

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

January 2009

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1 Introduction

Background

1.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires Sefton to produce a Local Development Framework (LDF) to replace the Unitary Development Plan system. The LDF will include a number of planning documents, including Development Plan Documents (DPDs), which will set out the policies for the Borough. A requirement of the new planning system is to carry out Sustainability Appraisals of DPDs to ensure that they promote sustainable development.

What is Sustainable Development?

1.2 The Brundtland Report of 1987 established a commonly used definition of sustainable development as,

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

1.3 More recently, the 2005 UK Strategy for Sustainable Development, 'Securing the Future', set out a set of guiding principles and shared priorities for securing sustainable development.

Five Guiding Principles

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

Four Priorities for Immediate Action

- Sustainable consumption and production;
- Climate change and energy;
- Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement; and
- Sustainable communities.

To ensure that planning policies contribute to these aims they should be tested against a sustainability framework.

Sustainability Appraisal

1.4 The Planning Act of 2004 introduced the requirement to carry out sustainability appraisals alongside the production of Development Plan Documents. The aim of the sustainability appraisal process is to ensure that sustainable concerns are incorporated into the decision making process. The requirement is that local planning authorities should develop a framework for carrying out a systematic appraisal of all its policies and plans. The appraisal should act as an audit trail for why different options have been discarded or advanced and a means for testing how sustainable the preferred option will be. The sustainability appraisal will be an ongoing and iterative process and will usually be published in two documents; the Scoping Report and the Sustainability Report. These documents will both be available for consultation and will help people see how decisions have been made.

1 Introduction

1.5 This document is the Scoping Report for Sefton's Core Strategy and will set the framework for carrying out the sustainability appraisal of the Core Strategy. It will also be used as a starting point when developing a sustainability framework for other Development Plan Documents.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

1.6 The need to carry out Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was introduced by a European Directive and brought into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. This sets a requirement to assess the environmental implications of certain types of plans and programmes and to determine whether an SEA is required. Given the nature of the Core Strategy we have assumed that a SEA is required. As part of carrying out a sustainability appraisal, we will ensure that the requirements of the SEA regulations are met.

1.7 To make it clear how we are meeting the requirements of the SEA Directive we will put 'signposts' at the beginning of each section of the Sustainability Appraisal process to show what element of the SEA directive is being met. A list of the SEA requirements is also provided in the Quality Assurance Checklist in Appendix 1 setting out where in the appraisal process it is being met.

Appropriate Assessment

1.8 A further requirement, introduced by the EU Habitats Directive, is the need to carry out an Appropriate (Habitats Regulations) Assessment. This is a requirement to consider the impact of planning policies and plans on nature sites of European Importance and to ensure that they are not adversely affected.

1.9 We are currently assessing the potential issues in Sefton which our Local Development Framework may have in terms of habitats. It is likely that we will need to carry out an Appropriate Assessment on certain aspects of our LDF. This will be consulted on separately to the Sustainability Appraisal process, but will nevertheless feed into it.

Appraisal Process

1.10 The process for undertaking this sustainability appraisal process will follow the tasks set out in national guidance ⁽¹⁾. These tasks are set out in figure 1.1 below. This initial Scoping Report sets out tasks A1 to A5 (highlighted in red below) with the result being a document that is available for consultation before the next stage of the process commences.

1 Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents, ODPM (now DCLG) November 2005

Figure 1.1 Sustainability Appraisal Stages

Stage A Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope
A1 Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives
A2 Collecting baseline information
A3 Identifying sustainability issues and problems
A4 Developing the SA framework
A5 Consulting on the scope of the SA
Stage B Developing and refining options and assessing effects
B1 Testing the Core Strategy objectives against the SA framework
B2 Developing the Core Strategy options
B3 Predicting the effects of the Core Strategy
B4 Evaluating the effects of the Core Strategy
B5 Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects
B6 Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Core Strategy
Stage C Preparing the sustainability appraisal report
Stage D Consulting on the Core Strategy and sustainability report
D1 Public participation on the draft Core Strategy and the SA report.
D2 (i) Appraising significant changes
D2 (ii) Appraising significant changes resulting from representations
D3 Making decisions and providing information
Stage E Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Core Strategy
E1 Finalising aims and methods for monitoring
E2 Responding to adverse effects

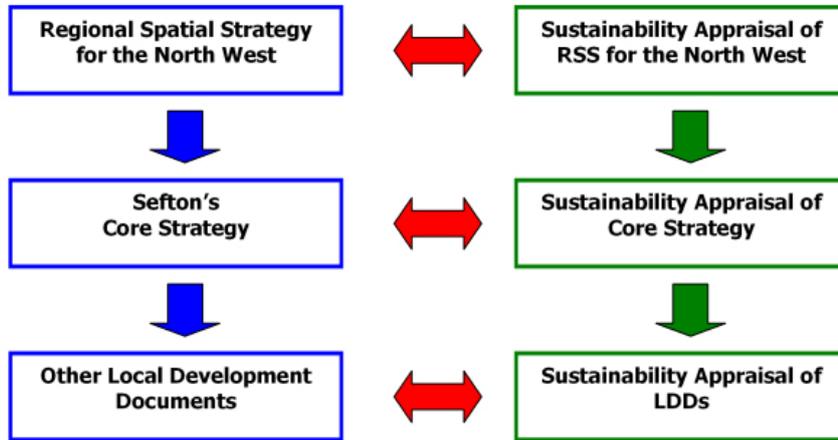
Sefton's Local Development Framework

1.11 Sefton's Local Development Framework will consist of a range of documents that, along with the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the North West, will provide the essential framework for planning in Sefton. The key document in Sefton's LDF will be the Core Strategy, which will set out a development strategy to meet our social, economic and environmental needs for 15 years, and describe the policies and delivery mechanisms necessary to achieve what we want over this period. The Core Strategy will have to be in general conformity with RSS and will be supported by a range of other Local Development Documents (Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents). These supporting documents will cover specific topics (such as housing) or areas of Sefton.

1.12 As the documents are in a hierarchy, and provide policy context for lower level documents, it is essential that the sustainability appraisals for each of the documents are also in a hierarchy (see figure 1.2 below). This not only avoids repetition but also ensures consistency in data, objectives and indicators. The sustainability appraisal for the Regional Spatial Strategy has been used to inform this scoping report and will be used when carrying out the appraisal of the Core Strategy. This can be viewed at <http://www.nwrpb.org.uk>. The sustainability appraisals for additional DPDs will be heavily influenced by those for RSS and the Core Strategy.

1 Introduction

Figure 1.2 LDF and SA process



Review of Relevant Plans and Programmes 2

2 Review of Relevant Plans and Programmes

Introduction

Information required for the Strategic Environmental Assessment

The 'relationship [of the plan or programme] with other relevant plans and programmes'.

'The environmental protection objectives, established at international, European Community or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation

2.1 This stage consists of establishing the policy and sustainability context in which the Local Development Framework is being prepared through a review of all relevant Plans, Policies, Programmes, Strategies and Initiatives (PPPSIs). This task helps to identify objectives and targets that are relevant to the LDF and which it can help deliver.

2.2 Some points to consider when assessing the policy context are:

- No list of PPPSIs can claim to be exhaustive. Instead the review should look at those that are most relevant and draw on the key points.
- New policies emerge on a regular basis. As part of the monitoring of the LDF new policy guidance will be assessed.
- PPPSIs often exist in a hierarchy with International, National, Regional and Local guidance often informing each other. The normal rule is that the more local level policies provide the greater level of policy detail and therefore the review should concentrate on the lower level documents.

Methodology

2.3 A number of PPPSIs that were considered relevant to the scope of the Local Development Framework sustainability were reviewed. For the purposes of this section we have grouped these into broad topics. Appendix 2 contains a list and summary of all the documents reviewed as part of this first task.

2.4 The review consisted of assessing each relevant document and extracting the key information with regard to the LDF and sustainability. The key points are set out in the conclusions below. This task has informed the identification of the key sustainability issues set out in section 4 of this report. The list of documents reviewed has purposely been kept to a manageable level and where possible repetition has been avoided by restricting reviews of similar documents with similar messages.

Summary of Document Review

Climate Change

2.5 Probably the most high profile sustainability issue of recent years, the way we adapt and mitigate to climate change, is discussed in a wide range of literature. The way we adapt to climate change should be an important consideration in the formulation of planning policy.

2 Review of Relevant Plans and Programmes

2.6 For instance the risk from flooding will need to be a key part of the decision making process when looking at locating development. This is particularly important given Sefton's low-lying coastal location (see paragraph 3.45 for specific information on flooding in Sefton). We can also seek design measures to reduce flooding, such as Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), use of 'grey water' and by reducing areas of impermeable surfaces. Other ways we can reduce the impact of climate change is to provide green infrastructure and trees in our towns to provide areas of respite from heat and pollution, i.e urban cooling. Such areas also help to store rainwater after heavy rain and prevent rivers from overflowing.

"Although flooding cannot be wholly prevented, its impacts can be avoided and reduced through planning and management." (PPS25 Development and Flood Risk)

2.7 The other major part of dealing with climate change is mitigation, or reducing our contribution to the causes of climate change. Primarily this is the reduction of Carbon Dioxide emissions. By 2016 all new housing should be 'zero carbon' and the planning system can play a major role in this by ensuring all development is energy efficient and includes renewable energy. Development should also be located where there is existing infrastructure, communities and a good public transport system to reduce reliance on the car. The planning system can also help provide attractive environments and infrastructure for the innovation and investment in renewable and low carbon technologies. Planning authorities should also ensure local communities have a real influence on decisions and actions that help reduce climate change.

"Used positively, [planning] has a pivotal and significant role in helping to deliver the Government's ambition for zero carbon development." (Planning and Climate Change – Supplement to PPS1)

Outcome

Include a sustainability objective that will assess how policies will respond to climate change, both adaption and mitigation. Will need to include suitable indicators that monitor these issues effectively.

Countryside and Coast

2.8 Although Sefton is a metropolitan area, over half of its area is undeveloped and is designated as Green Belt. Planning seeks to maximise the benefits of the Green Belt, such as providing recreation opportunities, stopping urban sprawl and diverting development into the inner areas. Development that is permitted in the Green Belt should respect its setting and should not harm the reason for its designation.

"The fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open; the most important attribute of Green Belts is their openness." (PPG2 Green Belts)

2.9 Most of the Sefton coast is acknowledged as being of local, national and international importance for nature conservation. Conserving these whilst at the same time providing access to the coast are important priorities in Sefton. There is a need to reconcile the development requirements of a range of economic and social activities that require coastal locations with the need to protect, conserve and where appropriate, improve the landscape, environmental quality, wildlife habitats and recreational opportunities of the coast. Plans should also consider the role the coast has in protecting Sefton from flooding.

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Outcome

Include a sustainability objective that will assess the impact on the coast and countryside of plans and policies. Include appropriate indicators which can monitor impact.

Biodiversity

2.10 Local Authorities have a key role to play in the conservation of biodiversity. They must ensure biodiversity, in particular species and habitats of principal importance, is properly protected and enhanced. This should be done through a Habitats Regulations Assessment to ensure the integrity of internationally important nature sites is protected. Local Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) set out targets for the protection of habitats and species, and these should also be considered during plan preparation.

