



Sedgemoor District Local Plan

Sustainability Appraisal Non-Technical Summary

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Glossary

Disclaimer

This Glossary is derived from information provided on the Planning Portal website, it is neither a statement of law nor an interpretation of the law, it only serves as an introduction to common acronyms and terminology used in reference to plan-making and should not be used as a source for statutory definitions.

<i>Acronym (and title) or terminology</i>	<i>Explanation</i>
AMR (Annual Monitoring Report)	A report submitted to the Government by local planning authorities assessing progress with and the effectiveness of a Local Development Framework.
Core Strategy /Local Plan	A Development Plan Document setting out the spatial vision and strategic objectives of the planning framework for an area, having regard to the Community Strategy (see also DPDs).
LDS (Local Development Scheme)	The local planning authority's scheduled plan for the preparation of Local Development Documents.
Development Plan	The local planning authority's scheduled plan for the preparation of Local Development Documents.
DPD (Development Plan Document)	<p>Development Plan Documents are prepared by local planning authorities and outline the key development goals of the local development framework.</p> <p>Development Plan Documents include the core strategy and, where needed, area action plans. There will also be an adopted proposals map which illustrates the spatial extent of policies that must be prepared and maintained to accompany all DPDs.</p> <p>All DPDs must be subject to rigorous procedures of community involvement, consultation and independent examination, and adopted after receipt of the inspector's binding report. Once adopted, development control decisions must be made in accordance with them unless material considerations indicate otherwise.</p> <p>DPDs form an essential part of the Local Development Framework.</p>
LDD (Local Development Document)	These include Development Plan Documents (which form part of the statutory development plan) and

	<p>Supplementary Planning Documents (which do not form part of the statutory development plan). LDDs collectively deliver the spatial planning strategy for the local planning authority's area.</p>
<p>Local Development Framework</p>	<p>The Local Development Framework (LDF) is a non-statutory term used to describe a folder of documents, which includes all the local planning authority's local development documents. An LDF is comprised of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development Plan Documents (which form part of the statutory development plan) • Supplementary Planning Documents <p>The local development framework will also comprise of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •the Statement of Community Involvement •the Local Development Scheme •the Annual Monitoring Report •any Local Development Orders or Simplified Planning Zones that may have been added
<p>Local Plan</p>	<p>The plan for the future development of the local area, drawn up by the local planning authority in consultation with the community. In law this is described as the development plan documents adopted under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Current core strategies or other planning policies, which under the regulations would be considered to be development plan documents, form part of the Local Plan. The term includes old policies which have been saved under the 2004 Act.</p>
<p>PPG (Planning Policy Guidance)</p>	<p>Issued by central government setting out its national land use policies for England on different areas of planning. These are gradually being replaced by Planning Policy Statements.</p>
<p>Policies Map</p>	<p>A map accompanying the LDF showing areas of protection and identifying locations for land use and development proposals included in the adopted Development Plan Documents</p>

- SA (Sustainability Appraisal) A systematic process, required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and incorporating the requirements of the SEA Directive. An appraisal of the economic, environmental and social effects of a plan from the outset of the preparation process to allow decisions to be made that accord with sustainable development.
- SCI (Statement of Community Involvement) The Statement of Community Involvement sets out the processes to be used by the local authority in involving the community in the preparation, alteration and continuing review of all local development documents and development control decisions. The Statement of Community Involvement is an essential part of the new-look Local Development Frameworks.
- SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment) A procedure (set out in the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004) which requires the formal environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.

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Introduction

This is the Non-Technical Summary of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Report, incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), for the draft Sedgemoor Local Plan as required by planning legislation and Government guidance. The SA Report presents the findings of the appraisal of options throughout the development of the Local Plan and includes the findings of the SA of the Proposed Submission draft Local Plan. SA and SEA are tools to ensure the integration of environmental and sustainability considerations into the Local Plan and decision making process. To achieve this aim, SA is a parallel process which informs each stage of the Local Plan development.

The Sedgemoor Local Plan

The purpose of the Local Plan is to set out the long-term spatial vision for the district of Sedgemoor and the strategic policies and site allocations needed to deliver that vision. It is a key component of the Local Development Framework (LDF).

The overarching priority of the Local Plan is as follows:

To ensure development in Sedgemoor supports the principles of sustainable development and delivers sustainable communities whilst respecting the diversity in function and character of Sedgemoor's towns, villages and countryside.

The Local Plan presents a spatial strategy, policies on major infrastructure projects, place-making policies (incorporating site allocation policies) and district wide policies. The document is structured into six distinct sections:

- **Spatial Portrait** – describes the spatial characteristics of Sedgemoor and outlines the strategic role of Sedgemoor in the region.
- **Vision and Priorities** - develops a vision and identifies the key challenges and priorities for the District
- **Strategic Policies** - sets out the Spatial Strategy and core policies on infrastructure delivery, sustainable development and mitigating the causes and adapting to the effects of climate change
- **Place-making policies** – sets out the individual policies for Bridgwater, Burnham-on-Sea & Highbridge, Cheddar, North Petherton, Tier 2 settlements, Tier 3 settlements, Tier 4 settlements, Tier 5 settlements and the Countryside. These are place specific and link to delivering the spatial strategy and achieving the long-term vision for the District. The place-making policies for Bridgwater, Burnham-on-Sea & Highbridge, Cheddar and North Petherton identify the land allocated for housing, employment, education and recreation (where applicable).
- **Major Infrastructure Projects** – sets out principles and policies for delivery of major infrastructure including development associated with the proposed new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point.
- **District Wide Policies** – sets out policies for development across the District and provides a framework for assessing future development proposals and their contribution to the overall vision and objectives.

The new Local Plan incorporates the saved policies from the old Local Plan and so policies of the Sedgemoor District Local Plan 1991-2011 will no longer continue to be 'saved'.

All policies include introductory context, policy approach, policy wording and delivery. The monitoring framework is no longer included within the Local Plan (as it was for the Core Strategy), it will be provided within a separate document alongside the Plan. It is important to note that the Core Strategy must be read as a whole. District wide policies and place-making policies for example elaborate on and add to the spatial strategy.

The Sustainability Appraisal Report

This document is the Non-technical Summary of the SA Report. The SA Report outlines the significant effects on the environment, social and economic factors of the alternatives for the Sedgemoor Local Plan. It outlines the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with and the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant effects of implementing the Local Plan. The structure of the SA Report is as follows:

- Section 1 introduces the Local Plan, the context for the SA and sets out the structure of the report;
- Section 2 outlines the methodology used in the SA;
- Section 3 summarises the findings of the SA Scoping Report and describes the plan's relationship with other plans, programmes and environmental / sustainability objectives, the sustainability baseline and introduces the SA framework;
- Section 4 sets out the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with and describes the evolution of the options considered in the development of the draft Local Plan;
- Section 5 summarises the findings of the previous stages of Sustainability Appraisal;
- Section 6 sets out the results of the appraisal of the policies within the Proposed Submission Local Plan;
- Section 7 sets out recommendations for mitigating negative effects and enhancing positive effects, it also outlines initial proposals for monitoring the sustainability effects of the Local Plan and identifies any uncertainties and risks from the implementation of the Local Plan; and
- Section 8 describes the next steps.

In addition, the SA Report is accompanied by the following appendices:

Appendix A: Plan, Policy, Programme, Strategy and Initiative review

Appendix B: Baseline information and trends

Appendix C: IMD 2015 data for Sedgemoor

Appendix D: Key Issues and Sustainability problems for Sedgemoor

Appendix E: Revised Assessment Matrix

Appendix F: Detailed summary of the appraisal of the Core Strategy Review Scope and Approach options (taken from the Initial SA)

Appendix G: Detailed summary of the appraisal of the Core Strategy Review Additional Consultation options (taken from the Initial SA Supplementary report)

Appendix H: Summary of comments and responses to the April 2015 SA Scoping Report, the October 2015 Initial SA Report and the June 2016 Initial SA Supplementary Report.

Appendix I: Amended appraisal matrices for the initial ('Scope and Approach' and 'Additional') options to take account of the consultation responses

Appendix J: Detailed Sustainability Appraisal matrices of Preferred Policies and Alternatives

- Spatial Strategy
- Proposed Development Management Policies
- Site Allocations
- The Plan as a whole
 - How the plan performs for Bridgwater, Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge, Cheddar and North Petherton

Appendix K: Threshold criteria used for consistent assessment of the proposed Housing and Employment Site Allocation sites

Appendix L: A summary of the changes made to the original Core Strategy policies in the preparation of the Proposed Submission development management policies

Appendix M: Table of the changes made to the settlement hierarchy (as shown in the 2016 Role and Function update) and summary of how these changes were justified

Appendix N: Constraints maps of Bridgwater, Burnham-on-Sea, Cheddar and North Petherton

Habitat Regulations Assessment

There are a number of sites within or near Sedgemoor District that have been designated as internationally important for wildlife. Designated sites consist of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designated for habitats and animal species, Special Protection Areas (SPA) designated for bird species and "Ramsar sites". The Council therefore has a legal obligation to carry out a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) in order to ensure that the Local Plan does not contain any policies that will have or lead to an adverse effect on the integrity of the designated sites.

An HRA has been undertaken of the Proposed Submission Local Plan and the relevant documents can be accessed online.

The Reasons for Selecting the Alternatives

Section 4 of the SA Report provides an overview of the parameters for alternatives and outlines how social, environmental and economic issues were considered in choosing the preferred options.

The alternatives / options have to some degree been constrained by national, regional and local policy and strategies. The SA Report provides an overview of the factors that have been considered in developing the Proposed Submission draft Local Plan. The factors are as follows:

- Complying with national planning policy context;
- Area covered and time-frame;
- Existing adopted visions;
- Levels of growth predicted;
- Distribution of development / spatial strategy;
- Baseline environmental, social and economic characteristics;
- Settlement hierarchy; and
- Environmental constraints.

Section 4.28 outlines the spatial strategy options considered, section 4.30 outlines the strategic site allocation options considered, Table 4.4 outlines the levels of growth at Tier 1 and Tier 2 settlement options, table 4.5 outlines the additional strategic site allocation options that were considered. All options have been subject to SA using matrices, the full sustainability appraisal matrices are presented in Appendices I & J.

