Reading Borough

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL SCOPING REPORT

Revised
September 2014

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Reading Borough Council
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CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, new development plans must be accompanied by a sustainability appraisal, which assesses the likely environmental, social and economic effects of the plan. This is done by appraising the plan against a number of sustainability objectives. A Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report sets the framework for sustainability appraisal, by containing all of the basic information needed to carry out the assessment. It therefore includes the sustainability objectives against which the appraisal will be made, baseline information relating to the various aspects of sustainability, other plans and strategies that need to be taken into account, and major sustainability issues in the area.

1.2 Sustainability Appraisal incorporates the requirement to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of plans and policies under European Directive 2001/42/EC.

1.3 Sustainability Appraisal is a multi-stage process, most of which is undertaken in separate appraisals of individual plans. The national guidance on sustainability appraisal[1] sets out the process in a number of stages. The Scoping Report covers Stage A, comprising five tasks, as follows:

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

A1 - Identify other relevant policies, plans, programmes, and sustainability objectives.
A2 – Collect baseline information
A3 - Identify sustainability issues and problems
A4 – Develop the sustainability appraisal framework
A5 – Consult the consultation bodies on the scope of the sustainability appraisal report

1.4 Much of the remainder of this Scoping Report is structured around those five stages.

1.5 The national guidance then sets out a number of subsequent stages, which are to be carried out within the Sustainability Appraisal Reports of individual plans and policies. These will not therefore be carried out in this document.

STAGE B: Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects

B1 – Test the Local Plan objectives against the sustainability appraisal framework
B2 – Develop the Local Plan options including reasonable alternatives
B3 – Evaluate the likely effects of the Local Plan and alternatives
B4 – Consider ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects
B5 - Propose measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan

STAGE C: Prepare the Sustainability Appraisal Report

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

STAGE E: Post adoption reporting and monitoring

E1 – Prepare and publish post-adoption statement
E2 – Monitor significant effects of implementing the Local Plan
E3 – Respond to adverse effects

[1] http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal/

Background

1.5 The most recent Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for Reading was published in October 2008, and was used in the production of subsequent versions of development plan documents, in particular the Sites and Detailed Policies Document. Earlier versions were used to inform the Core Strategy and Reading Central Area Action Plan.

1.6 However, the Local Development Framework has now been largely completed, with all three of the development plan documents listed above having been adopted (Core Strategy 2008, Reading Central Area Action Plan 2009, Sites and Detailed Policies Document 2012). The Council is about to embark on replacing those documents with a single comprehensive Local Plan, as set out in the most recent Local Development Scheme[2]. This is a good opportunity to review a Scoping Report that is now almost six years old.

1.7 In addition, there are other reasons to consider a review, with changes in background data, influenced by factors such as having been through a major recession, as well as new plans and strategies having been produced at a national and local level that influence the way we should be planning for the future of Reading.

1.8 This therefore forms the Scoping Report that will be used in undertaking sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan and any related documents. The structure of the report is based around the five tasks in Stage A of the sustainability appraisal process.

1.9 The Council is also seeking to incorporate Habitat Regulations Assessment and Equality Impact Assessment screening stages into sustainability appraisal. This will save on resources by producing one rather than three initial documents (although if adverse effects are expected, individual Habitat Regulations Assessments and/or Equality Impact Assessments will still need to be produced) and preventing duplication of effort. This report contains sections on how that will be undertaken whilst still fulfilling the Council's legal obligations.

[2] November 2013 – see http://www.reading.gov.uk/documents/servingyou/planning/local_development_framework/26803/2013-Local-Development-Scheme-Altered-1113.pdf

2. TASK A1: IDENTIFY OTHER RELEVANT POLICIES, PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES

2.1 Table 1 sets out a list of plans, programmes and sustainability objectives that will be relevant to the sustainability appraisal of plans and policies in Reading. Such a list cannot be completely comprehensive, and can only be a snapshot at one point in time. When undertaking sustainability appraisals, the appraiser will need to consider whether there have been any notable changes in this list and how this may affect the appraisal.

2.2 Appendix 1 sets out more detail on the list below, including weblinks to the documents, where available, and a summary of the purpose of the plan or programme.

Table 1: Relevant Plans Programmes and Sustainability Objectives

INTERNATIONAL
Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada Convention)
European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (Valetta Convention)
Habitats Directive
Waste Framework Directive
Water Framework Directive
U.K.
UK Sustainable Development Strategy
National Planning Policy Framework
National Planning Practice Guidance
PPS10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management (Revised)
Code for Sustainable Homes
Energy Efficiency Strategy
National Adaptation Programme
Flood and Water Management Act 2010
Groundwater Protection – Principles and Practice
Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)
Biodiversity 2020
BSI 42020 Biodiversity - Code of Practice for Planning and Development
National Character Areas • 110: Chilterns • 115: Thames Valley • 129: Thames Basin Heaths
Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies • Loddon • Kennet and Vale of White Horse • Thames
SOUTH EAST
South East Plan Policy NRM 6
South East Regional Forestry Framework
Thames River Basin Management Plan
Thames Waterways Plan
BERKSHIRE/SUB-REGIONAL
Berkshire Biodiversity Strategy
Berkshire Replacement Minerals Local Plan (saved policies)
Berkshire Waste Local Plan (saved policies)
READING
Core Strategy

Reading Central Area Action Plan
Sites and Detailed Policies Document
Draft Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule
Sustainable Community Strategy
Reading Economic Development Strategy
Housing Strategy
Local Transport Plan
Cycling Strategy
Climate Change Strategy
Biodiversity Action Plan
Tree Strategy
Open Space Strategy
Thames Parks Plan
Cultural Strategy
Re3 Joint Waste Management Strategy
Air Quality Action Plan
Reading's Health and Well-Being Strategy
Community Cohesion Framework
Contaminated Land Strategy
Conservation Area Appraisals
ADJOINING AREAS
Wokingham Borough Core Strategy
Wokingham Managing Development Delivery Document
West Berkshire Core Strategy
South Oxfordshire Core Strategy
Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Core Strategy

3. TASK A2: COLLECT BASELINE INFORMATION

3.1 Baseline information collection needs to focus on the social, environmental and economic characteristics of the area and relate to issues being tackled within the plan or programme. The information will provide the basis for predicting and monitoring effects and will help to identify sustainability problems and alternative ways of dealing with them. Sufficient information on the current and future state of the plan area should be collected to allow the plan's effects to be adequately predicted.

3.2 Appendix 2 contains a table setting out a range of important baseline information that builds a picture of Reading. It includes information on likely trends, where available, so that the potential effects without policy intervention can be assessed.

3.3 The exact information in Appendix 2 will inevitably become out-of-date quickly, although the longer term issues that they highlight will generally remain. Therefore, when individual sustainability appraisals are undertaken, they will need to consider whether more up-to-date information is available that will affect the outcome of the appraisal. The Council's Annual Monitoring Report will contain updated information on some, but not all, of these indicators. In particular, the AMR will contain information on development activity over the monitoring year.

4. TASK A3: IDENTIFY SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

4.1 There are a number of key sustainability issues that affect Reading. Many of these should be considered issues rather than problems, as they are often the consequence of a buoyant economy resulting in high levels of pressure for development and on infrastructure. These issues have been identified through the baseline information set out in relation to task A2, but also through the development of a number of strategies, with associated research and studies, over recent years. They are set out under the three headings of environmental, social and economic below.

4.2 It should be noted that the list of issues below is not intended to be comprehensive, rather it is a collection of the most significant issues affecting Reading.

Environmental Issues

- **Impacts on climate change:** The issue of contribution to climate change through emission of greenhouse gases is common to much of the world, but it is vital to list it as it is one of the greatest issues we face. As a vibrant urban area with many uses and operations, significant transport movements and development activity, Reading emits greenhouse gases and therefore contributes to further climate change.

- **Mitigation of climate change:** Climate change is already taking place, and this will result in changes that Reading will need to adapt to. This will include more extreme weather events, which could affect people's health and safety as well as the continuity of business and the supply of energy and water.

- **Poor air quality:** Parts of Reading suffer from poor air quality at times, usually associated with traffic congestion, and therefore these tend to be close to major arterial roads. However, linking development with accessibility means that these are often potential locations for new development including housing, so there are often issues to resolve.

- **Contamination of land:** Reading has a history as an industrial centre, so there are a number of sites that could be put forward for development where there is potential contamination. This includes from previous industrial processes, or from historic landfilling.

- **Resource use:** As with other areas in the South East, with its high density of population, use of limited resources is an important issue. This includes water, energy, minerals and food, and the issue is also around the reliability of supply of those resources.

- **Historic environment:** Reading has a wealth of listed buildings, two scheduled ancient monuments and a number of conservation areas, as well as potential for archaeological finds across much of the Borough. The significant development pressure that exists in Reading could cause harm to the significance of heritage assets or their setting, but it can also lead to opportunities to enhance the settings of heritage assets or contribute to their preservation.

- **Risk of flooding:** Much of the Borough, including the majority of its undeveloped land and much of the town centre, is in areas at risk of fluvial flooding. In addition, the urban nature of the Borough including significant hardstanding means that surface water run-off is also an issue in some places, meaning that the provision of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) will be of importance. New measures for SuDS approval by local authorities are in the process of being introduced.

- **Culverting:** Culverting of watercourses can result in ecological impacts, blockages impeding water flows, and can be difficult to maintain. De-culverting of watercourses helps to address these problems where they exist.

- **Tree cover:** Although some parts of the Borough have significant tree cover, including some of its conservation areas, other parts have very little. Trees have a variety of sustainability roles, but will be of increasing importance in providing shading to help mitigate against the effects of climate change. A Tree Strategy is in place to address this issue.

- **Fragmentation of wildlife habitats:** Although Reading is primarily urban, there are a number of sites with important biodiversity value. However, these sites tend to be fragmented, with few green links between them to allow for movement of wildlife.

Social Issues

- **Inequality between communities:** Reading is within a generally very affluent part of the country, and many parts of the Borough reflect this. However, there are also a number of pockets of significant deprivation, particularly in South Reading and parts of West Reading.

- **Provision of housing:** Reading has very significant need for additional housing of all types. The scale of this need will be assessed in drawing up the Local Plan, but it will lead to challenges in accommodating it. This is also an economic issue, as the provision of housing is always cited as a key barrier to economic growth in Reading.

- **Affordability of housing:** Linked to the provision of housing is its affordability. In common with the rest of the Thames Valley, housing is difficult to afford for a large proportion of the population, and economic growth will continue to place strain on affordability. The planning system provides a vital means of meeting the need for affordable housing.

- **Provision of school places:** In recent years, there has been substantial pressure in school places in Reading, both at primary and secondary level. Although there are measures underway to address these issues, further pressure is expected. Cross-boundary movement of pupils (particularly Reading residents going to schools outside the Borough) is a factor in this issue.

- **Access to open space:** Reading is a mainly urban Borough. It benefits from significant green spaces extending from the surrounding countryside right up to the inner urban area along the Thames and Kennet, as well as from some other significant, and in some cases historic, parks. However, open space is not evenly distributed around the Borough, and some areas have very limited access to open space.

- **Access to services and facilities:** Being able to access key services and facilities such as shops, leisure and community uses is of key importance for quality of life, and for community cohesion. This is particularly the case for the significant minority of households who have no access to a car or van.

- **Crime:** Levels of crime in Reading are high when compared to regional or national averages. This is an issue that differs within Reading's boundaries, with central Reading a location with particularly high levels of crime. Fear of crime is also a significant sustainability issue, and it is not necessarily always in line with actual crime levels.

- **Health:** Although levels of health are generally reasonably good in Reading, there are areas where there are concentrations of poor health, including long-term poor health. In addition, in common with the rest of the UK, obesity is increasingly becoming a more prominent issue.

Economic Issues

- **Balance between employment and labour:** One of the most significant issues Reading faces is how to balance the amount of employment within the town with the size of the available labour force. Reading's economic success has meant that it is a net importer of labour, which has knock-on effects in terms of pressure on the housing market, pressure on the transport network and longer commuting distances.

- **Qualifications and skills:** Reading has a high proportion of highly-skilled people. However, this masks another significant group, those with low or no qualifications. There are strong concentrations of people without qualifications, particularly in parts of South and West Reading, and this forms a barrier to matching new jobs created to the available workforce.

- **Balance of the economy:** Reading is very well represented in business services and the knowledge economy, which are often located in large offices, frequently on campus-style business parks. However, it is important that other sectors and activities continue to be well-represented, for a number of reasons, such as providing a range of local jobs, avoiding an over-specialised economy that is vulnerable to events in a specific sector, and providing services that support the sectors that add the greatest value.

- **Transport infrastructure:** Transport infrastructure is an issue that is highlighted again and again in studies looking at the barriers to economic growth in Reading and the Thames Valley. Reading's transport network is heavily used and is under strain at peak times. A

number of schemes to address these issues have been completed, are underway or are proposed, but continued economic and housing growth will mean that transport infrastructure will always be a critical sustainability issue.

5. TASK A4: DEVELOP THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK

5.1 The Sustainability Appraisal Framework forms the basis against which sustainability appraisal of any Local Plan document should be carried out. It provides a way in which sustainability effects can be described, analysed and compared, and is central to the sustainability appraisal. According to the National Guidance (2005) a Sustainability Appraisal Framework should "consist of sustainability objectives, which, where practicable, may be expressed in the form of targets, the achievement of which should be measurable using indicators". There is an important distinction to be drawn here between sustainability appraisal objectives, and the objectives of the planning documents themselves, although there is no reason why the two should not be closely related.

5.2 A list of 20 sustainability appraisal objectives has been developed. This includes ten environmental objectives and ten social and economic objectives. These objectives are set out in Table 2.

Table 2: Sustainability Objectives (2014)	
Living within Environmental Limits (Environmental Objectives)	
1	To limit the impact of climate change through minimising CO2 emissions and other greenhouse gases.
2	Adapt to inevitable climate change in terms of preparedness for extreme weather events, including avoiding and managing the risk of flooding, heat wave, drought and storm damage.
3	Ensure appropriate, efficient, reliable and careful use and supply of energy, water, minerals, food and other natural resources.
4	Minimise the consumption of, and reduce damage to, undeveloped land.
5	Minimise the generation of waste and promote more sustainable approaches to waste management.
6	Minimise air, water, soil/ ground and noise pollution, and improve existing areas of contaminated land and poor air and water quality.
7	Value, protect and enhance the amount and diversity of wildlife, habitat and geology, and other contributors to natural diversity, including establishing/enhancing ecological networks, including watercourses and surrounding corridors.
8	Avoid contributing towards a likely significant effect, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, that could lead to an adverse effect on the integrity of internationally-designated wildlife sites.
9	Create, enhance and maintain attractive and clean environments including protecting and, where appropriate, enhancing landscape and townscape character.
10	Value, protect and, where possible, enhance the historic environment and the heritage assets therein and the contribution that they make to society and the environment.
Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society (Social & Economic Objectives)	
11	Protect, promote and improve human health, safety and well-being including through healthy lifestyles.
12	Promote strong and vibrant communities through reduction in crime and the fear of crime and enhanced community cohesion.
13	Ensure high quality housing of a type and cost appropriate to the needs of the area.
14	Reduce the need for travel and transport particularly by car or lorry and facilitate sustainable travel choices.
15	Ensure good physical access for all to essential services and facilities, including healthcare.
16	Avoid significant negative effects on groups or individuals with regard to race, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.
17	Value, protect and enhance opportunities for all to engage in culture, leisure, and physical and recreational activity, particularly in areas of open space and waterspace.

18	Facilitate sustainable economic growth and regeneration that provides employment opportunities for all and supports a successful, competitive, and balanced local economy that meets the needs of the area.
19	Reduce deprivation and inequality within and between communities.
20	Maximise access for all to the necessary education, skills and knowledge to play a full role in society and support the sustainable growth of the local economy.

5.3 The full Sustainability Appraisal Framework can be viewed in Appendix 3. The Framework sets out the 20 objectives derived for the appraisal, includes more detail on what to consider in the assessment, and sets out the relevant indicator related to the baseline information together with an overall aim.

5.4 Objective 8 has been developed specifically to encompass the screening stage of the Habitat Regulations Assessment. Section 7 gives more detail on how that will be carried out in practice. Similarly, objective 16 specifically encompasses the screening stage of the Equality Impact Assessment, and section 8 covers how this will be applied.

5.5 It is important to understand whether there is any conflict between the 20 indicators that have been chosen. Therefore, Table 3 sets out a matrix assessing the 20 objectives against one another to determine whether there is any existing or potential conflict between them. Where objectives have a strong positive relationship with one another, and may help to achieve each other, they are marked with a double tick (✓✓). Where they are generally consistent with one another, which includes having no particular relationship, a tick is used (✓). Where there is a potential tension that merits further explanation, this is given a letter on the matrix, and discussed below.

Table 3: Consistency of Sustainability Objectives

1	**1**																		
2	✓✓	**2**																	
3	✓✓	✓✓	**3**																
4	✓	✓✓	✓	**4**															
5	**A**	✓	✓	✓	**5**														
6	✓	✓	**F**	✓✓	✓✓	**6**													
7	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	**7**												
8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	**8**											
9	✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	**9**										
10	✓	✓	✓	**I**	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	**10**									
11	✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	**11**								
12	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	**12**							
13	**B**	**D**	**G**	**J**	**L**	**N**	**P**	**S**	✓	**U**	✓	✓	**13**						
14	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	**14**					
15	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	**15**				
16	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓	**16**			
17	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓	**Q**	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓	**17**		
18	**C**	**E**	**H**	**K**	**M**	**O**	**R**	**T**	✓✓	**U**	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓	**18**	
19	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	**19**
20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓

- A – in general, promotion of more sustainable approaches to waste would be in line with mitigating climate change, but Energy from Waste is one potential management method, and this has potential climate change effects.

- B, C, D, E, G, H, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, R, S, T, U, V – objectives which are likely to promote significant amounts of development (12 and 18) have an inherent potential tension with some environmental objectives, which will require careful management through the plan. Development can lead to climate change effects, make it more difficult to adapt to climate change through e.g. increased hardstanding or reduced shading, increase resource use, increase demand for undeveloped land, increase waste generation, cause pollution effects, impact on biodiversity directly in the Borough or in nearby internationally-designated sites through increased visitors or increasing transport effects, and potentially come into conflict with historic environment aims. In many cases, these tensions can be satisfactorily managed, but it requires careful consideration of the policy approach, through the sustainability appraisal process.