2.11 Biodiversity should also be considered as part of new development and opportunities for habitat creation and green infrastructure should be incorporated into the designs of new schemes. Improved biodiversity also has a role to play in urban regeneration and can support economic diversification.

"The aim of planning decisions should be to prevent harm to biodiversity." (PPS9 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation)

Outcome

Include a sustainability objective that will assess the impact on biodiversity of plans and policies, including biodiversity and green infrastructure creation. Include appropriate indicators which can monitor impact.

Housing

2.12 Providing housing is probably the part of the development process that has the most direct impact on people. For that reason it is vital that we do so in a way that helps contribute to sustainability. Housing has to be provided that meets demand and provides choice for all sectors of the community, including gypsies and travellers. In Sefton there is demand for affordable housing across the borough and for single person households, the elderly and those with special needs and affordability. Policies for housing should help create mixed communities, including for mix of tenure, housing size, resident and design.

"The challenge is to ensure that the right mix of housing stock – in terms of type, size and tenure – is available to meet the needs of residents, and to create the kind of communities and neighbourhoods where people actually want to live." (Regional Spatial Strategy for the NW)

2.13 There is also a range of guidance that deals with the quality of new housing, with emphasis on good design to improve both the attractiveness of an area and to increase energy efficiency. Good quality design is essential in providing long lasting housing that people want to live in. We also need to ensure, wherever possible, that those elements within the Code for Sustainable Homes that meet Sefton's needs best are promoted, e.g. Lifetime Homes to meet the needs of an ageing population.

"Good design is fundamental to the development of high quality new housing, which contributes to the creation of sustainable, mixed communities" (PPS3 Housing)

2 Review of Relevant Plans and Programmes

2.14 The location of new homes is also important. They should be built where people want to live – near to jobs, facilities and services people use – and must connect into existing transport links. This will help create more vibrant communities and will ensure people feel more able to use sustainable methods of transport (e.g. walking, cycling and public transport) to access local services or facilities.

2.15 Special attention also needs to be paid to housing provision within regeneration areas – for example Housing Market Renewal in south Sefton. The low quality housing and lack of tenure choice on offer in these areas still remains a major obstacle to regeneration. It is anticipated that improvements will help attract new and retain existing residents, especially those who are skilled and educated and can help stimulate the local economy.

Outcome

Need to add a sustainability objective that assesses whether housing need, in terms of tenure, affordability, location and type, is being met. Will also need suitable indicators to monitor how far this is being achieved.

Need to include an objective that will assess good quality design, including energy efficiency.

Economic Development and Tourism

2.16 In order to attract further investment Sefton needs to exploit its unique strengths and assets (e.g. the coast and countryside) as well as ensure the provision of appropriate transport infrastructure essential for business. Development should always be steered towards the most sustainable locations in Sefton. However we need good up-to-date evidence to influence decisions on where future employment, retail and housing sites should be, to make sure a lack of potential sites does not suppress economic growth in Sefton. The Council must take a proactive approach, encouraging new uses for vacant or derelict buildings and previously developed land where appropriate.

2.17 It is important to create and manage a sustainable economy, which is well connected into the wider Merseyside economy. Businesses must be encouraged to take seriously their responsibility for, and impact on, climate change as well as their need to adapt to the challenges it poses. Sefton must encourage enterprise and the creation of small businesses, especially in the south of the borough where this needs to be tied into regeneration. We need to improve the skill base and education levels in the areas that are most deprived so residents there benefit from economic regeneration. There is also a need to support the growth of existing strategic employment and economic development sites, for example the Port of Liverpool.

"A lack of basic skills and qualifications has been identified as a barrier to the growth of the regional economy." Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West

2.18 The concept of strengthening existing economic centres also applies to town centres. Throughout the documents reviewed, there is a strong emphasis on town centres being the focus of new development. In detail this means providing a good level of consumer choice with a range of retail, leisure and services. People also need to be encouraged to use town centres. This can be achieved by ensuring a high quality of design in the town centre environment - including buildings and public realm. Town centres should also be venues for a variety of facilities and events that will add vibrancy and further encourage their use.

2.19 Encouraging tourism development in Sefton will require recognition of the interdependent nature of tourism activities and operations - e.g. providing for visitors' needs in terms of accommodation, catering, transport, attractions and information. The impact of increased tourism

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on visitor destinations must be considered. Some of these may be affected by planning designations and will require special protection. Sefton is seeking to exploit its unique coastal location to attract more visitors, e.g at Crosby and Southport.

"The development of new tourism opportunities, including eco-tourism associated with the North West's rich and diverse wildlife, will be important in extending the existing visitor season." (Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West)

Outcome

Need to include a number of sustainability objectives relating to economic development, including encouraging business development, improving access to jobs, personal wealth and tourism.

Transport and Accessibility

2.20 There is a need to actively manage the pattern of urban growth to encourage the use of sustainable forms of transport such as walking, cycling and public transport as means of accessing existing centres that provide day-to-day facilities as well as access to employment and services. This can be practically achieved by locating those activities which attract a lot of people in city, town and district centres - near to major public transport interchanges and concentrations of population. It is also helpful to use parking policies, alongside other planning and transport measures, to promote sustainable transport choices and reduce reliance on the car for work and other journeys. Overall this means giving priority to people over ease of traffic movement and providing pedestrians of all abilities, cyclists and public transport with more space.

"Vision is for a fully integrated safe transport network for Merseyside which supports economic and social regeneration and supports economic and social regeneration and ensures good access for all, and which is operated to the highest standards to protect the environment and ensure quality of life." (Merseyside Local Transport Plan)

Outcome

A sustainability objective that considers the effects on accessibility will be an important part of the framework. Associated indicators will be needed to ensure that this issue is properly monitored. The sustainability objective should promote other transport than the car.

Infrastructure

2.21 A strategic approach to infrastructure provision should be taken when preparing local development documents. Infrastructure includes water supply and sewers, waste facilities, electricity, gas, roads, railways, green infrastructure and community facilities. Plans should determine the impact of new development on the ability of existing infrastructure to cope with it. Local planning authorities should consult from early in local development document preparation with utility companies to ensure they can input any requirements into their own planning. If inadequate infrastructure exists, we will need to address how this will be provided and when.

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Outcome

A sustainability objective is needed which would assess if development could be adequately serviced by all infrastructure requirements, whether existing or proposed.

Heritage and Culture

2.22 Local Planning Authorities need to be involved in promoting and protecting all aspects of the historic environment through tools such as Listed Building Control and Conservation Area designation. Local people should be more positively engaged in protecting the heritage in their local area as it plays an important role in how they identify themselves with their community. The re-use and adaptation of heritage assets is at the heart of sustainable development as it uses less energy and materials than new development. Heritage has been proven to be a catalyst and focus for regeneration. Indeed heritage can be used to boost local economies by attracting investment and tourism, highlighting local distinctiveness, improving an area's image as well as adding value to property in an area.

"Regeneration is a 'growth industry' and heritage assets can play a central role in achieving successful regeneration – they represent an opportunity rather than a constraint." (Heritage Works - English Heritage)

2.23 Culture and the cultural industries should be encouraged as part of a package of measures that can help regeneration and investment. They also help people to take a sense of pride in where they live, foster a sense of community and help create places people choose to live. Cultural activities and venues can often bring back into use derelict buildings with heritage and historic value.

"Culture is a key component of the continued economic and social renaissance of the North West. A critical mass and excellence in culture are essential prerequisites for a successful and competitive region, attracting inward investment and skilled people as well as visitors." (Sefton's Cultural Strategy)

Outcome

A culture and heritage objective should be considered as part of the framework.

Health and Recreation

2.24 The planning system has been recognised as having an important role to play in improving the health of people. This can be achieved through improving access to recreation facilities and greenspaces and making it easier for people to walk or cycle to places. Providing facilities such as allotments, 'green gyms', play areas for children, walking and cycling paths can all contribute to adding formal and informal exercise into people's everyday lives.

2.25 Mental health can benefit from improvements to the local environment in which people live and work. Areas for recreation add to an improved living environment, create places where people choose to live, help give people confidence and can help aid regeneration. Reducing pollution through decreasing car use and locating industry away from residential areas are also key elements that can have health benefits.

"Modern urban systems can serve to discourage activity, thereby promoting weight gain and other health risks." (Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution)

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Outcome

Health should be included as a sustainability objective, with key questions provided to assist those carrying out the appraisal to see the links between health and planning.

Crime and Safety

2.26 Poor physical environments have a detrimental impact on the image of an area and encourage crime and fear of crime. This in turn prevents people from using public places, further exacerbating the problem. Design principles should be adopted that help make places attractive and safe to visit for all sectors of the community. Development should also be designed to be safe by reducing potential for accidents, for example from traffic.

"Policies shouldcreate safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder or fear of crime does not undermine quality of life or community cohesion" (PPS1 Delivering Sustainable Development)

Outcome

Crime and safety will be included as a sustainability objective. Indicators will be needed to monitor actual crime and fear of crime.

Regeneration

2.27 Policies for employment and housing should contribute to the overall aims of regeneration and complement other strategies, primarily the sustainable community strategy. Planning policies should be a key way of implementing a range of development and regeneration schemes and be a means of integrating them. In Sefton some of the key programmes this includes are Housing Market Renewal, Working Neighbourhood Fund, Local Enterprise Growth Initiative, Townscape Heritage Initiative, and Mersey Waterfront. We need to ensure that these complement each other to help reduce the gap between the most deprived parts of Sefton and the rest.

"Market Renewal requires a wider package of economic development and regeneration proposals, with complementary interventions in the environment, education, health and infrastructure in order to support the growth of a sustainable housing market." (South Sefton Regeneration Strategy)

Outcome

It would be useful to include a sustainability objective, or sub-objective that assesses the impact of a policy on regeneration and regeneration schemes.

Community

2.28 Development should meet the needs of the communities that use it. To achieve this planners must work with their communities to fully understand their requirements and aspirations for the places in which they live, work, shop and spend leisure time. Places and buildings that are used for community uses should also be planned into development schemes. These places are important in helping to building community spirit.

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"The outcomes from planning affect everyone, and everyone must therefore have the opportunity to play a role in delivering effective and inclusive planning. Community involvement is vitally important to planning and the achievement of sustainable development." (PPS1 Delivering Sustainable Development)

Outcome

A sustainable objective based on meeting the needs of communities and involving them in the process is required.

Consultation Questions

Do you agree with the key issues that have been gathered from the review of the plans and policies?

Are there any other key policies and plans that we need to consider as part of this process? If so what key messages should we draw from them?

[please use the 'add comments' tab at the start of this chapter to give your answers to these questions]

Developing the Baseline Information 3

3 Developing the Baseline Information

Introduction

Information required for the Strategic Environmental Assessment

'Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment ⁽¹⁾ and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan of programme' and 'the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected'.

3.1 The collection of baseline data is a requirement of the Sustainability Appraisal process. It is required to provide information on the characteristics of an area, including the current state of the environment, and identify trends that are likely to continue without the implementation of a plan or policy. This stage builds on the previous stage by adding detailed information for Sefton on many of the issues that the policy review identifies as needing addressing.