The findings of the SA of options were an integral part of the process of considering options and selecting preferred options. The general approach was for the SA matrix to identify the differences between the options in terms of environmental, social and economic SA Objectives in order to aid in making a judgement about which was the “most sustainable” option. In some instances, recommendations for improvement or mitigation measures were made to improve the sustainability of an option.

Methodology of the SA

Sustainability Appraisal runs alongside the development of the Local Plan. The SA Report describes the different stages of the process and the results. Table NTS1 presents a summary of the stages of the Sustainability Appraisal alongside the stages in plan development and set out where the findings of each stage can be found in the main report.

Table NTS1: The Sustainability Appraisal Process		
Plan Development Stage	Sustainability Appraisal Stage	Where found in report
Prior to drafting plan	Scoping: Setting the context for the appraisal, collecting baseline information about the area, identifying sustainability issues/problems.	Section 3 and Appendices A, B, C, D and N
	Developing a set of social, economic and environmental objectives for the appraisal (sustainability appraisal framework).	Section 3 and Appendix E

Developing objectives for the plan	Testing the sustainability of plan objectives using the appraisal framework.	Section 4
Developing options for achieving these objectives	Testing the sustainability of the options using the appraisal framework.	Sections 4 and 5 and Appendices F, G H and I
Developing a set of policies for the Core Strategy.	Testing the sustainability of the policies using the appraisal framework and presenting the findings in an SA Report.	Section 6 and Appendix J

The Plan’s Relationship with Other Plans and Programmes

One of the main purposes of reviewing other plans, policies and programmes is to ensure that the most up to date targets and objectives within other relevant documents are included in the SA Framework developed to appraise the Local Plan. This ensures that the plan is delivering the targets or as a minimum, is not working against them. Detail is provided in Section 3 and Appendix A of the SA Report.

Many of the plans, policies and programmes that have been reviewed pick up on some aspect of the “sustainable development” agenda but this may not be their primary purpose. Some of the key “sustainable development” messages coming out of the review of plans, policies and programmes are presented in Box NTS 1.

Box NTS 1: Sustainable Development Messages Identified in the Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

- Incorporate the principles of sustainable development;
- Improve peoples’ health and reduce health inequalities;
- Flood risk is increasing with climate change and there is a need to adapt to all predicted consequences of climate change;
- Conserve and enhance biodiversity and the natural environment;
- Protect and enhance the historic environment;
- Ensure natural resources are used efficiently and waste is minimised, reused or recycled;
- Conserve water and prevent the pollution of water sources;
- Ensuring a resilient and economically sustainable food system;
- Make best use of previously developed land;
- Promote higher densities in accessible locations;
- Meet strategic housing requirements for the district;
- Support low carbon economies and achieve successful and competitive businesses;
- Promote sustainable tourism;
- Provide affordable housing to meet identified needs;
- Create mixed communities and promote social inclusion;
- Reduce the need to travel;
- Protect and provide access to appropriate levels of open space;

- Improve air quality and reduce air, noise and light pollution;
- Promote good design;
- Ensure adequate infrastructure is in place to support economic growth and the well-being of communities;
- Achieve reductions in greenhouse gas emissions;
- Promote energy efficiency; and
- Promote and provide for renewable energy.

Sustainability Baseline and Issues

A summary of key baseline data about the district, the likely evolution of the baseline in the future without the Local Plan and published targets are presented in Table NTS 2. The text refers to future trends as either declining, stable, or improving and conditions as poor, good or moderate.

The likely evolution of the baseline has been extrapolated using available information relating to trends. Table NTS 2 replicates Table 3.1 of the main SA Report, which in turn draws on information from the SA Scoping Report and its Appendices (April 2015).

Table NTS2: The baseline environmental characteristics, key issues and likely evolution of Sedgemoor District’s environmental character

Environmental Topic	Environmental Baseline Characteristics	Key Environmental Issues, Problems and Opportunities	Predicted future baseline without implementation of the Local Plan	Key plans, programmes, policies, strategies and initiatives of relevance - and their key targets/objectives where applicable	Other sources of data, guidance, legislation and information
Climate Change	<p>Sedgemoor is a low-lying coastal district that contains extensive areas of floodplain.</p> <p>Sedgemoor District contains parts of two nationally designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (the Quantock Hills and the Mendip Hills) and is largely covered by the sensitive Levels and Moors landscape character area.</p> <p>56.4% of the district’s population lives in the 3 main urban areas, 25% of the population lives in villages, hamlets and isolated settlements.</p> <p>The district has a limited public transport network which largely focusses on connectivity between the main urban areas rather than between the rural and urban areas.</p> <p>Per capita CO₂ emissions have generally declined since 2006 but with some year on year variations and levels are higher than the average for Somerset and the South West.</p> <p>In 2013/14 the total installed capacity of renewable energy in Sedgemoor was 40.386MW (up from 3.55MW in 2010/11).</p> <p>A large majority of existing buildings are not designed to resist the impacts from a changing climate.</p> <p>Extensive flooding in the Somerset Levels and Moors in</p>	<p>Sedgemoor is within the top ten Local Authorities that have the greatest number of properties (approx. 9,000) with a significant chance of flooding</p> <p>Sedgemoor District will be vulnerable to flooding from rising sea-levels.</p> <p>Strategic flood defence infrastructure has yet to be constructed. The preferred solution, the Bridgwater Barrier, is at the site identification stage.</p> <p>Zero-carbon homes are no longer supported by Government policy.</p> <p>The quality of the landscape in Sedgemoor restricts the installation of large scale renewable energy projects.</p> <p>Residents are reliant on cars to travel to their place of work or to access amenities.</p> <p>The Level 1 SFRA confirms that significant parts of the district are categorised as Flood Zone 3a. This includes much of Bridgwater to the east of the River Parrett, all of Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge, and much of the coastal tourist area at Brea and Berrow.</p> <p>Woodland planting will benefit biodiversity and if it was focussed on the upper and middle catchment areas of the River Parrett it would also improve soil stability, reduce run-off and the frequency of floods.</p> <p>Natural England have previously commented that there is a need to ensure future substantial development areas are run-off neutral. Sustainable water management in new developments is likely to involve, for example, keeping</p>	<p>Future trends recorded as “stable” on the assumption that the flood defences for urban areas will be maintained / improved and inappropriate development in floodplain will be avoided, but would otherwise be “declining”. Techniques for reducing surface water run-off will be increasingly relevant not only on new development sites (sustainable drainage systems) but also through strategies for whole river catchments (e.g. Parrett Catchment Project).</p> <p>The extent to which flood defences are genuinely sustainable in the long term in this low-lying part of Somerset is a major issue for the Local Plan and very likely to be relevant to other LDD’s.</p> <p>In respect of other aspects of climate change (e.g. hotter drier summers) many building and public spaces may currently be “good” / “moderate” but could be less comfortable in future (i.e. “declining”).</p> <p>Continuing development of cleaner fuel technologies, renewable energy supplies and energy efficiency in buildings and vehicles should give the prospect of the longer term future trend</p>	<p><u>National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy (2011)</u></p> <p><u>England Biodiversity Strategy – Climate Change Adaptation Principles (2008)</u> - maintain and increase ecological resilience, accommodate change, take practical action now, integrate action across all sectors and develop knowledge and plan strategically.</p> <p><u>National Adaptation Programme – making the country resilient to a changing climate (2013)</u> - need for awareness and of preparedness for the impacts of climate change, responsibility for adapting to climate change lies with the government, local government, industry and communities and that we all have a role to play in adapting to climate change, LPA’s to implement the NPPF, integrating health impacts into Flood Plans, disseminating Public Health England information with regards to flooding.</p> <p><u>Flood Risk Management Strategy (SCC, 2014)</u> - reduction in the impact of flooding, establish a co-ordinated programme of flood risk and drainage management, work with local communities, make Local communities more aware of flood risk, integrate consideration of flood risk and sustainable drainage systems in to developments, flood risk management will be fully considered in the local plan.</p> <p><u>Flood Risk Management Strategies (Severn Estuary 2014)</u> - define a 100 year plan of investment, prioritise other flood risk management measures, decide where to create new compensatory habitats for those lost to rising sea levels.</p> <p><u>Shoreline Management Plans (Severn Estuary 2010, North Devon & Somerset 2010 and Bridgwater Bay to Bideford bay 1998)</u></p> <p><u>Catchment Flood Management Plans (Parrett 2009 and North & Mid Somerset 2012)</u></p> <p><u>The Somerset Levels and Moors 20 Year Flood Action Plan (2014)</u> - reduce the frequency, depth and duration of flooding, maintain access for communities and businesses, increase resilience to flooding, make the most of the special characteristics of the Somerset Levels and Moors, ensure strategic transport connectivity and promote business confidence and growth.</p>	<p>Sedgemoor Strategic Flood Risk Assessment</p> <p>PPS1 Supplement Study: Planning and Climate Change (2010)</p> <p>Hinkley Point C Project SPD (2011)</p> <p>Puriton Energy Park SPD (2012)</p> <p>Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992)</p> <p><u>Climate Change Act (2008)</u> - establishes a legally binding target to reduce the UK’s greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% in 2050 from 1990 levels</p> <p>Planning and Energy Act (2008)</p> <p>Flood Risk Regulations (2009)</p> <p>Floods and Water Management Act (2010)</p> <p>National Planning Policy Framework (2012)</p> <p>Planning Practice Guidance (2014)</p> <p>Responding to Climate Change in Somerset (Somerset County</p>