- F – Although the relationship is generally a very positive one, there could be a potential conflict as the Environment Agency generally expect surface water flood risk infiltration methods to be used if feasible as this is more sustainable and manageable than surface water disposal direct to a watercourse or to a surface water sewer. However for sites with past contaminative uses there should not be any pathways formed in contaminated land from soakaways which would potentially pollute the groundwater.

- I – Reducing the use of undeveloped land means focusing more development on the urban areas, and potentially increasing densities. However, the Borough's heritage assets are focused on urban sites, particularly in the town centre. This can lead to tensions, but it can also sometimes provide an opportunity to enhance the setting of those assets.

- Q – increasing recreational use of open spaces or waterways can have tensions with the wildlife role of some areas.

6. TASK A5: CONSULT THE CONSULTATION BODIES ON THE SCOPE OF THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL REPORT

6.1 A consultation paper on proposed changes to the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report was published for consultation in November 2013. This summarised the main changes proposed, which were:

- Identification of an updated set of relevant plans and proposals (Task A1)
- Revision of the sustainability objectives (Task A4)
- Incorporation of Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening into the SA process (Task A4)
- Incorporation of Equality Impact Assessment Screening into the SA process (Task A4)

6.2 The consultation involved sending a letter or e-mail highlighting and/or linking to the online consultation note to around 750 contacts on the Council's consultation database. This included all three of the statutory bodies[3], along with business organisations, community and voluntary groups, adjoining authorities, infrastructure providers and interested individuals. A full version of the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report was not published for consultation, as much of it comprises factual and background information, but the consultation paper covered the main content of the report.

6.3 Seven responses were received on the consultation paper, including three from the statutory consultation bodies. The main comments received generally related to proposed changes to the sustainability objectives, the list of plans and programmes, and the baseline information and indicators. A number of changes were made to the report as a result of consultation responses.

6.4 The summary and results of the consultation are set out in more detail in the Report of Consultation, available on the Council's website[4]. Appendix 4 contains a tracked changes version of the sustainability objectives to show the changes that were made after consultation.

[3] Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment Agency

[4] http://www.reading.gov.uk/businesses/planning/planning-policy/general-information-on-planning-policy/sascoping/

7. INCORPORATING HABITAT REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT

Introduction

7.1 A Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Stage for new planning policy is required in line with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended), commonly known as the *Habitats Regulations*. The purpose is to consider whether the proposals would be likely to have significant effects on the identified Natura 2000 sites and whether a full Appropriate Assessment is required.

7.2 Article 3 of the European Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) provides for a network of *Natura 2000* Sites, which includes Special Area of Conservation (SACs - designated under the EU Directive) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs – designated under the Birds Directive, 79/409/EEC).

7.3 The Directive includes a requirement, which emerges through Regulation 102, that all plans that are 'likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects)' should 'make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of that site's conservation objectives'.

7.4 The NPPF states that 'Ramsar' sites, which constitute identified wetland sites of international importance, should receive the same level of protection as Natura 2000 sites.

7.5 Guidance from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG)[5] identifies three stages for undertaking the process of Habitat Regulations Assessment:

- ***Task 1***: Identifying likely significant effects;
- ***Task 2*****:** Appropriate assessment and ascertaining the effect on site integrity; and
- ***Task 3:*** Mitigation and alternative solutions.

7.6 ***Task 1*** involves gathering evidence and screening for likely impacts which is covered in a 'Screening' stage. This screening process determines whether the plan is likely to have a significant effect on a designated site and hence whether the subsequent steps of undertaking a full appropriate assessment and identifying mitigation and alternative solutions are required. If it concludes that there are no likely significant effects, it will not be necessary to undertake ***Tasks 2*** and ***3***.

7.7 The Council has decided to incorporate Task 1 of the Habitat Regulations Assessment process, i.e. the screening stage, within the sustainability appraisal. This makes sense, because both processes attempt to identify likely significant effects. For this reason, Objective 8 has been included, which is to "Avoid contributing towards a likely significant effect, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, that could lead toan

[5] 'Planning for the Protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment', DCLG, 2006

adverse effect on the integrity of internationally-designated wildlife sites". Appraisal against this objective therefore would fulfil the requirement to carry out the Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Stage, and would highlight whether a full Appropriate Assessment is required. A full Appropriate Assessment, if required, would need to be a separate document as it will need to go into much greater depth.

7.8 This section will set out how appraisal against Objective 8 should be carried out.

Methodology

7.9 The methodology for carrying out the Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Stage has been derived with reference to the DCLG guidance on carrying out Habitat Regulations Assessment, and was agreed with Natural England in relation to past exercises.

7.10 The overall methodology for the screening exercise goes through seven sequential stages:

- Stage 1: Identify the sites to be assessed
- Stage 2: Identify relevant characteristics of the sites likely to be affected
- Stage 3: Identify potential hazards
- Stage 4: Identify other plans and strategies that may give rise to combined effects
- Stage 5: Determine potential significant effects
- Stage 6: Assess need for additional Appropriate Assessment stages
- Stage 7: Consultation

7.11 Stages 5-7 can only be undertaken in relation to a specific plan or proposal, and must therefore be left to the individual sustainability appraisal report. However, Stages 1-4 can be undertaken within the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report.

Stage 1: Sites to be assessed

7.12 This stage identifies those sites designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Special Protection Areas (SPAs) or as 'Ramsar' sites upon which it is considered that plans within Reading Borough have the potential for significant effects.

7.13 Whilst there are no Natura 2000 or 'Ramsar' sites within the Reading Borough boundary, there are several potential sites within the sub-region. After consultation with Natural England on previous Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Stages, the Council assessed sites within 15 km of the boundary of the Borough. However, as the scale of development in the emerging Local Plan is not yet set, it has been decided to deal with sites within 20 km of Reading in this Scoping Report. Sites over 20km away would be too far away for any significant effects to be likely to arise as a result of virtually all possible development plan proposals. When screening assessments are carried out for individual documents, it may make sense to restrict the number of sites assessed, depending on the proposals in that document. However, where there is reason to believe that an exceptional provision of a plan may give rise to effects on more distant sites, thesewill

also be included, and highlighted within the relevant sustainability appraisal report. There are no 'Ramsar' sites within a 20 km threshold.

7.14 Sustainability appraisal against objective 8 will therefore look at the following sites unless there is reason for an alternative approach:

- Hartslock Wood SAC (5.5 km of Reading Borough boundary)
- Thames Basin Heaths SPA (6 km)
- Chilterns Beechwoods SAC (12.5 km)
- Kennet and Lambourn Floodplains SAC (16.1 km)
- Windsor Forest and Great Park SAC (17.2 km)
- Aston Rowant SAC (17.7 km)
- River Lambourn SAC (18 km)
- Little Wittenham SAC (19.2 km)

7.15 Given their proximity to the Borough boundary, two sites in particular, Hartslock Wood SAC and Thames Basin Heaths SPA, will be the most significant sites to examine in many cases.

7.16 Figure 4 outlines the location of the sites to be assessed relative to the Borough boundary:

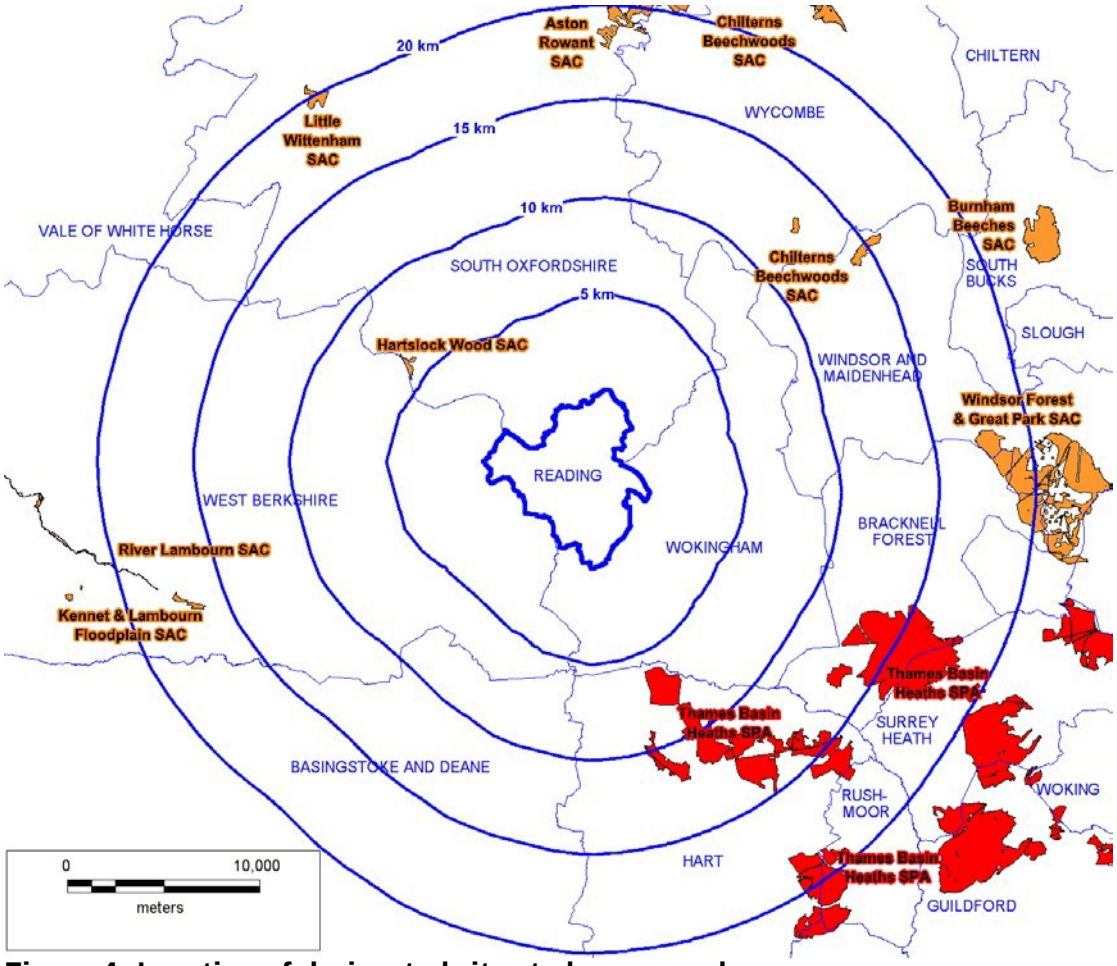

Figure 4: Location of designated sites to be assessed

Stage 2: Relevant characteristics of the sites likely to be affected

7.17 According to the European Directive, the significance of effects should be 'determined in relation to the specific features and environmental conditions of the protected site concerned by the plan or project, taking particular account of the site's conservation objectives'.

7.18 This stage of the methodology therefore sets out the following two pieces of information for each site:

- The reasons for the designation of the site, i.e. the features that qualify the site as being of European significance. These will include both primary and non-primary features; and
- The conservation objectives for each site, sourced from Natural England.

7.19 These are set out in Table 5

Table 5: Reasons for designation and conservation objectives

ASTON ROWANT S.A.C	Local authority: South Oxfordshire District
Code: UK0030082	
Area (ha): 127.8	
Closest point to Reading: 17.7 km Furthest point from Reading: 19.9 km	
Reasons for designation (source: Joint Nature Conservation Committee, www.jncc.gov.uk)	
HABITATS (PRIMARY) Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands**:** Aston Rowant represents *Juniperus communis* formations near the northern edge of the habitat's range on the chalk of southern England where it is rare and declining. The juniper population has been estimated to be between 1,000 and 2,000 individuals of various age-classes. It is one of the best remaining examples in the UK of lowland juniper scrub on chalk.	
Conservation objectives (source: Natural England)	
Avoid the deterioration of the qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species, and the significant disturbance of those qualifying species, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status of each of the qualifying features. Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore: • The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species; • The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species; • The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely; • The populations of qualifying species; • The distribution of qualifying species within the site.	
CHILTERNS BEECHWOODS S.A.C.	Local authority: Various including Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and Wycombe District
Code: UK0012724	
Area (ha): 1,276.5	
Closest point to Reading: 12.5 km Furthest point from Reading: 46 km	
Reasons for designation (source: Joint Nature Conservation Committee, www.jncc.gov.uk)	
HABITATS (PRIMARY) Asperulo-Fagetum beech forests: The Chilterns Beechwoods represent a very extensive tract of ***Asperulo-Fagetum* beech forests** in	

the centre of the habitat's UK range. The woodland is an important part of a grassland-scrub-woodland mosaic. A distinctive feature in the woodland flora is the occurrence of the rare coralroot *Cardamine bulbifera*.

HABITATS (NON-PRIMARY)
Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (*important orchid sites)

SPECIES (NON-PRIMARY)
Stag beetle, *Lucanus cervus*

Conservation objectives (source: Natural England)

Avoid the deterioration of the qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species, and the significant disturbance of those qualifying species, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status of each of the qualifying features.

Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely;
- The populations of qualifying species;
- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

HARTSLOCK WOOD S.A.C. | Local authority: South Oxfordshire District

Code: UK0030164

Area (ha): 34.2

Closest point to Reading: 5.4 km Furthest point from Reading: 6.7 km

Reasons for designation (source: Joint Nature Conservation Committee, www.jncc.gov.uk)

HABITATS (PRIMARY)
Semi-natural dry grassland and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*) (important orchid sites):
The steep slopes of this site on the chalk of the Chilterns comprise a mosaic of chalk grassland, chalk scrub and broadleaved woodland. The chalk grassland mostly consists of a mosaic of shorter-turf NVC type CG2 *Festuca ovina–Avenula pratensis* grassland and taller CG3 *Bromus erectus* grassland. The site supports one of only three UK populations of monkey orchid *Orchis simia*, a nationally rare Red Data Book species.

Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles:
The bulk of this site lies on a steep slope above the River Thames. Recent storms and landslips have resulted in a diverse age-structure for the yew population. Open patches show a rich flora including local species such as southern wood-rush *Luzula forsteri*, wood barley *Hordelymus europaeus* and narrow-lipped helleborine *Epipactis leptochila*.

Conservation objectives (source: Natural England)

Avoid the deterioration of the qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species, and the significant disturbance of those qualifying species, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status of each of the qualifying features.

Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;

- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely;
- The populations of qualifying species;
- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

KENNET AND LAMBOURN FLOODPLAIN S.A.C.	Local authority: West Berkshire District, Wiltshire County

Code: UK0030044

Area (ha): 114.5

Closest point to Reading: 16.2 km Furthest point from Reading: 35.2 km

Reasons for designation (source: Joint Nature Conservation Committee, www.jncc.gov.uk)

SPECIES (PRIMARY)

Desmoulin's whorl snail, *Vertigo moulinsiana*:

The cluster of sites selected in the Kennet and Lambourn valleys supports one of the most extensive known populations of Desmoulin's whorl snail *Vertigo moulinsiana* in the UK and is one of two sites representing the species in the south-western part of its range in the important chalk stream habitat. Integrity of the population is being maintained by taking measures, including habitat creation, to safeguard populations. The habitat occupied at this site differs from the Fenland sites in East Anglia in that it is predominantly reed sweet-grass *Glyceria maxima* swamp or tall sedges at the river margins, in ditches and in depressions in wet meadows.

Conservation objectives (source: Natural England)

Avoid the deterioration of the qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species, and the significant disturbance of those qualifying species, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status of each of the qualifying features.

Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely;
- The populations of qualifying species;
- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

LITTLE WITTENHAM S.A.C	Local authority: South Oxfordshire District

Code: UK0030184

Area (ha): 68.8

Closest point to Reading: 19.2 km Furthest point from Reading: 20.6 km

Reasons for designation (source: Joint Nature Conservation Committee, www.jncc.gov.uk)

SPECIES (PRIMARY)

Great crested newt, ***Triturus cristatus***:

One of the best-studied great crested newt sites in the UK, Little Wittenham comprises two main ponds set in a predominantly woodland context (broad-leaved and conifer woodland is present). There are also areas of grassland, with sheep grazing and arable bordering the woodland to the south and west. The River Thames is just to the north of the site, and a hill fort to the south. Large numbers of **great crested newts *Triturus cristatus*** have been recorded in the two main ponds, and research has revealed that they range several hundred metres into the woodland blocks.

Conservation objectives (source: Natural England)

Avoid the deterioration of the qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species, and the significant disturbance of those qualifying species, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status of each of the qualifying features.

Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely;
- The populations of qualifying species;
- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

RIVER LAMBOURN S.A.C.	Local authority: West Berkshire District

Code: UK0030257

Area (ha): 27.3

Closest point to Reading: 18 km Furthest point from Reading: 34.1 km

Reasons for designation (source: Joint Nature Conservation Committee, www.jncc.gov.uk)

HABITATS (PRIMARY)

Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation:

The Lambourn is an example of sub-type 1 in central southern England, a chalk stream discharging into the middle reaches of the Thames system. For part of its length it is a winterbourne, drying through the summer months. It is one of the least-modified rivers of this type, with a characteristic flora dominated by pond water-crowfoot *Ranunculus peltatus*. In the downstream perennial sections *R. peltatus* is replaced by stream water-crowfoot *R. penicillatus* var. *pseudofluitans*.

SPECIES (PRIMARY)

Bullhead, *Cottus gobio*:

The Lambourn represents bullhead *Cottus gobio* populations inhabiting chalk streams in central southern England. Good water quality, coarse sediments and extensive beds of submerged plants again provide excellent habitat for the species.

SPECIES (NON-PRIMARY)

Brook lamprey, *Lampetra planeri*

Conservation objectives (source: Natural England)

Avoid the deterioration of the qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species, and the significant disturbance of those qualifying species, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status of each of the qualifying features.

Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely;
- The populations of qualifying species;
- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

THAMES BASIN HEATHS S.P.A.	Local authority: Various including Bracknell Forest Borough, Hart District, Rushmoor Borough and Surrey Heath Borough

Code: UK9012141

Area (ha): 8,274.7

Closest point to Reading: 6 km Furthest point from Reading: 37 km

Reasons for designation (source: Joint Nature Conservation Committee, www.jncc.gov.uk)

During the breeding season the area regularly supports:

Caprimulgus europaeus (Nightjar)
7.8% of the GB breeding population
Count mean (RSPB 1998-99)

Lullula arborea (Woodlark)
9.9% of the GB breeding population
Count as at 1997 (Wotton & Gillings 2000)

Sylvia undata (Dartford warbler)
27.8% of the GB breeding population
Count as at 1999 (RSPB)

Conservation objectives (source: Natural England)

Avoid the deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying features, and the significant disturbance of the qualifying features, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving the aims of the Birds Directive.

Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:

- The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features;
- The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features;
- The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely;
- The populations of the qualifying features;
- The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

WINDSOR FOREST AND GREAT PARK S.A.C	Local authority: Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Bracknell Forest Borough, Runnymede Borough

Code: UK00012586

Area (ha): 1,687.3

Closest point to Reading: 17.2 km Furthest point from Reading: 24 km

Reasons for designation (source: Joint Nature Conservation Committee, www.jncc.gov.uk)

HABITATS (PRIMARY)
Old acidophilous oak woods with Quercus robur on sandy plains:
Windsor represents **old acidophilous oak woods** in the south-eastern part of its UK range. It has the largest number of veteran oaks *Quercus* spp. in Britain (and probably in Europe), a consequence of its management as wood-pasture. It is of importance for its range and diversity of saproxylic invertebrates, including many rare species (e.g. the beetle *Lacon querceus*), some known in the UK only from this site, and has recently been recognised as having rich fungal assemblages. Windsor Forest and Great Park has been identified as of potential international importance for its saproxylic invertebrate fauna by the Council of Europe (Speight 1989).

HABITATS (NON-PRIMARY)
Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with Ilex and sometimes also Taxus in the shrublayer (Quercion robori-petraeae or Ilici-Fagenion)

SPECIES (PRIMARY)
Violet click beetle**,** *Limoniscus violaceus*:
Violet click beetle *Limoniscus violaceus* was first recorded at Windsor Forest in 1937. The site is

thought to support the largest of the known populations of this species in the UK. There is a large population of ancient trees on the site, which, combined with the historical continuity of woodland cover, has resulted in Windsor Forest being listed as the most important site in the UK for fauna associated with decaying timber on ancient trees (Fowles, Alexander & Key 1999). The site was also identified as of potential international importance for its saproxylic invertebrate fauna by the Council of Europe (Speight 1989).

Conservation objectives (source: Natural England)

Avoid the deterioration of the qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species, and the significant disturbance of those qualifying species, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status of each of the qualifying features.

Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely;
- The populations of qualifying species;
- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

Stage 3: Potential hazards

7.20 At this stage, the assessment identifies those potential hazards that development plans in Reading could have on the identified sites. This list was agreed with Natural England as part of the assessment methodology on previous screening exercises, although it has been slightly amended since.

Noise, disturbance and vibration

7.21 Noise, disturbance and vibration can disturb animal species, particularly when breeding. Strong vibrations may also affect roots of trees and plants. The potential effects of a development plan could be to directly increase noise and vibrations through development activity, but more likely are indirect effects through increases in transport to and from Reading and increases in visitor numbers to the designated sites in question as a result of larger populations.

Air pollution and quality

7.22 Reductions in air quality, through pollution, dust or other substances, can have direct effects on animal and plant life, by causing ill-health or death or restricting their growth. Airborne pollutants can also enter watercourses. Such pollutants could emerge as a result of a development plan through construction/development processes or other operations, or through the end use, either directly from new development or as a result of more journeys, particularly by car, to Reading.

Water pollution and quality

7.23 Reductions in water quality could affect designated sites in a variety of ways. It can have direct effects on the health, growth and breeding of flora and fauna, both in and out of the water, and it can also change the habitat over time, resulting in a change in the species that inhabit it. This water pollution could come about as a result of pollutants entering watercourses or groundwater directly or via airborne pollution, either through development activity or the end use of developments.

Water flows

7.24 If surface- or groundwater flows are permanently changed, this could fundamentally alter the habitats present in designated sites, and therefore the species that inhabit them. Redevelopment can change water flows by changing the building footprint, or changing areas of hard surfacing. There could also be increases in water abstraction during development or through the end use, and this could also affect water flows.

Climate change

7.25 Climate change could result in higher temperatures, rising water levels and increased flooding, and more extreme weather conditions, as well as a wide range of other effects, such as increased pressure for development on higher ground. These effects would fundamentally alter existing habitats. A development plan could contribute to these effects by increasing traffic generation, construction processes and use of resources, among other factors.

Habitat loss and degradation

7.26 Habitat loss and degradation would directly affect the species present on the protected sites, and would compromise the reason for the designation, or fragment larger areas of habitat. Given that the Borough does not include, or is not adjacent to, any protected sites, direct habitat loss is unlikely to occur, but an increasing population could mean more visitors to the sites, with consequent degradation of the habitat. Strategic infrastructure requirements, if necessitated by the proposals, could mean some habitat loss, which is more likely to be a 'combined' effect than one simply as a result of the plan.

Landscape effects

7.27 Given the distance to the designated sites, the most likely landscape effects as a result of a development plan would be as a result of large or tall buildings. These could interrupt migration or feeding routes for birds or other animals present at the sites.

Lighting

7.28 Increasing lighting can disturb breeding and feeding for the wildlife present in the designated sites. Increased lighting could come from projected development in the Borough, also possibly from higher buildings, as well as from additional traffic generated from any development.

Stage 4: Other plans and strategies that could give rise to combined effects

7.29 According to Regulation 102, the implications of a plan in combination with other plans and projects will need to be assessed. The Habitat Regulations Assessment therefore needs to identify the plans that may give rise to combined effects, and consider their implications on the designated sites.

7.30 The sites identified for the purposes of carrying out appropriate assessment are those sites, or parts of sites, which fall within 20 km of the Reading Borough boundary. Therefore, this section looks only at those plans and projects that are in close proximity to the parts of the designated sites that are being assessed. A large designated site, such as Thames Basin Heaths SPA, stretches up to 40 km away from the Borough, and therefore an

assessment of all plans or projects close to the whole area would be unwieldy, and unlikely to shed further light on the effects. This assessment defines 'close proximity' as areas with a significant area within 10 km of the designated site. Table 6 identifies which authorities contain plans or projects which have been assessed for combined effects for each site.

Table 6: Locations of plans and projects that may give rise to 'combined effects'

Aston Rowant SAC	▪ Buckinghamshire County ▪ Wycombe District ▪ Oxfordshire County ▪ South Oxfordshire District
Chilterns Beechwoods SAC	▪ Buckinghamshire County ▪ South Bucks District ▪ Wycombe District ▪ Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead ▪ Wokingham Borough ▪ Oxfordshire County ▪ South Oxfordshire District
Hartslock Wood SAC	▪ Oxfordshire County ▪ South Oxfordshire District ▪ West Berkshire District
Kennet and Lambourn Floodplains SAC	▪ West Berkshire District ▪ Wiltshire County ▪ Hampshire County ▪ Basingstoke and Deane Borough
Little Wittenham SAC	▪ Oxfordshire County ▪ Oxford City ▪ South Oxfordshire District ▪ Vale of White Horse District ▪ West Berkshire District
River Lambourn SAC	▪ West Berkshire District ▪ Wiltshire County ▪ Swindon Borough ▪ Hampshire County ▪ Basingstoke and Deane Borough ▪ Oxfordshire County ▪ Vale of White Horse District
Thames Basin Heath SPA	▪ Bracknell Forest Borough ▪ Wokingham Borough ▪ Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead ▪ West Berkshire District ▪ Surrey County ▪ Surrey Heath Borough ▪ Runnymede Borough ▪ Woking Borough ▪ Guildford Borough ▪ Hampshire County ▪ Hart District ▪ Rushmoor Borough ▪ Basingstoke and Deane District ▪ South East (Saved policy NRM6)
Windsor Forest and Great Park SAC	▪ Bracknell Forest Borough ▪ Wokingham Borough ▪ Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead ▪ Slough Borough ▪ Surrey County ▪ Surrey Heath Borough ▪ Runnymede Borough ▪ Buckinghamshire County ▪ South Bucks District

7.31 The tables below take each site in turn, and set out the adopted or emerging development plans that may affect the designated site. Where these plans are accompanied by an Appropriate Assessment, the results of this inform the discussion. These will need to be taken into account in assessing the implications under Stage 5 within individual sustainability appraisals. They will of course change over time, so when individual sustainability appraisals are carried out additional documents may need to be considered, whilst others may have been replaced.

BERKSHIRE

Replacement Minerals Local Plan for Berkshire – saved policies
Waste Local Plan for Berkshire – saved policies

Bracknell Forest
Bracknell Forest Core Strategy (Adopted 2008)
Site Allocations Local Plan (Adopted 2013)
Bracknell Forest Borough Local Plan (Adopted 2002) – saved policies

Reading
Core Strategy (Adopted 2008)
Reading Central Area Action Plan (Adopted 2009)
Sites and Detailed Policies Document (Adopted 2012)

Slough
Core Strategy (Adopted 2008)
Site Allocations Development Plan Document (Adopted 2010)

West Berkshire
Core Strategy (Adopted 2012)
Local Plan 1991-2006 (Adopted 2002) – saved policies

Windsor and Maidenhead
Maidenhead Town Centre Area Action Plan (Adopted 2011)
The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Plan (Adopted 2003) – saved policies
Ascot, Sunninghill and Sunningdale Neighbourhood Plan (Draft 2013)

Wokingham
Wokingham Borough Core Strategy (Adopted 2010)
Managing Development Delivery Document (Main Modifications stage 2013)
Wokingham District Local Plan (Adopted 2004) – saved policies

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Buckinghamshire
Buckinghamshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy (Adopted 2012)
Buckinghamshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2004-2016 – saved policies

Wycombe
Core Strategy (Adopted 2008)
Delivery and Site Allocations Plan (Adopted 2013)
Wycombe District Local Plan (Adopted 2004) – saved policies

South Bucks
South Bucks Core Strategy (Adopted 2011)
South Bucks Local Plan (Adopted 1999) – saved policies

HAMPSHIRE

Hampshire
Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan (Adopted 2013)

Basingstoke and Deane
Local Plan (Pre-Submission Draft 2013)
Local Plan (Adopted 2006) – saved policies

Hart
Hart District Local Plan (Replacement) (Adopted 2002, First Alterations Adopted 2006) – saved policies
Hart District Core Strategy (Withdrawn 2013)

Rushmoor
Rushmoor Core Strategy (Adopted 2011)
Rushmoor Local Plan Review (Adopted 2000) – saved policies
Farnborough Airport Area Action Plan (Preferred Approach 2010)

OXFORDSHIRE

Oxfordshire
Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (Adopted 1996) – saved policies
Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy – (Withdrawn 2013)

South Oxfordshire
South Oxfordshire Core Strategy (Adopted 2012)
South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011 (Adopted 2006) – saved policies
Henley-Harpsden Neighbourhood Development Plan (Submitted 2013)
Woodcote Neighbourhood Development Plan (Submitted 2013)

Vale of White Horse
Update to the Local Plan 2031 (Consultation Draft 2014)
Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2011 (Adopted 2006)

Oxford
Oxford Core Strategy (Adopted 2011)
Sites and Housing Plan (Adopted 2013)
Oxford Local Plan 2001-2016 (saved policies, adopted 2006)

SURREY

Surrey
Surrey Minerals Plan Core Strategy (Adopted 2013)
Aggregates Recycling Joint Development Plan Document (Adopted 2013)
Surrey Waste Plan (Adopted 2008)

Runnymede
Runnymede Local Plan Core Strategy (Pre-Submission 2013)
Runnymede Borough Local Plan (Adopted 2001) – saved policies

Woking
Woking Borough Core Strategy (Adopted 2012)
Woking Borough Local Plan (Adopted 1999) – saved policies

Guildford
Local Plan Strategy and Sites (Issues and Options 2013)
Guildford Borough Local Plan (Adopted 2003) – saved policies

Surrey Heath
Core Strategy and Development Management Policies (Adopted 2012)
Camberley Town Centre Area Action Plan (Submitted 2013)
Surrey Heath Local Plan (Adopted 2000) – saved policies

Waverley
The Core Strategy for Waverley (Withdrawn 2013)
Waverley Core Strategy (Adopted 2002) – saved policies

Elmbridge
Elmbridge Core Strategy (Adopted 2011)
Development Management Plan (Draft 2013)
Replacement Elmbridge Local Plan (Adopted 2000) – saved policies

WILTSHIRE AND SWINDON

Minerals Core Strategy (Adopted 2009)
Waste Core Strategy (Adopted 2009)
Minerals Development Control Policies (Adopted 2009)
Waste Development Control Policies (Adopted 2009)
Minerals Site Allocations (Adopted 2013)
Waste Site Allocations (Adopted 2013)

Wiltshire
Wiltshire Core Strategy (Submitted 2012)
Kennet Local Plan (Adopted 2004)

Swindon
Swindon Borough Local Plan (Submitted 2013)
Swindon Central Area Action Plan (Adopted 2009)

SOUTH EAST

South East Plan (retained policy NRM6)

Presentation of results

7.32 Whilst the overall result of the Screening Stage assessment in terms of whether significant effects are likely will need to fit into the general sustainability appraisal format, the detailed assessment will need to be presented separately in addition, so that it is clear how the assessment has reached the conclusion. This could be an appendix to the Sustainability Appraisal Report. This will comprise assessing whether a significant effect on each site would be likely as a result of each potential hazard. A template for completing this assessment is in Table 7 below:

Table 7: Template for Presentation of Screening Assessment

HAZARD	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS (Y/N)?	COMMENTS
SPA/SAC/RAMSAR SITE 1		
Noise, disturbance and vibration		
Air pollution and quality		
Water pollution and quality		
Water flows		
Climate change		
Habitat loss and degradation		
Landscape effects		
Lighting		
SPA/SAC/RAMSAR SITE 2		
Noise, disturbance and vibration		
Air pollution and quality		
Water pollution and quality		
Water flows		
Climate change		
Habitat loss and degradation		
Landscape effects		
Lighting		
Etc		

7.33 If a likely significant effect is identified on any of the sites in terms of any of the potential hazards, a full appropriate assessment will be required. This will have to be produced as a separate document and fulfil the requirements of the regulations. It is not for the SA Scoping Report to set out how this will be undertaken.

Consultation

7.34 If the Sustainability Appraisal Report is to cover the screening stage of Habitat Regulations Assessment, it will need to ensure that the appropriate bodies are consulted on the report. Natural England would be consulted on SA Reports as one of the consultation bodies in any case. However, in the past, consultation on Habitat Regulations screening assessments has also covered the following:

- Any wildlife trust within whose area one of the sites assessed falls (in the case of the sites identified here that would mean Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust, Surrey Wildlife Trust and Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust);
- Any local authority within whose area one of the sites assessed falls (see Table 5);
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds;
- Plantlife; and
- Buglife.

7.35 It is suggested that the organisations above should therefore be consulted on Sustainability Appraisal Reports unless there is a clear reason not to do so (for instance if a plan has a very limited scope and is highly unlikely to have any relationship with the identified sites).

8. INCORPORATING EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Introduction

8.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EquIA) is a tool for identifying the potential impact of a council's policies, services and functions on its residents and staff.

8.2 This process is a legal requirement, under a number of acts and focuses on how a policy or function will affect people from different groups and in turn whether it has a **negative impact** on groups or individuals in particular with regard to race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, age or religious belief (the 'equality strands').

8.3 Reading Borough Council has a clear process for meeting the requirements of undertaking EquIAs. The following sequential stages are required, where relevant:

- ***Equality Relevance Test*** – to identify whether policies being assessed have a relevance to the equality duties.
- ***Stage 1 – Initial Screening or Desktop Exercise*** to ascertain whether a partial or full assessment is required.
- ***Stage 2 – Partial Impact Assessment*** will be necessary if the initial screening identifies a differential negative impact on any of the groups. If the outcome highlights real concerns then a stage 3 assessment will be required.
- ***Stage 3 – Full Impact Assessment*** is carried out to investigate where there is an adverse impact and the EquIA will address how to reverse the impact.
- ***Equality Impact Assessment Report –*** A report summarising the findings and required actions resulting from the assessments under stages 1-3

8.4 The Council has decided to incorporate the Equality Relevance Test and Stage 1 of the process, i.e. the initial screening or desktop exercise, within the sustainability appraisal. This makes sense, because both processes attempt to identify likely significant effects. For this reason, Objective 16 has been included, which is to "Avoid significant negative effects on groups or individuals with regard to race, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation". Appraisal against this objective therefore would fulfil the requirement to carry out an Equality Relevance Test and a Stage 1 Initial Screening Stage, and would highlight whether a full Equality Impact Assessment is required. A full Assessment, if required, would need to be a separate document.

Equality Relevance Test Methodology

8.5 The methodology used by the Council for the Equality Relevance Test involves asking three questions, and deciding on an overall level of relevance – high, medium or low.

8.6 The three questions that are asked in relation to each policy or proposal are:

- Which of the three strands of the equality duties does it relate to?:

- Eliminating discrimination;
- Promoting equality of opportunity;
- Promoting good community relations.

- Is there evidence or reason to believe that some minority groups may be affected differently than others? If so, to what extent?
- Is there public concern about potentially discriminatory practices? If so, to what extent?

8.7 For the last two questions, a score of 1 for 'Low' and 3 for 'High' is given. On the basis of the three questions, the overall score of 'low', 'medium' or 'high' is awarded. Where the relevance is low, no further assessment is required. Where relevance is high or medium, the process moves onto Stage 1, the initial screening.

Stage 1 Methodology

8.8 The Stage 1 assessment is based around the completion of a pro-forma. This leads to an overall conclusion of whether there is likely to be an adverse impact as a result of the policy or proposal, and whether this adverse impact can be justified. If an impact cannot be justified, the process moves on to a Stage 2 partial impact assessment, which will need to be undertaken as a subsequent exercise to sustainability appraisal.

8.9 The summary of the assessment would then be reflected in the sustainability appraisal in terms of the overall score and the requirement for any mitigation measures.

