

# Sustainability Appraisal

## for Revised Local Plan DPD 2011 – 2029

### Incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment

Non-Technical

Summary

November 2013



## Commenting on this Document

This Sustainability Appraisal report (including this summary) has been published alongside the Revised Local Plan DPD, with both subject to public consultation from 24<sup>th</sup> January to 4.30pm on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2014. Only representations made within this period will be taken into account. Your correspondence will be available for public inspection and for copying in accordance with the provisions of the Access to Information Act.

This document is available for inspection at the Council's Andover and Romsey offices during normal office hours. It is also available on the Council's website.

Should you have any questions please contact the Planning Policy team.

If you would like to comment on this document please send your views to the address or the email address below. You can also comment via the Council's website.

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# 1 Introduction

## What is the Sustainability Appraisal Report and why is it required?

- 1.1 This Sustainability Appraisal Report has been produced to explain how sustainability matters have been considered and taken into account in the preparation of the Council's Revised Local Plan Development Plan Document (DPD) and to ensure it contributes to sustainable development. Sustainable development is often taken to mean '*development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*'<sup>1</sup>. Sustainability covers environmental, social and economic matters.
- 1.2 Sustainability Appraisals are intended to support the selection of options in the preparation of plans, not to make the decision<sup>2</sup>. This document is a summary of the full Sustainability Appraisal Report.
- 1.3 The Council has a duty to consider the sustainability of its plans through the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). It also has to prepare an environmental report of its plans as a result of requirements contained in the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004<sup>3</sup>. The requirements of both pieces of legislation have been met by the Sustainability Appraisal Report. The Sustainability Appraisal Report has been prepared following Government guidance.
- 1.4 The Sustainability Appraisal Report should be read in conjunction with the Revised Local Plan DPD and the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report<sup>4</sup>. The Scoping Report includes the first stage of the sustainability appraisal process and has been prepared as a stand alone document (a summary of the Scoping Report is also available).

## Which plan is being assessed?

- 1.5 The Council is preparing a Local Development Framework (LDF) to set out a long term strategy to manage development over the period from 2011 to 2029<sup>5</sup>. The Local Development Framework includes a number of documents. The plan that is being assessed through this Sustainability Appraisal is the Test Valley Borough Revised Local Plan DPD, which will provide the majority of planning policies used to determine planning applications within Test Valley (excluding minerals and waste proposals).

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<sup>1</sup> Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future, World Commission on Environment and Development (Brundtland Commission), 1987, Part I, Chapter 2.

<sup>2</sup> Local Development Framework Guidance on Sustainability Appraisal, PAS, 2007 and CLG Plan Making Manual, Communities and Local Government (CLG).

<sup>3</sup> This legislation is also referred to as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Regulations.

<sup>4</sup> Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, Test Valley Borough Council, 2011 (available: <http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/resident/planningandbuildingcontrol/planningpolicy/local-development-framework/sustainability-appraisal/>).

<sup>5</sup> For more information about the Local Development Framework and what this covers please see: <http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/resident/planningandbuildingcontrol/planningpolicy/understanding-planning-policy/>.

- 1.6 Over the period that the plan covers (2011 to 2029) there will need to be provision for development within the Borough, including for housing and businesses. Through the preparation of the Revised Local Plan, there has been consideration of what the appropriate level of development for Test Valley is over this period. There has also been consideration of the sites that should be identified to deliver this. It also proposes policies to support the determination of planning applications, covering a range of topics including parking standards to biodiversity considerations.
- 1.7 The Revised Local Plan covers all of the area of Test Valley for which the Borough Council is responsible for planning purposes – this excludes a small area in the south west of the Borough within the parishes of Wellow, and Melchet Park and Plaitford, which forms part of the New Forest National Park.
- 1.8 The Plan has a role in supporting the implementation of some of the objectives of the Community Plan and the Council's Corporate Plan. It needs to reflect national guidance, provided through the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). It is also recognised that the Minerals and Waste Plan covering the Hampshire would also be relevant, alongside the Revised Local Plan, in considering proposals.
- 1.9 Some of the policies and proposals within the Revised Local Plan relate to specific parts of the Borough. In a number of cases, the Borough is divided into Northern Test Valley and Southern Test Valley – this reflects the way the housing market and economy link with the surrounding area. Southern Test Valley relates to the Parishes of Ampfield, Chilworth, North Baddesley, Nursling and Rownhams, Romsey Extra, Romsey Town and Valley Park. The Northern Test Valley area covers the rest of the Borough, including Andover and the rural area.
- 1.10 The objectives of the Revised Local Plan are set out below:
- Providing for the future housing needs, including types and tenures within the Borough.
  - Promote appropriate scale of development in settlements in keeping with their size, character and function.
  - Create sustainable communities, locating development where daily needs for employment, shopping, leisure, recreation, education, health and other community facilities are accessible by sustainable modes of transport.
  - Providing a range of job opportunities.
  - Supporting Andover and Romsey town centres and Stockbridge local centre to enable them to remain successful destinations.
  - Conserve and enhance the built and historic environment, conserve and enhance the local character, identity and cultural heritage.
  - Ensure development takes full account of climate change including through implementing water efficiency measures.
  - Protect high standards of water and air quality.
  - Conserve and enhance the countryside and landscape and improve access to it.
  - Conserve and enhance biodiversity.
  - Provide for leisure, recreation, culture and tourism needs.

- Creating opportunities for improving the health and wellbeing of communities
- Encourage use of public transport, cycling and walking networks to help reduce reliance on cars and provide choice.
- Create high quality, low crime environments and spaces.
- Raise skill levels and reduce economic disparities across the Borough

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## 2 Sustainability Appraisal Methodology