3.2 The collection of data is also used to identify sustainability problems and issues that can be addressed within the plan or policy. The data will also be used to suggest suitable indicators to monitor the effectiveness of the plan or policy in addressing the identified problems.

3.3 The collection of data to provide a portrait of Sefton is a requirement of a number of documents and strategies produced by various bodies. Examples of these are:

- The 'Story of Place', produced by the Sefton Borough Partnership to inform the replacement of the Sustainable Communities Plan and the updated Local Area Agreements
- Neighbourhood profiling for neighbourhood regeneration
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, produced in partnership by the Council and Sefton Primary Care Trust, provides a range of baseline information on health issues in Sefton
- Annual Monitoring Report produced by the Planning & Economic Regeneration Department to monitor the performance of the development plan.

3.4 We have shared our information where possible and in many cases used findings from other studies to inform our identification of sustainability issues and problems. By doing this we help link the Core Strategy with the Sustainable Community Strategy and other plans, through a shared evidence base and common objectives.

Methodology

3.5 We have looked at data across a range of different issues and topics to ensure that we get a full picture of the current state of Sefton. In all cases we have provided information for Sefton as a whole, but it is also useful to provide information for specific locations. This helps us to identify problems that occur in different parts of Sefton that may not be otherwise apparent.

3.6 The data was collected from a number of sources and organisations. As such it is not always possible to be consistent in the presentation of data. To help identify trends and comparators we have also sought to include data with a number of our key partners, which has helped reduce resources but also helped identify some important issues.

1 For the purposes of Strategic Environmental Assessment, environment is defined as issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors. We have indicated at each sub heading which of the SEA topics are being covered.

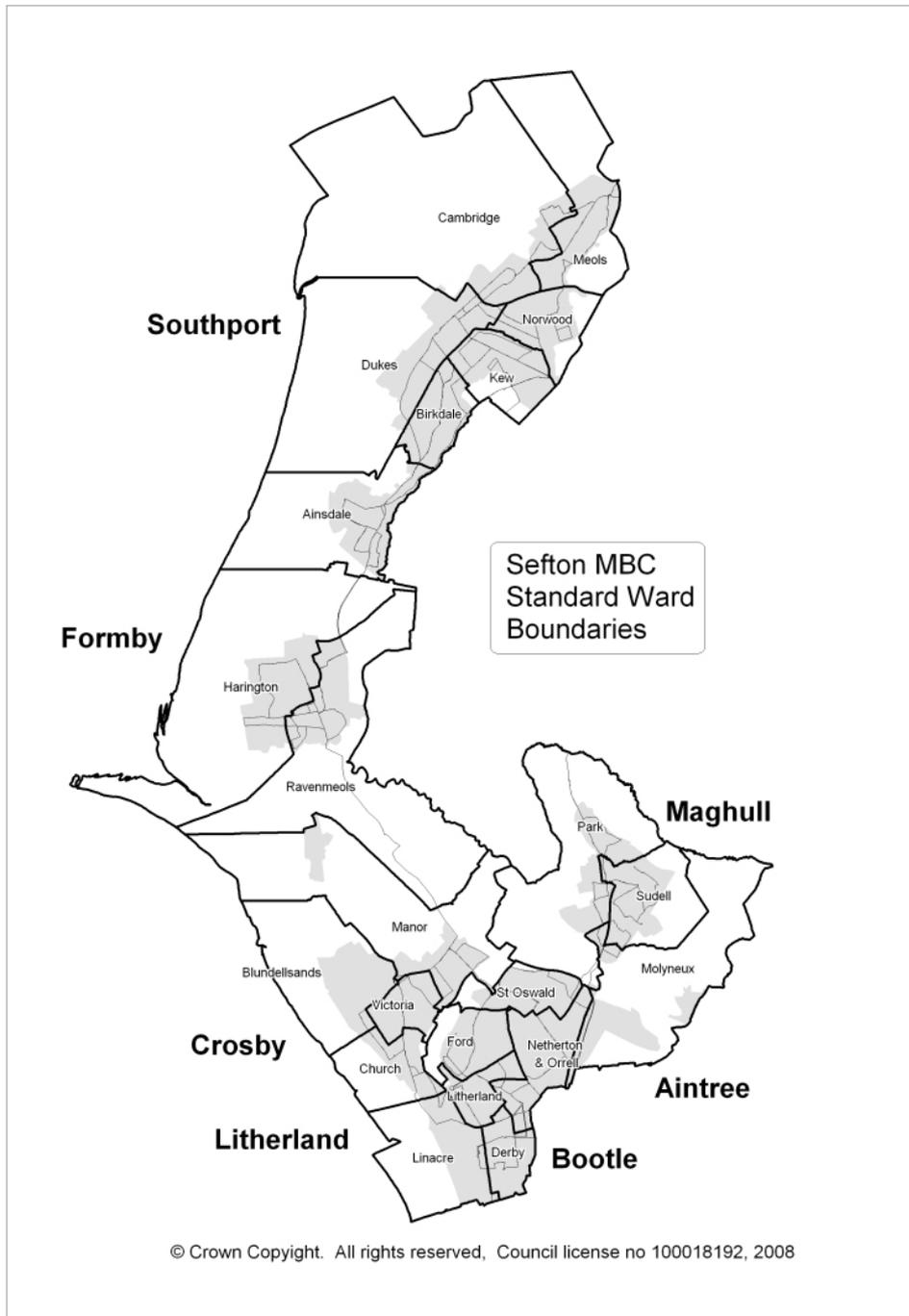
3 Developing the Baseline Information

3.7 The collection of data is intended to be an ongoing process and it likely that the data in this document will be supplemented. This will be done either by suggestions made during consultation, by further data collection and by undertaking primary research. Any additional information will be published as an addendum to this document or summarised in the sustainability report.

Summary of Baseline Information - A Portrait of Sefton

3.8 A summary of the key points identified through analysis of the baseline data is set out in this section. The full data sets and relevant information can be found in Appendix 3. Much of the data is presented at ward level. Sefton has 22 wards and these are shown in the figure below.

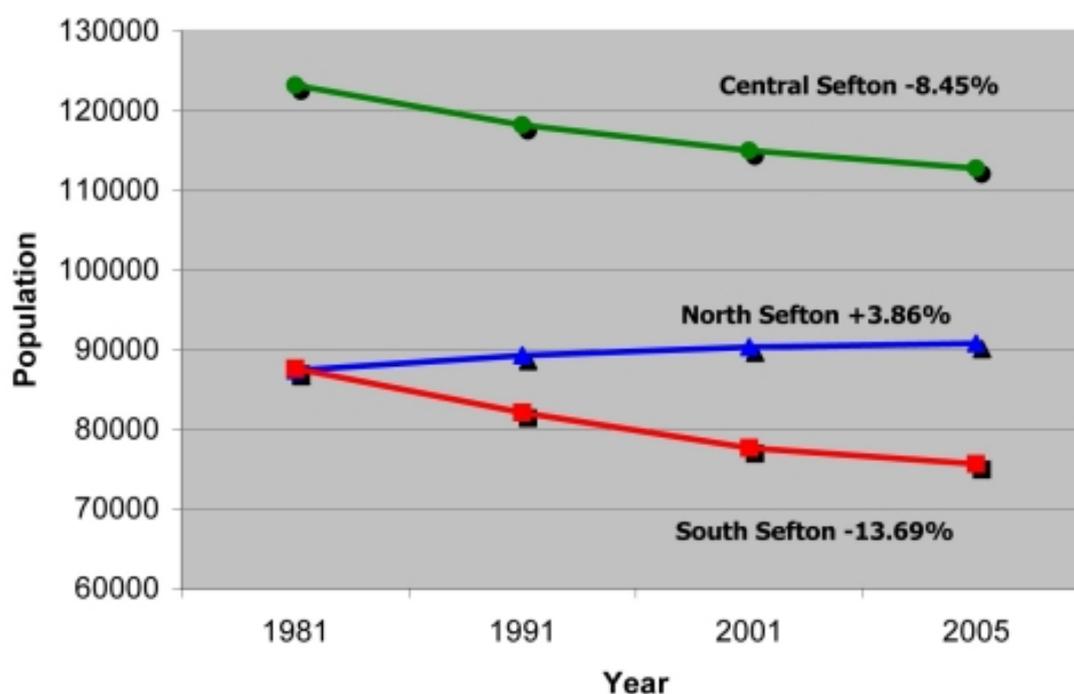
Sefton wards map



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Population ⁽²⁾ (SEA Topic - Population)

3.9 The population of Sefton has decreased markedly over the previous several decades from 310,398 in 1971 to an estimated 277,400 in 2006, a 10.6% decrease. In recent years the rate of population loss has slowed and it is estimated that it will continue to do so, with a population of 272,100 expected by 2030. This population change is more marked in South Sefton, where some wards have seen population decreases of over 20% and the average decrease for the 6 wards in South Sefton (Linacre, Derby, Litherland, Netherton & Orrell, Ford and St Oswald) is over 13%. This contrasts markedly with wards in North Sefton (Cambridge, Meols, Dukes, Norwood, Kew, Birkdale and Ainsdale) which jointly have seen an increase in their population of almost 4%.

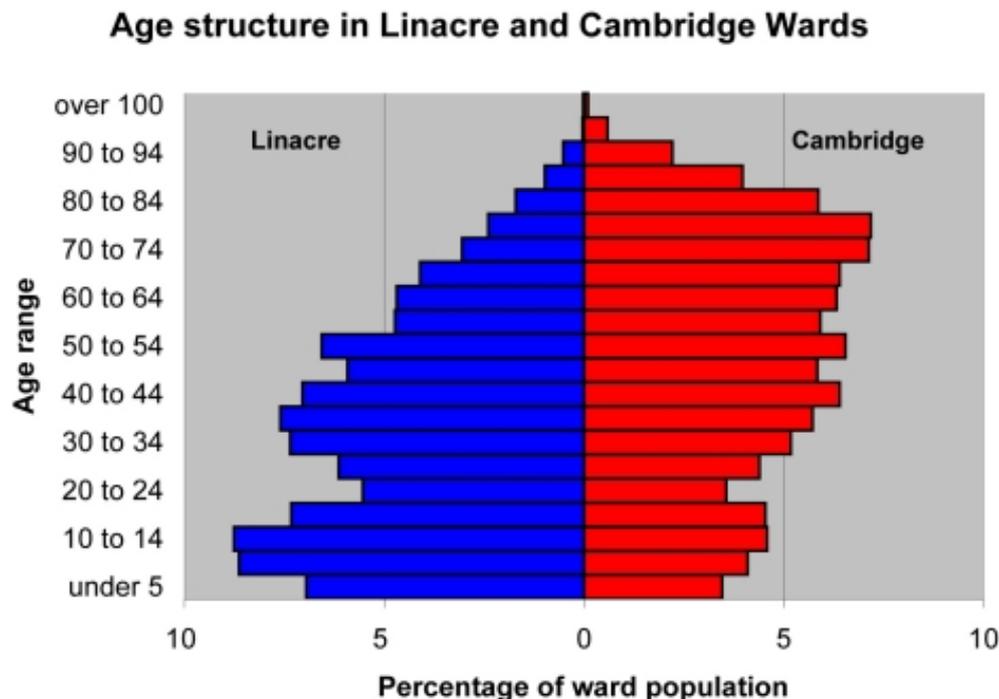
Population change in Sefton 1981 - 2005

3.10 In terms of demographics Sefton has a population that is clearly older than the North West and national average. In 2006 it was estimated that 19.8% of Sefton's population are over 65, compared with 16% in the North West and 15.9% in England. This is expected to increase in coming years to an estimated 21.1% of over 65s by 2012. Particular parts of Sefton have a higher percentage of older people. In Southport the wards of Dukes and Cambridge respectively have 32.1% and 33.4% of people over 65, while in South Sefton some wards have fewer older people than the national

2 For the purposes of this section south Sefton comprises Linacre, Derby, Litherland, Netherton and Orrell, Ford, and St Oswalds wards. Central Sefton comprises Harington, Ravenmeols, Blundellsands, Church, Victoria, Manor, Park, Sudell and Molyneux. North Sefton comprises Cambridge, Meols, Dukes, Norwood, Kew, Birkdale and Ainsdale.