	<p>early 2014 affected the communities of Moorland and Fordgate in Sedgemoor.</p> <p>Rising sea-levels will cause coastal change.</p> <p>Coastal defences are adequate until 2030 with continued maintenance but improved defences will be needed at some locations to ensure protection for the whole 100 years.</p>	<p>watercourses open rather than culverted, green roofs, permeable surfaces and rainwater storage.</p> <p>Coastal Change Management Areas may be appropriate where managed realignment or no active intervention is planned (I.e. at the Steart Peninsula and Berrow to Brean Down).</p>	<p>“improving”. The installed capacity of renewable energy sources has increased significantly since 2010.</p> <p>If approval is granted, the Energy Park at the former ROF site in Puriton will provide safeguarded plots for energy generation. The possible uses are envisaged to include: a biomass plant; a 50MW energy from waste plant; a 800MW combined cycle gas turbine; and a 50MW peaking plant.</p>	<p><u>Sedgemoor Climate Change Strategy (2011)</u></p> <p><u>Stolford to Combwich Coastal Defence Strategy (2002)</u></p> <p><u>Draft Low Carbon Strategy (HotSW, updated Aug 2013)</u> - supporting major projects, “enabling activities” and supporting “technology themes.</p>	<p>Council, 2008)</p>
Waste	<p>Somerset County Council set policy for waste management.</p> <p>243,180 tonnes of household waste were created in Somerset during 2011/2012. Of that figure, 50.9% was recycled, 47.3% was sent to landfill and 1.8% was sent for energy recovery.</p> <p>Agricultural and commercial food waste is currently sent to the Anaerobic Digestion plant run by Cannington Enterprises Ltd near Bridgwater. The new mechanical biological treatment facility and anaerobic digestion plant at Walpole treats household food waste.</p>	<p>The percentage of waste going to landfill (47.3% according to the Somerset Waste Partnership) is currently much higher than the target of 8% to be attained by 2028 as specified in Table 1 of the Somerset Waste Core Strategy. The current rate of recycling is 50.9%; there is a target of recycling 69% of household waste in Somerset by 2028.</p>	<p>Waste will rise as population and household numbers rise, however measures are in place to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.</p> <p>The future trend is recorded as ‘stable’ as measures are in place to ensure the waste hierarchy is followed.</p>	<p><u>Somerset Waste Core Strategy (2013)</u> -MSW recycling rate of 69% by 2028, C&I waste recycling rate of 69% by 2028, C&D waste recycling rate of 79% by 2028, Landfill rate for MSW by 2028 reduced to 8%, biodegradable MSW sent to landfill reduced to 0% by 2016, tonnage of C&D waste to non-hazardous landfills in Somerset reduced to 30,351 by 2028.</p> <p><u>National Waste Management Plan for England (Defra, Dec 2013)</u> - UK must recycle at least 50% of its household waste by 2020 and must recover 70% by weight of construction and demolition waste by 2020 (from EU WFD).</p> <p><u>From Rubbish to Resource – The Regional Waste Strategy for the South West 2004 – 2020 (SWRA, 2004)</u> - by 2020 over 45% of waste is recycled and reused and less than 20% of waste produced in the region will be landfilled.</p>	<p><u>Waste to Landfill Directive (99/31/EC)</u> - the UK must recycle at least 50% of its household waste by 2020 and must recover 70% by weight of construction and demolition waste by 2020.</p> <p><u>Landfill (Eng & Wales) Regs (2002)</u> - requires a reduction in biodegradable waste going to landfill of 35% by 2020.</p> <p>National Planning Policy Framework (2012)</p> <p>Planning Practice Guidance (2014)</p>
Biodiversity and Geodiversity	<p>Sedgemoor District contains parts of several sites that are of European Importance (SPA’s & SAC’s) and of international importance (Ramsar) for nature conservation. These sites would remain protected by other regulations.</p>	<p>The quality of these sites could be threatened by the pressure of increased development in the District. One site in particular, the Severn Estuary SPA, is relatively close to Bridgwater (the Principal town in Sedgemoor) where the majority of growth is focussed.</p> <p>Development to the north and east of</p>	<p>Internationally designated sites which are wetland habitats (such as the Somerset Levels and Moors SPA) are likely to be affected by climate change, such as drier summers but also rising sea levels. The likelihood is</p>	<p><u>Somerset Woodland Strategy (2010)</u> - increase woodland area by 14.2% in 20 years.</p> <p><u>Sedgemoor Green Infrastructure Strategy (2011)</u></p> <p><u>Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 – 2020 (UN, Oct 2010)</u> – Aichi targets (see Biodiversity 2020)</p>	<p>Somerset Local Nature Partnership</p> <p>Planning Practice Guidance [Ref ID: 8-007-20140306]</p> <p>Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of international importance especially</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 28 SSSI sites within (or partially within) the district of Sedgemoor. • There are two Special Protection Areas within Sedgemoor: Somerset Levels and Moors and the Severn Estuary. Both of which are also internationally recognised wetland (Ramsar) sites. • There are five Special Areas of Conservation within (or partially within) Sedgemoor: Mendip Limestone Grasslands, Mendip Woodlands, Exmoor & Quantock Oakwoods, North Somerset & Mendip Bats and the Severn Estuary. <p>The area of woodland in Sedgemoor was 2433.14 hectares in 2010.</p> <p>There has been no indication that biodiversity has declined since 2010.</p>	<p>Bridgwater is putting pressure on the viability of a great crested newt population south of the Kings Sedgemoor Drain through continuing habitat loss and fragmentation between breeding ponds. The species is of European importance and is in decline nationally.</p> <p>Development around Cheddar is likely to increasingly affect the availability of foraging habitat of greater horseshoe bats, principally by putting pressure on the limited number of commuting routes across the A371 and the increasing number of street lights. The moors south of the A371 form important feeding areas for the species, particularly in the spring.</p> <p>The projects set out in the Sedgemoor Green Infrastructure Strategy (May 2011) could address the shortfall of 24 ha of local accessible natural green-space, the projects include: the East Bridgwater Local Nature Reserve; the Chilton Trinity Local Nature Reserve; the Meads EcoPark; the South Bridgwater Country Park.</p>	<p>that in the long-term a wetland environment of nature conservation value will be sustained through adaptation across a wider area of the Levels and Moors rather than rigid defence of the currently designated areas. As population rises in the District, the internationally designated sites may be under pressure from increased recreation.</p>	<p><u>EU Biodiversity Strategy (EC, 2011)</u> - by 2020 better conservation or a secure status by 100% more habitats and 50% more species, by 2020 the conservation of species and habitats depending on or affected by agriculture and forestry, and the provision of their ecosystem services show measurable improvements, by 2020 invasive alien species are identified, priority species controlled or eradicated, and pathways managed to prevent new invasive species from disrupting European biodiversity, by 2020 ecosystems and their services are maintained and enhanced by establishing green infrastructure and restoring at least 15% of degraded ecosystems, by 2015 fishing is sustainable, by 2020 fish stocks are healthy and European seas healthier and fishing has no significant adverse impacts on species and ecosystems, by 2020 the EU has stepped up its contribution to avert global biodiversity loss.</p> <p><u>England Biodiversity Strategy Climate Change Adaptation Principles (DEFRA, 2008)</u> - maintain and increase ecological resilience, accommodate change, integrate action across all sectors, develop knowledge and plan strategically and take practical action now.</p> <p><u>Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (DEFRA, 2011)</u> - a more integrated large-scale approach to conservation on land and at sea, putting people at the heart of biodiversity policy and reduce environmental pressures and improve knowledge.</p> <p><u>Somerset Biodiversity Strategy: "Wild Somerset" 2008-2018 (SCC, 2008)</u> - 95% of SSSI in a favourable or recovering condition by 2010, 95% of Local Sites in active conservation management by 2018, all Local development Frameworks incorporate Strategic Nature Areas by 2010, a minimum of five landscape-scale conservation projects are substantially complete by 2012, all Local development Frameworks to include a green infrastructure component, with green infrastructure strategies produced for all larger urban extensions by 2010, a minimum of two landscape-scale projects underway that contain a strong focus on local produce, ensure that there is 1ha of Local Nature Reserve per 1,000 people in Somerset by 2012, achieve Natural England's Accessible Natural Green Space Standards by 2018, a landscape scale conservation project on the Somerset levels to be underway by 2010.</p> <p><u>Somerset IDB Biodiversity Action Plan (Somerset Drainage Board</u></p>	<p>waterfowl habitat (1971)</p> <p>Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna & Flora (Directive 92/43/EC) (The Habitats Directive)</p> <p>Directive on Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) and the codified version (2009/147/EC)</p> <p>The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (The Habitat Regulations)</p> <p>The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (Natural Environment White Paper) (HM Government, 2011)</p> <p>Biodiversity Offsetting: Guiding Principles for Biodiversity Offsetting (DEFRA, July 2011)</p> <p>Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</p> <p>Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006</p> <p>Naturally Somerset – A prospectus (Somerset Local Nature Partnership, 2014)</p>
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				<u>Consortium, 2010</u>) – numerous targets relating to improving the condition of different habitat types	
Landscape and Townscape	Sedgemoor District contains parts of two nationally designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (the Quantock Hills and the Mendip Hills) and is largely covered by the sensitive Levels and Moors landscape character area.	Climate Change could result in significant change to the characteristic “wetland” landscape of the Somerset Levels and Moors.	Trends have been recorded as “stable” but, in an area which has seen a great deal of new development and the prospect of more to come, a more localised assessment of baseline and trends would show greater variability.	<p><u>Mendip Hills AONB Management Plan 2014 -19 (Mendip Hills AONB, Nov 2013)</u> - no net loss of characteristic habitats and species; promote a landscape scale approach to the conservation and expansion of coherent and resilient ecological networks; increase monitoring and awareness of the biodiversity resource; promote a holistic approach to implementing AONB Management Plan objectives, National Character Area Statements of Opportunity and a locally designated Nature Improvement Area’s objectives; recognise, celebrate and conserve geological sites and features, increase awareness of the Mendip Hills geology, particularly cave systems in relation to the importance they play in water management and water supply.</p> <p><u>Quantock Hills AONB Management Plan 2014 – 2019 (Quantock Hills, 2014)</u> - protect, maintain and enhance the dry acid grassland, acid flushes/mires, open moorland and upland oakwoods with their important bird assemblage, of Quantock Common; support sustainable land management to enhance and extend the special wildlife, landscape and ecosystem services of Quantock farmland; understand, conserve and promote proper management of Quantock hedges and associated banks; support the sensitive management of woodland and plantations to enhance and extend the distinctive character, landscape and wildlife of the Quantocks; encourage and support the positive management of privately owned woodland, bringing more woodland into management to increase the wide range of ecosystem services woodland provides; maintain and enhance the biodiversity and ecosystems of the Quantocks at the landscape scale; monitor and manage harmful invasive species and diseases across the AONB; support development of agri-environment and other innovative schemes and site management to support, connect or expand valuable habitats in the AONB; support the managed conversion of coniferous plantations (wholly or in part) to heathland or semi-natural woodland where this strengthens the existing network of habitats; maintain representative example exposures of Quantock geology with public access where feasible and interpret them for the public where appropriate; widen and adapt access opportunities across the AONB to protect wildlife, benefit visitors and support businesses in local communities; and provide evidence for decision making through monitoring visitor trends and</p>	<p>State of the Natural Environment Report (2008)</p> <p>Bridgwater Vision Baseline and Position Statement (2009)</p> <p>The Meads SPD (SDC, 2012)</p> <p>National Character Area profiles (Natural England, 2013 & 2014)</p> <p>Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000</p> <p>UK Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009</p> <p>National Planning Policy Framework (2012)</p> <p>Planning Practice Guidance (2014)</p> <p>Sedgemoor Landscape Assessment and Countryside Design Summary (SDC, 2003)</p>