- 2.1 The sustainability appraisal process is undertaken alongside the preparation of the Revised Local Plan. There are a number of stages to the sustainability appraisal process based on the legal requirements, these are:
- Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding the scope
  - Stage B: Developing and refining alternative options and assessing effects
  - Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report
  - Stage D: Consulting on the draft plan and the Sustainability Appraisal Report
  - Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the plan
- 2.2 The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report<sup>6</sup> has covered the requirements of Stage A and should be read in conjunction with this Sustainability Appraisal Report. For information, a separate non-technical summary of the Scoping Report is available. This summary and the main report for the sustainability appraisal of the Revised Local Plan DPD focus on stages B and C (as set out above). Stage E is undertaken after the plan is adopted but there is consideration given to what topics should be monitored.
- 2.3 Taking account of the above, the Sustainability Appraisal Report for the Revised Local Plan DPD covers the following:
- A summary of the findings of the Scoping Report, including reference to the sustainability objectives
  - An assessment of the Revised Local Plan objectives against the sustainability objectives
  - An assessment of the sustainability of the options and reasonable alternatives considered in the preparation of the Revised Local Plan
  - The identification of the potential significant effects as a result of the implementation of the Revised Local Plan
  - An outline of the proposed monitoring strategy to measure the effects of implementing the Revised Local Plan
- 2.4 There is a requirement to describe how the assessment of the sustainability of the Revised Local Plan has been carried out and any difficulties that were encountered. This is provided in the main report of the Sustainability Appraisal. The key challenges included identifying the likely significant effects options being considered and of the Revised Local Plan overall whilst accounting for other factors (including other plans and projects) that may result in changes within the locality over the plan period (2011-2029) and beyond, as well as identifying measures to monitor the significant effects of the Revised Local Plan. In addition, assumptions have been made as part of the appraisal process. For example, in Test Valley, the main source of air pollution is from road traffic, therefore, where proposals are likely to result in an increase in

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<sup>6</sup> The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report is available at <http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/resident/planningandbuildingcontrol/planningpolicy/local-development-framework/sustainability-appraisal/>.

traffic levels; this is assumed to have the potential to result in an increase in air pollution.

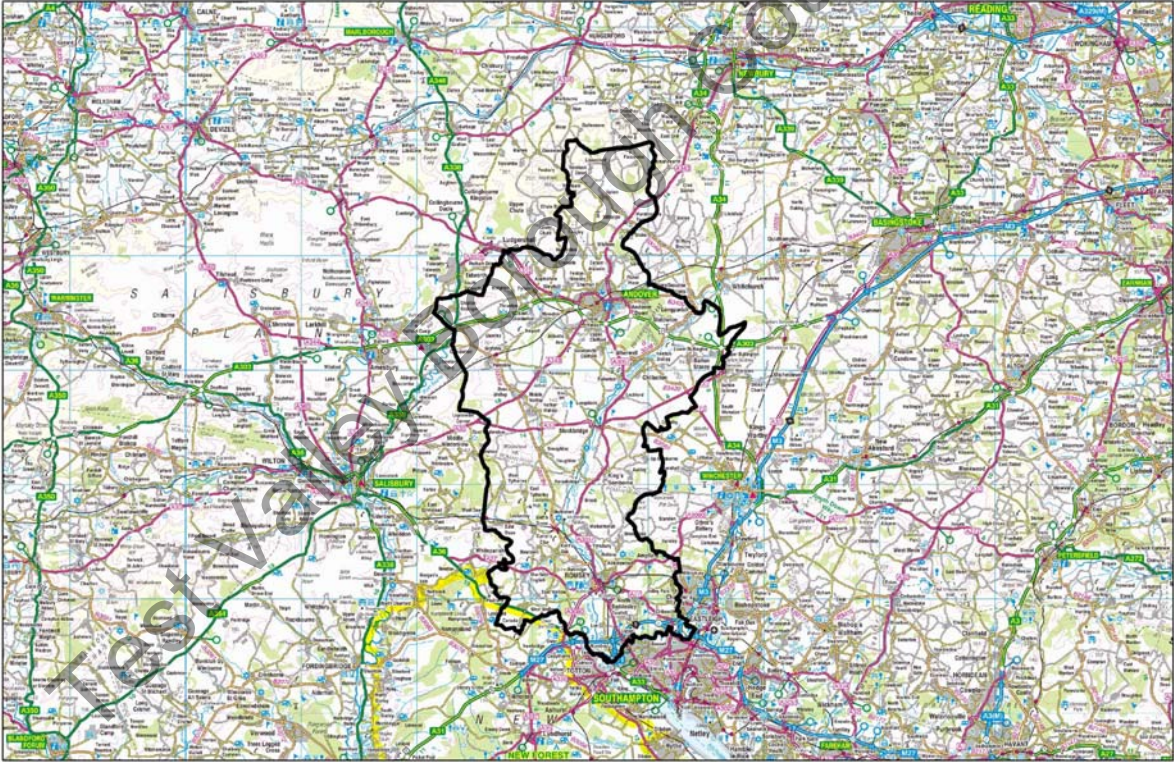
- 2.5 In undertaking the appraisal of alternatives, sustainability objectives have been used as a framework to consider the likely effect of options. The identification of alternative options and consideration of likely effects has been informed by evidence based studies, details submitted to the Council and professional judgement. Consideration has also been given to the potential for mitigation measures to be provided to lessen potential adverse effects. The Council has then taken account of the outputs of this work, along with other considerations, as part of the preparation of the Revised Local Plan.

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### 3 Setting the Context and Objectives

- 3.1 The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report sets out the context required as part of the sustainability appraisal process, with the non-technical summary for the Scoping Report providing an outline of this information. The main report of the Sustainability Appraisal for the Revised Local Plan also provides some updates in this information. As such, this section of the Non-Technical Summary is relatively brief, focusing on the aspects of this stage of the process.
- 3.2 Test Valley is located in west Hampshire, with the main towns within it being Andover and Romsey. Stockbridge is located approximately centrally in the Borough. There are a significant number of other settlements within Test Valley. The Borough is largely rural. Test Valley is in close proximity to a number of other towns and cities, as show in Figure 1.

**Figure 1: Location of Test Valley**



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- 3.3 The underlying geology of Test Valley is predominantly chalk. The River Test is the key river system within the Borough, with small parts of the Borough falling into the catchments of the River Itchen (to the east) and the River Avon (to the west). The geology of the Borough in conjunction with the river systems has impacted on the landscape of the Borough.
- 3.4 The area has a rich built heritage, with over 2,000 listed buildings (including 23 grade I buildings) and 36 Conservation Areas. There is significant archaeology within the Borough from a range of periods, including the Bronze Age, as well



as Roman, Saxon and Medieval periods. The Borough also includes a range of biodiversity assets, including sites of international, national and local importance. A Habitat Regulation Assessment has been undertaken in relation to the likely effects arising from the implementation of the Local Plan on certain nature conservation designations of European and international importance<sup>7</sup>.