8.10 Whilst the overall result of the relevance test and, where relevant, the Stage 1 assessment in terms of the overall score and the requirement for any mitigation measures, will need to fit into the general sustainability appraisal format, the detailed assessment will need to be presented separately in addition, so that it is clear how the assessment has reached the conclusion. This could be an appendix to the Sustainability Appraisal Report. This will comprise a completed pro-forma as referred to above. The pro-forma template is shown in Table 8.

Table 8: Template for Screening Equality Impact Assessment

1. Briefly describe the aims, objectives and purpose of the function/policy		
2. Who is intended to benefit from the function/policy and in what way?		
3. What outcomes are wanted from this function/policy?		
4. Who are the main stakeholders in relation to the function/policy?		
5. Are there concerns that the function/policy does or *could* have a differential impact on racial groups?	**Y**	**N**
6. What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?		
7. Are there concerns that the function/policy does or *could* have a differential impact due to gender?	**Y**	**N**

8. What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?			
9. Are there concerns that the function/policy does or *could* have a differential impact due to disability?		**Y**	**N**
10. What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?			
11. Are there concerns that the function/policy does or *could* have a differential impact due to sexual orientation?		**Y**	**N**
12. What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?			
13. Are there concerns that the function/policy does or *could* have a differential impact due to their age?		**Y**	**N**
14. What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?			
15. Are there concerns that the function/policy does or *could* have a differential impact due to their religious belief?		**Y**	**N**
16. What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?			
17. Based on the answers given in 5-16 is there potential for adverse impact in this function/policy?	**Y**	**N**	**Please explain**
18. Can this adverse impact be justified?	**Y**	**N**	**Please explain**
If you have not identified adverse impact or you can justify the adverse impact you can stop here. **If you have identified adverse impact that cannot be justified you need to continue the impact assessment**			

APPENDIX 1: PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES

A1.1 The schedule below includes more detail on the plans, programmes and objectives identified in section 2 of this report, including links to online documents.

A1.2 The versions of the documents referred to below were the latest versions at the time of publication of this scoping report. When individual sustainability appraisals are undertaken, these may have changed. These appraisals will therefore need to take account of the latest versions, and of any plans and strategies that have emerged more recently.

INTERNATIONAL
Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada Convention) http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/Commun/QueVoulezVous.asp?NT=121&CM=8&CL=ENG The Granada Convention, which came into force in 1987, is a framework for safeguarding the cultural heritage of monuments and sites. Included in the convention is the basis for setting conservation policies.
European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (Valetta Convention) http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/en/Treaties/Html/143.htm The Valetta Convention of 1992 aims to protect the European archaeological heritage "as a source of European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study".
Habitats Directive http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index_en.htm Directive 92/43/EEC is the main European legislation relating to nature conservation. It has two main elements – a network of protected 'Natura 2000' sites and a system of species protection. In terms of habitat protection, over 200 types of habitat are protected. This legislation is the basis for the need to carry out Habitat Regulations Assessment of plans and policies, which forms a key part of this Scoping Report. More details are within Section 7.
Waste Framework Directive http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/framework/ Directive 2008/98/EC sets out basic waste management principles, including the waste hierarchy for waste management. It introduces the "polluter pays" principle and the "extended producer responsibility". It contains targets for recycling by 2020 of 50% preparing for re-use and recycling of certain waste materials from households and other origins similar to households, and 70% preparing for re-use, recycling and other recovery of construction and demolition waste. It requires that member states adopt waste management plans and waste prevention programmes.
Water Framework Directive http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index_en.html Directive 200/60/EC seeks good qualitative and quantitative status of water in member states. The Directive introduces river basin districts to enable water to be considered as part of a basin rather than using any other boundaries. It therefore introduces River Basin Management Plans.
U.K.
UK Sustainable Development Strategy https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69412/pb10589-securing-the-future-050307.pdf The strategy dates from 2005, and is based around five guiding principles:

- Living within environmental limits
- Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society
- Achieving a sustainable economy
- Promoting good governance
- Using sound science responsibly

National Planning Policy Framework
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf

The NPPF contains national planning policy for all matters with few exceptions such as waste (see below). It is a single document, that replaced a number of previous Planning Policy Statements and Planning Policy Guidance notes.

The key element of the NPPF is a presumption in favour of sustainable development, which includes positively seeking opportunities to meet development needs, and meeting objectively-assessed needs with sufficient flexibility to adapt to rapid change.

The NPPF has a set of core planning principles, which state that planning should:

- be genuinely plan-led, empowering local people to shape their surroundings, with succinct local and neighbourhood plans setting out a positive vision for the future of the area. Plans should be kept up-to-date, and be based on joint working and co-operation to address larger than local issues. They should provide a practical framework within which decisions on planning applications can be made with a high degree of predictability and efficiency;
- not simply be about scrutiny, but instead be a creative exercise in finding ways to enhance and improve the places in which people live their lives;
- proactively drive and support sustainable economic development to deliver the homes, business and industrial units, infrastructure and thriving local places that the country needs. Every effort should be made objectively to identify and then meet the housing, business and other development needs of an area, and respond positively to wider opportunities for growth. Plans should take account of market signals, such as land prices and housing affordability, and set out a clear strategy for allocating sufficient land which is suitable for development in their area, taking account of the needs of the residential and business communities;
- always seek to secure high quality design and a good standard of amenity for all existing and future occupants of land and buildings;
- take account of the different roles and character of different areas, promoting the vitality of our main urban areas, protecting the Green Belts around them, recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside and supporting thriving rural communities within it;
- support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change, and encourage the reuse of existing resources, including conversion of existing buildings, and encourage the use of renewable resources (for example, by the development of renewable energy);
- contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution. Allocations of land for development should prefer land of lesser environmental value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework;
- encourage the effective use of land by reusing land that has been previously developed (brownfield land), provided that it is not of high environmental value;
- promote mixed use developments, and encourage multiple benefits from the use of land in urban and rural areas, recognising that some open land can perform many functions (such as for wildlife, recreation, flood risk mitigation, carbon storage, or food production);
- conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations;
- actively manage patterns of growth to make the fullest possible use of public transport, walking and cycling, and focus significant development in locations which are or can be made sustainable; and
- take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural

wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.

National Planning Practice Guidance
http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk

National Planning Practice Guidance offers an online resource for practical advice on the planning system. Guidance categories are as follows:

- Advertisements
- Air quality
- Appeals
- Before submitting an application
- Climate change
- Conserving and enhancing the historic environment
- Consultation and pre-decision matters
- Crown Development
- Design
- Determining a planning application
- Duty to cooperate
- Ensuring effective enforcement
- Ensuring the vitality of town centres
- Environmental Impact Assessment
- Flexible options for planning permissions
- Flood Risk and Coastal Change
- Hazardous Substances
- Health and wellbeing
- Housing and economic development needs assessments
- Housing and economic land availability assessment
- Land affected by contamination
- Land Stability
- Lawful development certificates
- Light pollution
- Local Plans
- Making an application
- Minerals
- Natural Environment
- Neighbourhood Planning
- Noise
- Open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way and local green space
- Planning obligations
- Renewable and low carbon energy
- Rural Housing
- Strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal
- Travel plans, transport assessments and statements in decision-taking
- Tree Preservation Orders and trees in conservation areas
- Use of Planning Conditions
- Viability
- Water supply, wastewater and water quality
- When is permission required?

PPS10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management (Revised)
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/225581/Updated_national_waste_planning_policy_-_Planning_for_sustainable_waste_management_-_Consultation.pdf

A revised version of PPS10 on Sustainable Waste Management was produced for consultation in July 2013. The Statement places an emphasis on robust evidence on waste and identifying the need for new facilities. This should then lead to the identification of sites to meet the identified need. Guidance on planning applications for waste development is

also included.

Code for Sustainable Homes
https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/improving-the-energy-efficiency-of-buildings-and-using-planning-to-protect-the-environment/supporting-pages/code-for-sustainable-homes

"The code for sustainable homes is the national standard for the sustainable design and construction of new homes. It aims to reduce carbon emissions and promote higher standards of sustainable design above the current minimum standards set out by the building regulations.

The code provides 9 measures of sustainable design:

- *energy/CO2*
- *water*
- *materials*
- *surface water runoff (flooding and flood prevention)*
- *waste*
- *pollution*
- *health and well-being*
- *management*
- *ecology*

It uses a 1 to 6 star system to rate the overall sustainability performance of a new home against these 9 categories." (www.gov.uk)

Policy CS1 of the Reading Borough Core Strategy sets out the Council's expectations in terms of the Code for Sustainable Homes.

Energy Efficiency Strategy
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/65602/6927-energy-efficiency-strategy--the-energy-efficiency.pdf

The mission of the Energy Efficiency Statement is to seize the energy efficiency opportunity, accelerating the deployment of twenty-first century energy saving measures through: connecting energy efficiency knowledge and technologies to finance seeking strong returns; supporting energy efficiency innovation; harnessing the power of improved energy use information, driving its availability and disclosure; and encouraging collective action to act on this new and better information.

National Adaptation Programme
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/209866/pb13942-nap-20130701.pdf

The programme contains policies and actions to help adapt to climate change. Many of the objectives and associated actions are relevant to planning, but some of the most relevant are:

- Objective 1: To work with individuals, communities and organisations to reduce the threat of flooding and coastal erosion, including that resulting from climate change, by understanding the risks of flooding and coastal erosion, working together to put in place long-term plans to manage these risks and making sure that other plans take account of them.
- Objective 2: To provide a clear local planning framework to enable all participants in the planning system to deliver sustainable new development, including infrastructure, that minimises vulnerability and provides resilience to the impacts of climate change.
- Objective 6: To explore and build understanding of the long term implications of climate change for the location and resilience of population centres.
- Objective 7: To ensure infrastructure is located, planned, designed and maintained to be resilient to climate change, including increasingly extreme weather events.
- Objective 8: To develop regulatory frameworks to support and promote a resilient and adaptive infrastructure sector.

- Objective 9: To better understand the particular vulnerabilities facing 'local' infrastructure (e.g. local highways) from extreme weather and long term climate change so as to determine actions to address the risks.
- Objective 19: To build the resilience of wildlife, habitats and ecosystems (terrestrial, freshwater, marine and coastal) to climate change, so as to put our natural environment in the strongest possible position to meet the challenges and changes ahead.

Flood and Water Management Act 2010
http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents

The Act deals with a variety of aspects of water management, including managing flood risk, surface water drainage and water supply . One of its main provisions is to designate upper tier or unitary Councils as Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) for the coordination of local flood risk management in their areas.

Groundwater Protection – Principles and Practice
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/groundwater-protection-principles-and-practice-gp3

This document is particularly concerned with groundwater quality in terms of abstraction for human consumption.

In particular, the document covers Source Protection Zones (SPZs), the most vulnerable groundwater sources. Areas of SPZ are the places where the most restrictive policy statements are to be applied. The principal reason for defining SPZs is to influence planning decisions at strategic and local levels. In SPZ1, the inner source protection zone - and therefore the most vulnerable areas – the Environment Agency will object to and/or refuse to permit some activities. These include uses and activities such as landfill sites, incinerators, transfer stations, waste treatment facilities, any new sewage and trade effluent discharges to ground, cemeteries and any activity which may physically disturb an aquifer.

In addition to protecting SPZs, the EA also concerned about the potential for mobilisation of historic contamination within SPZs during development. It may therefore be necessary to set restrictions on future uses in SPZs. Certain types of buildings may be more suitable, or appropriate, than others. Any buildings which require deep piling (such as high rise buildings) would create pathways which would allow contamination to migrate deep into the chalk aquifer.

The areas of Reading covered by Source Protection Zones are the east of the Borough between the University and the Thames, and the northern and eastern part of Caversham and Emmer Green.

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006
http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/contents

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 sets up the framework for conservation of the natural environment, including establishing Natural England. It sets up the organisational structure for nature conservation and includes the main tools anf legislation for achieving this.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)
http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 covers protection of wildlife, the countryside, National Parks, and the designation of protected areas, and public rights of way. Strong measures are included to protect wild birds, their nests and eggs, as well as some listed other animal species (such as all bats, great crested newts and slow worms), and some wild plants. The Act also contains measures to prevent the establishment of non-native species. It also sets out the legislation regarding Sites of Special Scientific Interest and other designations.

Biodiversity 2020
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69446/pb13583-biodiversity-strategy-2020-111111.pdf

This national strategy seeks to halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people.

The four areas in which this will be delivered are:

- a more integrated large-scale approach to conservation on land and at sea
- putting people at the heart of biodiversity policy
- reducing environmental pressures
- improving our knowledge

BSI 42020 Biodiversity - Code of Practice for Planning and Development
http://shop.bsigroup.com/ProductDetail/?pid=000000000030258704

The code of practice gives guidance on incorporating biodiversity into every stage of the development process, from pre-application discussions through to implementation and construction. It focuses particularly on a 'mitigation hierarchy', which seeks as a preference to avoid impacts, then to mitigate unavoidable impacts, and, as a last resort, to compensate for unavoidable residual impacts that remain after avoidance and mitigation measures.

National Character Areas
http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/587130
Three National Character Areas cover, or adjoin, Reading: Chilterns, Thames Valley and Thames Basin Heaths.

110: Chilterns
The following opportunities are identified:

- **SEO 1**: Manage the wooded landscape, the woodlands (including internationally important Chilterns beechwoods), hedgerows, commons and parklands with the aims of conserving and enhancing biodiversity and the historic landscape and its significant features; maximising the potential for recreation; and securing sustainable production of biomass and timber.
- **SEO 2**: In pockets of historic land use where natural and cultural heritage are both particularly rich, aim to restore and strengthen the historic landscape, ecological resilience and heterogeneity, and to conserve soils. Ensure that species-rich habitats are conserved and extended, including internationally important species-rich Chiltern downland. Secure environmentally and economically sustainable management to ensure conservation in the long term.
- **SEO 3**: Conserve the Chilterns' groundwater resource, River Thames and chalk streams by working in partnership to tackle inter-related issues at a catchment scale and also across the water supply network area. Seek to secure, now and in the future, sustainable water use and thriving flood plain landscapes that are valued by thepublic.
- **SEO 4**: Enhance local distinctiveness and create or enhance green infrastructurewithin existing settlements and through new development, particularly in relation to the urban fringe and growth areas such as Luton. Ensure that communities can enjoy good access to the countryside.

115: Thames Valley
The following opportunities are identified:

- SEO 1: Plan for the enhancement of the area's rivers, and the expansion of their operational flood plains and associated wetland habitats, aiding the regulation of water flow, improving water quality, benefiting biodiversity, and reinforcing cultural heritage and landscape.
- SEO 2: Plan for the landscape-scale enhancement of the area's extensive gravel workings and other open waterbodies (including reservoirs) forming part of the South-West London Waterbodies Special Protection Area, for their contribution to water

supply and storage, for their important habitats and recreation facilities, and for their geological interest.

- SEO 3: Maintain existing greenspace and plan for the creation of green infrastructure associated with the significant projected growth of urban areas, to reduce the impact of development, to help reduce flooding issues, and to strengthen access and recreation opportunities. Seek links from urban areas to wider recreation assets suchas the Thames Path National Trail, National Cycle Routes, and the river and canal network, and promote the incorporation of best practice environmental measures into any new development.
- SEO 4: Protect and manage the area's historic parklands, wood pastures, ancient woodland, commons, orchards and distinctive ancient pollards, and restore and increase woodland for carbon sequestration, noise and pollution reduction, woodfuel and protection from soil erosion, while also enhancing biodiversity, sense of place and history.
- SEO 5: Develop the recreational, educational and commercial tourism opportunities offered by public access to – and engagement with – the historic buildings and landscapes in the area, such as Hampton Court Palace, Windsor Castle and the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, for their contribution to a sense of place and to people's enjoyment and understanding of the area.

129: Thames Basin Heaths

The following opportunities are identified:

- SEO 1: At a catchment scale, manage and create woodlands, highway verges, field margins, reedbeds and other features in urban and rural settings to intercept run-off and to filter pollutants. In the heavily developed flood plains of the Blackwater and Thames, adapt the urban environment to manage floodwaters, and restore orenhance modified watercourses.
- SEO 2: Maximise the variety of ecosystem services delivered by wooded features –from wet woodlands in the Kennet Valley to the large conifer plantations around Camberley and new woodlands. Conserve soils, water, biodiversity and the sense of place and history; enhance timber and biomass production; and provide for recreation and tranquillity as appropriate.
- SEO 3: Enhance the sense of history and biodiversity by conserving, restoring and building the resilience of long-established habitats such as heathland, ancientwoodland and meadows, and of archaeology such as hill forts. Work at a landscape scale to conserve and restore key attributes of the historic hunting forests (such as Eversley) and historic common land. Engage the public in enjoying this heritage.
- SEO 4: With a focus on the Blackwater Valley, Newbury and nearby major settlements such as Reading, provide good-quality green infrastructure (incorporating commons, woodlands and restored gravel pits) to facilitate people's sustainable engagement with the local landscape. In doing so, also seek benefits for wildlife, water quality, flood amelioration and climate regulation.

Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies

These strategies assess water availability, determining much water can be abstracted whilst leaving sufficient water within the environment to meet its ecological needs. Reading Borough Council falls under the following CAMS areas:

- Thames
- Loddon
- Kennet and Vale of White Horse

Kennet and Vale of White Horse Catchment Abstraction Licensing Strategy (December 2012)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/289893/LIT_2517_39dc0f.pdf

(covers the south and south west of Reading Borough)

Loddon Catchment Abstraction Licensing Strategy (December 2012)
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/289881/LIT_1777_a16a18.pdf
(covers a part of eastern Reading Borough)

Thames Catchment Abstraction Licensing Strategy (May 2014)
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/321005/LIT_1855.pdf
(covers central, north and most of west Reading Borough)

SOUTH EAST

South East Plan Policy NRM 6

The only policy relevant to Reading that is still in effect from the now revoked South East Plan is NRM6, which seeks to protect the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area from adverse effects as a result of development.

South East Regional Forestry Framework

This document seeks to increase the role of woodlands and trees in supporting sustainable development, attracting tourists and visiting members of the local community, and playing a greater economic role. It also seeks to protect important woodlands and improve the ecological condition.