				activities, including impacts on the special qualities of the AONB.	
Historic Environment	<p>The District contains over 1,100 listed buildings, 14 Conservation Areas, a battlefield site and numerous archaeological sites including 51 Ancient Monuments.</p> <p>The number of listed buildings and scheduled monuments that are recorded as at risk has increased since 2010.</p>	<p>There are 12 monuments (up from 8 in 2010), 10 buildings (up from 2 in 2010) and 1 historic park and garden on the English Heritage 'Heritage at Risk Register' [accessed in January 2015]. The threats to these sites are various, including dewatering/drainage issues, farming practices, localised issues, and need for significant maintenance. Only one site, Alstone lake settlement site, is under threat from proposed development.</p>	<p>A declining trend has been recorded due to the increase in the number of listed buildings and scheduled monuments that have been added to the 'At Risk' register since 2010.</p>	<p><u>Quantock Hills AONB Management Plan 2014 – 2019 (Quantock Hills, 2014)</u> - support the protection, conservation and reinstatement of historic and culturally significant Quantock landscapes and features, particularly assets on the Heritage at Risk Register; support the further investigation and recording of historic and culturally significant Quantock landscapes and features; promote public understanding of the significance of the Quantock historic and cultural landscape through community engagement and appropriate interpretation; ensure AONB involvement and influence in planning processes affecting the AONB; protect the special qualities of the AONB and its setting through AONB Service consultation, comments and advice on forward planning documents and significant planning applications.</p> <p><u>Mendip Hills AONB Management Plan 2014 -19 (Mendip Hills AONB, Nov 2013)</u> improve the recording, interpretation and understanding of all aspects of the AONBs historic environment to ensure local communities and visitors enjoy a rich experience of the sense of place; increase awareness and communicate the significance of the high quality historic environment; promote appropriate management of sites, structures and landscapes designated for their international, national, regional or local importance in the historic environment to ensure no further loss of heritage assets; working with the local planning authorities to ensure that development in the AONB and its setting is of a nature, scale, location and design that meets community need without compromising the special qualities of the Mendip Hills AONB.</p>	<p>Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 1: The Historic Environment in Local Plans (Historic England, March 2015)</p> <p>The Historic Environment and Site Allocations in Local Plans - Historic England Advice Note 3 (Historic England, Oct 2015)</p> <p>The Historic Environment: A prospectus for Growth in the South West (South West Historic Environment Forum / English Heritage, 2013)</p> <p>National Planning Policy Framework (2012)</p> <p>Planning Practice Guidance (2014)</p>
Land and Soil	<p>18.6% of the agricultural land in Sedgemoor is Grade 1 (excellent) or 2 (very good) by the Agricultural Land Classification system.</p> <p>Housing development on brownfield sites attained the target of locating at least 50% of new and converted dwellings on brownfield land in 2013/14.</p>	<p>Nearly 30 hectares of the best and most versatile land has been lost to development since 2010.</p> <p>Soil quality is at threat from run-off due to the increased precipitation that is expected due to climate change, woodland planting will improve soil stability.</p> <p>Redevelopment of brownfield sites should continue to be a priority for the district.</p>		<p><u>EU Thematic Strategy on Soil (EC 2006)</u></p> <p><u>Safeguarding our soils – a strategy for England (DEFRA, 2009)</u> - halt the decline of soil organic matter by agricultural practices in vulnerable soils by 2025</p> <p><u>Food Futures – Strategies for resilient food and farming (Soil Association, 2009)</u> – reduce GHG emissions due to agriculture through soil carbon sequestration; improve food quality to prevent diet-related diseases; rebuild local (decentralised) food networks between farmers, butchers, abattoirs and retailers to reduce 'food miles'; encourage organic farming methods to create more jobs and provide opportunities for re-skilling, use less energy and capture more carbon within the soil.</p>	<p>National Planning Policy Framework (2012)</p> <p>Planning Practice Guidance (2014)</p>

<p>Air Quality</p>	<p>Air quality is controlled through other regulations.</p> <p>There are no Air Quality Management Areas in Sedgemoor.</p> <p>The Bridgwater cycle network is fragmented.</p> <p>Bridgwater suffers from out-commuting to Taunton and Burnham-on-Sea.</p> <p>The erosion of “tranquil areas” from increased urbanisation, the M5 motorway, traffic noise and highway lighting have led to a current state of “moderate” rather than “good” and a prospect of further decline in rural and urban areas.</p>	<p>Vehicle emissions can be particularly noticeable at busy main road junction locations in Bridgwater (Broadway and Cross Rifles roundabout) and may give rise to an AQMA in future.</p> <p>There have been some improvements to the cycle network within Bridgwater in recent years (along Taunton Road for example).</p> <p>Urban trees have potential to enhance local air quality.</p> <p>Providing more jobs within Bridgwater will reduce the need to commute for work which should reduce the number of cars.</p>		<p><u>The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales & NI (DEFRA, 2007)</u></p> <p><u>Powering Future Vehicles Strategy (2002)</u> - 10% of car sales to be for cars emitting 100g/cm3 or less; 600 or more buses coming into operation per annum will emit 30% or less below 2002 average carbon emissions; deliver lorry road user charging by 2007-08; and introduce travel plans in all schools by 2010.</p> <p><u>Cutting carbon, creating growth: making sustainable local transport happen white paper (DfT, Jan 2011)</u> - 95g CO2/km by 2020 for average new car emissions and 147g CO2/km by 2020 for average new van emissions.</p>	<p>Annual air quality progress reports for Sedgemoor</p> <p>Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution (UN, 1979)</p> <p>Directive on Environmental Noise (2002/49/EC)</p> <p><u>Ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe Directive 2008/50/EC (EC, 2008)</u> - reduce exposure to PM2.5 in urban areas by an average of 20% by 2020 based on 2010 levels.</p> <p>EIA Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by EIA Directive 2014/52/EU</p> <p>Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act, 2005</p> <p>The Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010</p> <p>National Planning Policy Framework (2012)</p> <p>Planning Practice Guidance (2014)</p>
<p>Water Quality and Quantity</p>	<p>23% of surface waters achieve good or better ecological status and 35% achieve good or high biological status across West and South Somerset.</p> <p>In the South West region, 25% of the 153 surface water resource management units are over-abstracted or over-licensed.</p>	<p>Maintaining water supply of suitable quality and quantity is particularly important on sites such as the internationally important Somerset Levels and Moors as this is vital to achieving and maintaining favourable condition.</p>	<p>Planning permission for a second reservoir at Cheddar was granted in November 2014, the approved reservoir will have a capacity to store 9400 megalitres of water but it is expected to serve residents of North Somerset and Bristol rather than Sedgemoor residents. The project has stalled as it is not</p>	<p>River Basin Management Plan</p> <p><u>Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)</u> - deliver ‘good ecological quality’ status for all inland and coastal waters by 2015.</p> <p>South and West Somerset WFD Management Area Abstraction Licensing Strategy</p> <p>Future Water – The Government’s Water Strategy for England (DEFRA, 2008)</p>	<p>Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)</p> <p>Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)</p> <p>Directive 2006/7/EC concerning the management of bathing quality water and repealing Council Directive 76/160/EEC</p>

			considered to be a funding priority.	<p>Water for People and the Environment: Water Resources Strategy: Regional Action Plan for South West Region (Environment Agency, 2009)</p> <p>River Basin Management Plan: South West River Basin District (Environment Agency, updated 2015)</p> <p><u>Water Resources Management Plan 2014 – 2040 (Bristol Water, June 2014)</u> - reduce leakage by 20% between 2015 and 2020 to 43M/d</p> <p>South and West Somerset Water Framework Directive Management Area Abstraction Licensing Strategy (Environment Agency, Dec 2012)</p> <p>Water Level Management Plans (Somerset Drainage Board Consortium, 2009 to 2011)</p> <p><u>Water – the way ahead 2015 – 2040 (Wessex Water, 2012)</u> - 75% of households with a water meter by 2020 and a reduction in the average water use to around 135 litres per day by 2020</p>	<p>2010</p> <p>National Planning Policy Framework (2012)</p> <p>Planning Practice Guidance (2014)</p> <p>HM Government White Paper: Water for Life (DEFRA, Dec 2011)</p> <p>Trees in our Towns (Woodland Trust, 2012)</p>
Social Issues					
Homes	<p>Total population grew by 18% in the 20 years 1982-2002, a much faster rate than UK average (5.9%) or SW region average (12.6%).</p> <p>The coastal settlements of Burnham-on-Sea and Berrow have traditionally had a higher than average elderly population and this is also a trend in some villages.</p> <p>Housing Tenure - 71.8% privately owned, 12.2% social rented and 14.6% private rented</p>	<p>The overall quality and condition of homes in the District is generally good but affordability is becoming a serious and more widespread problem.</p> <p>With lower house prices than in the surrounding towns of Somerset and good rail and road links, Bridgwater has provided an ‘affordable refuge’ which contributes to a high level of out-commuting. It represents the only significantly lower priced alternative to Exeter, Taunton and Bristol, with easy access along the M5 and has the potential to stimulate long distance commuting.</p>	<p>The changing needs / aspirations of an aging population and the prevalence of increased instability and change in family circumstances are likely to generate demands which are not necessarily well-matched by available housing stock i.e. could be a “declining” future trend.</p> <p>The combination of strong economic potential, good accessibility and effective regeneration of the town centre and waterfront areas could lead to rapid rises in house prices in Bridgwater.</p>	<p>Laying the foundations: a housing strategy for England (DCLG, 2011)</p> <p>SDC Housing Strategy 2013 – 2015 (SDC, 2013)</p>	<p>2011 Census Strategic Housing Market Assessment</p> <p>Somerset Intelligence</p> <p>Homes for the Future: more affordable, more sustainable (DCLG, 2007)</p> <p>Draft Strategic Housing Framework 2013 – 2016 (Somerset Strategic Housing partnership, Dec 2012)</p>
Jobs	Bridgwater in particular has seen the closure of a succession of	Average wages are increasing but are still below national and regional averages.	With sites available for development it is likely that	The Equality Strategy – building a fairer Britain (Government	2015 Indices of Multiple