3 Developing the Baseline Information

average. The graph below clearly shows the differences between two of the extreme wards in terms of age profile. Linacre clearly has a much younger population than Cambridge, in which the over 70s outnumber the under 20s.



3.11 Despite the trend of population loss the number of households in Sefton has increased by 8.8% since 1981 and is estimated to increase by a further 550 households each year between 2003 and 2021. This is a result of a steady decrease in household size that has occurred nationally and is primarily driven by the increased number of single person households.

3.12 Sefton has a fairly small number of people from a black or ethnic minority ethnic groups (about 6,600 or 2.4% of Sefton's population in 2005). This number has grown from 4,600 people in 2001. Sefton is becoming more diverse as we have welcomed a small number (about 2,800) of European workers and their families who work in Sefton and its surrounding areas.

Outcome

Include a key question within a community based objective that will assess whether a policy can help stabilise, if not increase Sefton's population. Will also need to look at the provision of housing, services and infrastructure for a changing population. Population change, including demographics, will be useful as indicators. An objective that looks at integration of social groups should be included.

Deprivation (SEA topic - population)

3.13 The Index of Multiple Deprivation combines a number of indicators, chosen to cover a range of economic, social and housing issues, into a single deprivation score for each small area in England. This allows each area to be ranked relative to one another according to their level of deprivation. Figure 1 in Appendix 3 shows the results for the whole of Sefton. In 2007 much of South Sefton is ranked within the 20% most deprived in the country. Linacre ward is almost entirely made up of

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areas that are within the 5% most deprived. Other wards, such as Derby, Litherland, Ford, Netherton & Orrell, Church and St Oswald, also show particular clusters of deprivation. Southport also has some small pockets of areas within the 20% most deprived.

Outcome

Need to assess whether policies will reduce deprivation, with emphasis on reducing the gaps between the affluent areas and those most deprived. The Index of Multiple Deprivation will be a useful indicator to monitor the sustainability of the Core Strategy.

Housing (SEA topics - population, material assets)



3.14 Although Sefton as a whole has above national and regional average levels of owner-occupiers this masks areas of low home ownership in parts of the borough. In many wards in South Sefton the level of owner-occupier households is around 55 to 60%, with one ward, Linacre having just 35% of owner-occupiers. Average house prices in Sefton (£172,000 in June 2008) are above those in the North West (£157,000) but below the national average (£219,000). In the past year (to June 2008) average house prices have decreased by 0.6%, which is less rapid than

the decrease in comparison with some neighbouring authorities (Liverpool 1.0% decrease, St Helens 3.7% decrease and Halton 5.9% decrease). The largest decrease has been for apartments which have decreased by 6.7% in value to June 2008, while semi-detached housing has decreased on average, by 2.6%. Again these figures disguise differences throughout the borough with housing generally more expensive in the north and cheaper in the south.

3.15 Sefton has 437 households accepted as homeless, a much lower rate than in both the North West as a whole and England. Currently 4.2% of Sefton's housing stock is vacant, about 5200 units, and about half of these are classed as long term vacant (i.e. over 6 months). However, some of the increase has been created as a result of positive intervention in the Housing Market Renewal Area. Almost 4000 dwellings in Sefton are classed as being unfit which whilst over 3% of the total stock, is much lower than in 2001 and the rates in the North West and England. It has been estimated that Sefton requires over 1200 affordable housing units each year and during 2006/7 only 92 affordable housing units were built.

3.16 In Sefton there is currently one site for gypsies and travellers, Broad Lane Formby, which has current provision for 16 pitches. The Merseyside Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment identifies a further requirement for 16 pitches in Sefton to 2016 and for the improvement of the existing site.

3 Developing the Baseline Information

Outcome

The provision of housing that meets the needs of all of Sefton's population will be a key objective for the sustainability framework. This will include issues such as meeting identified affordability housing needs and providing specialist housing. Given the population profile we will also need to encourage the provision of Lifetime Homes. Bringing back vacant homes will also be covered as part of one of the sustainability objectives.

Access and Transport (SEA topics - human health, air, climatic factors)

3.17 In Sefton almost a third of households (31.1%) have no car, although Sefton has excellent public transport links. Much of the urban area, including Bootle, Southport, Maghull and Crosby has good coverage by frequent bus services. Merseyrail runs a frequent rail service between Liverpool and Southport, which include 13 stations in Sefton, and between Liverpool and Ormskirk, including 3 stations in Sefton. Access to health facilities is poor by public transport, an issue for many people in Sefton, especially at night or weekends.



3.18 By far the most popular choice of travel to work is by car with over 63% either driving or being a passenger. Although Sefton has slightly higher public transport usage than the North West average, only around 14% of people use public transport as their primary mode of travelling to work. Another statistic shows that while over 1 in 5 people have to travel less than 2 km to work, less than 10% of the total working population choose to walk. Less than 3% of the working population cycle to work.

3.19 Of the 115,000 Sefton resident's who are in employment almost 70,000 (60%) work in Sefton. A further 25,000 (22%) travel into Liverpool City Council, about 4,000 to each of Knowsley and West Lancashire. Of the 95,000 people employed in Sefton over 73% live in the borough, almost 10,000 (over 10%) travel in from Liverpool, over 5,000 (over 5%) from West Lancashire and 2,500 from Knowsley. There are other less significant travel flows between Sefton and the other Merseyside, Lancashire and Cheshire authorities.

3.20 One 'domain' of the index of multiple deprivation looks at barriers to accessing housing and services. This shows that no areas of Sefton are classed as being in the most 20% deprived, and half of the areas are with the top 10%. The areas that show some signs of deprivation for this domain are the rural areas surrounding Formby and Maghull and south Southport, which is partly indicative of the high cost of housing in these areas, but also shows these areas are more remote and have less public transport.

Outcome

A sustainability objective should be included that will assess whether policies will improve accessibility particularly by walking, cycling or public transport.

Developing the Baseline Information 3

Education and Training (SEA topics - population, material assets)

3.21 The percentage of Sefton's pupils achieving 5 A*-C GCSE grades has increased in recent years, to 64.1% in 2007. However, there are disparities within Sefton with generally the schools in the more affluent north and east generally achieving higher scores than those in the south.

3.22 In terms of NVQ qualifications Sefton's data is comparable with the North West average with over 80% of the working age population at level 1 or above and over 23% at level 4. However, unlike with GCSEs this is below the national average.

3.23 The Index of Multiple Deprivation (education, skills and training domain) for 2007 show that many wards, particularly in the south of the borough are classed as being deprived. Seven wards in South Sefton (Linacre, Derby, Litherland, Ford, Netherton & Orrell, St Oswald and Manor), compared to just one in the north (Norwood) contain Super Output Areas (SOAs) that are ranked in the 20% most deprived for education, skills and training. In one ward in particular, Linacre, the whole area is ranked in the worst 15%.

Outcome

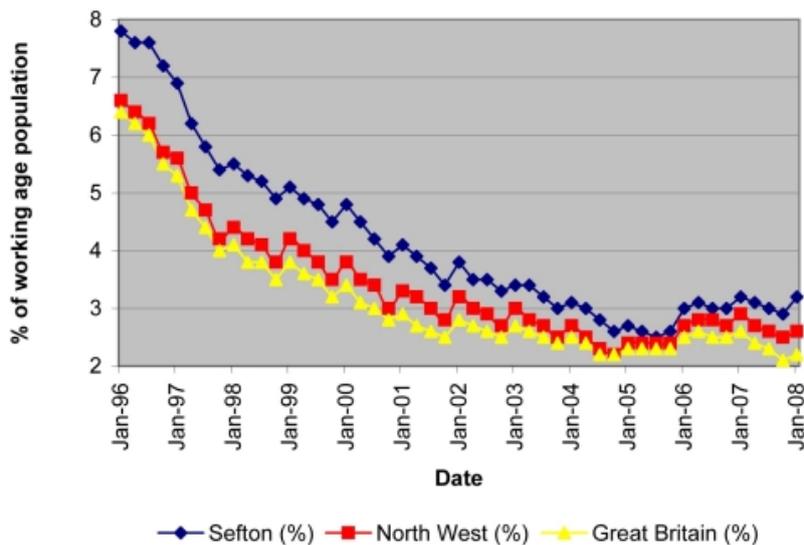
An objective will need to be included that assesses whether policies will improve education and skill levels.

Economy & Employment (SEA topics - population, material assets)

3.24 Sefton has significantly fewer jobs per head of population (0.69) than both the North West (0.80) and National (0.84) average, and this has remained relatively constant over the past decade. This situation is also reflected in the number of job seekers allowance (JSA) claimants where Sefton (2.9% of the working age population in January 2008) is above the North West (2.5%) and national (2.1%) averages. This figure has dropped significantly from the late 1990s when between 4.5% and 7.8% claimed JSA. Sefton also compares unfavourably when compared to the North West (14.5%) and national average (16.0%) when looking at long term unemployed as almost one in five JSA claimants in Sefton have been claiming for over 12 months. Within Sefton there are dramatic disparities with 6 wards, all in south Sefton, (Church 6.4%, Derby 5.9%, Ford 5.5%, Linacre 8.5%, Litherland 5.1% and Netherton and Orrell 5.2%) that have JSA claim rates above 5% - double the national average. On the opposite end of the scale, Harington ward in Formby has a JSA rate of just 1.1%.

3 Developing the Baseline Information

JSA Claimants in Sefton 1996-2008



3.26 The number of VAT registered businesses in Sefton has steadily increased in Sefton since 1994, with 11% more. There are however only 20.78 VAT registered businesses in Sefton per 1000 population compared to 27.15 in the North West and 32.16 in Britain.

3.27 Sefton relies much more on the service sector, particularly in public administration, education and health, in which over 40% of jobs are provided. This is a huge increase from 33% in 1995, an increase of 14,000 jobs. The tourism industry is also important, particularly in Southport, and the number of visitors is on the increase, over 4% since 2003.

3.28 The majority of Sefton's employment land is located in the south of the borough, and there is a lack of sites particularly in the Formby and Southport areas.

Outcome

How much a policy influences the local economy will be an important objective within the sustainability framework. This should include sub-objectives such as helping business start up rates and reducing worklessness. VAT registered businesses rates, JSA rates and number of jobs created will all be considered for indicators.