- 3.5 The 2011 Census identified the population of the Borough to be 116,398 people, giving a population density of 1.86 persons per hectare within Test Valley. The Census also established that there were 49,143 dwellings within the Borough. The Borough is not generally identified as a deprived area; however there are pockets of deprivation within Test Valley. The most recent unemployment levels for the Borough are lower than the regional and national figures.
- 3.6 There are a range of plans, policies and programmes relevant to the production of the Revised Local Plan. These range from international to local level documents, covering social, economic and environmental issues. From these it has been possible to identify a number of key messages and objectives that have informed the preparation of the sustainability appraisal and Revised Local Plan. These range from conserving water resources to supporting sustainable economic growth. Appendix 2 of the Scoping Report and Appendix 1 of the Sustainability Appraisal main report outline the relevant plans, policies and programmes. This includes the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- 3.7 The Scoping Report includes a review of the existing situation in the Borough in relation to the environment, economy, local community and a number of other matters. It also gives some consideration of how the Borough is likely to evolve in the future (without the implementation of the Revised Local Plan). This has taken account of forecasts for how the economy is likely to perform looking forward and the potential implications of a changing climate. It is recognised that the population is likely to continue to grow, with the age structure and household composition likely to change. It is also anticipated that there would be changes to the natural environment without the implementation of the Plan, including as a result of new development and other factors.
- 3.8 Through the review of the baseline and its likely evolution, a number of likely issues and problems were been identified, which informed the preparation of the sustainability objectives. Table 1 documents some of the sustainability issues for the Borough. The Revised Local Plan and other documents within the Local Development Framework may have a role in helping to address the issues identified. These range from constraints on the availability of water within the Borough, to the affordability of housing and the need to rejuvenate the Walworth Business Park in Andover.

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<sup>7</sup> This covers Natura 2000 sites (comprising Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs)) and Ramsar sites. The Council's Habitat Regulations Assessment is available at <http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/resident/planningandbuildingcontrol/planningpolicy/local-development-framework/habitat-regulations-assessment/>.

**Table 1: Sustainability Issues for Test Valley**

Key Sustainability Issues
<p><b>Environment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is restricted water available for further abstraction licensing at moderate and low flows within the Test catchment</li> <li>- Not all of the water bodies within the Borough are performing well in relation to the requirements of the Water Framework Directive, therefore there is a need for an improvement in their condition to achieve good status and in relation to all water bodies a need to ensure no deterioration</li> <li>- There may be limitations on the capacity of a number of waste water treatment works serving the Borough in the short term at least, phasing of development would be important to enable time to plan and fund infrastructure improvements</li> <li>- There are a number of sources of flooding affecting the Borough, the area affected by flood risk is predicted to increase in the future</li> <li>- In the event of flooding in Romsey, the cost of damages is predicted to be relatively high</li> <li>- The main source of air pollution is road transport; local monitoring has identified a mixed trends in air pollution across the Borough</li> <li>- There are limited opportunities within the Borough for development on previously developed land, therefore it is envisaged that further greenfield development will be required</li> <li>- Some biodiversity assets (including SSSIs) are in unfavourable condition – these do not relate to areas within the Borough that are also designated as SACs or SPAs</li> <li>- Ensuring the connectivity of habitats within the Borough and the conservation (and ideally enhancement) of biodiversity assets (not just those protected by legislation)</li> <li>- Managing changes to the landscape accounting for the likely forces of change identified in the Landscape Character Assessment, particularly in relation to the designated landscapes</li> <li>- There is a need to conserve and enhance heritage assets within the Borough (including non-designated assets) and their setting</li> <li>- The per capita domestic electricity consumption and carbon dioxide emissions are relatively high</li> </ul>
<p><b>Local Community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The affordability of housing and the supply of affordable housing relative to demand is a problem in the Borough both for urban and rural areas</li> <li>- Relatively high ratio of house price to wages in the Borough is a significant problem</li> <li>- Ensuring new homes are built to a decent standard and constructed sustainably</li> <li>- The proportion of the population over 65 years old is predicted to increase in the future</li> <li>- The number of households is expected to grow at a faster rate than the population</li> <li>- There are pockets of deprivation within the Borough</li> </ul>
<p><b>Local Economy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There are pockets of employment deprivation within Andover and Romsey</li> <li>- The productivity GVA per person employed was below the regional average</li> <li>- There is a need to rejuvenate Walworth Business Park and to reduce vacancy rates</li> </ul>
<p><b>Education and Lifelong Learning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is significant variation in the educational attainment within the Borough – in relation to the population with no qualifications the highest levels in Borough are in Andover, Romsey and North Baddesley</li> </ul>

- There are pockets of deprivation in terms of education, skills and training within the Borough, including in Andover
<b>Community Safety</b>
- In terms of crime measured in the Index of Multiple Deprivation, areas within Andover, as well as parts of Chilworth, Nursling and Rownhams, and North Baddesley perform less well
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>
- Variability in life expectancy within the Borough, with lower life expectancy generally being found in the more urban areas
- Need to address relatively high levels of health deprivation in parts of Andover
<b>Leisure and Culture</b>
- Access to leisure and cultural facilities, as well as to natural green space is variable across the Borough
<b>Transport</b>
- Access to key destinations is variable across the Borough, with levels of accessibility being substantially reduced outside Andover and Southern Test Valley
- There is high car ownership within the Borough
- Most trips to work are done by car
- Access to public transport services is variable within the Borough

3.9 The final stage of this process was to produce a set of sustainability objectives (as part of the sustainability appraisal framework) which can be used to test proposals within the Local Development Framework (including the Revised Local Plan). The sustainability objectives are:

- Objective 1: Avoid and reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detrimental effects to public wellbeing, the economy and environment.
- Objective 2: Support the mitigation against and adaptation to climate change. Promote energy efficiency and renewable energy sources.
- Objective 3: Improve the efficient use of land and conserve soil resources.
- Objective 4: Promote the efficient and sustainable use of resources, whilst ensuring the sustainable management of waste.
- Objective 5: Protect and enhance the water environment and ensure the sustainable management of water resources.
- Objective 6: Conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity.
- Objective 7: Reduce air pollution and ensure air quality is maintained or enhanced.
- Objective 8: Conserve and enhance the Borough's landscape and settlement character.
- Objective 9: Conserve and enhance the historic environment.
- Objective 10: Ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home suitable to their needs.
- Objective 11: Reduce poverty and social exclusion, whilst maintaining and seeking to improve the health and wellbeing of the population, particularly in areas of deprivation within the Borough. Reduce crime and the fear of crime.
- Objective 12: Ensure the local economy is thriving with high and stable levels of growth. Raise levels of enterprise and productivity promoting a diverse economy (including tourism) with high value and low impact, whilst stimulating economic regeneration.

