 4. Encouraging the use of higher densities to make more efficient use of land 5. Providing well designed diverse and attractive places to live. 6. Encouraging provision on PDL 7. Reduce crime noise and pollution
Regional	Regional Transport Strategy (set out in RPG8 above)	Sets out Regional Planning Policy at the regional level  <b>Need for Core Strategy DPD to be in general conformity of Planning Guidance set out in RPG8</b>	1. Reducing the need to travel and traffic growth 2. Promoting a 'step change' in the level of public transport and 3. Only developing additional highways capacity when all other measures have been exhausted
Regional	Regional Energy Strategy	A framework for decisions on the generation, supply and use of energy across the Region  <b>Key issue which should be addressed within Planning Policy</b>	1. Reducing the need for energy 2. Using energy more efficiently 3. Using energy from renewable sources 4. Making clean and efficient use of fossil fuels
Regional	Integrated Regional Strategy	Multi-faceted strategy based on other regional strategies  Sets out integrated regional strategies/policies on housing, planning and economic development. Could influence land use policy.	1. Reduce inequalities in the region 2. Conserve and enhance the natural environment 3. Create sustainable and healthy communities 4. Improve economic performance and competitiveness 5. Use natural resources more efficiently
Regional	Regional Environment Strategy	Sets out environmental policies and objectives for the East Midlands	1. To protect, improve and manage the rich diversity of the natural, cultural and built environmental and archaeological assets of the region. 2. To manage change by enhancing and conserving the environmental quality of the region including high standards of design and to maximise the re-use of previously used land and buildings. 3. To manage the natural resources of the



			<p>region including water, air quality and minerals in a prudent manner and to seek to minimise waste and to encourage re-use and recycling of waste materials.</p> <p>4. To involve people, through changes to lifestyles and activities in minimising adverse local, regional and global environmental impacts.</p>
Regional	Regional Economic Strategy ?	Sets the framework for long-term economic growth of the region.	<p>Sets out three structural themes. These are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise productivity</li> <li>• Ensure Sustainability</li> <li>• Achieve Equality.</li> </ul> <p>A number of strategic priorities are proposed to support the structural themes.</p>
Regional	Regional Freight Strategy	Sets the framework to ensure more efficient and sustainable freight movements.	<p>Identifies five themes of study including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Efficient movement of freight by road</li> <li>• Encouraging movement by water</li> <li>• Rail terminal issues</li> <li>• Linking transport and economic development</li> <li>• Environmental impact of road freight and growing demand</li> </ul> <p>And seeks to establish a number of policies to deliver the overarching objective of developing more efficient and sustainable use of distribution.</p>
Regional	Change 4 sport	Seeks to provide a framework for making the East Midlands the most active and successful	<p>Aims of the plan are to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable</li> <li>• Equitable</li> <li>• Empowering</li> </ul> <p>The plan further sets out a range of ambitions and aims which these objectives will help to deliver.</p>

## Sub-Regional Strategies

Sub Regional Strategy (County Level)	Adopted Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Structure Plan	<p>The Plan aims to promote sustainable development and living by integrating social, environmental, economic and resource objectives, as follows:</p> <p><b>Local Development Framework required to be in general conformity with adopted structure plan</b></p>	<p><b>Social.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ensuring the provision of appropriate housing, jobs and services to meet the needs of people in the Plan Area;</li> <li>supporting measures to regenerate urban and rural communities and improve access to facilities, services and opportunities;</li> </ol> <p><b>Environmental.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>protecting and enhancing irreplaceable assets of the natural and cultural environment and ensuring that replaceable assets are identified and replaced if lost or increased where there is a deficiency;</li> <li>enhancing the quality of the built environment by promoting good design in both urban and rural areas so as to make them safe and attractive places in which to live and work;</li> </ol> <p><b>Economic.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>providing in a sustainable way for the land use and transportation requirements of businesses already within or wishing to locate to the Plan Area;</li> </ol> <p><b>Resources.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>securing patterns of development which integrate land uses and transportation provision, minimise the need to travel, minimise waste and pollution, promote the efficient use of energy and protect against the risk of flooding;</li> <li>ensuring that development makes the best use of existing infrastructure and that appropriate new infrastructure is provided in phase with new development.</li> </ol>
Sub Regional Strategy (County)	Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Landscape and Woodland Strategy	Identifies distinctive character areas across Leicestershire and Rutland and set out objectives to enhance and conserve those areas	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To conserve and enhance the character, diversity and local distinctiveness of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland</li> </ol>