	factories over the past few years.	There is limited availability of higher skilled/better quality jobs but with sites available for development it is likely that new job opportunities will arise.	new job opportunities will continue to arise; the future trend could be “improving” but if this merely offsets the decline of other businesses then “stable” (but not static) may be a more appropriate forecast.	<p>Equalities Office 2010)</p> <p>Child Poverty Strategy (HM Government, June 2014)</p> <p>Heart of the South West LEP Strategic Economic Plan (HotSW LEP, March 2014)</p> <p>Somerset, A Landscape for the Future – Sustainable Community Strategy for Somerset 2008 – 2026 (Somerset Strategic Partnership c/o SCC, 2009)</p> <p>Somerset Financial Inclusion Strategy 2014-2018 (Somerset Strategic Housing officers group and project Group members, 2014)</p> <p>Sedgemoor Sustainable Community Strategy 2009-2026</p>	<p>Deprivation</p> <p>Equality Act 2010</p>
Health	<p>Life expectancy and general health within the District can be broadly categorised as ‘good’.</p> <p>The proportion of the total population over the age of 65 is increasing in the district.</p>	An expanding and ageing population may increase the pressure on existing healthcare facilities.	The prospects of continuous improvements through better health care and diet are uncertain and there are indications that these will be offset by factors such as increasing obesity. We have anticipated the future trend to be “stable” but there appears to be some potential for “decline”.	<p>NHS Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group Strategy 2014-2019</p> <p>Healthwatch Somerset – Work and Community Engagement Plan 2014 (Healthwatch Somerset, 2014)</p> <p>Health and Well-Being Strategy for Somerset 2013 – 2018 (Health & Wellbeing Board)</p> <p><u>Securing the future, Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy (DEFRA, 2005)</u> - minimise adverse effects of chemicals on human health and environment by 2020</p> <p><u>Sedgemoor Sustainable Community Strategy 2009 -2026</u> - reduce the gap in life expectancy between the worst fifth of wards and the District average by at least 10% by 2010 in line with government targets and a further 10% by 2026; increase the proportion of adults achieving at least 30 mins of sports and recreational physical activity on at least three days per week by 3%, year on year; and provide 35% affordable housing on all suitable new development sites.</p>	<p>Health Profile for Sedgemoor (2014)</p> <p>Public Health England</p> <p>The Health & Social Care Act 2012</p> <p>National Planning Policy Framework (2012)</p> <p>Planning Practice Guidance (2014)</p> <p>The Marmot Review (UCL Institute of Health Equity, Feb 2010)</p> <p>Local Action on health inequalities: Improving access to green spaces (Public Health England, Sept 2014)</p> <p>Food 2030 (DEFRA, 2010)</p> <p>Walking & Cycling: Local measures to promote walking and cycling as forms of travel or recreation [PH41] (NICE, 2012)</p>

					<p>Sport England's Planning for Sport Forward Planning Guidance 2014</p> <p>Sport England's Playing Fields Policy</p> <p>Sport England and Public Health England - Active Design</p> <p>Making Space for Cycling (Cambridge Cycling Campaign, 2014)</p>
Living Environment	<p>There are a wide range of urban and rural neighbourhood types in Sedgemoor.</p> <p>The 2015 IMD ranked Sedgemoor as the 82nd most deprived Local Authority out of the 326 Local Authorities for Living Environment.</p>	<p>There are opportunities to reactivate the canal and river frontages in Bridgwater</p> <p>There are issues with the quality of the public realm particularly relating to key destinations including the college, station, along the river frontage and the Docks</p>	<p>Provision of parks and open spaces and of sport and leisure facilities will need to be maintained – facilities and programmes could be at risk of decline if there is insufficient investment / support.</p>	<p>Safer Somerset Partnership Plan (Safer Somerset Partnership, 2013)</p> <p>Somerset West Police and Crime Plan 2013 – 2017 (Avon & Somerset Police & Crime Commissioner, undated)</p> <p>Sedgemoor Police and Crime Plan 2014 -17 (Avon & Somerset Police & Crime Commissioner, undated)</p> <p>Sedgemoor Sports and Recreation Facilities Strategy and Action Plan (SDC, 2014)</p> <p>Green Infrastructure Strategy (SDC, 2011)</p> <p>Sustainable Community Strategy for Sedgemoor 2009 – 2026 (SDC, 2009)</p> <p>Burnham-on-Sea, Berrow and Highbridge Green Space Strategy (CFP for SDC, March 2009)</p> <p>Bridgwater and Wembdon Green Space Strategy (CFP for SDC, July 2009)</p>	<p>Sedgemoor Place Survey (2008)</p> <p>Sustainable Communities Act 2007</p> <p>Localism Act 2011</p> <p>National Planning Policy Framework (2012)</p> <p>Planning Practice Guidance (2014)</p> <p>Nature Nearby – Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance (Natural England, 2010)</p> <p>Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance (Sport England, 2013)</p>
Education, training and skills	<p>There are areas of concern with regards to early years and primary school capacities at a localised level.</p> <p>The facilities, such as the Energy Skills Centre and the Construction Skills and</p>	<p>An expanding population will increase the pressure on existing education provision.</p>	<p>The availability of college facilities and courses in Bridgwater underpins our expectation that the future trend can be “improving”, however, the rural nature of the District may continue to present a barrier to access.</p>	<p>Sedgemoor Economic Masterplan 2008 – 2026</p> <p>Somerset School Organisation Plan 2014</p>	<p>Learning and Skills Council – Skills Survey (2007)</p> <p>National Planning Policy Framework (2012)</p> <p>Sedgemoor: Economic Development SPD (SDC, July</p>

	<p>Innovation Centre, and courses available at Bridgwater College (which now incorporates Cannington College) have been improving and the College has developed a good reputation for vocational training.</p> <p>Sedgemoor has 18.8sqm of public library floor-space per 1000 people; this is below the (now defunct) Museums, Libraries and Archives Councils standard of 30sqm per 1000 people.</p> <p>Seven LSOAs in Sedgemoor were within the 5% most deprived in the country in terms of Education, Skills & Training according to 2010 Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD).</p> <p>The 2011 census data suggests that 36.4% of Bridgwater Hamp's population of 16-74 year olds had no qualifications.</p>		<p>The long-term fall in the birth rate, the absence of affordable housing in villages and declining rural employment opportunities may all have a significant impact on school populations.</p>		<p>2014)</p> <p>Bridgwater Education Trust</p>
Recreation	<p>The District has a reasonable range of facilities aimed at meeting a basic level of culture, leisure and recreational activities.</p> <p>63% of the population are reported to be within 20 minutes of a range of 3 different sports facility types – this has increased significantly compared with previous years and ranks Sedgemoor in the top quartile nationally.</p>	<p>Sedgemoor residents need to travel outside of the district for higher-order cultural facilities.</p> <p>Burnham-on-Sea, Berrow and Highbridge residents have access to 0.77ha of Local Nature Reserves per 1,000 of population but have poor access to natural green space</p> <p>Bridgwater has in the past had the benefit of sports and social facilities provided by major employers (Wellworthy, Hinkley Point, British Cellophane) – the loss of such benevolent support can be difficult to replace.</p>	<p>Burnham-on-Sea & Highbridge Green Space Strategy, 2009 via the SDC Green Infrastructure Strategy, 2011</p> <p>In some instances there may be a need for facilities to be improved before participation can be expected to increase (i.e. baseline position varies locally), but conversely the existence of facilities does not in itself ensure participation.</p> <p>The GI Strategy predicted the need for Green space and outdoor amenity space in the</p>	<p>The Sedgemoor Sports and Recreation Facilities Strategy and Action Plan (2014)</p> <p>The Somerset Cultural Strategy (SCC, 2009)</p>	<p>Sports England National Planning Policy Framework (2012)</p>

			<p>form of: 35.8Ha of natural green-space; 6.4ha of designated equipped play space; 14.2ha of informal play space; 25.7ha of Local Nature Reserve; 10.3Ha of outdoor sport space; and 32.1ha of playing pitches across Sedgemoor by date 2026.</p> <p>[These figures will need to be updated in light of the level of growth proposed by the emerging Local Plan up to 2032].</p>		
Economic Issues					
Local Economy		<p>The traditional agriculture and manufacturing industries have been declining within the district.</p> <p>Service sector employment and tourism has been increasing.</p> <p>Business park developments at Bridgwater and Highbridge have capitalised on M5 motorway accessibility.</p> <p>The Somerset Growth Plan identifies the main barriers to growth as being: an ageing population; relatively small and dispersed urban areas; a lack of higher level skills; inadequate infrastructure; and disruption from flooding.</p>	<p>The economy is unlikely to remain static and will be influenced by a number of factors.</p>	<p>Somerset Economic Assessment (2013)</p> <p><u>Somerset Growth Plan (2014)</u> - an additional £3 billion of GVA; greater productivity growth than the UK economy; 15,000 – 17,000 additional jobs; 65% of the adult population qualified to Level 3 or above and 40% to Level 4 or above and 20,000 additional homes</p> <p>Sedgemoor Economic Development Strategy 2011 - 2026</p> <p>Europe 2020 Growth Strategy</p> <p>The Rural Development programme in England 2014 to 2020 (DEFRA)</p> <p>Heart of the South West LEP Strategic Economic Plan (HotSW LEP, March 2014)</p> <p>Somerset Growth Plan 2014 – 2020 (SCC, Jan 2014)</p> <p>Sedgemoor Economic Masterplan 2008 – 2026</p> <p><u>Strategic Framework for Tourism in England 2010 -2020 (Visit England, 2011)</u> - tourism economy to achieve 5% annual growth</p>	<p>South West Tourism Alliance</p> <p>Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership</p> <p>National Planning Policy Framework (2012)</p> <p>Planning Practice Guidance (2014)</p>
Town and local centres	Rural centres and villages have suffered the closure of some banks, post offices and shops in	The traditional 'high street' has shown signs of decline in the face of competition from supermarkets and online retailers.	The traditional "high street" has been tending to show signs of decline (vacancies and		Eastover SPD (2014)