Health (SEA topics - population, human health)

3.29 Overall people in Sefton have good health and improving levels of health. Over three quarters of Sefton's residents describe their health as good or very good. Life expectancy had been increasing in Sefton. For males this has increased from 75.1 years to 76.3 between 2001/3 and 2004/6, and females from 77.9 years to 81.0 years. These figures are slightly lower than the national average. However in certain areas the average life expectancy is much lower than the borough average. For example in Linacre ward life expectancy for women is 76.1 years, and men just 66.9 years, a significant 9.4 years below the Sefton average and 10.4 years below the national average. The highest life expectancy in Sefton is generally in the Formby and Southport areas.

Developing the Baseline Information 3

3.30 The 2001 census data shows that over 40% of Sefton's households contain at least one person who lives with a limiting long-term illness, higher than the national average of 33%. Almost 7% of Sefton's residents are claiming disability living allowance, an increase of 11% between 2002 and 2006.

3.31 While heart disease remains one of the main killers in Sefton, the rate has decreased. In 1995/7 the mortality rate for under 75 year olds from heart disease was 147.7 deaths per 100,000 people. This has dropped to 94.2 per 100,000 people in 2003/5 and the Local Primary Care Trust for Sefton target for 2008/11 is below 88 per 100,000 people. As with many of the health data sets the situation is worse in South Sefton with the 2003/5 rate at 128.4 per 100,000 people. However, the current gap between these wards and the Sefton average, currently 34.2 deaths per 100,000 is at its narrowest.

3.32 In Sefton obesity in children has increased in recent years and is above the national average. In 2006/7 over 18% of year 6 children (i.e. 11 year olds) were classed as obese and a further 14% overweight.

Outcome

Health should be included as a sustainability objective, with the emphasis on how policies can make choosing healthy lifestyles and exercise easier. A housing objective should look at eradicating unfit housing and fuel poverty.

Crime (SEA topic - population)

3.33 In 2006/7 the total number of recorded crimes in Sefton was 14,316. This is a 13.2% reduction since 2004/5. Criminal damage accounted for the largest proportion (39%) of Sefton's recorded crime. Violent crime against the person accounted for 20% of recorded crime.

3.34 Particular wards in Sefton show concentrations of crime. Linacre Ward in Bootle (1555) and Dukes Ward in Southport (1392) had the highest number of recorded crime in Sefton in 2006/7. These are the wards that contain the main concentrations of pubs and clubs in Bootle and Southport Town Centres respectively. Other wards have much lower levels of crime compared to the Sefton average of 647. Ainsdale (335), Birkdale (398), Blundellsands (410), Cambridge (405), Harington (286), and Meols (239), Norwood (458), Park (409), Ravenmeols (286) all have less than three quarters the amount of recorded crime of the Sefton average.

3.35 Generally South Sefton has higher proportions of violent crime than the Sefton average with the North and Central areas having a higher proportion of vehicle crime. This is reflected in the 'perceptions of crime' survey and the crime that residents felt most susceptible to. In the Southport, Crosby, Formby and Sefton East Area Committee areas the top fear was being a victim of burglary. In south Sefton, Linacre/Derby, Litherland/Ford and Netherton & Orrell/St Oswalds Area Committee areas, the top fear was of being assaulted and beaten up.

Outcome

Although crime is comparatively low in Sefton, it is still an important issue for residents and should be included in the sustainability framework. Particular emphasis should be placed on those areas that currently show high levels of recorded crimes. Indicators should look at monitoring both actual crime and people's perception of crime.

3 Developing the Baseline Information

Culture and Leisure (SEA topics - population, human health, material assets, cultural heritage)



3.36 In the Audit Commission's user satisfaction survey (2006/7) 71% of Sefton's residents said they were satisfied with parks and open spaces in Sefton. This is a sizeable increase from a 50% satisfaction rate in 2003/4. In 2006/7 75% of residents surveyed indicated that they were satisfied with libraries (unchanged since 2003/4) and sports and leisure facilities had a 54% satisfaction score (a decrease of 6% since 2003/4). In 2006/7 there were 207 visits in person, per 1000 of the population, to museums. This compares with a national average of 656, though this has increased from 159 in 2003/4.

Outcome

The issues of culture and leisure will be covered in a general 'liveability', objective that seeks to measure how attractive a place is to live.

Community Involvement (SEA topic - population)

3.37 At the 2007 local elections, the overall turnout in Sefton was 30.88%, with the highest ward, Cambridge having a turnout of over 43% and Linacre Ward the lowest at 18.5%. The turnout the previous year, 30.75%, was very similar, with similar discrepancies in turnout between wards in the north, generally around 35 to 42%, to those in the south, 18 to 25%.

3.38 In 2006/7 33% of Sefton's residents surveyed in the Audit Commission Survey felt they could influence local decisions. This is slightly higher than both the national average of 31.78% and the average for all unitary (i.e. urban) authorities of 31.26%.

Outcome

The ability of the public to be engaged in the local decision making process is an important part of sustainability and this should be reflected in the sustainability framework. This could be included as part of a Strengthening Communities objective.

Shopping (SEA topic - material assets)

3.39 Of Sefton's two major retail centres, Southport has seen its ranking in the National Town Centre Retail Rankings list improve from 62nd to 53rd between 2004 and 2008. In the same period Bootle has dropped from 229th to 285th place. Rents in Bootle Town Centre have increased since June 1999 from £484/sqm to £753/sqm at June 2007, which represents a 56% increase. In comparison Southport has seen its rent decrease from £1184/sqm in June 1999 to £914/sqm in June 2007, a 23% fall.

Developing the Baseline Information 3

3.40 The proportion of vacant units within the Bootle town centre has fallen since 2004 (12.6% to 10.9%) but the proportion of vacant floorspace has increased (7.4% to 9.1%). Much of this increase can be attributed to the closure of the Somerfields and a number of other retailers going into administration. Interestingly Bootle is below the national average for both units and floorspace vacancies. Southport is above the national average for vacant floorspace, but this can be explained to a large degree by the former Waitrose being vacant. This unit is expected to be subdivided and re-let in the near future.

Outcome

Shopping is an important element of the health of our town and local centres and will be included in a general objective to assess their performance.

Air Quality (SEA topics - human health, air, climatic factors)

3.41 Sefton has a number of air quality monitoring stations that monitor air pollution. Nitrogen Dioxide is classed as a highly toxic chemical compound that is emitted most notably by cars and can cause respiratory problems. The EU has set a target of 21 micrograms per metre³ ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) as a maximum annual average by 2010. Nitrogen dioxide is measured in a number of stations, each in the south of the borough. In two of these, at Miller's Bridge, Bootle and Princess Way, Seaforth, the average levels for 2008 (to October) were above the target set by the EU, being 21.1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and 23.6 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ respectively. During October 2008 the levels at Princess Way averaged over 30 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, nearing the 40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ level identified by the World Health Organisation which can cause adverse health effects.

3.42 Another measure of air quality is the number of particulates in the air. A number of stations measure the amount of particles smaller than 10 micrometers or less (PM10). These particles are often the result of human activity, such as industrial processes or burning fossil fuels and can cause heart and lung disease. The EU has set a target of 20 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ not to be exceeded on average per year. During 2008 (to October) several monitoring station have all exceeded this limit - Church Street, Bootle (34.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), Church Walk, Bootle (28.1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), Miller's Bridge, Bootle (25.9 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), and Waterloo Primary School (20.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$).

3.43 All local authorities are required to assess air quality in their areas. An Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) must be declared if pollutant concentrations are likely to exceed health based standards in any outdoor location where members of the public are likely to be present. Where an AQMA is declared an air quality action plan (AQAP) must be drawn up detailing how the local authority intends to improve air quality. Sefton have recently declared 3 Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) at Crosby Road North, Waterloo; Millers Bridge, Bootle, and Princess Way, Seaforth.

Outcome

Air pollution will be covered in a general pollution objective, and data from the monitoring stations used as part of the monitoring framework.

3 Developing the Baseline Information

Climate Change (SEA topic - climatic factors)



3.44 One of the main causes of climate change is the huge increase in the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere. This has been caused by increased human activity during the twentieth century. In Sefton the amount of CO₂ emitted in 2005 was 1.5 million tonnes, including almost 700,000 tonnes in domestic use. This equates to 5.4 tonnes per person and 2.5 tonnes per person in domestic use. For domestic use Sefton is comparable with the North West and national averages, but 40% lower for total emissions, reflecting the prevalence of the service industries in the borough (see above). Overall CO₂ emissions in Sefton are falling, by 2.6% between 2003

and 2005. However this decrease hides the fact that emissions from road transport have increased in the same period by 15.6%. Electricity usage in Sefton has also decreased in recent years, particularly by the industrial and commercial sector, and is lower than the North West and national average.

3.45 One of the most noticeable consequences of climate change is the increased instances and threat of flooding. According to the Environmental Agency over 4000 homes in Sefton are in flood zone 3 (i.e. 1 in 100 chance or greater of river flooding or 1 in 200 chance of sea flooding) and a further 2,800 plus homes are in flood zone 2 (i.e. 1 in 1000 chance of flooding from river or sea). 2798 hectares of land in Sefton are at risk of flooding (18.38% of Sefton's total area) of which 2222 hectares are within the highest risk category (flood zone 3), however this ignores existing flood defences. The flood risk map for Sefton is provided in the Annual Monitoring Report (www.sefton.gov.uk/AMR). In 2006/7 and 2007/8 no planning applications were permitted in Sefton contrary to advice of Environmental Agency on flood risk grounds.

3.46 One of the ways in which we can reduce the causes of climate change is to ensure that new development is more energy efficient and carbon neutral. One of tests of this is to assess new homes against a set of criteria, including energy use, layout, water use etc. One such process for doing this is the EcoHomes test. In 2006/7 just 52 new homes were certified in Sefton as achieving a good standard, and none 'excellent' or 'very good', on the EcoHomes standard, although over 750 homes are awaiting certification. From April 2008 all new homes will have to be tested against a new standard, the Code for Sustainable Homes, which provides a rating of 6 stars for the most sustainable and 1 for the least. 3 stars under the new code is approximately equal to very good on the EcoHomes rating.

Outcome

Climate change is an important issue which planning can influence. The sustainability framework will look at both how policies can help to reduce (or mitigate) climate change and how they can adapt to its effects.

Soil and Water (SEA topics - soil, water)

3.47 Just over 50% of Sefton's river length is classed a good chemical quality, compared to 64% in England as a whole. However this is a drastic improvement in recent years as in 1990 none of the length of Sefton's rivers was classed as having good chemical quality.

Developing the Baseline Information 3

3.48 In Sefton, for the period 2006/7, there were 8630 sites of potential concern with respect to contamination. For only 2% of these was sufficient detail known to determine whether remediation of the land was necessary.

Outcome

Water pollution will be included within a general pollution reduction objective. Given the nature of Sefton, and its industrial heritage, a separate objective to assess the ability of policies of helping to bring back disused land (and buildings) will be included.

Habitats and Species (SEA topics - biodiversity, fauna, flora)

3.49 Sefton has 7197 hectares of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and a further 1005 hectares of local wildlife sites which are not SSSIs. A review of Habitat and Species Action Plans is currently under way after which there will be 32 Species Action Plans and 14 Habitat Action Plans. Each of these will report on the current baseline situation and set out a range of targets for the next 5 to 10 years, many of which the LDF can influence.