		<b>Includes strategic policies/objectives which will be delivered through the spatial plan</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. To identify appropriate opportunities for new woodland planting to increase the woodland area of the strategy area</li> <li>3. To encourage the sustainable management of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland's existing woodland resources to produce timber and provide environmental and social benefits</li> </ol>
Sub Regional Strategy (County)	Leicestershire Rural Strategy 2004-2009	<p>Provides a strategic framework for guiding the Leicestershire rural partnership</p> <p><b>Includes county wide strategic policies/objectives which will be delivered through the spatial plan</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Secure a wide range of services and facilities and opportunity to develop existing and new facilities</li> <li>2. Help development strong prosperous and competitive rural economy</li> <li>3. Ensure the rural environment is valued as an important asset in its own right which should be protected and enhanced</li> </ol>
Sub Regional Strategy (County)	Leicestershire Walking and Cycling Strategy	<p>sets out the vision to encourage Walking and Cycling (part of the strategy will be reviewed in conjunction with the LTP)</p> <p><b>Includes county wide strategic policies/objectives which will be delivered/influenced through the spatial plan</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To increase the proportion of travel by foot and cycle.</li> <li>2. To reduce the actual and perceived danger from road traffic faced by pedestrians and cyclists.</li> <li>3. To develop and maintain a safe, convenient and efficient infrastructure for walking and cycling.</li> <li>4. To ensure that the needs of pedestrians and cyclists are given priority in land use and transport planning, engineering and development control.</li> <li>5. To improve actual and perceived personal security for pedestrians.</li> <li>6. To reduce the risk of theft and its associated deterrent effect on cycle use.</li> <li>7. To work with other agencies in promoting walking and cycling as the most environmentally and socially sustainable forms of transport.</li> </ol>
Sub Regional Strategy (National Forest)	National Forest Cycling Strategy	<p>Sets out a cycling strategy and action plan for the national forest area</p> <p><b>Includes policies/objectives which will be delivered/influenced through the spatial plan</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Integrate cycling strategies across the forest area</li> <li>2. Promote cycling as a means of commuting and thus contribute for sustainable development</li> <li>3. Contribute to sustainable</li> </ol>

			development and economic regeneration of the National Forest
Sub Regional Strategy (National Forest)	National Forest Strategy 2004-2014	<p>Sets out a revised strategy to guide the development of the National Forest</p> <p><b>Includes sub regional strategic policies/objectives which will be delivered/influenced through the spatial plan</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Enrich a diversity of landscapes and wildlife habitats</li> <li>2. Stimulate and add value to social and economic development</li> <li>3. Be a working forest contributing to the national timber supplies</li> <li>4. Be sustainable-environmentally, economically and socially</li> <li>5. Be sensitive to landscape and natural and cultural history</li> <li>6. Help integrate urban and rural environments</li> </ol>
Sub-regional	Biodiversity Action Plan (Leicestershire)	<p>The plan identifies local and national priority habitats and species, and sets targets for their conservation, outlining mechanisms for achieving these.</p> <p><b>Includes county strategic policies/objectives which will be delivered/influenced through the spatial plan</b></p>	There are 19 Habitat Action Plans and 14 Species Action Plans. Partnerships are vital to the implementation of these plans, with a wide range of organisations involved locally.
Sub Regional Strategy (National Forest)	National Forest Biodiversity Action Plan	<p>A suit of 16 habitat and 9 species actions plans containing diverse strategies.</p> <p><b>Includes sub regional strategic policies/objectives which will be delivered/influenced through the spatial plan</b></p>	Each habitat/species plan has differing objectives
Sub-regional	Environmental Action for a Better Leicestershire	<p>Environmental Action for a Better Leicestershire (ENABLE) is a countywide forum for the protection and enhancement of the environment.</p> <p><b>Includes county strategic policies/objectives which will be delivered/influenced through the spatial plan</b></p>	<p>ENABLEs objectives are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify and prioritise environmental issues within the county;</li> <li>2. Recommend sustainable solutions and opportunities for action; and</li> <li>3. Help influence environmental policy and stakeholder opinions at a strategic as well as 'grass roots' level.</li> </ol>
Sub-regional	Local Delivery Plan	<p>The Charnwood and North West Leicestershire Local Health Delivery Plan (LHDP) shows how investment will be used over the period 2003-2006, to achieve local health improvement.</p> <p><b>Includes sub regional strategic</b></p>	<p>Reiterates non negotiable national targets mainly relating to access (i.e. waiting times) and sets out a number of local objectives including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Development of local capacity to increase the range and volume of local services</li> </ol>