Thames River Basin Management Plan
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/289937/geth0910bswa-e-e.pdf

The plan seeks to achieve the protection, improvement and sustainable use of the water environment in the Thames basin, which covers a wide area including Reading. It has been prepared in accordance with the Water Framework Directive. It sets out what improvements are possible by 2015 and how the actions will make a difference to the local environment – the catchments, the estuaries and coasts, and the groundwater.

Among the actions identified for local authorities are:

- Ensuring that planning policies reflect the objectives in the Plan;
- Reducing the physical impacts of development to help waters reach good ecological potential;
- Promoting the use of sustainable drainage systems; and
- Taking account of water efficiency in new development.

Thames Waterways Plan
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/289784/geth1205bjyc-e-e.pdf

The Thames Waterway Plan governs the use of the river. It is in the early stages of being refreshed at the time of this Scoping Report, but the latest version covered the period 2006-2011.

The vision of that latest document is the healthy growth in the use of the freshwater Thames for communities, wildlife, leisure and business.
The Core Objectives are to

- improve and promote access and information for all users (on water and land)
- improve and maintain the river infrastructure, facilities and services for all users
- contribute to enhanced biodiversity, heritage, and landscape value in the waterway corridor
- increase use of the river and its corridor

The plan sets out policies in relation to use of the river, biodiversity and landscape, and also identifies Reading as a 'gateway opportunity' for establishing a clear identity for the river.

BERKSHIRE/SUB-REGIONAL
Berkshire Biodiversity Strategy http://berkshirelnp.org/index.php/what-we-do/strategy/biodiversity-action-plan#berks The focus in recent years has been on the identification of Biodiversity Opportunity Areas, and delivery of conservation action in those areas. Two BOAs are partly within Reading Borough: Kennet Valley East and West Reading Woodlands and LNRs. The targets and opportunities are as follows: Kennet Valley East: River management, restoration and protection. Management and re-creation of reedbed and fen. Management of gravel pits and associated habitats. Potential for some nature conservation afteruse in future mineral extraction. Management, restoration and re-creation of lowland meadow and wet grassland habitat. West Reading Woodlands and LNRs: woodland management, parkland management, potential for restoration of grassland habitats on the steeper slopes in the west in particular. The LNR provides good opportunities for woodland management within an urban setting.
Berkshire Replacement Minerals Local Plan (saved policies) http://www.reading.gov.uk/businesses/Planning/planning-policy/minerals-and-waste-planning-policy/mineralslocalplan/ The RMLP sets out policies to deal with minerals extraction in Berkshire. It is now somewhat dated, having been adopted as amended in 2001, and many policies, particularly those identifying sites for minerals uses in Reading, have been overtaken by events. It seeks to prioritise extraction in identified sites, and to safeguard existing resources from sterilisation where possible. Only certain policies from the Minerals Local Plan have been saved, as listed on the Council's website. The RMLP is to be replaced by a new Local Plan to include minerals policies. Therefore, in appraising the Local Plan, there would be no need to consider combined effects with the Core Strategy.
Berkshire Waste Local Plan (saved policies) http://www.reading.gov.uk/businesses/Planning/planning-policy/minerals-and-waste-planning-policy/wastelocalplan/ The WLP sets out policies to deal with waste management and development in Berkshire. As for the RMLP, it is now somewhat dated, having been adopted in 1998. It seeks to manage waste further up the waste hierarchy, and direct development to identified preferred areas. The only preferred area in Reading Borough (Smallmead) has now largely been delivered. Only certain policies from the Minerals Local Plan have been saved, as listed on the Council's website. The WLP is to be replaced by a new Local Plan to include waste policies. Therefore, in appraising the Local Plan, there would be no need to consider combined effects with the Core Strategy.
READING
Core Strategy http://www.reading.gov.uk/businesses/Planning/planning-policy/core-strategy/adoptedcs/ This document (adopted 2008) sets out the Council's adopted planning strategy for the Borough. It sets out how planning and development will achieve the Reading 2020 Vision for the town. It provides a framework for how Reading can grow in a sustainable way in the future. It also sets out how Reading will accommodate growth to continue to play a key role in the sub-region and through the Council's commitment to New Growth Point Status. It focuses much of the development in central and south Reading, with some development also proposed for smaller centres and the employment areas.

The Strategy also includes a number of strategic policies to guide development. Headline policies include ambitious expectations for sustainable design and construction of new development, a target of 50% of affordable housing on sites of more than 15 units, preserving employment uses in core employment areas, and policies on matters such as heritage, biodiversity and flooding. The Core Strategy seeks provision of 10,930 dwellings to 2026, with 572 per annum up to 2016 and 521 per annum from 2016-2026.

The Core Strategy is to be replaced by a new Local Plan. Therefore, in appraising the Local Plan, there would be no need to consider combined effects with the Core Strategy.

Reading Central Area Action Plan
http://www.reading.gov.uk/businesses/Planning/planning-policy/reading-central-area-action-plan/adoptedrcaap/

The Reading Central Area Action Plan sets out the framework for planning in central Reading, which will be the main location for substantial change under the Core Strategy. It identifies in particular three major opportunity areas (Station/River, West Side and East Side) where the majority of this change will take place and where significant levels of development will be accommodated. As well as identifying a number of smaller sites in addition, the RCAAP sets out development management policies specific to the centre, such as for town centre housing, including the mix expected, key shopping frontages, leisure and drinking establishments and the location of tall buildings.

The RCAAP is to be replaced by a new Local Plan. Therefore, in appraising the Local Plan, there would be no need to consider combined effects with the RCAAP.

Sites and Detailed Policies Document
http://www.reading.gov.uk/businesses/Planning/planning-policy/sites-and-detailed-policies-document/sdpdadopted/

The Sites and Detailed Policies Document has as its main purpose the implementation of the Core Strategy. It includes detailed development management policies to cover matters such as climate change adaptation, housing mix, affordable housing on small sites, highway safety and specific types of development such as advertisements and telecommunications. It also identifies sites for development, many of which are for housing. The largest sites identified are those in South Reading, and the SDPD therefore includes a South Reading Framework, which sets out the shape of development in South Reading and how it will link into existing communities. Finally, it sets the boundaries to implement a number of policies, such as open space, landscape, employment areas and district and local centres.

The SDPD is to be replaced by a new Local Plan. Therefore, in appraising the Local Plan, there would be no need to consider combined effects with the SDPD.

Draft Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule
http://www.reading.gov.uk/businesses/planning/planning-policy/cil/

The Draft CIL Charging Schedule was produced for consultation in Spring 2014. It sets the following rates for different types of development:

- Residential/hotels/sheltered housing/private rented hostel accommodation including student accommodation - £120 per sq m
- Care homes - £0
- A1 retail in central Reading - £0
- A1 retail of 2,000 sq m and over - £150
- A1 retail of less than 2,000 sq m - £0
- Offices in the Central Core - £30
- All other chargeable development - £0

Sustainable Community Strategy
http://www.reading.gov.uk/documents/Council_and_Democracy/15371/Sustainablecommunitystragtegy2011.pdf

The Sustainable Community Strategy, produced in 2011, sets out a vision for 2030, arranged around the headings of people, place and prosperity, and sets out measures to achieve that

vision. The priorities identified are as follows:

People

- Reducing inequality
- Capable communities
- Embracing diversity

Place

- Active neighbourhoods - pulling together, planning together and living together
- Cultural partnership
- Smart infrastructure

Prosperity

- Redefining prosperity
- Improved quality of life
- Improve employment and skills outcomes
- Working beyond boundaries

Reading Economic Development Strategy

http://www.livingreading.co.uk/cache/downloads/8k04ub0onccowcoo048o80s8g/Economic%20Development%20Strategy%20web.pdf

The Strategy identifies the need to contribute to the economy of the functional economic area, an area which also includes the towns of Wokingham and Bracknell and surrounding areas. The strategy sets out measures to 2015 within the following strands:

- Promoting and sustaining the local economy - this aims to enhance Reading as a place to live and visit, and further enhance its reputation as a destination for business investment. This will include a more balanced economy, with opportunities in South Reading in particular, and achieving a green knowledge economy. Access to space and finance for small businesses is also key.
- Skills and education – to retain highly skilled people within the town, and to enhance skills across the board, including requiring skills to be addressed in major development proposals.
- Transport, housing and infrastructure – this recognises the key role that these play in the local economy, and recognises the need to work strategically to achieve enhanced infrastructure and housing delivery, with the Thames Valley Berkshire LEP, and with unitary authorities within the functional economic area.

Housing Strategy

http://www.reading.gov.uk/documents/Housing_and_Benefits/Strategies%20and%20Plans/18983/HousingStategy2009.pdf

The Reading Housing Strategy covers the period 2009-2014. It involves identification of the following key areas, and a range of actions to achieve this.

- Increase the range and supply of specialist accommodation for older people and disabled adults, reflecting both an ageing population and a market shift away from residential care to supporting more people to live independently in the community
- Improve conditions and standards in the private housing sector with a clear preventative agenda. This will improve the health and safety of residents, and environmental sustainability of these properties
- Recognise the role of housing in building community capacity with a continuing focus on holistic neighbourhood regeneration, including physical, social and economic factors
- Increase the information available to residents of all tenures, offering people more choice and control

Local Transport Plan

http://www.reading.gov.uk/documents/transport_streets/UTMC/24361/LTP3-Strategy-Plan.pdf

The current version of the Local Transport Plan is known as LTP3 and covers the period 2011-2026. It is based around an area-based approach, with Local Action Plans for Central, North, East, South East, South, South West and West Reading, and there are four delivery themes of inclusion, intervention, infrastructure and innovation.

Major and minor schemes are identified in the plan, including Reading Station interchange, a pedestrian and cycle crossing of the Thames, working with adjoining authorities on park and ride and on cross-Thames travel, the introduction of a mass rapid transit system, Green Park station and interchange, as well as studies and strategies for addressing issues at a neighbourhood or transport corridor level

Cycling Strategy

A Cycling Strategy was published in 2014, with ambitious new goals for cycling in Reading. The strategy's targets are:

- Encouraging an additional 2300 daily cycle trips
- Doubling the number of people cycling to work to 6% by 2019
- Planned delivery of: a cycle hire scheme by spring 2014, the opening of Napier Road underpass by summer 2014, a cycle parking hub by Winter 2014 and a shared pedestrian and cycle bridge by summer 2015.

Climate Change Strategy
http://www.readingclimateaction.org.uk/GetAsset.aspx?id=fAAxADkAMgA5AHwAfABGAGEAbABzAGUAfAB8ADIAMwB8AA2

The Climate Change Strategy covers the period 2013-2020. Its target is a 34% reduction in the carbon footprint of the Borough by 2020 compared to 2005. The strategy sets out the following strategic priorities:

Energy Supply

- Reduce electricity consumption within the commercial and public sectors
- Introduce smart meters and energy storage solutions in Reading
- Develop heat supply networks to deliver low carbon heat in Reading
- Increase the amount of energy generated locally using renewable technologies

Low Carbon Development

- Buildings in Reading to be built to high standards of energy efficiency incorporating on-site renewable energy where possible
- Retrofit energy efficiency measures into Reading's buildings
- Improve properties to reduce fuel poverty in Reading
- Enable the uptake of Green Deal and associated grants in Reading
- Minimise the 'embodied carbon' incorporated in construction projects
- Continue to develop planning policies that:
  - support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions directly and indirectly from the borough
  - reduce the risks of climate change to the communities of Reading

Natural Environment

- Improve the quality and connectivity of natural habitats
- Encourage local community groups and businesses to become more involved in the management of local green spaces

Water Supply and Flooding

- Manage demand for and supply of water to reduce the expected impact of water shortages on consumers and on wildlife
- Reduce the carbon footprint of water supply and water heating
- Reduce the risk of damage due to flooding

Transport

- Develop a transport infrastructure which supports more low carbon travel options for people in Reading
- Reduce energy use and embodied energy in transport infrastructure
- Manage transport infrastructure and services to prepare for climate change
- Encourage non-car travel for all sectors of the population, through targeted advice, incentives and enforcement
- Reduce the air pollution from vehicles

Purchasing, Supply and Consumption

- Enable people to make sustainable purchasing choices
- Support and encourage local purchasing and the development of local supply chains

- Promote and encourage new business models focused around the 'circular economy'
- Develop standards and the commitment to sustainable procurement in both the public and private sectors
- Increase recycling rates
- Reduce waste by supporting the re-use and repair of products and materials

Education, Communication and Influencing Behaviour

- Further integrate sustainable behaviour promotion and practice throughout schools, colleges, universities, and workplaces
- Ensure that communication which is aimed at influencing climate change related behaviour is delivered in a consistent and targeted way
- Engage organisations in the private sector, including residential and commercial landlords, in effective action to reduce their carbon footprint
- Develop the market for climate change related local business and the skills to ensure that local jobs are created in line with the growing low carbon economy

Community

- Build community activity relating to sustainable communities
- Build community resilience to climate change and self sufficiency (collective and individual)
- Reduce consumption by building a 'sharing economy'
- Build an 'alternative economy' focused on quality of life and emphasising sustainable communities

Biodiversity Action Plan
http://www.reading.gov.uk/documents/consultation/13853/Reading-Biodiversity-Action-Plan-February-06.pdf

The Reading Biodiversity Action Plan was produced in 2006, and it draws up a priority list of species and habitats, and sets out Habitat and Species Action Plans. The priority habitat identified has informed the Sites and Detailed Policies Document, and is shown on the adopted Proposals Map.

Tree Strategy
http://www.reading.gov.uk/businesses/Planning/trees/projects-and-news-about-trees/reading-tree-strategy/

The Tree Strategy seeks to increase tree cover in the Borough by 10% by 2030, and to protect and manage the trees that currently exist. The objectives are as follows:

1. Managing the Council's tree stock
2. Protecting and enhancing important landscape features
3. Enhancing areas lacking tree cover
4. Enhancing biodiversity
5. Climate adaptation
6. The role of new developments
7. Public awareness of trees
8. Securing the resources to deliver the strategy
9. Manage tree waste and by-products

Open Space Strategy
http://www.reading.gov.uk/documents/cultural-leisure/ParksandOpenSpaces/16298/READING-OPEN-SPACES-STRATEGY-FINAL-140307.pdf

The Open Spaces Strategy (2007) has heavily influenced the development of Reading's planning policies on open space. This identifies an issue of an uneven distribution of open space across the town. The objectives are as follows:

- Adopt a comprehensive Reading Open Space Standard based on the most up-to-date national guidelines
- Secure new public open space through the development process where opportunities arise
- Make improvements to the quality and facilities of existing public open space
- Secure more play areas where feasible and manageable
- Change the management of some existing open spaces (like woodlands or under-used

allotments) to increase public access where desirable
- Continue to upgrade facilities in larger parks to benefit the wider population
- Develop a network of safe and attractive green routes for pedestrians and cyclists that will link open spaces across the borough
- Secure an attractive and safe network of urban civic spaces

Thames Parks Plan

The Thames Parks Plan dates from 2004, and aims to physically link the significant areas of public park along the Thames in Reading, and increase the number and range of people using the parks. It takes each of the eight parks in turn and makes recommendations, as well as suggesting measures to deal with cross-cutting issues such as access.

Cultural Strategy
http://www.reading2020.org.uk/GetAsset.aspx?id=fAA2ADUAfAB8AEYAYQBsAHMAZQB8AHwAMAB8AA2

The vision of the cultural strategy is as follows:
"We will build Reading's reputation for cultural excellence at a regional, national and international level by delivering outcomes for the Reading community via an improved cultural life for the town".

The strategy then sets out objectives under each of the nine themes of the then Sustainable Community Strategy, meaning that culture reaches into every aspect of what the local priorities of the community are.

Re3 Joint Waste Management Strategy
http://www.re3.org.uk/Data/Page_Downloads/15.re3JMWMStrategyReport2008-2013.pdf

The Re3 partnership is a grouping of Reading, Wokingham and Bracknell Forest Borough Councils, coming together to deal jointly with municipal waste. The Waste Management Strategy 2008-2013 sets out how municipal waste will be managed in the authorities' areas.

1. The re3 councils will build on current participation in recycling and composting andseek to further raise 'waste awareness' to effect positive behavioural change.
2. The councils will seek to support local businesses, particularly SMEs, in reducing and recycling their waste.
3. The re3 councils will seek to improve the operational, environmental and performance efficiency of their collection services and maximise the opportunity to recycle and compost as many materials as possible.
4. The re3 councils, in partnership with their PFI Contractor, will strive to ensure continuous improvement in the effectiveness, efficiency and quality of the Contract Facilities
5. The councils, in partnership with their PFI Contractor, will seek to ensure that Contract Facilities are user-friendly, provide excellent customer service and are responsive to users' needs.
6. The councils will develop policies and approaches for managing recyclable andreusable waste in partnership with the 'charity' and voluntary sector where appropriate
7. The councils will engage with the Private Sector, particularly those in the retail industry, to deliver improvements in waste minimisation and recycling initiatives.
8. The councils will ensure that compliance with new and emerging legislation is achieved.
9. The councils will strive, in partnership with their PFI Contractor, to exceed all relevant waste-related performance targets.
10. The re3 councils will work with their contactors and other partners to ensure that sustainability and efficiency is considered, in all aspects of their wastemanagement activities, and that they minimise the carbon footprint of waste operations.

Air Quality Action Plan
http://www.reading.gov.uk/residents/environmental-health-and-protection/AirQuality/local-air-quality-management/

The Air Quality Action Plan dates from 2009. It identifies a number of measures to address air quality issues in Reading, including measures promoting sustainable transport, reducing emissions of existing travel movements, working with specific groups to address major

identified sources of air pollution, using the planning process to ensure development does not further reduce air quality, seeking Section 106 contributions to air quality monitoring and measures, and improving communication with the public about air quality issues.

Reading's Health and Well-Being Strategy
http://www.reading.gov.uk/documents/Health_Social_Care/Public_Health/25013/ReadingHealthandWellbeingStrategy.pdf

The joint strategy includes four main goals, and within each goal are a set of sub-goals:

- Promote and protect the health of all communities particularly those disadvantaged
- Increase the focus on early years and the whole family to help reduce health inequalities
- Reduce the impact of long term conditions with approaches focused on specific groups
- Promote health-enabling behaviours and lifestyle tailored to the differing needs of communities.