	<p>recent years.</p> <p>Sedgemoor has been largely successful in securing developments within or close to the established town centres of Bridgwater and Burnham & Highbridge but this has not prevented the decline of some shopping streets.</p> <p>Rural centres and villages have also suffered the closure of some banks, post offices and shops since 2006, 7 additional parishes in the District now have no Post Office or convenience shop.</p>	<p>Some rural centres and villages have seen the loss of banks, post offices, shops and pubs in recent years.</p>	<p>quality / type of outlet) in the face of competition from supermarkets / other centres, a trend which seems likely to continue.</p> <p>The decline of some businesses and services in towns and villages may still be inevitable as a consequence of changing demand and/or competition and innovation but the Local Plan may help to maintain the viability of local services through spatial planning.</p>		<p>Bridgwater Vision (2015)</p> <p>High Streets at the heart of our community (DCLG, 2012)</p> <p>National Planning Policy Framework (2012)</p> <p>Planning Practice Guidance (2014)</p>
Congestion	<p>Traffic congestion is currently a localized issue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekday peak periods in Bridgwater • Seasonal peaks in Burnham, Berrow and Brea (coastal resorts) • Summer Saturdays on M5 <p>Bridgwater Northern Distributor Road (opened 2003) provided an additional river crossing and reduced town centre congestion.</p>	<p>Traffic congestion is currently a localised issue with seasonal peaks at coastal resorts and weekday peaks within Bridgwater. The situation is expected to worsen as increased development takes place within the District.</p> <p>There is a need to break down the barriers presented by the road network within the town</p> <p>The commuting trend within Sedgemoor, based on the 2011 census data, reveals that more people commute out of the district to work than commute in to the district.</p>	<p>General situation has got worse with increasing traffic volumes and is expected to continue to worsen, particularly in Bridgwater as more development (including Hinkley related development) takes place.</p> <p>Traffic movements are expected to increase by 20 trips per hour per thousand of population at peak times.</p> <p>Proposed Colley Lane Southern Access Route is intended to improve accessibility of an established industrial estate and relieve the increasing congestion on Taunton Road (A38).</p>	<p>Bridgwater, Taunton and Wellington Transport Strategy Major Scheme Programme (HotSW LEP Local Transport Board, 2013)</p> <p>Future Transport Plan 2011 – 2026 (SCC, 2011)</p> <p>Transport Policies, Transport and Development (SCC, March 2011)</p> <p>Bridgwater, Taunton & Wellington Future Transport Strategy 2011-2026 (SCC, Nov 2011)</p> <p>Somerset Future Transport Plan: Implementation Plan 2013 – 2017 (SCC, 2013)</p> <p>Somerset Parking Strategy 2013</p> <p>Sedgemoor District Council Infrastructure Delivery Strategy – Refresh (SDC, 2012)</p>	<p>2011 Census</p> <p>National Planning Policy Framework (2012)</p> <p>Planning Practice Guidance (2014)</p> <p>Traffic Management Act (DfT, 2004)</p> <p>Cutting carbon, creating growth: making sustainable local transport happen white paper (DfT, Jan 2011)</p>
Infrastructure	<p>Recent improvements to infrastructure include a new hospital, a new Police HQ, the re-building of three secondary schools and improved broadband connectivity.</p>	<p>The cycle network within Bridgwater is of mixed quality as it suffers from fragmentation and lacks continuity in some areas.</p> <p>Additional development will inevitably add to the pressure on services and</p>	<p>The Devon and Somerset broadband plan should ensure that the future trend for telecommunications will also be “improving” although currently the availability of</p>	<p>Somerset Future Transport Plan 2011 – 2026</p> <p>Sedgemoor Infrastructure delivery Strategy (2010 & 2012)</p> <p>National Infrastructure Plan (HM Treasury, 2013)</p>	<p>National Planning Policy Framework (2012)</p> <p>Planning Practice Guidance (2014)</p>

	<p>Rural settlements still have limited access to public transport and broadband.</p> <p>Sedgemoor has good access to the M5 which leads to larger urban areas, Bristol to the North and Exeter to the South.</p>	<p>infrastructure.</p> <p>The Parrett Barrier scheme is an example of 'critical' infrastructure, which is necessary to safeguard both existing and proposed development in Bridgwater.</p>	<p>broadband in rural settlements is limited.</p> <p>Future proposals include improvements to strategic flood defence infrastructure and strategic highway improvements.</p>		
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The Sustainability Appraisal Framework

A Sustainability Appraisal Framework of SA Objectives and appraisal questions has been used to appraise the options and draft policies of the Core Strategy as it has developed. The Sustainability Appraisal Framework was presented within the SA Scoping Report (April 2015) which can be found here: <http://www.sedgemoor.gov.uk/LocalPlanSA>

In April 2015 the baseline data and the relevant programmes, plans and policies were reviewed and updated in order to ensure that the SA is based on the most up to date data relating to the sustainability issues affecting Sedgemoor District. This updated information was used to revise the Sustainability Appraisal Framework and the revised framework (SA Objectives only) is presented in Table NTS 3. The full SA Framework is presented in Table 3.2 of the SA Report.

Table NTS 3: Sustainability Appraisal Framework – SA Objectives
Environmental Objectives
<u>Climate change adaptation</u> SO1 - To reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change.
<u>Climate change mitigation</u> SO2 - To reduce contributions to climate change
<u>Material resources and assets</u> SO3 - To use materials and existing material assets efficiently and minimise waste
<u>Biodiversity</u> SO4 - To maintain and enhance, biodiversity and geodiversity
<u>Landscape & townscape</u> SO5 - To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes
<u>Heritage</u> SO6 - To conserve and enhance the historic environment
<u>Land / soil</u> SO7 - To protect and enhance the quality of land and soil
<u>Air / tranquillity</u> SO8 - To protect and improve air quality / minimise vibration, noise and light pollution
<u>Water (quality and supply)</u> SO9 - To protect and improve water quality and maintain sustainable sources of water supply.
Social Objectives
<u>Homes</u> SO10 - To enable people to live in a home suitable for their needs
<u>Work and incomes</u> SO11 – To improve opportunities and access to jobs
<u>Population, health and well-being</u> SO12 - To protect and improve human health

<u>Neighbourhood quality and community safety</u> SO13 - To maintain / improve the quality of where people live
<u>Education and Skills,</u> SO14 – To give everyone access to learning, training, skills and knowledge
<u>Recreation, leisure and culture</u> SO15 – To increase access to and encourage participation in recreational and cultural activities
Economic Objectives
<u>Economy</u> SO16 - To encourage a diverse, robust and thriving economy
<u>Service centres</u> SO17 – To promote vitality and viability of town and local centres
<u>Congestion</u> SO18 - To reduce the effect of congestion
<u>Infrastructure</u> SO19 - To maintain and improve essential infrastructure

The Appraisal Process

The Proposed Submission Local Plan has been appraised using matrices which are based on the sustainability appraisal framework.

Preparation of the Local Plan involved publication of “options” at “Scope and Approach” and “Additional Options” stages (Oct 2015 and June 2016). The process of plan preparation has been one of not only “narrowing down” from a range of options, but also of then “working up” policy wording in more detail. SA has been part of this iterative process.

Appraisal of options is reported in Sections 5 of the SA Report and the latter stages of the policy drafting / SA process are reported in Section 6. Appraisal matrices relating to that work are reproduced as Appendixes F, G I and J.

It should be noted that only those effects that are considered significant (both positive and negative) have been identified within the appraisal. The approach this SA has taken in defining significance is presented within Section 5 of the SA Scoping Report (April 2015).

Assumptions made and difficulties encountered

The purpose of this work is to assess the likelihood of significant environmental and sustainability effects. SA relies on expert judgement, which is guided by knowledge of the likely impacts of the plan, the baseline data available and responses and information provided by consultees and other stakeholders. The assessment has been carried out and reported mainly using expert judgement and qualitative description of potential effects. A ‘precautionary approach’ is taken, especially with qualitative judgements.

The legislation that applies to SA (the SEA Regulations) requires that effects assessment should include assessment of secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent

and temporary, positive and negative effects. Where information is available on the likelihood of different types of impacts this has been included in the results.

Potential Effects identified during Option progression

Key areas where the SA of the alternative options (initial and additional) identified significant effects (and how the identification of these influenced the selection of the Proposed Submission options) are identified in Section 5 of the SA Report. These include:

Spatial Strategy

- the urban focus and the dispersed spatial strategy options were considered to have a **major negative** impact on climate change adaptation in the long term (> 20 years) due to increased vulnerability to climate change;
- the flood avoidance spatial strategy options should have a **major positive** effect on the climate change adaptation objective;
- the potential for any spatial strategy to have a major negative effect on biodiversity and congestion;
- the dispersed options were considered to have a **major negative** effect on climate change mitigation due to the need for increased car journeys;
- the **major positive** effect that an appropriate spatial strategy could have on social and economic objectives; and
- the potential that a Bridgwater-focussed, high growth, flood avoidance spatial strategy could have a **major negative** effect on the objective seeking to maintain soil quality.

Strategic Site Allocations

- A total of 75 strategic housing site allocation options were appraised across the district. Two sites were expected to have a **major negative** effect on the landscape and townscape SA objective. Six sites were expected to have a **major negative** effect on the land and soil quality SA objective. Six sites were expected to have a **major negative** effect on the air and tranquillity SA objective. Two sites were expected to have a **major negative** effect on congestion SA objective and one site was expected to have a **major negative** effect on the biodiversity SA objective;
- Seven (of the 75) sites were expected to have a **major positive** effect on the homes SA objective. Two sites were expected to have a **major positive** effect on the population, health and wellbeing SA objective. One site was expected to have a **major positive** effect on the education and skills SA objective and one site was expected to have a **major positive** effect on the land and soil SA objective.
- A total of 19 strategic employment site allocation options were appraised across the district. Three were expected to have a **major negative** effect on the landscape and townscape SA objective. One was expected to have a **major negative** effect on the land and soil SA objective. Five sites were expected to have a **major negative** effect on the congestion SA objective.
- One (of the 19) sites was expected to have a **major positive** effect on the soil and land SA objective. One site was expected to have a **major positive** effect on the homes SA objective. One

was expected to have a **major positive** effect on the jobs SA objective. Four were expected to have a **major positive** effect on the economy SA objective.