		<b>policies/objectives delivered/influenced through the spatial plan</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Further development of PCT Intermediate Care Services.</li> <li>3. Strengthened partnership-working to address health inequalities more effectively.</li> <li>4. Development of the estate to match the needs of new services and the population, especially the practicality of developing capacity at Coalville Hospital</li> </ol>
Sub-regional	Leicestershire Municipal Waste Strategy	<p>The basis for the development of the new waste management infrastructure in Leicestershire is set out in the guiding principles and strategic objectives of the Waste Management Partnership</p> <p><b>Includes County based strategic policies/objectives delivered/influenced through the spatial plan</b></p>	<p>Local Policy Objectives include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reduce waste growth:.</li> <li>2. Meet the Statutory Recycling Targets:</li> <li>3. Meet the Landfill Directive Targets of diverting waste from landfill.</li> <li>4. The development of a waste management awareness campaign to support the provision of new services and investment in new facilities</li> </ol>
Sub-regional	Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Waste Local Plan 1995 – 2006	<p>Sets out detailed policies and guidance on waste development in the Plan Area between 1995 and 2006 (the "Plan Period").</p> <p><b>Includes sub regional strategic policies/objectives delivered/influenced through the spatial plan</b></p>	<p>The main objectives of the Plan are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. to identify existing waste disposal sites with capacity;</li> <li>2. to calculate waste disposal requirements in the Plan Area during the Plan Period for all types of controlled waste;</li> <li>3. to identify where appropriate the amount and location of waste management facilities required to meet the waste disposal requirements during the Plan Period;</li> <li>4. to have regard to the priorities for managing waste set out in the Leicestershire Waste Disposal (Management) Plan in the formulation of land-use planning policies;</li> <li>5. the setting out of criteria against which planning applications for waste management will be assessed.</li> </ol>
Sub-regional	Leicestershire Rural Strategy 2004 - 2009	<p>The Leicestershire Rural Strategy outlines strategies and plans that the Leicestershire Rural Partnership aim to implement within the next five years</p> <p><b>Includes county wide strategic policies/objectives delivered/influenced through the spatial plan</b></p>	<p>The second Leicestershire Rural Strategy will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. focus on issues and needs relevant to rural Leicestershire in the current climate, and take account of regional and national policy directions;</li> <li>2. include fewer and more focused projects, based on seven programme</li> </ol>

			<p>areas, to be developed over a time-span of five years;</p> <p>3. identify and develop linkages and joint working between the seven programmes tackled by the strategy</p>
Sub-regional	Leicestershire County Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan (Forthcoming)	<p>The Plan will assess the extent to which local rights of way meet present and likely future needs of the public, The Plan will include a statement of action for the management of rights of way and for securing an improved network</p> <p><b>Includes county wide strategic policies/objectives delivered/influenced through the spatial plan</b></p>	TBC
Sub-regional	Leicestershire County Council Nature Conservation Strategy	<p>Provides a framework for the management and development of the Leicestershire nature conservation. Sets out to achieve integration with the broader planning context.</p> <p><b>Includes county wide strategic policies/objectives delivered/influenced through the spatial plan</b></p>	<p>Objectives set out include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ensure that sites of greatest nature conservation importance are protected from adverse changes</li> <li>2. Ensure that nature conservation is fully considered at county council policy formulation, development and land management</li> <li>3. Encourage and Guide the management of land as to enhance and conserve the nature conservation resource of Leicestershire</li> <li>4. Encourage and guide action to create appropriate new habitats and ensure that recreated habitats are located where they will make the greatest contribution to the existing environment.</li> <li>5. Increase public awareness of, and accessibility to, the natural heritage of Leicestershire</li> <li>6. Encourage and enable the involvement of public groups and individuals in the management of sites and land</li> </ol>
Sub-regional	Local Transport Plans	The LTP enables local Highway Authorities to set out their strategies for delivering integrated transport locally. It is also a mechanism for local authorities to bid to central Government for capital funds for transport improvements and maintenance	<p>This document is Leicestershire County Council's LTP. It replaces the provisional LTP submitted to Government in July 1999 and has two main aims:</p> <p>I sets out the vision for the plan area and the transport proposals to achieve that vision with a programme for the next five</p>