- Objective 13: Enable residents and visitors to have access to and enjoy a wide range of high quality cultural and leisure activities.
- Objective 14: Improve access to all services and facilities, whilst improving the efficiency and integration of transport networks and the availability of sustainable modes of transport.
- Objective 15: Raise educational achievement levels and develop the opportunities for everyone to acquire the skills they need throughout life, supporting the development of a skilled workforce.

3.10 The sustainability objectives cover all of the issues specifically identified through European legislation (e.g. biodiversity, population and climatic factors).

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## **4 Assessing the Effects of Alternative Options**

- 4.1 As noted above, one of the key stages of the sustainability appraisal process is to consider the likely effects of different options for achieving the plan's objectives. This is intended to help the Council understand the potential implications of the options and therefore help inform the identification of the Council's preferred options.

### **Testing the Revised Local Plan Objectives**

- 4.2 The first part of testing the sustainability of the plan is to appraise the Revised Local Plan objectives against the sustainability objectives, both of which are set out above (plan objectives at paragraph 1.9 and sustainability objectives at paragraph 3.9). This looks at the compatibility of the two sets of objectives.
- 4.3 The appraisal of the Revised Local Plan objectives identified that in general the objectives are compatible with the sustainability objectives and are likely to contribute to delivering sustainable development. In some cases the implications may depend on the implementation of the objectives. However there are some areas of potential conflict e.g. those promoting development in relation to sustainability objectives seeking to conserve the environment. This is inevitable considering the need to balance social, economic and environmental objectives and to accommodate development whilst protecting the high quality of the Borough's environment. If development takes place in accordance with all of the strategic objectives, any potential incompatibility may not necessarily be an insurmountable issue. Taking this into account, no changes to the objectives were recommended.

### **Developing and Appraising Options**

- 4.4 Identified options have been tested against the sustainability objectives (as set out in paragraph 3.9). The assessment takes account of the constraints and opportunities in the area, national guidance (including the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)) and background studies that have been prepared to help inform the choices made in preparing the plan. In some cases, no clear alternatives are identified.
- 4.5 The following matters have been considered as part of the sustainability appraisal process:
- Scale of residential development over the plan period and the approach to distributing this, including the identification of strategic sites for residential development
  - The identification of sites for economic development, retail, leisure and park and ride uses
  - Approach to providing development management policies on specific topics (i.e. those policies used to determine planning applications)

## *Scale and Location of Development*

- 4.6 A key part of the Revised Local Plan is the consideration of the level of development required over the plan period, this includes for residential, economic and other uses. Where a need is identified there is then consideration as to where this need should be met. As noted above, in some cases evidence based studies have been prepared to help guide the identification of options<sup>8</sup>.
- 4.7 In terms of residential development, the sustainability appraisal has given consideration to the scale of housing to be planned for, the approach to distributing it and the locations for strategic sites to provide for housing. This has been undertaken through a number of steps. This approach has been summarised in Figure 2.
- 4.8 The first stage was to consider the scale of residential development that should be provided within the Borough. The identification of options was informed by evidence base studies (including the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA)) that looked at different scenarios, based on population, economic and other factors. From this it was possible to identify alternative housing number options that were appraised against the sustainability objectives. A summary of the performance against the sustainability objectives for the housing number scenarios is provided in Table 2.
- 4.9 It is noted that it is challenging to identify specific thresholds when a certain housing number or range of figures would result in a change in the performance in relation to a specific issue. Taking account of the outcomes of the appraisal, in conjunction with other considerations, the Council's preference was for a housing figure based on the most recent economic and job growth forecasts. Within the range, a figure was identified based on existing commuting patterns and forecasting a higher rate of employment in the future, as this was considered to be the most realistic scenario to come forward. It also was considered to be deliverable and support the provision of affordable housing. Therefore, the Council's preferred option was for the provision of 588 dwellings per year, equating to 10,584 dwellings over the plan period. Following on from this, there was the consideration of the approach to distributing residential development. Lower figures were not preferred in terms of the potential implications on the provision of affordable housing and effects on the local economy. Higher figures were not preferred due to uncertainties to do with delivery of the level of housing and effects on the local economy and resultant commuting patterns.
- 4.10 A settlement hierarchy was prepared to inform the distribution of development. Broad areas of search were identified based on this, comprising of large areas where the merits for housing were considered (referred to in Figure 2). An assessment of these broad areas of search was undertaken. Following on from this, there was an assessment of specific strategic sites that could be

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<sup>8</sup> Copies of evidence base studies are available to view on the Council's website at: <http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/resident/planningandbuildingcontrol/planningpolicy/local-development-framework/evidence-base/>.