Levels of growth at Bridgwater, Burnham-on-Sea & Highbridge, Tier 1 and Tier 2 settlements

- Thirty-five 'level of growth' options were appraised, this equates to 3 options for each of the eleven settlements (except for Berrow where only two options were identified and Woolavington, North Petherton and Burnham-on-Sea & Highbridge where four options were identified). Two options were expected to have a **major negative** effect on the climate change adaptation SA objective. One option was expected to have a **major negative** effect on the climate change mitigation SA objective. Two options were expected to have a **major negative** effect on the biodiversity and geodiversity SA objective. One option was expected to have a **major negative** effect on the landscape and townscape SA objective. One option was expected to have a **major negative** effect on the land and soil SA objective. One option was expected to have a **major negative** effect on the air and tranquillity SA objective. Two options were expected to have a **major negative** effect on the jobs SA objective. One option was expected to have a **major negative** effect on the human health SA objective. Three options were expected to have a **major negative** effect on the congestion SA objective.

- Six of the options were expected to have a **major positive** effect on the climate change adaptation SA objective. Two of the options were expected to have a **major positive** effect on the climate change mitigation SA objective. Two options were expected to have a **major positive** effect on the land and soil SA objective. Eight options were expected to have a **major positive** effect on the homes SA objective. Four options were expected to have a **major positive** effect on the jobs SA objective. Four options were expected to have a **major positive** effect on the recreation and culture SA objective. Two options were expected to have a **major positive** effect on the economy SA objective. Five options were expected to have a **major positive** effect on the town centres SA objective.

- For all of the options there were uncertainties about how they would affect the minimising waste SA objective and the water quality and supply SA objective.

Paragraphs 5.34 and 5.35 set out how the preparation of the Proposed Submission Local Plan was influenced by the findings listed above.

The Likely Effects of the Proposed Submission Local Plan

The appraisal of all draft policies is summarised in Tables 6.1, 6.2, 6.3 and 6.4 of the SA Report, with detailed appraisal matrices provided at Appendix J. Section 6 of the SA Report provides commentary on the appraisal and consideration of significant effects. Section 7 discusses mitigation measures and recommendations for improvement of potentially negative effects and enhancement of potentially positive effects.

A number of potential positive effects were identified during the appraisal of the policies within the Proposed Submission Local Plan. The policies which are predicted to result in major positive effects, and the SA Objectives which they relate to, are presented in Table NTS 4:

NTS 4: Predicted major positive effects of the Plan	
Policy/Component of the Local Plan predicted to result in a major positive effect	Related SA Objective
Spatial strategy	SO10 - To enable people to live in a home suitable for their needs
Spatial strategy	SO11 – To improve opportunities and access to jobs
Spatial strategy	SO16 - To encourage a diverse, robust and thriving economy
Spatial strategy	SO17 – To promote vitality and viability of town and local centres
East Bridgwater housing site allocation	SO10 - To enable people to live in a home suitable for their needs
South Bridgwater housing site allocation	SO12 - To protect and improve human health
West Bridgwater	SO10 - To enable people to live in a home suitable for their needs SO14 – To give everyone access to learning, training, skills and knowledge
Huntworth employment site allocation	SO16 - To encourage a diverse, robust and thriving economy
Plan as a whole	SO10 - To enable people to live in a home suitable for their needs
Plan as a whole	SO11 – To improve opportunities and access to jobs
Plan as a whole	SO16 - To encourage a diverse, robust and thriving economy

A number of uncertain, major and minor negative effects were identified during the appraisal of the policies of the Proposed Submission draft Local Plan. Mitigation measures were put forward to deal with any potential uncertain and negative effects identified. Changes have since been made to the policies within the Proposed Submission draft Local Plan in response to the mitigation proposed. As a result, when the Plan was assessed as a whole, all of the potential major negative effects have been offset, although, a minor negative and some cumulative effects remain (residual effects) and these are presented in Table NTS 5. The detail of these residual effects is provided in Section 6 of the SA Report.

Table NTS 5: Residual Negative, Cumulative and Uncertain Effects of the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan			
SA Objective	Residual effect	Policy/ies, projects, plans or programmes that could cause this effect	Further mitigation measures (not incorporated in to the Proposed Submission draft Local Plan already)
SA Objective 4: Biodiversity	Uncertain Cumulative	The Plan will result in the substantial loss of greenfield land, which may result in a loss of habitats but monoculture farming methods and the removal of hedgerows means that agricultural land does not necessarily provide the optimum habitats for biodiversity. The requirement for proposals to adhere to Policies D20 and D21 should mean that existing habitats and ecological networks are enhanced.	Strengthen the wording of the final paragraph of Policy D3 to make it clear that the CEMP should set out how the developer intends to prevent adverse impacts on biodiversity during the construction phase.
SA Objective 6: Heritage	Uncertain	Site allocations have taken the presence of heritage assets in to consideration and the heritage policy seeks to protect and enhance the heritage assets across the district and so the effect should be positive but site/proposal specific assessment will provide more certainty.	Make reference within policy D19 to the historic landscape. Policy D31 should include text to include protection and enhancement of greenspaces of historic value. Policy D26 could be amended to say “the importance of avoiding damage to and enhancing the setting of” as opposed to “the importance of the setting of”.
SA Objective 7: Land and Soil	Negative Cumulative	In meeting the identified housing need the loss of good quality agricultural land could not been avoided without resulting in negative impacts on other sustainability criteria.	The Natural Environment policy (an additional sub-heading within D20?) should be expanded to include policy wording which seeks to prioritise the development of areas of poorer quality land in preference to that of higher quality as advocated by the NPPF. Development of the ‘best and most versatile’ agricultural land should only be allowed where there is exceptional need or available land of poorer quality is not suitable for development due to environmental and sustainability considerations (i.e.

			<p>wildlife, landscape, amenity, heritage, archaeology or flood-risk) which would outweigh the agricultural considerations or would be inconsistent with other policy.</p> <p>Insert the word 'soils' in to the list of features that should be retained or enhanced in Policy D20.</p> <p>The Local Plan projected housing figure assumes that all available brownfield sites will be developed but it doesn't currently have a mechanism for enabling the remediation of brownfield sites to be a more economically viable option than developing greenfield sites. This may be outside of the remit of the development management policies of the Local Plan but the Spatial Strategy should set out the Council's approach to prioritising the development of brownfield sites, i.e. through the mooted Brownfield register, the possibility of LDO's or through the funding of remediation surveys and site specific SPD's to reduce the financial burden of the planning process on developers.</p>
SA Objective 8: Air and Tranquillity	Uncertain	The Local Plan has identified transport schemes that seek to avoid increasing traffic within the centre of Bridgwater, where air quality issues, whilst uncertain, are most likely. The allocation of a large housing site to the west of Bridgwater may also increase traffic through the town centre but the Plan contains development management policies which seek to mitigate any expected negative effects.	<p>Policy D3 could be strengthened by making reference to planting to compensate for CO2 emissions.</p> <p>Policy D24 could be strengthened by specifically referencing the sensitivity of a location, i.e. "...adverse environmental impacts, taking in to account the sensitivity of the location, the council will..." instead of "...adverse environmental impact, the council will..."</p>
SA Objective	Uncertain	Additional pressure on existing infrastructure will be	It will be important that the Local Plan clearly sets out how

<p>19: Infrastructure</p>	<p>In combination</p>	<p>intensified with the implementation of each of the Local Plans within Somerset, all of which propose not insignificant levels of growth.</p> <p>The Plan proposes a number of schemes (i.e. the Bridgwater Barrier and transport schemes) which should result in a positive effect on this objective. However the plan will need to be read in the context of other funding priorities and strategies. The spatial strategy is based on reasonable capacity assessments and the place-making policies list the essential infrastructure needs of the larger settlements. The individual site allocation policies require certain improvements in order to make the schemes acceptable. The scale of development proposed will encourage substantial contributions to infrastructure costs through the Community Infrastructure Levy.</p>	<p>the Council will ensure that the infrastructural needs due to growth within the district are met. This could be most appropriately achieved through the specific place-making policies.</p> <p>Policy D15 could be strengthened by reference to appropriately addressing any relevant infrastructure improvements identified in the Infrastructure Delivery Strategy. Where there are concerns that a development could result in infrastructure capacities being exceeded a proposal could be required to be supported by an Infrastructure Capacity Study/Study of the Impacts of Development on Infrastructure Capacity.</p> <p>The site allocation policy wording should/will be amended to say that the infrastructure requirements “will have to deliver” rather than “is expected to deliver”.</p>
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Mitigation

Mitigation measures have been put forward throughout the appraisal of the draft policies of the Local Plan, section 7 of the SA Report lists those recommendations and identifies which ones have been incorporated into the Proposed Submission Local Plan. Any remaining recommendations will be proposed as minor modifications to the Local Plan and will be discussed in a SA Addendum (or revised Final SA Report) accompanying the Adopted version of the Local Plan.

Monitoring measures

The SEA Directive requires the significant environmental effects of plans and programmes to be monitored, in order to identify at an early stage unforeseen adverse effects, and to be able to take appropriate action where necessary.

The monitoring undertaken on the Local Plan will help to:

- Monitor the significant effects of the plan;
- Track whether the plan has had any unforeseen effects;
- Ensure that action can be taken to reduce / offset the significant effects of the plan; and
- Provide baseline data for the next SA and to provide a picture of how the environment /sustainability criteria of the area are evolving.

The requirements of the SEA Regulations focus on monitoring the effects of the plan. This equates to both the plan's significant effects and also unforeseen effects. Indicators for monitoring the potential sustainability effects of the Local Plan are proposed in Table NTS 6, these relate to the potential negative, positive and cumulative effects of the Local Plan which have not been mitigated and to those elements that were predicted to have a potentially major negative effect but for which a mitigation measure was identified. These potential effects are being specifically monitored to test the effectiveness of the mitigation measures proposed.