		<b>Includes county wide strategic policies/objectives that could influence the LDF</b>	years until 2005/06; It is the County Council's bid to central Government to fund the capital programme for transport improvements and maintenance.
Sub-regional	East Midlands Airport Surface Access Strategy Report	The overall aim is to reduce the rate of growth in car traffic, particularly cars with only one person in them and to promote the use of alternative methods of 'sustainable' transport, such as buses, trains, cycling and walking.  <b>Includes strategic policies/objectives delivered/influenced through the spatial plan</b>	The Surface Access Strategy is the document that sets out the EMA's short, medium and long term plans for achieving this goal, whilst allowing the Airport to grow and develop
Sub-regional	Trent Fluvial Strategy	The principal aim of the Fluvial Trent Strategy is to identify the preferred approach and potential solutions to sustainably manage flood risk along the Trent corridor over the next 50 years.  <b>Includes strategic policies/objectives that could influence Policy within the LDF</b>	The following set of objectives was compiled for use in the evaluation of options: - <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To reduce flood risk. This includes capital works and actions to reduce the consequences of flooding, such as flood warning and household protection.</li> <li>2. To be technically achievable.</li> <li>3. To be cost beneficial.</li> <li>4. To increase the quality of life.</li> <li>5. To be sustainable.</li> <li>6. To protect existing uses and future needs and demands for informal water and land based recreation.</li> <li>7. To conserve features of archaeological and historic interest.</li> <li>8. To maintain, develop and improve fisheries.</li> <li>9. To maintain and enhance bio-diversity.</li> <li>10. To maintain and enhance water quality.</li> <li>11. To conserve and enhance the landscape character.</li> <li>12. To enhance opportunities for development and redevelopment, in accordance with existing planning policy.</li> <li>13. To maintain and enhance existing transport links, in accordance with planning policy, including navigation</li> </ol>

			<p>and private access.</p> <p>14. To protect the interests of the agricultural community.</p> <p>15. To minimise the use of natural resources.</p>
Sub-regional	Three Cities Sub Regional Strategy (DRAFT)	<p>Seeks to accelerate the growth of the Three Cities sub-region in a manner which is collective, collaborative and inclusive, and as sustainable as possible.</p> <p><b>Includes strategic policies/objectives delivered/influenced through the spatial plan</b></p>	<p>1. To ensure a cohesive policy approach is taken building on the complex and unique network of functional linkages between the three cities and across the wider Sub-Area</p> <p>2. To provide a more detailed strategic steer to express and help deliver the regional aim of improving the collective economic performance of the sub-area</p> <p>3. To provide a coherent, consistent, complementary and soundly based strategy for the distribution of development, the protection and enhancement of the environment and for necessary major transport measures within the Sub-Area</p> <p>4. To integrate spatial development with wider social and economic strategies to ensure that socio-economic benefits are maximised</p> <p>5. To develop a transport strategy and policies to assist in co-ordinating and promoting more sustainable patterns of movement within and between the three cities, with other parts of the Sub-Area, and with adjacent areas</p>



## Local Strategies

Local	North West Leicestershire District Council Local Plan	The Local Plan has a major role to play in ensuring the that sufficient housing and employment land is allocated, and that necessary infrastructure provision is identified and, where appropriate, undertaken in advance of development	The broad aims of the Local Plan are: 1. Economic regeneration and diversification 2. Protection and improvement of the environment; and 3. Maintenance and development of social and community infrastructure
Local	Air Quality Action Plan	Sets out local delivery of nationally set targets within the district in order to identify Key pollutants that may harm our health.  <b>Includes strategic policies/objectives that could influence Policy within the LDF</b>	<b>Primary Objective</b> 1. To achieve the National Air Quality Strategy objective for nitrogen dioxide (NO <sub>2</sub> ) within North West Leicestershire District Council's Air Quality Management Areas.  <b>Secondary Objectives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduce air pollution as a whole within the district.</li><li>• Provide up to date information on air quality within the District.</li><li>• Ensure that all Council activities are considered with reference to their effect upon air quality.</li><li>• Ensure that North West Leicestershire District Council along with the County and other surrounding District Councils encourages a uniform approach to air quality management across Leicestershire.</li></ul>
Local	Anti Poverty Strategy	A strategy to tackle social exclusion throughout the district  <b>Includes strategic policies/objectives that could influence Policy within the LDF</b>	The broad aims are: 1. To develop partnerships with other organisations and engage local communities to tackle poverty 2. Co-ordinate the Council services by targeting action where it is most needed and ensuring that services meet the needs of deprived communities 3. To support disadvantaged areas having regard to the particular needs and aspirations of disadvantaged sections of our communities 4. To provide support to aid the development of particular projects and