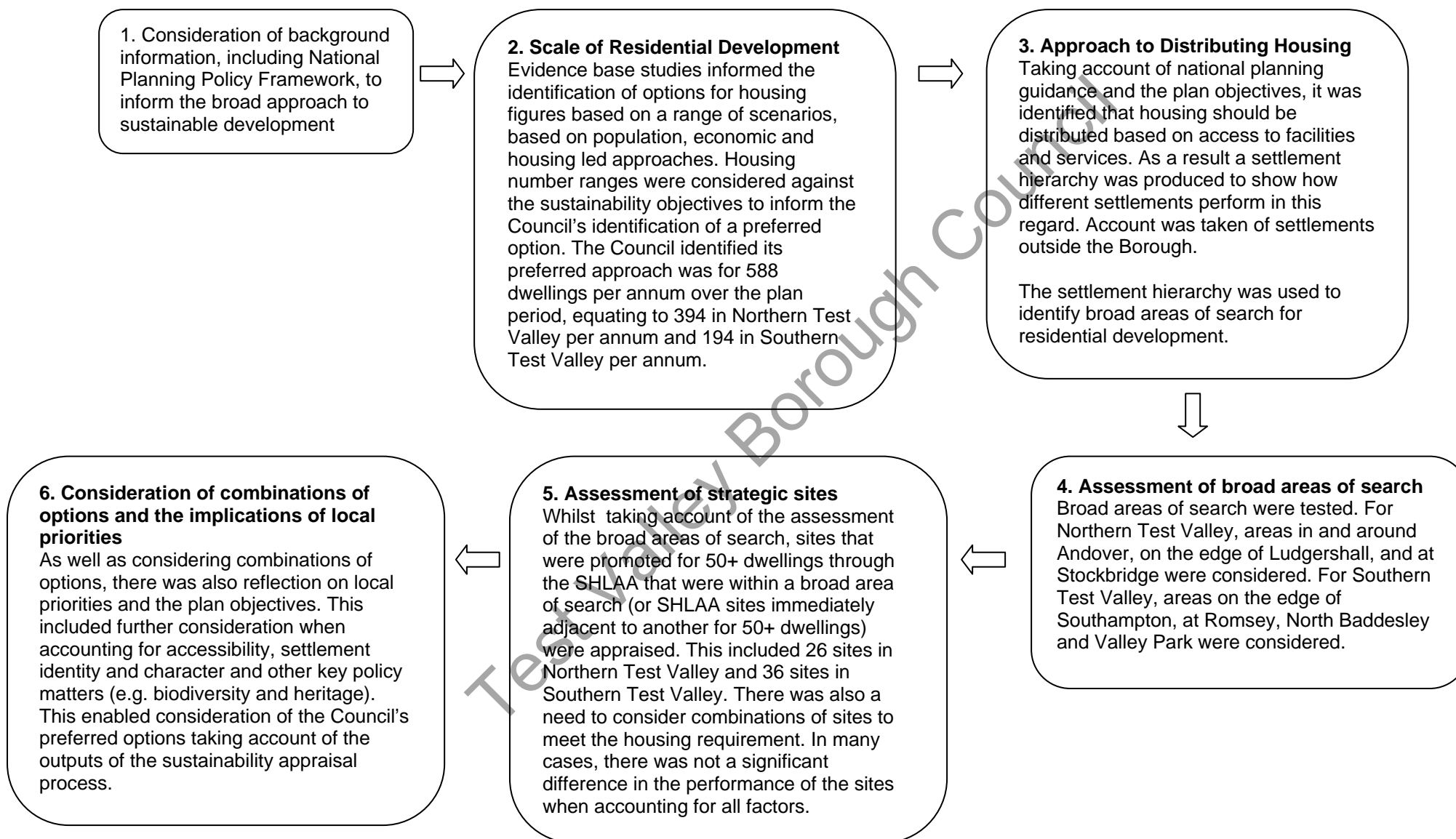
identified to deliver the housing figure. The sites were those that have been promoted through the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)<sup>9</sup> that lie within the broad areas of search. For the assessment of broad areas of search and specific sites the sustainability criteria were re-focused to relate more directly to site selection criteria.

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<sup>9</sup> This is available at:  
<http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/resident/planningandbuildingcontrol/planningpolicy/local-development-framework/shlaa/>.

**Figure 2: Approach to sustainability appraisal for residential development**





**Table 2: Summary of Performance for Options for Housing Numbers for the Whole of Test Valley**

**Key to Appraisal:**

Performs very well	++
Performs well	+
Mixed performance	+/-
Performs less well	-
Performs poorly	--
Depends on implementation	i
Uncertain	?
No Effect	O

The symbols for performance should not be considered in isolation, they represent a broad indication (pre-mitigation) and need to be read in conjunction with the commentary provided within Appendix 6. In addition, the symbols should not be added up.

Sustainability Objective ↓	Housing Scenario →	Demographic Options (6,444 to 8,730 dwellings over plan period)	Long Term Economic Strategy Update 2012 (9,198 to 12,492 dwellings over plan period)	Jobs Growth Forecasts (10,188 to 13,644 dwellings over plan period)	Delivering Housing Need (15,012 dwellings over plan period)
1. Avoid and reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detrimental effects to public wellbeing, the economy and environment.		+	+	+	+
2. Support the mitigation against and adaptation to climate change. Promote energy efficiency and renewable energy sources.		i	i	i	i
3. Improve the efficient use of land and conserve soil resources.		-	-	-	-
4. Promote the efficient and sustainable use of resources, whilst ensuring the sustainable management of waste.		i	i	i	i
5. Protect and enhance the water environment and ensure the sustainable management of water resources.		-	-	-	-
6. Conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity.		-	-	-	-

Sustainability Objective ↓	Housing Scenario →	Demographic Options (6,444 to 8,730 dwellings over plan period)	Long Term Economic Strategy Update 2012 (9,198 to 12,492 dwellings over plan period)	Jobs Growth Forecasts (10,188 to 13,644 dwellings over plan period)	Delivering Housing Need (15,012 dwellings over plan period)
7. Reduce air pollution and ensure air quality is maintained or enhanced.		i	i	i	i
8. Conserve and enhance the Borough's landscape and settlement character.		i	i	i	i
9. Conserve and enhance the historic environment.		i	i	i	i
10. Ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainability constructed and affordable home suitable to their needs.		+/-	+/-	+/-	++
11. Reduce poverty and social exclusion, whilst maintaining and seeking to improve the health and wellbeing of the population, particularly in areas of deprivation within the Borough. Reduce crime and the fear of crime.		i	i	i	i
12. Ensure the local economy is thriving with high and stable levels of growth. Raise levels of enterprise and productivity promoting a diverse economy (including tourism) with high value and low impact, whilst stimulating economic regeneration.		?	+	+	+/-
13. Enable residents and visitors to have access to and enjoy a wide range of high quality cultural and leisure activities.		+	+	+	+
14. Improve access to all services and facilities, whilst improving the efficiency and integration of transport network and the availability of sustainable modes of		i	i	i	i

Sustainability Objective ↓	Housing Scenario →	Demographic Options (6,444 to 8,730 dwellings over plan period)	Long Term Economic Strategy Update 2012 (9,198 to 12,492 dwellings over plan period)	Jobs Growth Forecasts (10,188 to 13,644 dwellings over plan period)	Delivering Housing Need (15,012 dwellings over plan period)
transport.					
15. Raise educational achievement levels and develop the opportunities for everyone to acquire the skills they need throughout life, supporting the development of a skilled workforce.		0	0	0	0

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**Table 3: Summary of the performance of strategic sites appraised for residential development**

(see Appendix 10 linked to the main report for more information, also see Appendix 7 as a guide to the application of the symbols)

**Key to Appraisal:**

Performs very well	++
Performs well	+
Mixed performance	+/-
Performs less well	-
Performs poorly	--
Depends on implementation	i
Uncertain	?
No Effect	O

The symbols for performance should not be considered in isolation, they represent a broad indication (pre-mitigation) and need to be read in conjunction with the commentary provided within Appendix 10. In addition, the symbols should not be added up.