Community Cohesion Framework
http://www.reading.gov.uk/documents/community-living/13468/CoCohesionFrameworkFinal090707.pdf

The Community Cohesion Framework sets out priorities for community cohesion, as follows:

- Use the community cohesion framework within all organisations
- Communicate and promote the work that we are doing to ensure community cohesion
- Use existing vehicles for delivery, joint initiatives and pool resources.
- Enable an organised voice for young people on community cohesion.
- Ensure access to information through adequate provision of translation/interpretation/alternative formats.
- Celebrate diversity through community events.

The Framework contains a more detailed action plan that sets out how these priorities will be achieved in practice.

Contaminated Land Strategy
http://www.reading.gov.uk/documents/Environment_and_Planning/18091/RBC-ContaminatedLandStrategy2011-Issued.pdf

The Contaminated Land Strategy (2011) sets out how Reading will implement and manage its regime for the identification of contaminated land. The main steps are to identify areas that may be contaminated, to formally designate the land where appropriate, to bring about remediation through voluntary remediation in the first instance or by remediation notice, to maintain a public register, to review the strategy in the light of new information and to provide the Environment Agency with information.

Conservation Area Appraisals
http://www.reading.gov.uk/businesses/Planning/HistoricEnvironment/conservation-areas/

Each of the Borough's 15 conservation areas has an up-to-date Conservation Area Appraisal. These look at what makes up the character of those areas, and what is of particular importance, including identifying undesignated buildings of townscape merit. They also identify priorities for enhancement.

ADJOINING AREAS

Wokingham Borough Core Strategy
http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/planning/policy/ldf/new-ldf-core-strategy/

The Wokingham Borough Core Strategy was adopted in January 2010. It sets out the overall strategy for planning in Wokingham to 2026. It identifies a need to deliver 13,232 homes, which equates to 662 per annum.

The spatial strategy for delivering this development is based around identifying four Strategic Development Locations (SDLs). These are Arborfield Garrison (3,500 homes), South of the M4 (2,500), North Wokingham (1,500) and South Wokingham (2,500), whichwill also include employment and services and facilities. The South of the M4 SDL is the closest to the boundary with Reading, and is close to the South Reading area that Reading's LDF identifies for significant development. To support this development, a range of

infrastructure, particularly transport infrastructure is identified, including relief roads, park and rides etc. The Strategy also identifies a location for a science park at Shinfield, just south of the Reading Borough boundary. More limited development will also take place in other identified settlements, including Earley, Woodley, Winnersh, Shinfield, Green Park and Twyford.

Wokingham Managing Development Delivery Document
http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/planning/policy/ldf/managingdevelopmentdelivery/

The MDD was adopted in February 2014. This builds on the Core Strategy, and allocates sites for housing and other uses, defines policy boundaries and sets out more detailed development policies.

A number of sites in addition to the SDLs identified in the Core Strategy are allocated for housing, including sites totalling 894 dwellings in Woodley and 100 dwellings in Shinfield. Additional employment uses are also allocated for Green Park, Winnersh and Thames Valley Park.

West Berkshire Core Strategy
http://www.westberks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=25436

The West Berkshire Core Strategy was adopted in July 2012. It sets out the overall strategy for planning in West Berkshire to 2026. It identifies a need to deliver 10,500 homes, which equates to 525 per annum. Approximately 1400 of these homes will be located in the Eastern Area, adjoining Reading, including much of the urban area that makes up the wider Reading area. The need for a strategic approach to protecting and enhancing the Kennet Meadows that straddle the boundary with Reading is identified.

A West Berkshire Minerals and Waste DPD is also under preparation, and will need to be considered as it progresses.

South Oxfordshire Core Strategy
http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/core-strategy/adopted-core-strategy

The South Oxfordshire Core Strategy was adopted in December 2012. It sets out the overall strategy for planning in South Oxfordshire to 2027. It identifies a need to deliver 11,487 dwellings, which equates to 547 per annum.

A large proportion of the growth, more than half, will be focussed on Didcot, and there will also be growth in employment and town centre uses to support this. The remainder will be in the towns of Henley, Wallingford and Thame, and in the rural areas.

The Core Strategy recognises the importance of the AONBs, which includes the Chilterns AONB that borders Reading, and the Thames corridor. In addition, it highlights the need to work jointly to address cross-Thames travel issues.

Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Core Strategy
https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/minerals-and-waste-core-strategy

Oxfordshire County Council is in the process of preparing a Minerals and Waste Core Strategy. A draft was published early in 2014.

In terms of minerals, the strategy seeks to provide for the extraction of 7.87 million tonnes of sharp sand and gravel and 0.8 million tonnes of soft sand up to 2030. One of the two areas of search for this provision is Southern Oxfordshire, including the area north east of Caversham, which would consist of an extension to or replacement of the existing quarry.

In terms of waste, Oxfordshire intends to plan for net self-sufficiency. The existing movements of waste into Oxfordshire from neighbouring areas, including Reading, are acknowledged, but the presumption will be against new facilities to deal substantially with residual non-hazardous waste from outside Oxfordshire unless it is not possible to deal with the waste nearer the source.

APPENDIX 2: BASELINE DATA AND INDICATORS

1. To limit the impact of climate change through minimising CO2 emissions and other greenhouse gases.				
Indicator	**Data Sources**	**Data**	**Trend**	
Emissions of CO2 per capita in Reading	Department of Energy & Climate Change	2012 – ***5.2 t***	2011 - ***4.8 t*** 2010 - ***5.5 t*** 2009 - ***5.5 t*** 2008 - ***6.2 t*** 2007 - ***6.3 t*** 2006 - ***6.6 t*** 2005 - ***6.8 t***	Generally, CO2 emissions in Reading per capita have been decreasing year on year, but 2012 represented the first time this year on year decrease had not been realised.
Carbon footprint of Reading	Department of Energy & Climate Change	2011 – ***727.7 kT***	2010 – ***825.5 kT*** 2009 – ***806.3 kT*** 2008 – ***920.7 kT*** 2007 – ***912.1 kT*** 2006 – ***955.1 kT*** 2005 – ***976.2 kT***	The carbon footprint of Reading has decreased by 25% since 2005.
Composition of the carbon footprint of Reading	Department of Energy & Climate Change	2011: Industry and commercial– ***46.2%*** Domestic – ***38.4%*** Transport – ***15.5%***	2005: Industry and commercial– ***51.1%*** Domestic – ***35.7%*** Transport – ***13.2%***	The biggest change has been a reducing proportion of the carbon footprint that comes from industrial and commercial activities.
2. Adapt to inevitable climate change in terms of preparedness for extreme weather events, including avoiding and managing the risk of flooding, heat wave, drought and storm damage.				
Indicator	**Data Sources**	**Data**	**Trend**	
Percentage of all properties at high risk of flooding (Flood Zone 3)[6]	EA/RBC	2013 – ***1.7%***	No data	Far more properties are within Flood Zone 2 than Flood Zone 3. There is no available data on how this has changed over time, but this data will have been affected more by re-drawing the flood zone boundaries than by new development that has taken place.
Percentage of all properties at medium risk of flooding (Flood Zone 2)	EA/RBC	2013 – ***9.5%***[7]	No data	

[6] This includes both residential and commercial properties

[7] Includes properties at high risk of flooding (Flood Zone 3), so percentages should not be totalled

Number of dwellings developed on sites within Flood Zones 2 and 3	RBC	2013-14 - ***41***	2012-13 – ***223*** 2011-12 – ***61*** 2010-11 - ***107***	The statistics for dwellings delivered on sites in FZ2 or 3 is slightly misleading, as it includes all sites wholly or partly within the Flood Zones. The high figures in the last few years have often related to the Battle Hospital site, a site which is partly within Flood Zone 2 but where the majority of the dwellings were delivered outside the FZ2 area.
Amount of new non-residential floorspace delivered on sites within Flood Zones 2 and 3	RBC	2013-14 – ***11,161 sq m***	2012-13 – ***85,360 sq m*** 2011-12 - ***-61,463 sq m*** 2010-11 - ***5,645 sq m***	Generally there is little additional floorspace delivered in Flood Zones 2 and 3. However 2012 and 2013 saw the development of the very large Berkshire Brewery site, which saw a major loss in 2012 and major gain in 2013.
Amount of Borough covered by tree canopy *The Flood & Water Management Act requires a SuDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems) approval body to be set up. Reading Borough Council will therefore soon be responsible for approving SuDS proposals, and this will mean that more information on SuDS will become available, which is relevant to this objective.*	RBC	2010 – ***17.5%*** (see Tree Strategy)	No data	
3. Ensure appropriate, efficient, reliable and careful use and supply of energy, water, minerals, food and other natural resources.				
Indicator	**Data Sources**	**Data**	**Expected trend without policy intervention**	
Estimated water abstraction in EA Thames region	Environment Agency	2012 – ***1,642 million m^3***	2009 – ***2,041 m m^3*** 2006 – ***2,011 m m^3*** 2003 – ***2,098 m m^3***	Water abstraction has been decreasing over recent years. The largest reduction in the Thames region has been within the energy supply industry sector.
Energy consumption in Reading Borough	ONS	2011 – ***211.1 ktoe***[10]	2010 – ***230.4 ktoe*** 2009 – ***236.2 ktoe*** 2008 – ***255.8 ktoe*** 2007 – ***259.4 ktoe*** 2006 – ***266.7 ktoe*** 2005 – ***282.2 ktoe***	Energy consumption has been falling annually between 2005 and 2011. The most dramatic decreases have been in the industrial and commercial sector.

[10] Thousand tonnes of oil equivalent – a standard measure of energy consumption

Amount of sand and gravel sold in Berkshire[8]	Berkshire Local Aggregate Assessment	2012 – ***865,000 tonnes***	2009 – ***840,000 t*** 2006 – ***645,000 t*** 2003 – ***1,000,000 t***	The Berkshire LAA notes a 10 year sales average of 878,100 tonnes between 2003 and 2012. The level of sales has been high at the beginning and end of the ten year period but low in the middle. Reasons are complex, and the relationship with construction activity is not as straightforward as might be thought.
Amount of crushed rock sold from Berkshire and Hampshire rail depots[9]	Berkshire Local Aggregate Assessment	2012 – ***1,200,000 tonnes***	2009 – ***1,100,000 t*** 2006 – ***1,700,000 t*** 2003 – ***2,100,000 t***	Sales of imported crushed rock from Berkshire and Hampshire depots are significantly lower than they were ten years ago.
4. Minimise the consumption of, and reduce damage to, undeveloped land.				
Indicator	**Data Sources**	**Data**	**Trend & expected trend without policy intervention**	
Amount of undeveloped land in Reading Borough	Council records	Approximately ***1,130 ha*** (excluding private gardens)	No data	This amounts to approximately 28% of the Borough. Without any policy intervention one might expect this proportion to reduce.
Amount of development per year on undeveloped land	Monitoring of development	2012-13 – ***64 dwellings*** and ***101 sqm*** of non-residential devt	2011-12 – ***4 dwellings*** and ***1,666 sqm*** of non-residential devt 2010-11 – ***35 dwellings*** and ***0 sqm*** of non-residential devt	No particular clear trend, as the large number of greenfield completions in 2013 was mainly due to one scheme. However, in all years this represents a small proportion of completions.
5. Minimise the generation of waste and promote more sustainable approaches to waste management.				
Indicator	**Data Sources**	**Data**	**Trend**	
Total municipal waste arisings	RE3 Partnership	2012-13 - ***70,251 tonnes***	2010-11 – ***70,815*** 2008-09 – ***77,333*** 2006-07 – ***77,613***	Trend of decreasing arisings, potential to continue although likely to be at lower rate.
Proportion of municipal waste sent for recycling, composting or reuse	RE3 Partnership	2012-13 - ***35.2%***	2010-11 – ***33.9%*** 2008-09 – ***33.9%*** 2006-07 – ***27.9%***	Proportion of waste managed at the top of the waste hierarchy has plateaued. It may be that there is little further scope for improvements in the immediate future.

[8] Minerals data is aggregated to a Berkshire figure because the low level of operations within individual authority areas means that publication at UA level puts commercial confidentiality at risk.

[9] Sales from rail depots is aggregated to Berkshire and Hampshire because the limited amount of depots means that publication at county level puts commercial confidentiality at risk.

6. Minimise air, water, soil/ ground and noise pollution, and improve existing areas of contaminated land and poor air and water quality.				
Indicator	**Data Sources**	**Data**	**Expected trend without policy intervention**	
Annual mean concentration of NO^2 (µg/m3) at Reading AURN site (Newtown)	RBC	2011 - ***27 µg/m3***	2010 - ***26 µg/m3*** 2009 – ***22.4 µg/m3*** 2008 - ***22 µg/m3***	Nitrogen dioxide concentrations at the background monitoring site had remained relatively stable for a number of years but in 2010-11 there has been a noticeable increase in levels. There was a low level of data capture for 2009 and 2010 however. Levels are significantly below the annual mean objective in the Regulations (40 µg/m3)
Annual mean concentration of PM_{10} (µg/m3) at Reading AURN site (Newtown)	RBC	2011 - ***19 µg/m3***	2010 - ***16 µg/m3*** 2009 – ***16.5 µg/m3*** 2008 - ***24 µg/m3***	PM10 concentrations have been relatively stable in recent years. Levels are significantly below the annual mean objective in the Regulations (40 µg/m3)
River water quality in (a) Thames: Whitchurch stw to Kennet (b) Kennet: Holy Brook to Thames (c) Kennet: Foudry Brook to Holy Brook (d) Kennet: Sulhampstead Stream to Foudry Brook	Environment Agency	2009 – ***(a) Chemistry – A; Biology – A; Nitrates – 4; Phosphates – 4*** ***(b) Chemistry – A; Nitrates – 4; Phosphates – 4*** ***(c) Chemistry – A; Nitrates – 4; Phosphates – 4*** ***(d) Chemistry – A; Biology – A; Nitrates – 4; Phosphates – 3***	2004 – ***(a) Chemistry – A; Biology – A; Nitrates – 5; Phosphates – 5*** ***(b) Chemistry – B/A; Nitrates – 4; Phosphates – 4*** ***(c) Chemistry – B/A; Nitrates – 4; Phosphates – 4*** ***(d) Chemistry – A; Biology – A; Nitrates – 4; Phosphates – 4***	Overall river quality in Reading's rivers is good in 2009, and there have been some improvements in river chemistry since 2004 in some stretches. Nutrient levels have decreased in one or two cases.
Proportion of land in the Borough with identified potential for contamination	RBC	2013 – ***approximately 9%***	No data	The amount of land subject to potential contamination is an estimate and needs to be treated with caution. However, it illustrates that contamination is a significant sustainability issue in an urban area such as Reading.

7. Value, protect and enhance the amount and diversity of wildlife, habitat and geology, and other contributors to natural diversity, including establishing/enhancing ecological networks, including watercourses and surrounding corridors.				
Indicator	**Data Sources**	**Data**	**Expected trend without policy intervention**	
Area of Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats.	TVERC	2012-13 – ***499.4 ha***	2009 – ***446.4 ha*** 2008 – ***186.6 ha***	Differences in figures are generally a result of more detailed mapping than any changes on the ground. The 2008 figures are significantly lower because coastal and floodplain grazing marsh (over 250 ha) was first mapped in 2009.
Number (and percentage) of Local Wildlife Sites in positive conservation management	RBC	2013 – ***15 (71%)***	2012 – ***13 (54%)*** 2011 – ***14 (58%)*** 2010 – ***3 (13%)***	In 2010/11, the Council entered into a number of agreements to manage Local Wildlife Sites, and this means that the majority of sites are now in positive conservation management.
8. Avoid contributing towards a likely significant effect, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, that could lead to an adverse effect on the integrity of internationally-designated wildlife sites.				
Indicator	**Data Sources**	**Data**	**Expected trend without policy intervention**	
Percentage of Hartslock SSSI in favourable condition. *(HW)*[11]	Natural England	***88.38%***	No data (all)	Trend data not available, but it is clear that the condition of the various SSSIs that make up the closest part of Thames Basin Heaths SPA to Reading is the principal concern, with many sites in entirely unfavourable condition.
Percentage of Bisham Woods SSSI in favourable condition. *(CB)*	Natural England	***97.35%***		
Percentage of Hollowhill and Pullingshill Woods SSSI in favourable condition. *(CB)*	Natural England	***100%***		
Percentage of Bourley and Long Valley SSSI in favourable condition. *(TBH)*	Natural England	***0.86%***		
Percentage of Bramshill SSSI in favourable condition. *(TBH)*	Natural England	***0%***		
Percentage of Broadmoor to Bagshot Woods and Heaths SSSI in favourable condition. *(TBH)*	Natural England	***65.61%***		

[11] AR = Aston Rowant SAC; CB = Chilterns Beechwoods SAC; HW = Hartslock Wood SAC; KLF = Kennet & Lambourn Floodplains SAC; LW = Little Wittenham SAC; RL = River Lambourn; TBH = Thames Basin Heaths SPA; WFGP = Windsor Forest & Great Park SAC.