Outcome

Biodiversity will be a key objective in the sustainability framework.

Landscape and Coast (SEA topic - landscape)

3.50 As of 2006 Sefton had 7848 hectares designated as Green Belt, 51% of its total area.



3.51 Southport, Ainsdale and Formby beaches were classed as excellent against the EU bathing water directive for the period May to September 2007. However, no beaches in Sefton currently have a blue flag award.

3.52 Sefton has over 43 km of undeveloped coastline, i.e. its entire length north of the Seaforth Docks. Of this 15 km are protected by sea walls and approximately 22 km by sand dunes.

3 Developing the Baseline Information

Outcome

The protection of Sefton's coast and countryside will be a key sustainability objective, with relevant indicators required.

Consultation Question

Are there any other key data areas that should be provided? What key messages should we take from these areas?

[please use the 'add comments' tab at the start of this chapter to give your answers to these questions]

Identifying Sustainability Issues and Problems 4

4 Identifying Sustainability Issues and Problems

Introduction

Information required for the Strategic Environmental Assessment

'Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular those relating to any areas of a particular environmental performance.'

4.1 The aim of this task is to identify issues and problems that may affect the sustainability of Sefton. It is these issues and problems that will need to be addressed in the sustainability objectives used to appraise the Core Strategy and other DPDs.

Methodology

4.2 The conclusions from the previous two stages (policy review and baseline data) have been supplemented by discussions and exchange of information between Council officers and partner organisations. This was done on an Area Committee basis so that specific problems for areas could be identified. Consultation with local people also helps to identify key issues in the area and it is expected that further issues will be identified as a result of consultation on this scoping report. Finally a number of issues also are identified through the numerous studies that we undertake, such as to assess the housing and employment land requirements in Sefton, the health of our shopping areas and the areas at risk of flooding

Conclusions

4.3 Bringing together all this information we can now summarise the sustainability issues and problems faced in Sefton. These are listed in the table below. In each case a proposed implication for the sustainability framework is given, which are explored in the next section.

Whole of Sefton

Sustainability issue/problem	How issue was identified	Implication for sustainability framework
Sefton's population has decreased continuously since 1971. The south of the borough has seen more drastic population losses.	Review of baseline data.	This will be included in a vibrant town and local centres objective.
Sefton has an ageing population, with wards in the north of the borough having over one third of its population over 65 years old.	Review of baseline data.	The housing objective will ensure housing needs for all are met, including the specific requirements of the elderly. The 'reduce inequalities' objective will include a question which asks if age inequality is being addressed. The travel and accessibility objective includes an element of improving accessibility for all abilities.
There are inequalities in Sefton in terms of deprivation, with many	Review of baseline data.	Reducing the number of areas classed as deprived will be assessed

4 Identifying Sustainability Issues and Problems

Sustainability issue/problem	How issue was identified	Implication for sustainability framework
areas in the south of the borough classified as deprived.		as part of the reduce inequalities and support regeneration objective.
Planning should be bring together a range of regeneration programmes and should help to realise their goals.	Review of plans and programmes.	There will be an objective to reduce inequalities and support regeneration.
The need to meet the varied housing needs of all Sefton's communities.	Review of plans and programmes.	Meeting the housing needs of Sefton's communities will be included as a sustainability objective.
Many areas of Sefton have a lack of choice in the variety of homes, in terms of size and quality.	Review of baseline data.	An objective will be included that covers meeting Sefton's diverse housing needs. Within this we will be seeking to diversify housing choice.
There are high levels of homes that are vacant, many of which are classed as long-term vacant.	Review of baseline data.	An objective will be included that looks at bringing back into use vacant and disused buildings and land.
Development should increase accessibility to facilities, particularly for people with lack of mobility.	Review of plans and programmes.	An objective will be included to improve travel choice and accessibility, including a point on meeting needs of people with poor mobility.
There is a need to reduce traffic and encourage people to use more sustainable forms of transport.	Review of plans and programmes.	The objective to improve travel choice and accessibility will include a point on encouraging more people to choose sustainable forms of travel. The climate change objective will seek to reduce car use.
Despite good public transport links, most people (63%) in Sefton still travel to work by car.	Review of baseline data.	The objective to improve travel and accessibility will seek to encourage greater use of sustainable transport. The climate change objective includes an element of reducing car use.
Education and skill levels need to increase, particularly in the south of the borough, and there is a need to match skills with employers needs.	Review of plans and programmes.	Increasing education and skills will be included as an objective. Matching skills to employers needs will be included within the objective.
Need to improve business formation and survival in Sefton to match the NW and national average.	Review of plans and programmes.	Will include business start-up and survival as part of an economic growth objective.
Need to locate economic development close to existing centres and most accessible areas.	Review of plans and programmes.	The objective for vibrant town and local centres will cover this.
There are fewer businesses in Sefton than the regional and national average.	Review of baseline data.	Encourage economic growth and investment will be included as an objective.

Identifying Sustainability Issues and Problems 4

Sustainability issue/problem	How issue was identified	Implication for sustainability framework
There is not a huge variety in the types of jobs on offer in Sefton, with the service sector providing over 40% of jobs.	Review of baseline data.	As part of the objective to encourage economic growth and investment there will be a section that looks at diversifying the local economy.
Both Bootle and Southport town centres show signs of struggling.	Review of baseline data.	An objective to make town and local centres vibrant will be included.
The capability of existing infrastructure to deal with further development should be considered early on.	Review of plans and programmes.	Infrastructure provision will be included as part of the economic growth objective.
There is a link between planning and health, including mental health, and local environment can help people to lead more healthy lifestyles.	Review of plans and programmes.	An objective that looks at health and social care will be included.
Childhood obesity is becoming a problem in Sefton.	Review of baseline data.	An objective will be included that looks at improving health and social care. Helping to provide informal exercise will be included as an element of this.
Heart disease is a major cause of death in Sefton.	Review of baseline data.	An objective will be included that looks at improving health and social care. Helping to provide informal exercise will be included as an element of this.
Crime and the fear of crime are major obstacles to the success of neighbourhoods and can often blight an area.	Review of plans and programmes.	An objective that looks to reduce crime and improve personal safety will be included.
Heritage and culture can play important roles in regeneration.	Review of plans and programmes.	Heritage and culture will be included as part of the objective looking at civic pride and identity.
Cultural and leisure facilities are generally well perceived by residents and are important elements in how successful areas are.	Review of baseline data.	Cultural facilities will be included in the objective looking at civic pride and identity. Leisure facilities will be included as part of the objective to create vibrant town and local centres.
Local communities should take active roles in decisions that affect them and can play an important part in delivering sustainable development.	Review of plans and programmes.	An objective will be included that covers improving participation.
There are low levels of public participation in local democracy in Sefton, more so in the south, and two thirds of people don't think they can influence local decisions.	Review of baseline data.	An objective will be included to strengthen communities and participation.

4 Identifying Sustainability Issues and Problems

Sustainability issue/problem	How issue was identified	Implication for sustainability framework
The cause and implications of climate change.	Review of plans and programmes.	An objective that deals with climate change will be included.
Need to protect the coast and countryside and balance economic pressures with environmental concerns.	Review of plans and programmes.	An objective that seeks coast and countryside protection will be included.
Much of Sefton's coast and countryside, although protected through designations, is under pressure from development.	Review of baseline data.	An objective will be included to protect the coast and countryside.
The importance of biodiversity in Sefton and the role planning has in its protection, enhancement and expansion.	Review of plans and programmes.	An objective on biodiversity will be included.
The importance of good quality design in ensuring sustainability and long term viability.	Review of plans and programmes.	Design will be included as part of both the objectives on civic pride and identity objective and a climate change.
The amount of carbon emissions have increased in recent years particularly through car use.	Review of baseline data.	Reduction of carbon emissions will be included in the objective on climate change.
Large areas of Sefton are at risk of flooding.	Review of baseline data.	Reducing the risk from flooding will be included in the objective on climate change.
There is a need to increase the environmental performance of new buildings.	Review of baseline data.	Energy efficiency will be included as part of the objective on climate change.
There is continued need to increase water quality.	Review of baseline data.	An objective to reduce pollution and waste objective will be included. As part of this water quality will be included.
Sefton has a lot of sites with potential and suspected contamination problems.	Review of baseline data.	An objective to reduce pollution and waste will be included. As part of this soil quality will be included. There is also a objective which looks to bring back derelict land back into use, including contaminated land.
Sefton has large areas of sites protected for their biodiversity value which are under pressure from development and increased visitor numbers.	Review of baseline data.	An objective on biodiversity will be included.

Identifying Sustainability Issues and Problems 4

South Sefton (Derby, Ford, Linacre, Litherland, Netherton & Orrell and St Oswald wards)

Sustainability issue/problem	How issue was identified	Implication for sustainability framework
Although well-positioned to take advantage of "growth point" in North Liverpool, there is little connection between housing & jobs markets on both sides of Sefton boundary.	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors).	An objective on personal prosperity will assess if residents' career prospects are improved. An objective on economic growth and investment will look at providing locations for new businesses. An objective on education and skills will look at matching skills with employers' needs.
Decreasing supply of developable land within the urban area, including depleted supply of brownfield land.	Review of baseline data.	An objective seeking economic growth will include a question that assessed the deliverability of employment sites. Include in the housing objective a question that all housing needs can be met.
High levels of social and economic deprivation. Virtually whole area within 20% most deprived nationally.	Review of baseline data.	'Reducing the number of areas classed as deprived' will be assessed as part of the objective to reduce inequalities and support regeneration.
People living in South Sefton have a significantly lower life expectancy than the rest of Sefton or the UK average. Males in Linacre can expect to live 11 years less than males in Maghull or Formby.	Review of baseline data.	An objective to reduce inequalities will be included. An objective to improve health and social care will be included.
People in the area have poorer health than the rest of Sefton. This applies to both physical & mental health. High levels of fuel poverty, exacerbated by housing stock (older terraced housing).	Review of baseline data.	As above. An objective on climate change will look at ensuring new development is more energy efficient.
Poor access to health facilities, including Litherland Town Hall & Aintree Hospital.	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors). Previous consultation.	An objective to improve accessibility will be included.
Legacy of significantly contaminated former industrial land, costly to remediate.	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors).	An objective that seeks to bring derelict and contaminated land back into use will be included.
Poor relationship between older industrial areas and adjacent housing, especially adjacent to port estate	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors).	An objective will be included that looks at providing a quality living environment. Within this we will seek to separate incompatible land uses.
Lack of housing choice. Majority of housing is high density 19th century terraced housing. High proportion of housing is socially rented – over 25% compared to Sefton average of 10%.	Review of baseline data. Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors). Previous consultation.	An objective that looks at meeting Sefton's diverse housing need will be included. As part of this improving housing choice is included.