**3a) Northern Test Valley** (grouped by the broad areas of search) – Council’s preferred options in bold text

SHLAA Site Reference	Site Description	Criteria												
		1. Flooding & groundwater	2. PDL	3. Soil and geology	4. International biodiversity	5. Biodiversity	6. Character	7. Heritage	8. Communities	9. Housing need	10. Economy	11. Leisure & culture	12. Accessibility	13. Deliverability
<b>Andover (and Charlton)</b>														
019	Land at Goch Way	++	--	?	+	++	+/-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
041	Land to rear of Hatherden Road	-	--	-	+	++	+/-	+/-	+	+	+	+	+	+/-
130	Land at Enham Lane	+/-	--	-	+	++	+/-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+/-
<b>152</b>	<b>George Yard / Black Swan Yard</b>	++	++	++	+	++	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	?
<b>North of Andover</b>														
051	Land to north of Saxon Way	+	--	-	+	+	+/-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

<b>North East of Andover</b>														
052	Land to east of A343	+	--	-	+	++	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
144	Land East of East Anton	+	--	+/-	+	-	+/-	-	+	+	+	+	+/-	+
<b>158</b>	<b>Picket Piece</b>	+/-	-	?	+	+/-	+	+	+	+	+/-	+	+/-	+/-
<b>161</b>	<b>Land at Landfall, Picket Piece</b>	++	-	?	+	+	+/-	+	+	+	+	+	+/-	+
211	Land north of Ox Drove Rise, Picket Piece	++	--	?	+	+/-	+/-	+	+	+	+	+	+/-	+
<b>212</b>	<b>Land east of 10 Walworth Road, Picket Piece</b>	++	-	?	+	+	+/-	+	+	+	+	+	+/-	+
<b>North West of Andover</b>														
029 (a/b)	Land at Homestead Farm	+	-	-	+	++	+/-	+/-	+/-	+	+	+	+	+
042	Land to east of Foxcotte Lane	++	--	-	+	++	+/-	+/-	+	+	+	+	+	+/-
149	Land to west of Foxcotte Lane	++	--	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+/-	+/-
155	Land at Foxcotte Manor Farm	+/-	--	-	+	++	-	+/-	+	+	+	+	+/-	+/-
169	Land at Foxcotte Lane	++	++	++	+	++	-	+/-	+	+	+/-	+	+	+
<b>South of Andover</b>														
008	Land at Bere Hill and The Grange	++	-	-	+	+	+/-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
018	Land at Micheldever Road	++	--	?	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+/-
198	Land at Bere Hill Farm, Andover	++	-	-	+	+/-	-	-	+	+	+	+/-	+	+
<b>South East of Andover</b>														
<b>131</b>	<b>Picket Twenty Extension, Andover</b>	++	--	-	+	+/-	+/-	-	+	+	+	+/-	+	+
184	Land to rear of Down House, London Road, Andover Down	++	--	?	+	+	+/-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<b>South West of Andover</b>														
004	Littlebridge, Andover	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+/-	+
075	Land to south of Salisbury Road, Anna Valley	+	--	?	+	+/-	-	+	+/-	+	+	+	+	+
<b>Ludgershall</b>														
112	Land at Andover Lane, Faberstown	+	--	?	+/-	++	-	+	+/-	+	+	+/-	+/-	+
<b>Stockbridge</b>														
039	Land adjacent to Test Valley School	++	--	?	+/-	+	-	+/-	+	+	+	+/-	+/-	+

**3b) Southern Test Valley** (grouped by the broad areas of search) – Council’s preferred options in bold text

SHLAA Site Reference	Site Description	Criteria												
		1. Flooding & groundwater	2. PDL	3. Soil and geology	4. International biodiversity	5. Biodiversity	6. Character	7. Heritage	8. Communities	9. Housing need	10. Economy	11. Leisure & culture	12. Accessibility	13. Deliverability
<b>Edge of Southampton – East (including Chilworth)</b>														
<b>027</b>	<b>Park Farm, North Stoneham</b>	++	+/-	?	+/-	-	-	--	+/-	+	+/-	+	+	+
141	Land at The Orchard, Chilworth	++	--	?	+/-	--	-	+	+	+	+	+	+/-	+
142	Land at Lord’s Wood, Lord’s Hill	+	-	?	+/-	--	-	-	+	+	+	+/-	+/-	+/-
162	Land between Bracken Place and Bracken Hall, Chilworth	++	--	?	+/-	-	-	+	+/-	+	+	+	+	+
<b>Edge of Southampton – West (including Nursling and Rownhams)</b>														
017	Parkers Farm	+	-	+/-	+/-	+/-	-	+/-	+	+	+	+	+	+
136	Field’s Farm, Rownhams Lane	++	-	+/-	+/-	-	-	+/-	+	+	+	+	++	+
186 a	Bargain Farm	++	-	--	+/-	+	+/-	-	+	+	+	+	++	+
221	Grove Farm and Grove Lodge	+/-	-	+/-	+/-	-	-	+/-	+	+	+	+	-	+
<b>North Baddesley</b>														
024	Land at Roundabout Copse	++	--	+	+/-	--	+/-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
026	Land south of Hoe Lane	++	--	+/-	+/-	+/-	-	+	+	+	+	+/-	+	+
<b>127</b>	<b>Hoe Farm</b>	++	-	+/-	+/-	-	+/-	+	+	+	+	+/-	+	+
143	Land south of Bracken Road	+/-	--	?	+/-	--	-	+	+	+	+	+	++	+
220	Packridge Farm	++	--	-	+/-	+/-	-	+	+	+	+	+	++	+
<b>Romsey</b>														
005	Land north of Highwood Lane,	+/-	--	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