			initiatives that help to tackle poverty in the district
Local	North West Leicestershire Community Strategy (March 2004)	Set out a District-wide Community Strategy setting out a number of ongoing, short and medium term actions and targets  <b>Includes strategic policies/objectives that will influence Policy within the LDF</b>	Main aims of the strategy are to revitalise the two market towns and principle villages for business uses and develop further their facilities. And Attract and develop long term and higher paid jobs.
Local	Contaminated Land Strategy	This strategy involves the inspection of the district and identify contaminated land  <b>Includes strategic policies/objectives that could influence Policy within the LDF</b>	Seeks to ensure that historically contaminated land is cleaned up in such a way that it is a safe, suitable for use, and does not pose a risk to human health or the environment
Local	Cultural Strategy	This strategy delivering cultural services across the district  <b>Includes strategic policies/objectives that could influence Policy within the LDF</b>	Identified six key themes: 1. Partnerships – to enhance cultural access 2. Strengthening communities 3. Improving health and well-being 4. Children and young people 5. Building a cultural and creative economy 6. Celebrating our diversity and heritage
Local	Regeneration Strategy (Forthcoming Spring 2005)	TBC	TBC
Local	<b>Enough Decent Affordable Homes. Housing Strategy 2005-2008</b>	Sets out to provide an adequate supply of good quality housing affordable Housing, Improving standards in the private sector, Improving services and standards for council tenants and Provide housing and support for vulnerable people.  <b>Includes strategic policies/objectives that could influence Policy within the LDF</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To restructure the Housing division to achieve improved performance</li> <li>• To improve customer care and involvement</li> <li>• To reach the Decent Homes Standard by 2010</li> <li>• To carry out a Best Value Review of the Housing service in 2005</li> <li>• To implement the Homelessness Strategy Action Plan</li> <li>• To increase the energy efficiency of the housing stock to above the national average by 2010</li> <li>• To reduce carbon monoxide emissions from the housing stock</li> <li>• To tackle issues around estate management, crime and antisocial behaviour and support health improvements</li> </ul>

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- <sup>cvi</sup> North West Leicestershire District Council Technical and Contracting Division 2005
- <sup>cix</sup> Leicestershire Municipal Waste Strategy, Leicestershire County Council 2004
- <sup>cx</sup> North West Leicestershire District Council Interim Monitoring Report 2005
- <sup>cxl</sup> East Midlands Regional Plan Sustainability Appraisal April 2005
- <sup>cxii</sup> The East Midlands Draft Sustainable Energy Strategy 2003
- <sup>cxiii</sup> East Midlands Regional Plan Sustainability Appraisal April 2005
- <sup>cxiv</sup> Leicestershire County Council Mineral Local Plan. Monitoring and Key Issues Report May 2003.

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## APPENDIX 5: GLOSSARY

<b>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR):</b>	Part of the <i>Local Development Framework</i> , the Annual Monitoring Report will assess the implementation of the <i>Local Development Scheme</i> and the extent to which policies in <i>Local Development Documents</i> are being successfully implemented.
<b>Baseline</b>	A description of the present and future state of an area, in the absence of any plan, taking into account changes resulting from natural events and from other human activities.
<b>Community Strategy:</b>	Local authorities are required under the Local Government Act 2000 to prepare these, with aim of improving the social, environmental and economic well being of their areas. Through the Community Strategy, authorities are expected to co-ordinate the actions of local public, private, voluntary and community sectors. Responsibility for producing Community Strategies may be passed to Local Strategic Partnerships, which include local authority representatives.
<b>Consultation Body</b>	An authority, which because of its environmental responsibilities is likely to be concerned by the effects of implementing, plans and programmes and must be consulted under the SEA Directive. The Consultation Bodies, designated in the SEA Regulations are the Countryside Agency, English Heritage, English Nature, and the Environment Agency.
<b>Core Strategy:</b>	Sets out the long-term spatial vision for the local planning authority's area, the spatial objectives and strategic policies to deliver that vision. The Core Strategy will have the status of a <i>Development Plan Document</i> .
<b>Development control policies:</b>	These will be a suite of criteria-based policies which are required to ensure that all development within the areas meets the spatial vision and spatial objectives set out in the <i>Core Strategy</i> . They may be included in any <i>Development Plan Document</i> or may form a standalone document.
<b>Development Plan:</b>	As set out in Section 38(6) of the Act, an authority's Development Plan consists of the relevant <i>Regional Spatial Strategy</i> and the <i>Development Plan Documents</i> contained within its <i>Local Development Framework</i> .