4 Identifying Sustainability Issues and Problems

Sustainability issue/problem	How issue was identified	Implication for sustainability framework
Signs of an unbalanced housing market. However, there is still a need for more affordable housing		
Over 60% of households lack access to a car	Review of baseline data.	An objective to improve accessibility and travel choice will be included.
Low wage levels and high levels of worklessness	Review of baseline data. Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors).	An objective to increase personal prosperity and security will include improving people's career prospects. An objective on education and skills will assess how qualified people are.
Local communities physically separated by railway & canal & Princess Way/Church Road. Relatively little interaction between sub-areas.	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors). Previous consultation.	An objective to improve access and travel choice will look at the improvement of links between areas. The objective on crime and safety will the reduction of (traffic) accidents.
Bootle Town Centre under pressure from proposals in Liverpool & Kirkby	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors).	An objective to create vibrant town and local centres will be included.
Port expansion may have an adverse impact on internationally important nature conservation site (Seaforth Nature Reserve).	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors).	An objective on Biodiversity protection will be included.
Port expansion may have negative impact on residents and traffic.	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors).	An objective on economic growth will assess suitability of infrastructure. An objective on pollution reduction will assess air pollution. An objective on health will assess impact of plans on health.
Generally the crime rates in South Sefton are higher than the rest of the borough.	Review of baseline data	An objective will be included on crime and safety. An objective to reduce inequalities and supporting regeneration is also included.
Fear of crime (of all types) is consistently & significantly worse than the Sefton averages	Review of baseline data. Previous consultation.	An objective on crime and safety will be included and will look at perceptions of crime.
Relatively poor public transport links from Ford/Netherton areas to District Centres, particularly in the evening	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors). Previous consultation.	An objective on improved accessibility and travel choice is included.
Lack of restaurants and other evening entertainment facilities.	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors). Previous consultation.	An objective to create vibrant town and local centres is included and will look at improving the ranges of uses.
New supermarkets site may harm local shops and cause increased traffic.	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors). Previous consultation.	An objective to create vibrant town and local centres will include the promotion of developments in or adjacent to existing centres. The objective on accessibility and travel choice will look at improving accessibility to existing facilities and services.

Identifying Sustainability Issues and Problems 4

Sustainability issue/problem	How issue was identified	Implication for sustainability framework
Lack of certainty on regeneration funding.	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors).	An objective to reduce inequalities and support regeneration will be included.
South Sefton generally has lower standards of educational achievement and skills levels.	Review of baseline data.	An objective to increase education and skill levels will be included.
The air quality monitoring stations in South Sefton show high levels of air quality pollution. 3 Air Quality Management Areas have been designated in South Sefton.	Review of baseline data.	An objective to reduce pollution and waste will be included. Air quality will be included as part of this.

Crosby area (Blundellsands, Church, Manor and Victoria wards)

Sustainability issue/problem	How issue was identified	Implication for sustainability framework
Congestion on A565 & A5036. Accident blackspots on A565. Air quality also an issue.	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors). Previous consultation.	An objective on reducing crime and increasing safety will look at reducing the risk from traffic accidents. The objective covering the reduction of waste and pollution will cover air pollution. The objective on access to services and increased travel choice will look at enabling people to choose more sustainable forms of transport.
Shortage of affordable housing	Review of baseline data. Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors).	An objective looking to diversify housing choice is included.
Little employment in area – mainly service. Littlewoods intend to relocate out of area	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors).	The objective to encourage economic growth and investment will include an assessment of whether locations for economic development are provided, including in all Sefton's main towns.
High rates of commuting, especially to Liverpool & Bootle	Review of baseline data. Previous consultation.	As above. The objective on accessibility and travel choice will look at whether people are encouraged to choose sustainable forms of travel.
Both Crosby & Waterloo centres declining, but limited scope to expand due to physical constraints. Community uses being squeezed out of Crosby Village in redevelopment plans.	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors). Previous consultation.	An objective on creating vibrant towns and local centres is included.
Local parks in varied state of repair	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors). Previous consultation.	The civic pride and identity objective will include an assessment of whether buildings and open spaces are well maintained.

4 Identifying Sustainability Issues and Problems

Sustainability issue/problem	How issue was identified	Implication for sustainability framework
Poor east west 'green' pedestrian and cycle links, connecting coast with Rimrose Valley.	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors). Previous consultation.	The objective on accessibility and travel choice will look at increasing links between areas. The objective on climate change will look at increasing trees and open space, including green infrastructure.
Youth disorder/ fear of crime	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors). Previous consultation.	An objective on crime and safety is included.
Church ward stands out in terms of deprivation - knock on effect on health & mental health issues in particular	Review of baseline data.	The objective that seeks to reduce inequalities and support regeneration objective will look at reducing deprivation. An objective on health and social care is also included.
Seaforth & Waterloo in regeneration areas but Neighbourhood Renewal funding ended; low priority for Housing Market Renewal Initiative	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors).	An objective to reduce inequalities and support regeneration will be included.
Constrained by green belt and other barriers, but not areas at high risk of flooding	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors).	The objective to encourage economic growth and investment objective will assess whether locations are provided for employment. The objective to provide housing choice will assess whether housing needs are being met

Formby area (Harington and Ravenmeols wards)

Sustainability issue/problem	How issue was identified	Implication for sustainability framework
Low density housing (<30 dwellings per hectare). Not sustainable or conducive to enhanced public transport provision	Review of baseline data.	The objective to protect the coast and countryside will seek to ensure development is preferred in existing urban areas rather than outside. The objective on vibrant town and local centres will assess whether a critical mass of population is provided in existing towns. The objective on accessibility and travel choice will assess how far people are encouraged to use sustainable forms of transport.
Little affordable housing / high average house prices	Review of baseline data. Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors).	An objective on meeting Sefton's diverse housing needs is included.
High percentage of elderly population, especially in Harington ward, even compared to Southport.	Review of baseline data.	The objective on housing (see above) will ensure housing needs for all are met, including the specific requirements of the elderly. The

Identifying Sustainability Issues and Problems 4

Sustainability issue/problem	How issue was identified	Implication for sustainability framework
		objective to reduce inequalities will include a question which asks if age inequality is being addressed. The objective to improve travel and accessibility includes an element of improving accessibility for all abilities.
Higher % of economically inactive (esp. retired) compared to Sefton average	Review of baseline data.	The objective on economic growth and investment will look at encouraging business start ups in all areas. The objective to improve education and skills will look at matching skills with employment.
High car ownership rates; fewer households without a car compared to Sefton / national average. Low housing density and large areas without a frequent bus service encourages a high level of car usage - causes congestion especially around schools. About 50% of Formby is more than 10 minutes walk from frequent bus route / rail station	Review of baseline data. Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors).	The objective on accessibility and travel choice will look at making facilities and services more accessible and look to encourage greater use of sustainable forms of transport.
Formby bypass a physical barrier for pedestrians and cyclists to cross	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors). Previous consultation.	The objective to reduce crime and improve safety will look at reducing risk from traffic accidents. The accessibility indicator will look at improved links between areas.
Few local employment opportunities	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors). Previous consultation.	The objective to encourage economic growth and investment will look at providing employment opportunities in all areas.
Poor access to healthcare (hospitals) – Ormskirk & Aintree.	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors). Previous consultation.	The objective on accessibility and travel choice will assess how accessible facilities are.
Amount of green space is below Sefton target – most concentrated in Ravenmeols ward; little in north & west or villages.	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors). Previous consultation.	The objective on climate change will assess if new open spaces and trees are being provided. The objective on quality living environment will assess if places where people live and work are being made greener.
Little room to grow – surrounded by good quality agricultural land, areas at risk of flooding & important nature conservation sites.	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors).	The objective to encourage economic growth and investment will assess whether locations are provided for employment. The objective on housing choice will assess whether housing needs are being met. The objective on climate change objective will look at flooding risk. The objective on biodiversity will look at nature sites.

4 Identifying Sustainability Issues and Problems

Sustainability issue/problem	How issue was identified	Implication for sustainability framework
Threats to indigenous wildlife, e.g. Red squirrels.	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors). Previous consultation.	An objective on biodiversity will be included.
Coastal erosion & receding coastline	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors).	An objective to protect the coast and countryside is included.
No formal surface water system – drains into River Alt which is above ground level so can't discharge into the sea causing flooding	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors).	The objective on climate change will assess the risk from flooding. The objective on economic growth will look at whether the infrastructure is in place for future development.

East Sefton (Molyneux, Park and Sudell wards)

Sustainability issue/problem	How issue was identified	Implication for sustainability framework
Fewer young people (aged 0 – 15) & much higher % of older people (over 60 / 65) compared to Sefton & England average	Review of baseline data.	The housing objective will ensure housing needs for all are met, including the specific requirements of the elderly. The objective to reduce inequalities will include a question which asks if age inequality is being addressed. The travel and accessibility objective includes an element of improving accessibility for all abilities.
Lack of local employment provision results in large numbers of commuters to Bootle & Liverpool, with lesser flows to Southport, Ormskirk, Kirkby	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors). Previous consultation.	The objective to encourage economic growth and investment will look at providing employment opportunities in all areas. The objective on accessibility and travel choice will look at encouraging more people to use sustainable travel choices.
72.5% of the workforce commute by car, and only 11.7% use public transport	Review of baseline data.	The objective on accessibility and travel choice will look at making facilities and services more accessible and look to encourage greater use of sustainable forms of transport.
Lack of direct rail access to Bootle & Southport	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors). Previous consultation.	As above.
Lack of frequent bus service and local facilities in rural area encourages use of the car	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors). Previous consultation.	As above.
Poor east / west road links, especially in rural area	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors). Previous consultation.	As above.

Identifying Sustainability Issues and Problems 4

Sustainability issue/problem	How issue was identified	Implication for sustainability framework
Most of the area performs badly in relation to barriers to housing and key local services. This may be because of a lack of affordable housing and local amenities in the rural areas	Review of baseline data.	As above. The housing objective will look at meeting Sefton's housing needs.
Areas close to River Alt & its tributaries are at risk of flooding, which restricts their suitability for new development	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors).	The climate change objective looks at reducing the risk from flooding.
Few facilities for young people. Poor provision of parks in Aintree Village & rural villages.	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors). Previous consultation.	The accessibility objective looks at increasing the range of facilities and services in Sefton's communities. The climate change objective looks at improving the amount of open space. An objective on equality will be included to ensure the needs of all parts of the community are considered.

Southport Area (Ainsdale, Birkdale, Cambridge, Dukes, Kew, Meols and Norwood wards)

Sustainability issue/problem	How issue was identified	Implication for sustainability framework
Southport's hinterland is in West Lancashire. No real opportunity to expand town's boundaries.	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors).	The objective to protect the coast and countryside seeks to ensure development is preferred in existing urban areas rather than outside. The objective to create vibrant town and local centres looks at providing a critical mass of population in existing towns.
Poor ground conditions in much of Southport requiring expensive foundations adding to development costs.	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors).	An objective to bring underused and derelict land is included.
Inadequate access to motorway network and indirect access to west coast main railway line	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors). Previous consultation.	An objective to improve access and travel choice is included. The objective on economic growth will assess whether adequate infrastructure is in place.
No readily available site for new large scale retail development to increase attractiveness	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors).	The objective on economic growth will look at site provision. The objective to create vibrant town and local centres will promote development in existing centres.
Station site an unsightly gateway to the town centre. Multiple-ownership means little real prospect of a much-needed re-development	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors). Previous consultation.	The objective to create vibrant town and local centres will assess whether centres are more attractive to businesses.