	Halterworth													
006	Land south of Highwood Lane, Halterworth	++	--	+/-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
007	Land at Halterworth	+	-	-	-	-	+/-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
009	Ganger Farm	++	-	+/-	-	--	+/-	+/-	+	+	+	i	+/-	+
058	Land at Cupernham Lane	++	--	?	+/-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
062	Land to east of Braishfield Road	++	--	+	+/-	+/-	+/-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+/-
078	Land at Lodge Farm, Halterworth	++	--	-	-	+	+/-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+/-
084	Land at Oxlease Farm, Cupernham Lane	+/-	-	?	-	-	-	+/-	+	+	+	+	+	+
<b>126</b>	<b>Land at Lower Whitenap</b>	++	-	+/-	-	--	+/-	+/-	+	+	+	+	+	+
145	Land at Luzborough House	++	--	+	+/-	+	+/-	+/-	+	+	+	+	+	+
183	Land at Peel Close	++	--	?	+/-	-	+/-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
190	Land west of Highwood Lane, Halterworth	++	--	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+/-
191	Land north of Botley Road, Halterworth	++	--	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+/-
196	Pond Cottage	++	--	+	+/-	+/-	+	+/-	+	+	+	+	+	+
206	Land at corner of Highwood Lane, Halterworth	++	--	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<b>Valley Park</b>														
107	Land at Great Covert	+	--	?	+/-	--	-	+/-	+	+	+	+	+	+
110	Land north of Flexford Road	++	-	+/-	+/-	+/-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+/-	+
120	Land to north and south of Flexford Road (1)	++	--	?	+/-	+/-	-	+/-	+	+	+	+	+/-	+/-
121	Land to north and south of Flexford Road	++	--	?	-	+/-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	+/-
122	Land to north and south of Flexford Road (2)	++	--	?	-	+/-	-	+/-	+/-	+	+	+	+/-	+/-
123	Land to north and south of Flexford Road (3)	++	--	?	+/-	+/-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	+/-
124	Castle Lane Farm, Castle Lane	++	-	?	+/-	+/-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
257	Land at Velmore Farm, Chandler's Ford	++	--	-	+/-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

- 4.11 In general, the sustainability appraisal identified that none of the sites assessed outperformed all the others in all regards. In addition, none of the sites were absolutely ruled out by any of the constraints. However, there were factors that resulted in some sites being considered to be less suitable, for example, as a result of ecological interests, flood risk, landscape effects and accessibility. Table 3 provides a summary of the appraisal outcomes for the strategic sites that were considered through the sustainability appraisal.
- 4.12 The sustainability appraisal process informed the identification of a number of sites to help meet the housing requirement. For Northern Test Valley, land at Picket Piece, an extension to Picket Twenty and George Yard / Black Swan Yard in Andover (latter part of a mixed use scheme) were identified. For Southern Test Valley, the sites identified were land at Whitenap in Romsey, Hoe Farm in North Baddesley and Park Farm in North Stoneham. The latter was noted to perform less well when considered in isolation but could present an option as part of a larger site when accounting for proposals by Eastleigh Borough Council for a site for significant residential development immediately to the north of this location.
- 4.13 It was recognised that these sites were not free from constraint. It will be important for all these sites to be planned carefully to include measures to reduce the potential impacts on the environment, this includes conserving areas of highest biodiversity value on site, providing sufficient infrastructure to support new residents and promoting opportunities for more sustainable modes of travel.
- 4.14 In relation to both economic and retail development, evidence base studies were used to identify the need for additional development over the plan period. For Southern Test Valley, the economic need was considered as part of a wider approach for South Hampshire, based on a 'cities first' strategy. Sites were considered to help meet the economic development needs in both Northern and Southern Test Valley this took account of the performance of the sites in relation to the sustainability objectives and other drivers for the selection of sites. Alternative options were considered for economic development purposes within Southern Test Valley, a summary of these options is presented in Table 4. Preferred sites were identified taking account of the outcomes of the appraisal, aspirations in relation to the local economy and opportunities to promote more sustainable patterns of development (e.g. opportunities for living and working in close proximity).



**Table 4: Summary of Performance for the Options Promoted for Economic Development Use within Southern Test Valley**  
(Details provided in full in Appendix 12 to the main report)

**Key to Appraisal:**

Performs very well	++
Performs well	+
Mixed performance	+/-
Performs less well	-
Performs poorly	--
Depends on implementation	i
Uncertain	?
No Effect	O

The symbols for performance should not be considered in isolation, they represent a broad indication (pre-mitigation) and need to be read in conjunction with the commentary provided within Appendix 12. In addition, the symbols should not be added up.

Sustainability Objective	East Extension of Abbey Park, Romsey	Land at Whitenap, Romsey	Extension of the University of Southampton Science Park, Chilworth	Land at Bargain Farm, Nursling	Land to the South of Brownhill Way, Nursling
1. Avoid and reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detrimental effects to public wellbeing, the economy and environment.	++	++	++	++	++
2. Support the mitigation against and adaptation to climate change. Promote energy efficiency and renewable energy sources.	i	i	i	i	i
3. Improve the efficient use of land and conserve soil resources.	-	-	-	--	-
4. Promote the efficient and sustainable use of resources, whilst ensuring the sustainable management of waste.	i	i	i	i	i
5. Protect and enhance the water environment and ensure the sustainable management of water resources.	i	i	i	i	i
6. Conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity.	+/-	+/-	+/-	+	+/-
7. Reduce air pollution and ensure air quality is	i	i	i	i	i

Sustainability Objective	East Extension of Abbey Park, Romsey	Land at Whitenap, Romsey	Extension of the University of Southampton Science Park, Chilworth	Land at Bargain Farm, Nursling	Land to the South of Brownhill Way, Nursling
maintained or enhanced.					
8. Conserve and enhance the Borough's landscape and settlement character.	+/-	+/-	+	+/-	+/-
9. Conserve and enhance the historic environment.	+	+/-	+	-	+
10. Ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainability constructed and affordable home suitable to their needs.	0	0	0	0	-
11. Reduce poverty and social exclusion, whilst maintaining and seeking to improve the health and wellbeing of the population, particularly in areas of deprivation within the Borough. Reduce crime and the fear of crime.	0	0	0	0	0
12. Ensure the local economy is thriving with high and stable levels of growth. Raise levels of enterprise and productivity promoting a diverse economy (including tourism) with high value and low impact, whilst stimulating economic regeneration.	+	+	+	+	+
13. Enable residents and visitors to have access to and enjoy a wide range of high quality cultural and leisure activities.	0	0	0	0	0
14. Improve access to all services and facilities, whilst improving the efficiency and integration of transport network and the availability of sustainable modes of transport.	+	+	+/-	+	+
15. Raise educational achievement levels and develop the opportunities for everyone to acquire the skills they need throughout life, supporting the development of a skilled workforce.	0	0	0	0	0

- 4.15 For retail sites, one option was considered in Andover reflecting the available options when accounting for national guidance on the location of major retail development. Whilst it was noted that there was a need for further retail provisions for Romsey, work on the site constraints (including deliverability) indicated that there were no deliverable sites available, as such no sites were appraised in Romsey for retail uses. There was also consideration given to sites for leisure and recreation and park and ride facilities in Southern Test Valley. More information on these matters is presented in the main report of the Sustainability Appraisal.
- 4.16 When taking account of the sustainability appraisal process and other considerations, sites were identified for economic development to the east of Walworth Business Park in Andover, as part of the Whitenap site in Romsey, land at Bargain Farm and south of Brownhill Way in Nursling and land at the University of Southampton Science Park in Chilworth. Land at George Yard / Black Swan Yard was identified for a retail led mixed use scheme (including commercial and residential aspects). Land at Ganger Farm in Romsey was put forward for an outdoor sports facility, with woodlands adjoining the M27 corridor identified for a Forest Park. In addition, land at Bargain Farm in Nursling was also identified for use as a park and ride facility. This site was preferred when accounting for other proposals in the vicinity and the likely use of a park and ride provision.