<b>Development Plan Document (DPD):</b>	Spatial planning documents that are subject to independent examination, and together with the relevant <i>Regional Spatial Strategy</i> , will form the <i>Development Plan</i> for a local authority area. They can include a <i>Core Strategy</i> , <i>Site Specific Allocations</i> of land, and other Development Plan Documents, such as generic <i>development control policies</i> . They will all be shown geographically on an adopted <i>Proposals Map</i> . Individual Development Plan Documents or parts of a document can be reviewed independently from other Development Plan Documents. Each authority must set out the programme for preparing its <i>Development Plan Documents</i> in the <i>Local Development Scheme</i> .
<b>Environmental Appraisal</b>	A form of environmental assessment used in the UK (primarily for development plans) since the early 1990s, supported by 'Environmental Appraisal of Development Plans: A Good Practice Guide' (DoE, 1993); more recently superseded by sustainability appraisal. Some aspects of environmental appraisal foreshadow the requirements of the SEA Directive
<b>Environmental Report</b>	Document required by the SEA Directive as part of an environmental assessment, which identifies, describes and appraises the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing a plan or programme. See SA Report.
<b>Indicator</b>	A measure of variables over time, often used to measure achievement of objectives.
<b>Local Development Framework (LDF):</b>	The name for the portfolio of <i>Local Development Documents</i> . It consists of <i>Development Plan Documents</i> , <i>Supplementary Planning Documents</i> , a <i>Statement of Community Involvement</i> , the <i>Local Development Scheme</i> and <i>Annual Monitoring Reports</i> . Together these documents will provide the framework for delivering the spatial planning strategy for a local authority area and may also include Local Development Orders and Simplified Planning Zones.
<b>Local Development Scheme (LDS):</b>	Sets out the Council's programme for preparing <i>Local Development Documents</i> . All authorities must submit a Scheme to the Secretary of State for approval within six months of commencement of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
<b>Objective</b>	A statement of what is intended, specifying the desired direction of change in trends.
<b>Proposals Map:</b>	The adopted Proposals Map illustrates on a base map (reproduced from, or based upon a map base to a registered scale) all the policies contained in <i>Development Plan Documents</i> , together with any saved policies. It must be revised as each new <i>Development Plan Document</i> is adopted, and it should always reflect the up-to-date planning strategy for the area. Proposals for changes to the adopted Proposals Map accompany submitted <i>Development Plan Documents</i> in the form of a submission Proposals Map.

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<b>Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS):</b>	Sets out the region's policies in relation to the development and use of land and forms part of the <i>Development Plan</i> for local planning authorities. The <i>Core Strategy Development Plan Document</i> must conform with the Regional Spatial Strategy.
<b>Scoping</b>	The process of deciding the scope and level of detail of an SA, including the sustainability effects and options which need to be considered, the assessment methods to be used, and the structure and contents of the SA Report
<b>SEA Directive</b>	European Directive 2001/42/EC 'on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment'.
<b>Statement of Community Involvement (SCI):</b>	Sets out the standards which authorities will achieve with regard to involving local communities in the preparation of <i>Local Development Documents</i> and development control decisions. The Statement of Community Involvement is not a <i>Development Plan Document</i> but is subject to independent examination.
<b>Supplementary Planning Document (SPD):</b>	Provides supplementary information in respect of the policies in <i>Development Plan Documents</i> . They do not form part of the <i>Development Plan</i> and are not subject to an independent examination.
<b>Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA):</b>	A generic term used to describe environmental assessment as applied to policies, plans and programmes. The European 'SEA Directive' (2001/42/EC) requires a formal 'environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes, including those in the field of planning and land use'.
<b>Sustainability Appraisal (SA):</b>	A tool for appraising policies to ensure they reflect sustainable development objectives (i.e. social, environmental and econ-omic factors) and required in the Act to be undertaken for all local development documents. Sustainability Appraisal will be undertaken alongside <i>Strategic Environmental Assessment</i> .
<b>Sustainability Appraisal Report</b>	Term used in this guidance to describe a document required to be produced as part of the SA process to describe and appraise the likely significant effects on sustainability of implementing a plan, which also meets the requirement for the Environmental Report under the SEA Directive.