Monitoring will allow the Council to identify whether the recommended mitigation measures from the SA have been effective and develop further mitigation proposals that may be required where unforeseen adverse effects are identified. In some cases monitoring may identify the need for a policy to be amended or deleted, which could trigger a review of the Local Plan, or for further policy guidance to be developed (for example an SPD).

Sedgemoor District Council will report significant sustainability effects in future Annual Monitoring Reports published each January.

Table NTS 6: Proposed Monitoring Framework

Sustainability objective	Effect to be monitored (Policy or proposal within the Local Plan likely to result in the significant effect)	Existing and Proposed monitoring indicators	Target
Biodiversity	<p>Potential for indirect negative impacts from new developments on European sites – precautionary basis (Spatial Strategy).</p> <p>Residual uncertain and cumulative effects.</p>	<p>Change in quantity of rare or protected species (i.e. not within a designated habitat area but identified as present within an ecological survey)</p> <p>Change in areas of biodiversity importance (existing AMR indicator)</p> <p>Change in area or quality of the ecological network</p> <p>Change in area of ancient woodland and native woodland.</p> <p>Area, number and condition of local wildlife sites</p> <p>Area, number and condition of SSSIs</p> <p>Number of planning permissions granted within a Bat Consultation Zone contrary to Natural England Advice (existing AMR indicator)</p>	<p>No loss</p> <p>There should be no losses of biodiversity habitat areas (including sites of international, national, regional, sub-regional and local significance and UK BAP priorities) due to development.</p> <p>Increase in land area and improved quality of the ecological network</p> <p>Maintain the existing land area of ancient woodland and increase the area of native woodland</p> <p>No permissions should be granted where an objection from Natural England cannot be overcome</p>
Heritage	Residual uncertainty	Number (and type) of heritage assets on the	

		At Risk register Number (and type) of heritage assets Number of planning permissions granted contrary to English Heritage or conservation (existing AMR indicator)	
Land & Soil	<p>Loss of Grade 1 agricultural land (Huntworth Site Allocation)</p> <p>Loss of Grade 1 agricultural land (South Bridgwater Site Allocation (Stockmoor)).</p> <p>Loss of Grade 1 agricultural land ('Land between A38 and Newton Road Site Allocation (North Petherton)).</p> <p>Growth cannot be delivered wholly on brownfield sites (Spatial Strategy).</p> <p>Low flood risk land has been prioritised for development in these settlements which is generally better quality agricultural land. (Bridgwater and North Petherton perspective).</p> <p>Residual cumulative effects</p>	<p>Dwelling completions on greenfield sites</p> <p>Dwelling completions on brownfield sites (existing AMR indicator)</p> <p>Employment completions on brownfield sites (existing AMR indicator)</p> <p>Employment completions on greenfield sites</p> <p>Distribution of new housing and employment (existing AMR indicator)</p> <p>Loss of best and most versatile agricultural land through development (existing AMR indicator)</p>	<p>70% Bridgwater 15% Burnham on Sea & Highbridge 12% Key Rural Settlements 3% Other Sustainable Settlements 0% Countryside</p> <p>Avoiding the loss of good quality agricultural land (Grade 1-3a)</p>
Congestion	Significant increase in road use (and by HGV's) in existing congestion hotspots (Huntworth Site	Cycle journeys (existing AMR indicator)	<p>Increase in cycle journeys in line with SCC transport plan</p> <p>All major housing and employment development</p>

	<p>Allocation).</p> <p>Significant increase in road use in existing congestion hotspots (West Bridgwater Site Allocation).</p> <p>Likely to generate a significant increase in traffic (Spatial Strategy).</p>	<p>Travel plans</p> <p>Change in total length of cycle paths</p> <p>Percentage of commuter trips taken by public transport, cycle or on foot</p> <p>Number of HGV movements through congestion hotspots.</p> <p>Implementation of the Colley Lane Link Road.</p> <p>Bridgwater transport improvements (existing AMR indicator)</p>	<p>proposals should be supported by a Travel Plan</p> <p>Support the delivery of priority projects in line with the timetable set out in the current transport plan</p>
Landscape & Townscape	<p>Visual impact from establishing the principle of developing to the east of the motorway for the first time (Huntworth Site allocation).</p>	<p>Impacts on landscape</p> <p>Compliance with the objectives of the AONB Management Plans</p> <p>Development in AONB's</p>	<p>No development to be approved where an objection from the Council's landscape officer could not be overcome.</p> <p>No development to be approved that is not in conformity with the relevant AONB management Plan.</p> <p>No development to be approved where an objection from the AONB Partnership could not be overcome.</p>
Air & Tranquillity	<p>Increase in traffic on the Quantock and Wembdon Roads which lead to the Broadway junction, an area that is close to reaching an AQMA threshold (West Bridgwater Site Allocation).</p>	<p>Establishment of AQMA</p> <p>Local Air Quality (existing AMR indicator)</p> <p>Complaints to Environmental Health relating to noise, light or vibration (existing</p>	<p>To achieve air quality objectives as specified by DEFRA</p> <p>A reduction in the number of complaints relating to noise, light and vibration, particularly where this is due to construction work</p>

	<p>Increase in traffic on the Taunton Road which leads to the Broadway junction, an area that is close to reaching an AQMA threshold (South Bridgwater Site Allocation).</p> <p>Residual uncertainty</p>	<p>AMR indicator)</p>	
Homes	<p>Provision of 54% of the residual housing requirement up to 2032 (Bridgwater perspective).</p> <p>Provision of 1300 dwellings (East Bridgwater allocation).</p> <p>Provision of 1200 dwellings (West Bridgwater site allocation).</p> <p>Meets the OAN (Spatial strategy).</p> <p>Provides a range of housing types, in a number of settlements to provide suitable housing for everyone (Plan as a whole).</p>	<p>Percentage of growth in Bridgwater.</p> <p>Average house prices (mean, median, mode) as a multiple of average income (mean, median, mode)</p> <p>Homelessness</p> <p>Net additional dwellings (existing AMR indicator)</p> <p>Housing trajectory (existing AMR indicator)</p> <p>Housing mix in new housing developments (existing AMR indicator)</p> <p>Affordable housing completions (existing AMR indicator)</p> <p>Affordable housing provisions (existing AMR indicator)</p> <p>Tenure of new affordable homes (existing AMR</p>	<p>At least 13,530 additional dwellings should be provided over the Plan Period</p> <p>A five year deliverable land Supply</p> <p>The housing mix should address the requirements set out in the Strategic Housing Market Assessment</p> <p>3000 affordable units to be delivered by 2027 (Core Strategy target)</p> <p>All new housing development should provide affordable housing according to sliding scales set out in the Core Strategy (Core Strategy target)</p> <p>At least 70% of affordable homes should be social rented (Core Strategy target)</p>

		indicator)	
Works & Income	<p>Majority of employment land allocations are in Bridgwater (Bridgwater perspective).</p> <p>Homes in BoSH have excellent access to the existing employment site at Isleport and its extension covered by an SPD (BoSH perspective).</p> <p>Supports a high level of economic growth (Spatial Strategy).</p> <p>Seeks to deliver a high level of economic growth in the most sustainable locations (Plan as a whole).</p>	<p>Number of jobs created through employment development (existing AMR indicator)</p> <p>Average income</p> <p>Employment land (existing AMR indicator)</p> <p>Employment floorspace (existing AMR indicator)</p> <p>Local Labour Agreements (existing AMR indicator)</p>	<p>Create a minimum of 9,620 new jobs over the plan period, particularly in higher skill sectors</p> <p>All employment related development creating 10+ jobs should be subject to Local Labour Agreements with the Council.</p>
Economy	<p>Majority of employment land allocations are in Bridgwater (Bridgwater perspective).</p> <p>Support for employment and tourism at BoSH (BoSH perspective).</p> <p>Identifies 32Ha of employment land (Huntworth).</p> <p>Supports a high level of economic growth and supports rural diversification Spatial Strategy).</p>	<p>GDP per capita</p> <p>Tourism Accommodation (existing AMR indicator)</p> <p>Large retail units (existing AMR indicator)</p>	<p>Increase in the number of bed spaces in hotels or similar accommodation</p> <p>Increase in the number of larger retail units (100m² plus)</p>

	Fully supports economic growth (Plan as a whole).		
Population, health and wellbeing	Supports the provision of housing in a location that has good access to schools, health facilities, shops and open space (South Bridgwater Site Allocation (Stockmoor and Gateway)).	Obesity figures for adults and children Health Impact Assessments (existing AMR indicator) Change in areas of parks and gardens, play areas, sports pitches, recreation grounds and allotments (existing AMR indicator)	All major development proposals should be accompanied by an appropriate Health Impact Assessment There should be no net losses of parks and gardens, play areas, sports pitches, recreation grounds and allotments due to development
Education and Skills	Supports the provision of an additional or replacement secondary school (West Bridgwater Site Allocation).	School place capacity by education level (i.e. infant, junior, first, middle, secondary and further)	Capacity meets demand
Service centre	Higher growth can be expected to positively improve the viability of shops and other services in town and local centres (Spatial strategy).	Vacant retail premises (existing AMR indicator) Additional retail units in town and local centres. Additional floorspace for town centre use (existing AMR indicator) Loss of ground floor retail and appropriate nonretail units in district centres (existing AMR indicator)	Maintaining a low retail vacancy rate across the district Increase in A1, A2, B1a, and D2 floorspace in town centres Minimising the loss of retail and appropriate non-residential uses within the defined district centre boundaries

Infrastructure	Residual uncertainty Residual 'in combination'	Financial contributions towards Core Infrastructure before implementation of CIL via a tariff approach (Existing AMR indicator)	
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How to comment on this report

The SA report is being published alongside the Proposed Submission draft Local Plan to demonstrate the significant sustainability effects of the draft plan and the alternatives considered in developing the plan.

Comments relating to the Proposed Submission Local Plan and the SA Report should be made through the Local Plan consultation route, preferably at the “online consultation portal” which is accessed at <http://sedgemoor-consult.limehouse.co.uk>.

Alternatively, comments solely on the SA Report can be submitted to the Council in writing by email (preferred) to stephanie.parker-stephenson@sedgemoor.gov.uk or by post to:

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The consultation period runs from 31st January 2017 to 17th March 2017.