Percentage of Castle Bottom to Yateley and Hawley Heaths SSSI in favourable condition. *(TBH)*	Natural England	***28.22%***	
Percentage of Eelmoor Marsh SSSI in favourable condition. *(TBH)*	Natural England	***100%***	
Percentage of Hazeley Heath SSSI in favourable condition. *(TBH)*	Natural England	***0%***	
Percentage of Sandhurst to Owlsmoor Bogs and Heaths SSSI in favourable condition. *(TBH)*	Natural England	***0%***	
Percentage of Windsor Forest and Great Park SSSI in favourable condition. *(WFGP)*	Natural England	***51.85%***	
Percentage of Thatcham Reed Beds SSSI in favourable condition. *(KLF)*	Natural England	***100%***	
Percentage of River Lambourn SSSI in favourable condition. *(RL)*	Natural England	***0%***	
Percentage of Little Wittenham SSSI in favourable condition. *(LW)*	Natural England	***100%***	
Percentage of Shirburn Hill SSSI in favourable condition *(AR)*	Natural England	***0%***	
Percentage of Aston Rowant SSSI in favourable condition *(AR)*	Natural England	***100%***	
Percentage of Aston Rowant Cutting SSSI in favourable condition *(AR)*	Natural England	***100%***	
Percentage of Aston Rowant Woods SSSI in favourable condition *(AR)*	Natural England	***100%***	

9. Create, enhance and maintain attractive and clean environments including protecting and, where appropriate, enhancing landscape and townscape character.				
Indicator	**Data Sources**	**Data**	**Expected trend without policy intervention**	
Number of Super Output Areas within the 20% most deprived for living environment in England	ONS	2010 – ***16***	2007 – ***19*** 2004 – ***25***	There has been a decrease in the number of SOAs with poor living environments. However, the absolute number remains relatively high, so continued intervention is required.
Number of new dwellings completed within designated Major Landscape Features.	RBC	2013-14 – ***2***	2012-13 – ***1*** 2011-12 – ***1*** 2010-11 - ***-1***	Generally, little development takes place within Major Landscape Features, either for residential or non-residential use, partly due to the policy constraint. However, the policy does allow for development that respects the landscape character.
Amount of new non-residential floorspace completed within designated Major Landscape Features.	RBC	2013-14 – ***0 sq m***	2012-13 – ***0 sq m*** 2011-12 – ***0 sq m*** 2010-11 – ***1,147 sq m***	
10. Value, protect and, where possible, enhance the historic environment and the heritage assets therein and the contribution that they make to society and the environment.				
Indicator	**Data Sources**	**Data**	**Expected trend without policy intervention**	
Heritage Assets on the 'Heritage at Risk Register'	English Heritage	***3*** (Chazey Farm Barn (Grade I); St David's Hall (Grade II*; Reading Abbey (Scheduled Ancient Monument))	No data	There have, unsurprisingly, been no clear trends in terms of the historic environment in recent years. However one would expect over time that without policy intervention the condition of heritage assets would deteriorate, and their setting potentially compromised.
Number of: Listed buildings Scheduled Ancient Monuments Registered parks & gardens Locally listed buildings	RBC	2013: ***855***[12] ***2*** ***5*** ***4***	 No data No recent change No recent change 2011 – ***0***	
Area of Borough covered by Conservation Area designation	RBC	2013 - ***132.7 ha*** (3.3%)	No change in recent years	
Percentage of planning permissions involving new development where archaeological investigations were required prior to approval.	RBC	No data		

[12] There were 515 listing entries at 2013, as some listings contain a number of buildings

Percentage of planning permissions involving new development where archaeological mitigations strategies were developed and implemented. *The English Heritage publication 'Strategic Environmental Assessment, Sustainability Appraisal and the Historic Environment' makes suggestions about the baseline information to include. The most significant gaps in the information that RBC holds when compared to these suggestions are around the definition or townscape character, the condition of assets other than those at risk, and the lack of a historic landscape assessment.*	RBC	No data		
11. Protect, promote and improve human health, safety and well-being including through healthy lifestyles.				
Indicator	**Data Sources**	**Data**	**Trend**	
Number of Super Output Areas within the 20% most deprived for health deprivation and disability in England	ONS	2010 – ***12***	2004 – ***1*** 2007 – ***1***	There has been a massive increase in the number of SOAs within the 20% most deprived. The reasons for this are not entirely clear, but it marks health out as a clear issue to address in planning policy where possible.
Residents describing their health as good or very good	Reading Residents Survey	2012 – ***82.7%***	2008 – ***81.4%*** 2009 – ***80.7%*** 2011 – ***80.8%***	The data shows a fairly consistent level over recent years.
Percentage of residents participating in at least 30 mins of sport/active recreation on 3 or more days per week	Reading Residents Survey	2012 – ***72%***	No data	
Road collision casualties by severity: (a) Serious	DfT[13]	2012: (a) ***38***	Average 2009-11: (a) ***41***	The data shows that there has been a declining trend in road collision casualties over recent years, particularly where the

[13] http://road-collisions.dft.gov.uk/

(b) Slight (c) Fatal		(b) ***392*** (c) ***2***	(b) ***438*** (c) ***2*** Average 2006-08: (a) ***43*** (b) ***482*** (c) ***3***	severity is slight. However, the total casualties per 100 million vehicle miles is still substantially higher for Reading than for other Berkshire authorities, so policy intervention will continue to be necessary.
12. Promote strong and vibrant communities through reduction in crime and the fear of crime and enhanced community cohesion.				
Indicator	**Data Sources**	**Data**	**Trend**	
Notifiable offices recorded by the police – burglaries, robberies & vehicle crime[14]	ONS	2010-11 – ***5,520***	2007-08 - ***6,982*** 2004-05 - ***8,513***	Burglary, robbery and vehicle crime has decreased very significantly and consistently since 2004-05, indicating a pattern that is likely to continue. However, the number of offences per 10,000 residents (355) is more than double the South East average (152).
Notifiable offices recorded by the police – violent crime[15]	ONS	2010-11 – ***6,702***	2007-08 – ***7,914*** 2004-05 – ***7,394***	Violent crime of the types included in this figure has decreased significantly since 2004-05, but this seems to be subject to some fluctuation. However, the number of offences per 10,000 residents (430) is very significantly higher than the South East average (239).
Percentage of people who feel level of crime needs to be improved	Reading Residents Survey	2012 – ***29%***	2011 – ***36%*** 2009 – ***42%*** 2008 – ***49%***	The percentage of people who consider that levels of crime need to be improved has dropped considerably in recent years.
Percentage of people who believe that people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area	Reading Residents Survey	2012 – ***84.2%***	2011 – ***81.1%*** 2009 – ***82.2%*** 2008 – ***77.8%***	Most people have a positive view of community cohesion in their local area, and this has slightly increased over recent years.
13. Ensure high quality housing of a type and cost appropriate to the needs of the area.				
Indicator	**Data Sources**	**Data**	**Trend**	
Net housing completed per annum	Residential commitments	2012-13 – ***474*** 2013-14 - ***361***	2009-12 average - ***442*** 2006-09 average – ***752***	Low levels of completions in recent years due to the recession. However, levels of housing delivery have

[14] Robbery; Theft from the person; Burglary in a dwelling; Burglary other than a dwelling; Theft from a motor vehicle; Theft of a motor vehicle

[15] Violence against the person; Wounding or other act endangering life; Other wounding; Common assault

	documents		2003-06 average – ***865***	otherwise historically been good in recent years.
Net affordable housing delivered per annum	AMR	2012-13 - ***197***	2009-12 average – ***115*** 2006-09 average – ***231***	Recent levels of delivery have been lower in line with all completions, due to the recession, although 2013 figures are healthier than the preceding period.
Proportion of units which are over 3 bedrooms per annum	AMR (2013 data) Housing Mix Background Paper (2001-08 data)	2012-13 - ***24.3%*** of permitted dwellings	2001-08 - ***15.4%*** of completed dwellings[16]	Significantly higher levels of permissions for larger dwellings in 2013, which may be related to adoption of a new policy in 2012. However, it may also be related to decrease in development activity for housing in central Reading, which tends to deliver smaller units.
Percentage of residents satisfied with their home	Reading Residents Survey	2012 – ***85%***	2008 – ***89%*** 2009 – ***86%*** 2011 – ***89%***	There has been a slight decrease in satisfaction in the latest figures.
14. Reduce the need for travel and transport particularly by car or lorry and facilitate sustainable travel choices.				
Indicator	**Data Sources**	**Data**	**Expected trend without policy intervention**	
Percentage of all journeys to central Reading by the following modes: (a) Car and taxi (b) Cycling (c) Pedestrian (d) Bus (e) Rail	RBC/PBA	2013: (a) ***22.0%*** (b) ***2.6%*** (c) ***30.5%*** (d) ***25.2%*** (e) ***19.7%***	2012: (a) ***22.2%*** (b) ***2.7%*** (c) ***31.5%*** (d) ***24.4%*** (e) ***19.2%*** 2011: (a) ***21.2%*** (b) ***2.9%*** (c) ***32.2%*** (d) ***24.5%*** (e) ***19.3%*** 2010: (a) ***23.2%*** (b) ***3.2%*** (c) ***32.8%***	The recent data shows some fluctuations from year to year. The most clearly identifiable trends are an increase in the proportion of bus and rail use, and a decrease in the proportion of cycle use. Recent measures such as the redevelopment of the station, and the introduction of cycle hire, are likely to have an effect on these figures into the future.

[16] Caution required in terms of comparison between completions data and permissions data, as lapse rates may differ according to size. However, this is the only data that is readily available

			(d) ***22.1%*** (e) ***18.6%***	
Percentage of households without a car or van	ONS	2011 – ***28.3%***	2001 – ***27.3%***	The percentage of households without access to a car or van has actually risen, perhaps contrary to expectations. The level is significantly higher than that of the South East (18.6%). This increase has mainly been seen in the central wards (Abbey, Battle, Katesgrove) where residential development with limited car parking has taken place, whilst the trend has been the opposite in more suburban wards.
15. Ensure good physical access for all to essential services and facilities, including healthcare.				
Indicator	**Data Sources**	**Data**	**Trend**	
Number of Super Output Areas within the 20% most deprived for barriers to housing and essential services in England	ONS	2010 – ***6***	2007 – ***2*** 2004 – ***10***	No clear trend over time, but potential for access to services to worsen without policy intervention to focus facilities in more accessible locations
Proportion of addresses within 800m of a GP surgery	RBC	2014 – ***80%***	2007 – ***83%***	There has been a decline in the proportion of properties within 800m of a GP surgery. Main areas affected are much of Caversham and Emmer Green, and parts of Tilehurst and Whitley.
Proportion of addresses within 800m of a designated district centre.	RBC	2014 – ***76%***	2006 – ***72%***	The increase in proportion of properties within 800m of a district centre was as a result of a policy change in the Core Strategy adopted in 2008, rather than any changes on the ground.
16. Avoid significant negative effects on groups or individuals with regard to race, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.				
Indicator	**Data Sources**	**Data**	**Trend**	
Percentage of residents who are from the following ethnic groups: (a) White (b) Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups (c) Asian or Asian British (d) Black or Black British (e) Other	ONS	2011: (a) ***74.8%*** (b) ***4.0%*** (c) ***13.6%*** (d) ***6.7%*** (e) ***1.0%***	2001: (a) ***86.8%*** (b) ***2.4%*** (c) ***5.9%*** (d) ***4.1%*** (e) ***0.7%***	Between 2001 and 2011 there has been a very significant change in the ethnic mix of Reading Borough, with the percentage of people within all groups apart from white increasing. The percentage of people within Asian and Asian British groups has more than doubled.

Percentage of residents stating that they are of the following religions: (a) No religion (b) Christian (c) Muslim (d) Hindu (e) Buddhist (f) Sikh (g) Jewish (h) Other	ONS	2011: (a) ***29.5%*** (b) ***50.0%*** (c) ***7.1%*** (d) ***3.6%*** (e) ***1.2%*** (f) ***0.6%*** (g) ***0.2%*** (h) ***0.5%***	2001: (a) ***22.0%*** (b) ***62.6%*** (c) ***4.0%*** (d) ***1.0%*** (e) ***0.5%*** (f) ***0.5%*** (g) ***0.3%*** (h) ***0.4%***	Changes are in like for those for ethnicity, meaning that there has been a significant increase in diversity of religion, with the percentage of Christian people decreasing but increases in most other religions. The largest increase, however, has been in 'no religion'.
Percentage of residents within the following age bands: (a) 0-15 (b) 16-24 (c) 25-44 (d) 45-64 (e) 65+	ONS	2011: (a) ***19.4%*** (b) ***14.6%*** (c) ***34.4%*** (d) ***20.2%*** (e) ***11.4%***	2001: (a) ***19.2%*** (b) ***15.0%*** (c) ***34.0%*** (d) ***19.3%*** (e) ***12.6%***	The age structure has changed very little between 2001 and 2011, Despite the increase in people of 65 or over during the same period at a national or regional level, the proportion of 65s and over in Reading has actually decreased.
Percentage of residents whose day to day activities are limited by long-term illness or disability: (a) A lot (b) A little	ONS	2011: (a) ***5.7%*** (b) ***7.3%***	No comparable data	There is not any comparable data between the 2001 and 2011 censuses. However, it is clear that there is a significant proportion of the Borough whose day-to-day activities are limited by long-term illness or disability.
17. Value, protect and enhance opportunities for all to engage in culture, leisure, and physical and recreational activity, particularly in areas of open space and waterspace.				
Indicator	**Data Sources**	**Data**	**Trend**	
Net change in D2 leisure floorspace	Non-Residential Commitments document	2013-14 - ***3,484 m^2***	2012-13 – ***2,223 m^2*** 2011-12 – ***3,436 m^2*** 2010-11 – ***1,230 m^2*** 2009-10 - ***-213 m^2***	With the exception of 2009-10, there has been a net increase in D2 assembly and leisure floorspace each year.
Amount of recreational public open space in Reading Borough.	Open Spaces Strategy	2007 – ***356 ha*** (approx. 9% of Borough)	No data	It is not possible to identify trends due to the lack of historic data that is readily available. However, trends will mainly be due to development activity – either new provision through major development, or loss of space to development. No major loss of recreational public open space to development has occurred since the Strategy.

Percentage of residents satisfied with sports and leisure facilities	Reading Residents Survey	2012 – ***51%***	2010 – ***56%*** 2009 – ***55%*** 2008 – ***48%***	Although there is no clear trend over recent years, there is clearly an issue with only half of residents satisfied with facilities.
Percentage of residents who are satisfied with parks and open spaces	Reading Residents Survey	2012 – ***78%***	2011 – ***80%*** 2009 – ***72%*** 2008 – ***75%***	This is in line with previous surveys, meaning little change in the overall level of satisfaction.
18. Facilitate sustainable economic growth and regeneration that provides employment opportunities for all and supports a successful, competitive, and balanced local economy that meets the needs of the area.				
Indicator	**Data Sources**	**Data**	**Trend**	
Unemployment rates (16-64)	ONS	2012-13 - ***6.5%***	2009-10 – ***7.6%*** 2006-07 – ***5.1%***	Unemployment worsened in the recession period, but is decreasing at 2013. It has not yet recovered to pre-recession levels. Still below England & Wales average at 2012-13 (7.8%).
Net change in number of enterprises	ONS[17]	2011 - ***+135***	2011 - ***+305*** 2010 - ***+60*** 2009 - ***-150***	Deaths of enterprises significantly outnumbered births in 2009 at the height of the recession, but the picture has improved since. The pattern is similar in the South East as a whole, albeit that deaths still outnumbered births in 2010.
Number of enterprises per 10,000 population	ONS[8]	2011 – ***399***	See above	In 2011, the corresponding South East figure was 436 and for England and Wales 380. Reading therefore has fewer enterprises per head of population than the regional average but more than the national average.
Total B1-B8/A2 floorspace in Reading	Non-Residential Commitments document	2013 - ***1,460,837 m^2***	2008 – ***1,452,140 m^2*** 2003 - ***1,529,700 m^2*** 1998 - ***1,478,950 m^2*** 1993 – ***1,506,630 m^2***	Amount of employment floorspace in the Borough is lower than at many points in recent years, in particular due to loss of older stock to redevelopment or conversion for housing. This process can be expected to continue with the new permitted development rights for conversion of B1 to residential.

[17] http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/bus-register/business-demography/2012/index.html

19. Reduce deprivation and inequality within and between communities.				
Indicator	**Data Sources**	**Data**	**Expected trend without policy intervention**	
Indices of multiple deprivation – number of Super Output Areas within lowest 10% in England	ONS	2010 – ***12***	2007 – ***11*** 2004 – ***8***	The number of SOAs within the 10% most deprived in England has been increasing.
Percentage of people of working age claiming a key benefit	ONS	2010 – ***12%***	2008 – ***11%***	Information over time for claiming key benefits may not be particularly useful, as this is subject to change in eligibility, benefit structure etc. However, the Reading figure in 2010 was higher than the South East average (11%) but lower than the England average (15%).
Percentage of children in low-income families in Reading[18]	HMRC	Feb 2014 – ***20.8%***	No directly comparable data	The percentage of children in low-income households in Reading is slightly above the England average (20.1%) and well above the South East average (14.6%).
Percentage of children in low-income families in Reading by lower level SOA - Lowest in Reading (Reading 002E) - Highest in Reading (Reading 016C)	HMRC	Feb 2014 - Lowest - ***1.3%*** - Highest - ***40.3%***	No directly comparable data	The spread within Reading is very wide, with very low and very high levels of children in low-income households. The range is wider than any other authority within Berkshire, indicating substantial inequality between communities.
20. Maximise access for all to the necessary education, skills and knowledge to play a full role in society and support the sustainable growth of the local economy.				
Indicator	**Data Sources**	**Data**	**Expected trend without policy intervention**	
Number of Super Output Areas within the 20% most deprived for education, skills and training in England	ONS	2010 – ***18***	2007 – ***21*** 2004 - ***24***	Although the number of SOAs within the 20% most deprived is decreasing, it still represents a very substantial deprivation issue, particularly given that many of these SOAs are also in the 10% most deprived, and also bearing in mind that Reading otherwise has high skills levels.

[18] Number of children living in families in receipt of CTC whose reported income is less than 60 per cent of the median income or in receipt of IS or (Income-Based) JSA, divided by the total number of children in the area (determined by Child Benefit data). Source: http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/*/http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/statistics/child-poverty/local-authority.xls

People aged 16-74 with the following as the highest qualification level achieved: (a) No qualifications (b) Level 1 (c) Level 2 (d) Level 3 (e) Level 4 or above	ONS	2011: (a) ***17.4%*** (b) ***12.2%*** (c) ***12.3%*** (d) ***13.4%*** (e) ***34.8%***	2001: (a) ***22.8%*** (b) ***15.0%*** (c) ***17.5%*** (d) ***11.5%*** (e) ***28.3%***	According to the statistics, the qualification level of Reading residents has increased notably since 2001, with fewer people without qualifications and more people with Level 4 or higher. However, the proportion with no qualifications is still a significant minority.
Number of major applications determined where Employment & Skills Plans/financial contributions to development of an ESP have been secured.	Planning records	2013-14 - ***4***	2012-13 - ***3***	An Employment, Skills and Training SPD was adopted in April 2013, which widens the scope of developments that should address employment, skills and training issues. This will be expected to lead to higher numbers of plans (or financial contributions) in future.