#### *Development Management Policies*

- 4.17 The Revised Local Plan also includes a range of policies to support the determination of planning applications, including the delivery of strategic sites. The policies cover a range of matters, from affordable housing to parking standards. In many cases there were no sufficiently distinct options for specific topics to test as part of the sustainability appraisal, for example when accounting for national planning guidance. This assessment of options and the potential effects of these policy options are provided in Chapter 14 of the main report of the Sustainability Appraisal

## 5 Identifying the Effects of the Revised Local Plan

- 5.1 A key part of the sustainability appraisal process is identifying the significant effects of the plan under consideration (i.e. the Revised Local Plan) – this includes short, medium and long term effects; permanent and temporary effects; indirect effects, those which may result in combination with other factors (known as cumulative effects) and those where the effect is increased in combination with other factors (known as synergistic effects). It is also necessary to consider ways to prevent or reduce any significant negative effects through mitigation measures.

### Summary of the Effects of the Revised Local Plan

- 5.2 As a result of the proposed development within the Borough, the population is anticipated to rise. Based on the proposed Borough wide housing figure (of 588 dwellings per year), the population of Test Valley would increase by approximately 23,000 people between 2011 and 2029<sup>10</sup>. This equates to about a 20% increase when compared to the 2011 Census population figure. This is considered to represent a significant effect.
- 5.3 The amount of affordable housing within the Borough will increase over the plan period. However, there remains uncertainty about the implications on general affordability of housing – there are a range of factors affecting this, of which housing supply is only one.
- 5.4 Similarly, it is difficult to predict the specific effects on employment and the local economy. As a result of the proposals within the Revised Local Plan, in conjunction with other strategies, it is anticipated that availability of additional land would aid in the rejuvenation of Walworth Business Park, which has the potential to support economic growth in Andover. There is also likely to be an increase in the amount of floorspace within the Borough available for commercial uses.
- 5.5 Additional retail floorspace in Andover may enhance the role of the town centre in comparison to its existing status. Without improving the retail offer of the town centre there is a risk of further decline relative to nearby towns, such as Basingstoke.
- 5.6 A growth in the population of the Borough is likely to be accompanied by an increase in traffic levels within Test Valley (and beyond the Borough). Additional development is anticipated to support improvement of pedestrian and cycle networks, particularly in the more urban areas of the Borough.
- 5.7 Demand for water, energy and other resources are likely to increase in conjunction with an increase in the population of the Borough. It is anticipated that the per person use of water should reduce when accounting for the

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<sup>10</sup> Drawing on Test Valley Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA), Justin Gardner Consulting, 2013.

policies within the Revised Local Plan in conjunction with other plans and projects (including Southern Water's universal metering programme).

- 5.8 In meeting the housing and employment needs of the Borough, the proposals will result in the development of greenfield (undeveloped) land; this may include the loss of higher quality agricultural land. The landscape of the Borough is likely to be affected, potentially with some parts becoming more urban in appearance. There may also be effects on settlement character and the historic environment. It is difficult to be precise about the nature and significance of these effects as it will in part depend on the proposals that come forward through planning applications. Also, there is not a direct relationship between the scale of proposals and the level of impact on these features.
- 5.9 The impact of development is anticipated to result in a greater potential risk of indirect effects having an adverse impact on the Borough, rather than direct effects. In most cases, mitigation measures can be provided to reduce these effects.
- 5.10 It is challenging to determine the effects of development when accounting for other causes of change and the potential for effects in combination with other plans and projects. In some cases, the combination of effects can become significant, potentially being worse than the sum of all the individual proposals. A changing climate is likely to affect the Borough over the course of the plan period (2011-2029) and beyond; the impacts of this in conjunction with the Local Plan could increase the significance of effects, for example resulting in more pressure on the water environment.

### **Summary of Proposed Mitigation Measures**

- 5.11 A range of mitigation measures have been recommended to be included within the Revised Local Plan. In some cases this involves avoiding vulnerable or sensitive locations, such as ecologically important areas. This applies to both the consideration of planning applications and bringing forward the proposed strategic sites. It will be important for the Revised Local Plan to be read as a whole, to ensure policies that cover these matters are taken into account.
- 5.12 Additional measures have been proposed to reduce the risk of adverse effects. For example, there is pressure on water resources in the Borough and additional development may add to this. Therefore, a policy is proposed to seek the more efficient use of water in new buildings. In addition, in order to try and reduce growth in traffic levels (and congestion) it has been recommended that steps should be taken to try and ensure that new development is connected to pedestrian, cycle and public transport routes. The provision or contribution towards affordable housing is also sought in conjunction with new residential development given the housing need and issues with affordability of housing within the Borough.
- 5.13 When accounting for the potential mitigation measures, it is likely that there will be some remaining impacts as a result of the Revised Local Plan. The

landscape and settlement character of parts of the Borough will change, particularly in Andover and Southern Test Valley but also in some of the more rural areas of the Borough. Traffic levels are also likely to increase, which may have an effect on air quality within the Borough. In addition there will be an adverse effect on soil resources, focusing on greenfield sites brought forward for development over the plan period.

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## **6 Monitoring the Plan**

- 6.1 Monitoring plays an important role in assessing the actual effects of any plans, including the Revised Local Plan. This can feed into more accurate future predictions of effects and can also help identify where changes need to be made to promote more sustainable development within the Borough.
- 6.2 Chapter 16 of the main report of the Sustainability Appraisal for the Revised Local Plan sets out a monitoring strategy, with the identified measures and indicators being reported annually (unless the information is not available this regularly). These will be presented in the Monitoring Reports that form part of the Local Development Framework.
- 6.3 Indicators that are proposed to be monitored include the number of dwellings completed each year, affordable housing provided, population size, the areas of specific habitats and ecological designations within Test Valley, and the amount of employment floorspace that is completed.

Test Valley Borough Council