APPENDIX 3: DETAILED SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK

OBJECTIVE	SUB-QUESTIONS[19]	BASELINE INDICATOR[20] AND OVERALL AIM[21]
1. To limit the impact of climate change through minimising CO2 emissions and other greenhouse gases.	Would it result in the emission of greenhouse gases through the development process? Would it result in the emission of greenhouse gases directly from the end use? Would it result in the emission of greenhouse gases from transport to and from the development? Would it result in the emission of greenhouse gases from any other source? Would it result in the provision of any renewable energy generation?	Emissions of CO2 per capita in Reading ***Aim – reduce CO2 emissions per capita*** Carbon footprint of Reading ***Aim - Reduce by 34% by 2020 as compared to 2005 figures*** (from *Reading Means Business on Climate Change*)
2. Adapt to inevitable climate change in terms of preparedness for extreme weather events, including avoiding and managing the risk of flooding, heat wave, drought and storm damage.	Would it improve water flows, for example by introducing more permeable surfaces, reducing building footprints, reducing barriers etc, or would it worsen flows? Would it increase or reduce risk to people and property as a result of flooding? Would it improve the independence of residents or business in terms of energy or resources? Would it increase or reduce shading through vegetation? Would it increase or reduce the risk from storm damage?	Properties at high risk of flooding (Flood Zone 3) Properties at medium risk of flooding (Flood Zone 2) Number of dwellings developed on sites within Flood Zones 2 and 3 Amount of new non-residential floorspace delivered on sites within Flood Zones 2 and 3 ***Aim – minimise development on Flood Zones 2 and 3*** Amount of Borough covered by tree canopy ***Aim – increase by 10% to 2030*** (from *Tree Strategy*)

[19] These questions are intended as a way to prompt detailed consideration of the effect against each sustainability objective. They cannot be entirely comprehensive, as an individual plan or proposal may have unique effects in terms of the objective.

[20] See Appendix 2

[21] Where an aim is expressed, this is generally a broad sustainability aim or direction of travel. It is not necessarily a target that the Council has officially signed up to. Where there is an expressed target for Reading which has been agreed, this is referenced in this column.

3. Ensure appropriate, efficient, reliable and careful use and supply of energy, water, minerals, food and other natural resources.	Would it result in the use of energy, water, minerals, food and other natural resources? Would the use of those resources be as efficient as possible? Would it contribute to increased supply of energy, water, minerals, food and other natural resources? If so, would that increased supply be appropriate in terms of environmental, social and economic effects? Would it result in greater independence or reliability in terms of supply of energy, water, minerals, food and other natural resources, for Reading as a whole or for specific communities or individuals?	Estimated water abstraction in EA Thames region ***Aim – Reduce Reading's contribution to water abstraction in the Thames region.*** Energy consumption in Reading Borough ***Aim – Reduce energy consumption*** Amount of sand and gravel sold in Berkshire Amount of crushed rock sold from Berkshire and Hampshire rail depots. ***Aim – Keep aggregate information under review to inform future plan-making.***
4. Minimise the consumption of, and reduce damage to, undeveloped land.	Would it result in development on undeveloped land? Would it maximise the efficiency of use of previously-developed land? Would it displace any other activities onto undeveloped land? Where greenfield land is to be used, would there be any effect on the best and most versatile agricultural land?	Proportion of development on previously developed land ***Aim – maximise proportion of development on previously-developed land***
5. Minimise the generation of waste and promote more sustainable approaches to waste management.	Would it result in an increase or decrease in generation of waste? Would it promote reuse of waste, potentially on site? Would it promote recycling of waste? Would it lead to any effects on existing or proposed waste management activities?	Total municipal waste arisings ***Aim –reduce total municipal waste arisings.*** Proportion of municipal waste sent for recycling, composting or reuse ***Aim – proportion of municipal waste sent for recycling, composting or reuse.***
6. Minimise air, water, soil/ ground and noise pollution, and improve existing areas of contaminated land and poor air and water quality.	Would it cause additional air pollution? Would it reduce or increase exposure to air pollution?	Annual mean concentration of NO^2 (µg/m3) at Reading AURN site (Newtown) Annual mean concentration of PM_{10} (µg/m3) at Reading AURN site (Newtown)

	Would it cause additional groundwater pollution? Would it cause additional surface water pollution? Would it reduce or increase exposure to water pollution? Would it cause additional soil pollution or contamination? Would it reduce or increase exposure to contamination? Would it contribute to improvements to existing areas of contaminated land and poor air quality?	***Aim – Ensure that levels remain below the annual mean objective in the Regulations (40 µg/m3)*** River water quality in Reading's rivers ***Aim – maintain high water quality in Reading's rivers.*** Proportion of land in the Borough with identified potential for contamination ***Aim - Ensure sites are sufficiently decontaminated prior to future redevelopment.***
7. Value, protect and enhance the amount and diversity of wildlife, habitat and geology, and other contributors to natural diversity, including establishing/enhancing ecological networks, including watercourses and surrounding corridors.	Would it lead to direct loss of an area of wildlife habitat? Would it lead to changes to the level of human activity in and around such areas? Would it lead to positive or negative effects on wildlife through changes to levels of noise, disturbance, pollution, introduction of pets etc? Would it affect the movement of wildlife along corridors or between habitats? Would it affect the geology of the area?	Area of Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats. ***Aim – protect areas of BAP priority habitats*** Number (and percentage) of Local Wildlife Sites in positive conservation management ***Aim – increase percentage of sites in positive conservation management***
8. Avoid contributing towards a likely significant effect, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, that could lead to an adverse effect on the integrity of internationally-designated wildlife sites.	Would there be significant adverse effects, either on its own or in combination with other plans and strategies, on an SPA, SAC or Ramsar site, in terms of: - Noise, disturbance and vibration? - Air pollution and quality? - Water pollution and quality? - Water flows? - Climate change?	Percentage of each site in favourable condition. ***Aim - Avoid contributing to significant effects on SPA, SAC or Ramsar site.***

	- Habitat loss and degradation? - Landscape effects? - Lighting? *(See Section 7 for further information)*	
9. Create, enhance and maintain attractive and clean environments including protecting and, where appropriate, enhancing landscape and townscape character.	Would it result in a development that is well-designed and is appropriate to the character of the area? Would it result in development that affected views of an important landscape or townscape, both from short distances and from further afield? Would it result in areas that are well-maintained and kept free of litter and vandalism? Would it result in or contribute towards the creation of a new high-quality townscape or landscape?	Number of Super Output Areas within the 20% most deprived for living environment in England. ***Aim – reduce number of SOAs within 20% most deprived for living environment.*** Number of new dwellings completed within designated Major Landscape Features. Amount of new non-residential floorspace completed within designated Major Landscape Features. ***Aim – minimise development within Major Landscape Features***
10. Value, protect and, where possible, enhance the historic environment and the heritage assets therein and the contribution that they make to society and the environment.	Would it have direct impacts on a designated heritage asset, e.g. listed building, conservation area, scheduled ancient monument, registered park or garden etc? Would it have direct impacts on an undesignated heritage asset? Would it have a negative, or positive, effect on the setting of a heritage asset? Would it result in new development that would make the most of the opportunities provided by heritage assets? Would it have impacts on access by the community to heritage assets?	Number and percentage of Heritage Assets on the 'Heritage at Risk Register' ***Aim – reduce number of heritage assets on register and improve condition of the assets currently on register.*** Number of: Listed buildings Scheduled Ancient Monuments Registered parks & gardens Locally listed buildings Area of Borough covered by Conservation Area designation. ***Aim – no loss of heritage assets or damage to their significance through development.*** Percentage of planning permissions involving new development where archaeological investigations were required prior to approval.

		Aim – 100% of permissions within areas of archaeological potential Percentage of planning permissions involving new development where archaeological mitigations strategies were developed and implemented. ***Aim – 100% of permissions where assessments where archaeological investigations revealed likely archaeological significance.***
11. Protect, promote and improve human health, safety and well-being including through healthy lifestyles.	Would it promote healthy lifestyles through greater opportunity for formal and informal sport and recreation? Would it increase walking and cycling? Would it reduce or increase contributors to poor physical health, for example poor air quality? Would it reduce or increase contributors to poor mental health, for example noise and disturbance? Would it reduce or increase potential exposure to accident or injury?	Number of Super Output Areas within the 20% most deprived for health deprivation and disability in England ***Aim – reduce number of SOAs within 20% most deprived for health deprivation and disability.*** Residents describing their health as good or very good ***Aim – increase health levels of residents.*** Percentage of residents participating in at least 30 mins of sport/active recreation on 3 or more days per week ***Aim – increase percentage of residents participating on 3 or more days per week*** Road collision casualties ***Aim – reduce casualties***
12. Promote strong and vibrant communities through reduction in crime and the fear of crime and enhanced community cohesion.	Would it reduce actual crime levels? Would it reduce the fear of crime? Would it enhance community cohesion? Would it result in formal or informal areas or opportunities for all members of the community to come together?	Notifiable offices recorded by the police – burglaries, robberies & vehicle crime Notifiable offices recorded by the police – violent crime ***Aim – reduce crime levels in Reading*** Percentage of people who feel level of crime needs to be improved ***Aim - Reduce the fear of crime and ensure residents feel safe in their area*** Percentage of people who believe that people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area

		Aim - Increase the percentage of people who believe that people from different backgrounds get on well together.
13. Ensure high quality housing of a type and cost appropriate to the needs of the area.	Would it increase the supply and/or quality of housing? Would it increase the supply and/or quality of affordable housing? Would it reduce homelessness? Would it make the housing stock more responsive to the needs of the area, e.g. for specific groups, people with disabilities etc?	Net housing completed per annum Net affordable housing delivered per annum ***Aim – meet objectively assessed housing development needs where possible.*** Proportion of units which are over 3 bedrooms per annum. ***Aim – Increase proportion of new houses that are 3-bed or larger.*** Percentage of residents satisfied with their home ***Aim – Increase percentage of residents satisfied with their home***
14. Reduce the need for travel and transport particularly by car or lorry and facilitate sustainable travel choices.	Would it result in reduced distances between homes, jobs and services to reduce the need to travel? Would it result in a reduction in journeys by car or lorry? Would it result in an increase in journeys by foot or cycle? Would it result in an increase in journeys by public transport?	Percentage of all journeys to central Reading by listed modes. ***Aim – Reduce proportion of trips to central Reading made by car.*** Percentage of households without a car or van ***Aim – Ensure that accessibility to local shops and services is maximised.*** (See also objectives in the Local Transport Plan 2011: http://www.reading.gov.uk/council/strategies-plans-and-policies/TransportStrategy/local-transport-plan-3-2011-onwards/)
15. Ensure good physical access for all to essential services and facilities, including healthcare.	Would it result in good physical access for all to healthcare facilities? Would it result in good physical access for all to education and training facilities? Would it result in good physical access for all to shops and services?	Number of Super Output Areas within the 20% most deprived for barriers to housing and essential services in England ***Aim – reduce number of SOAs within 20% most deprived for barriers to housing and essential services.*** Proportion of addresses within 800m of a GP surgery. Proportion of addresses within 800m of a designated district

	Would it result in good physical access for all to community meeting spaces and public functions? Would it result in good physical access for all to leisure and recreation facilities?	centre. ***Aim – increase proportion of addresses within 800m of GP surgery and district centre.***
16. Avoid significant negative effects on groups or individuals with regard to race, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.	Is the overall relevance to the equality duties high, medium or low? If the relevance is medium or high: - Are there concerns that it does or could have a differential impact on racial groups? - Are there concerns that it does or could have a differential impact due to gender? - Are there concerns that it does or could have a differential impact due to disability? - Are there concerns that it does or could have a differential impact due to sexual orientation? - Are there concerns that it does or could have a differential impact due to age? - Are there concerns that it does or could have a differential impact due to religious belief? Would any of the impacts identified above be adverse?	Percentage of residents from listed ethnic groups. Percentage of residents stating that they are of listed religions. Percentage of residents within defined age bands. Percentage of residents whose day to day activities are limited by long-term illness or disability. ***Aim – avoid significant negative effects on identified groups.***
17. Value, protect and enhance opportunities for all to engage in culture, leisure, and physical and recreational activity, particularly in areas of open space and waterspace.	Would it result in more or less culture, leisure or recreational facilities (e.g. sports facilities, cinemas, theatres, libraries, art galleries, open spaces, visitor attractions)? Would it result in any changes to the quality of culture, leisure or recreational facilities? Would it result in an increase or decrease in overall accessibility to culture, leisure or recreational facilities?	Net change in D2 leisure floorspace ***Aim – Net increase in D2 leisure floorspace*** Amount of recreational public open space in Reading Borough. ***Aim – Net increase in amount of recreational public open space*** Percentage of residents satisfied with sports and leisure

	Would it result in different effects on different groups in terms of accessibility to culture, leisure or recreational facilities, e.g. for elderly people or people with disabilities? Would it result in increased use of built culture, leisure and recreation facilities? Would it result in increased use of informal recreation facilities such as open spaces, waterside areas etc? Would it result in any changes to public rights of way used for recreation purposes?	facilities Percentage of residents who are satisfied with parks and open spaces ***Aim – Increase percentage of residents who are satisfied with sports and leisure facilities, parks and open spaces.***
18. Facilitate sustainable economic growth and regeneration that provides employment opportunities for all and supports a successful, competitive, and balanced local economy that meets the needs of the area.	Would it result in additional economic activity in Reading? Would that economic activity be of a type and scale that can be supported by the existing infrastructure (including housing supply) and workforce of Reading? If not, would the economic activity contribute to measures that mitigate its impact on the existing infrastructure and workforce? Would it actively contribute to a balance of activity in the area, in terms of type and scale, or would it instead result in an over-specialisation of the economy that is vulnerable to economic fluctuations? Would it result in a range of employment opportunities that meet the needs of Reading? Would it result in added value to the economy through effects such as clustering or links with research facilities?	Unemployment rates (16-64) ***Aim – Reduce unemployment rates.*** Net change in number of enterprises Number of enterprises per 10,000 population ***Aim – Support the establishment and growth of local business opportunities.*** Total B1-B8/A2 floorspace in Reading ***Aim – Minimise loss of employment floorspace unless that floorspace is no longer needed.***
19. Reduce deprivation and inequality within and between communities.	Would it result in investment, job opportunities or improved services and facilities and infrastructure within deprived areas? If so, would the investment, job opportunities or services and facilities and infrastructure be of a type to help address the needs	Indices of multiple deprivation – number of Super Output Areas within lowest 10% in England ***Aim – Reduce number of SOAs in the 20% most deprived.*** Percentage of people of working age claiming a key benefit

	of those areas? Would it result in a greater mix and balance of communities, or would it instead result in the concentration of deprivation in certain areas (for instance through the provision of surrogate affordable housing sites in less affluent areas)? Would it help to address some of the identified issues in Reading, for instance a significant minority with low or no skills, or access to affordable housing?	Percentage of children in low-income families in Reading ***Aim – Reduce poverty and deprivation, in particular child poverty.***
20. Maximise access for all to the necessary education, skills and knowledge to play a full role in society and support the sustainable growth of the local economy.	Would it result in changes to the provision of education facilities, either overall or for specific groups? Would it result in an opportunity for skills and education in the local area to be enhanced through the construction phase? Would it result in an opportunity for skills and education in the local area to be enhanced through the end user phase? Would it result in improved links and relationships between education providers and businesses?	Number of Super Output Areas within the 20% most deprived for education, skills and training in England. ***Aim – Reduce number of SOAs in the 20% most deprived.*** People aged 16-74 with the following as the highest qualification level achieved: (a) No qualifications (b) Level 1 (c) Level 2 (d) Level 3 (e) Level 4 or above ***Aim – increase skills and qualification levels*** Number of major applications determined where Employment & Skills Plans/financial contributions to development of an ESP have been secured. ***Aim – an ESP or financial contribution towards an ESP with every major planning permission.***

APPENDIX 4: TRACKED CHANGES VERSION OF SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES

Living within Environmental Limits (Environmental Objectives)	
1	To limit the impact of climate change through minimising CO2 emissions and other greenhouse gases.
2	Adapt to inevitable climate change in terms of preparedness for extreme weather events, including avoiding and managing the risk of flooding, heat wave, drought and storm damage.
3	Ensure appropriate, efficient, reliable and careful use and supply of energy, water, minerals, food and other natural resources.
4	Minimise the consumption of, and reduce damage to, undeveloped land.
5	Minimise the generation of waste and promote more sustainable approaches to waste management.
6	Minimise air, water, soil/ ground and noise pollution, and improve existing areas of contaminated land and poor air and water quality.
7	Value, protect and enhance the amount and diversity of wildlife, habitat and geology, and other contributors to natural diversity, including establishing/enhancing ecological networks, including watercourses and surrounding corridors.
8	Avoid contributing towards a likely significant effect, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, that could lead to an adverse effect on the integrity ofs ~~on~~ internationally-designated wildlife sites.
9	Create, enhance and maintain attractive and clean environments including protecting and, where appropriate, enhancing ~~important~~ landscapes and townscapes character.
10	Value, protect and, where ~~appropriate~~possible, enhance the historic environment and the heritage assets therein and the contribution that they make to society and the environment.
Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society (Social & Economic Objectives)	
11	Protect, promote and improve human health, safety and well-being including through healthy lifestyles.
12	Promote strong and vibrant communities through reduction in crime and the fear of crime and enhanced community cohesion.
13	Ensure high quality housing of a type and cost appropriate to the needs of the area.
14	Reduce the need for travel and transport particularly by car or lorry and facilitate sustainable travel choices.
15	Ensure good physical access for all to essential services and facilities, including healthcare.
16	Avoid significant negative effects on groups or individuals with regard to race, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.
17	~~Ensure accessible~~Value, protect and enhance opportunities for all to engage in culture, leisure, and physical and recreational activity, particularly in areas of open space and waterspace.
18	Facilitate sustainable economic growth and regeneration that provides employment opportunities for all and supports a successful, competitive, and balanced local economy that meets the needs of the area.
19	Reduce deprivation and inequality within and between communities.
20	Maximise access for all to the necessary education, skills and knowledge to play a full role in society and support the sustainable growth of the local economy.

Planning Section
Reading Borough Council
Civic Centre, Bridge Street
Reading
RG1 2LU
Tel: 0118 937 3337
Email: ldf@reading.gov.uk
Website: www.reading.gov.uk/readingldf

Reading Borough Council
Working better with you