4 Identifying Sustainability Issues and Problems

Sustainability issue/problem	How issue was identified	Implication for sustainability framework
Lack of adequate access to Seafront area from the east	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors). Previous consultation.	The objective to improve accessibility will look at improving connectivity between areas.
Lack of employment land apart from Southport Commerce Park – latter only suitable for business uses	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors).	The objective on economic growth objective will look site provision.
An ageing population – profile older compared to Sefton & national average puts pressure on services. Growing need for sheltered and extra care housing	Review of baseline data.	The housing objective will ensure housing needs for all are met, including the specific requirements of the elderly. The objective that seeks to reduce inequalities will include a question which asks if age inequality is being addressed. The objective to improve accessibility will seek to improve accessibility for all abilities.
Lack of affordable housing – a significant and growing need. Problem exacerbated but lack of sites suitable for 15+ dwellings which triggers provision	Review of baseline data. Previous consultation.	Meeting housing need is included as an objective.
Redevelopment of large villas to flats detracts from area's character	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors). Previous consultation.	The objective to foster and civic pride will include a section on protecting Sefton's heritage.
Lack of data about numbers and types of migrants workers – thought to be about 4000 'permanent' workers	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors).	The objective to strengthen communities will seek to create communities that are diverse and stable. The objective to reduce inequalities will look at ensuring equality for all regardless of race.
Lack of greenspace to SE & E of town centre - inner housing areas where higher density housing, more deprivation etc	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors). Previous consultation.	The climate change objective will assess if new open spaces and trees are being provided. The objective seeking to create a quality living environment will assess if places where people live and work are being made greener.
Southport & Formby Hospital – split site with Ormskirk – longer travel to Child A&E and maternity services	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors). Previous consultation.	The objective to improve accessibility and travel choice will assess how accessible facilities are.
New sea wall may not be adequate to cope with climate change (storm surges). Flood zones and tight eastern boundary limit scope for further expansion	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors).	The objective on climate change will look at minimising the risk from flooding.
Large stock of back land industry providing local employment is at risk from housing redevelopment pressures	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors).	The objective on economic growth will assess if enough employment land is being provided.

Identifying Sustainability Issues and Problems 4

Sustainability issue/problem	How issue was identified	Implication for sustainability framework
Lack of business skills and workforce skills may threaten ability to deliver continued economic growth	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors).	An objective to improve skills and education is included.
A large number of local jobs are low paid. This combined with high house prices mean that many young people are leaving the area.	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors).	The objective on personal prosperity and security will assess if people can improve their career prospects and are able to access the housing market. The housing objective will look at meeting housing needs, including affordable housing.
Some areas of central Southport have levels of crime and anti-social behaviour.	Discussions with partners (including ward Councillors).	A crime and safety objective is included.

Consultation Question

Are there any other sustainability issues or problems that should be identified at this stage?

[please use the 'add comments' tab at the start of this chapter to give your answers to this question]

5 Developing the Sustainability Appraisal Framework

5 Developing the Sustainability Appraisal Framework

5.1 A lot of work has been carried out at various levels looking into the range of sustainability objectives that should be considered for inclusion for appraisal work. At the national level the UK Sustainable Development Strategy, 'Securing the Future' (2005) sets out the components of what makes a sustainable community. The SEA Directive also sets out what constitutes environment in its broadest terms and therefore what we should cover in the appraisal process to meet the requirements of the SEA directive.

5.2 At the regional level the Integrated Appraisal Toolkit has been developed to ensure that policies and projects developed in the North West integrate fully economic, environmental and social objectives to ensure sustainable development. In Sefton a sustainability appraisal framework has been developed to appraise all Council policies and procedures. This has been used in the past as a starting point for the appraisal of SPDs that have pre-dated the Core Strategy.

5.3 Each of these frameworks has been reviewed to ensure that our sustainability framework is broadly covering all the important issues. The result of this exercise is that we have identified 16 sustainability objectives that we think should be considered for inclusion in our Sustainability Framework. These are:

Economic (3)

Reduce worklessness

Encourage economic growth and investment

Maintain vibrant town, local and village centres

Social (7)

Reduce inequalities and support regeneration

Reduce crime and improve safety

Foster civic pride and identity

Meet Sefton's diverse housing needs

Provide better access to services and facilities, particularly by walking cycling and public transport

Provide environments that improve health and social care

Strengthen communities and help people to be involved in local decision-making

Environment (6)

Adapt and mitigate to climate change

Reduce pollution and waste

Protect the coast and countryside

Bring back into use derelict and underused land and buildings

Protect and enhance biodiversity

Developing the Sustainability Appraisal Framework 5

Provide a quality living environment

Consultation Question

Do you agree with the sustainability objectives that we have identified as being relevant in Sefton?

[please use the 'add comments' tab at the start of this chapter to give your answers to this question]

5.4 Using this list, and the information gathered from the previous tasks in this scoping report, we can develop the sustainability framework for use in appraising our Core Strategy and other documents. The framework consists of headline sustainability objectives, a series of key questions and related indicators. The framework is the most important outcome of this Scoping Report in that it helps provides evidence for decisions between options and provides the means for testing future policies for sustainability.

Table 5.1 Sustainability Framework

Sustainability Objective	Key Questions	Indicators
Reduce worklessness	Will the plan help reduce the number of people out of work?	% of population claiming JSA (by borough and wards)
	Will the plan help increase education and skill levels?	Number and location of SOAs in most 5%/10% most deprived in Employment and Education, Skills and Training domains.
		% of children aged 15+ with 5 GCSEs A*-C
	Will the plan help retain and bring in increased employment opportunities?	The number of jobs in Sefton.
	Will the plan help match skills to employment?	Skills gaps in the current workforce reported by employers
Encourage economic growth and investment	Will the plan provide locations and premises for business start ups and expansions across Sefton?	Floorspace development for employment by type and location.
	Will the plan help diversify the local economy?	None identified
	Will the plan help ensure adequate infrastructure is in place?	None identified
	Will the plan locate business development where it is most needed?	Number of VAT registered businesses per 1000 population
	Will the plan help promote tourism?	The number of tourists to Sefton and Southport

5 Developing the Sustainability Appraisal Framework

Sustainability Objective	Key Questions	Indicators
Vibrant town, local and village centres	Will the plan promote development in and adjacent to existing centres rather than out of town?	Amount of completed retail, office and leisure in and on the edge of Town and Local Centres
	Will the plan encourage more people to use existing centres?	Footfall in Bootle and Southport Town Centres
	Will the plan make centres more attractive to businesses, including shops, leisure and offices?	Vacancy rates in Town and Local centres
	Will the plan ensure a critical mass of population in towns to support centres?	Population in Sefton.
Reduce inequalities and support regeneration	Will the plan help to reduce the number of deprived areas?	Number and location of SOAs in 5%/10% most deprived in Multiple Deprivation domain
	Will the plan help deliver regeneration programmes?	None identified
	Will the plan reduce inequalities according to ethnicity, gender, age and ability?	None identified
Reduce crime and improve safety	Will the plan help reduce crime and perceptions of crime?	Crime rate in Sefton and individual wards
		Number and location of SOAs in 5%/10% most deprived in Crime domain
		Perceptions of anti-social behaviour
	Will the plan help to increase personal safety and reduce opportunity for accidents, particularly from traffic?	People killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents
Foster civic pride and identity	Will the plan help make Sefton distinctive through well designed and maintained buildings, open space and neighbourhoods?	None identified
	Will the plan help protect Sefton's heritage and culture?	None identified
	Will the plan help improve Sefton's image?	The proportion of the adult population who say they are 'satisfied', or 'very satisfied' with the area as a place to live.
Meet Sefton's diverse housing needs	Will the plan provide for everyone's housing requirements?	% of annual RSS housing target delivered
		% of new homes meeting Lifetime Homes standards
		Number of gypsy pitches provided

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Sustainability Objective	Key Questions	Indicators
	Will the plan help to balance the affordable housing needs throughout Sefton?	Amount of affordable housing provided
	Will the plan help promote a diverse housing choice?	Amount of each type of dwelling (terrace, semi-detached, detached, flat)
Provide better access to services and facilities, particularly by walking cycling and public transport	Will the plan help promote a wider range of services and facilities?	Number and location of SOAs in 5%/10% most deprived in Housing & Services domain
	Will the plan increase accessibility to existing services and facilities?	Accessibility of new residential development to a range of services/facilities
	Will the plan make it easier to choose sustainable travel methods?	Proportion of travel journeys made by sustainable modes (walking, cycle, bus, rail) for work, school, shopping.
	Will the plan improve links between different areas?	None identified
Provide environments that improve health and social care	Will the plan provide infrastructure and facilities that allow for informal exercise?	Average life expectancy at birth for Sefton and by ward (M/F) Obesity rate for year 6 children
	Will the plan provide for environments that improve mental health and wellbeing?	None identified
Strengthen communities and help people to be involved in local decisions	Will the plan help create and strengthen local communities that are diverse and stable?	% of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area
	Will the plan encourage people to get involved in local decisions and become more active in their community?	% of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality
Adapt and mitigate to climate change	Will the plan help reduce carbon emissions?	CO2 emissions per person and by source (including traffic)
	Will the plan promote energy efficiency?	The number of new homes built to Code for Sustainable Homes standards (level 3 and above)
	Will the plan promote renewable energy production?	Percentage of major developments which incorporate renewable energy production

5 Developing the Sustainability Appraisal Framework

Sustainability Objective	Key Questions	Indicators
	Will the plan reduce car use?	Proportion of travel journeys made by sustainable modes (walking, cycle, bus, rail) for work, school, shopping. (duplicate of above).
	Will the plan encourage more trees, open space and other green infrastructure to be provided?	Amount of trees and open space provided as a result of planning decisions.
	Will the plan help to reduce flooding?	Proportion of new housing built in flood zones Number of developments which incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems
Reduce pollution and waste	Will the plan help reduce air pollution?	Air quality levels at 4 monitoring stations
	Will the plan help reduce water pollution?	River quality
	Will the plan help reduce soil pollution?	Number of sites of potential concern with respect to contamination
	Will the plan help reduce waste and help recycling?	Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting
Protect the coast and countryside	Will the plan help protect the coast and countryside from unsuitable development?	The number and type of developments approved within the Green Belt, and the proportion which is 'inappropriate' development. The number and type of developments approved within the Coastal Planning Zone, and the proportion of these which are not 'coast dependent'.
	Will the plan encourage sustainable tourism to the coast and countryside?	None identified
	Does the plan encourage development in the urban areas rather than in the countryside?	Amount of Green Belt lost to development.
Bring back into use derelict and underused land and buildings	Will the plan encourage development of vacant land in preference to greenfield land?	% of new and converted dwellings, business and industrial development on previously developed land
	Will the plan encourage the remediation of contaminated land?	Number of sites of potential concern with respect to contamination
	Will the plan help reduce the number of vacant buildings?	Number and % of vacant homes

Developing the Sustainability Appraisal Framework 5

Sustainability Objective	Key Questions	Indicators
Protect and enhance biodiversity	Will the plan help protect and enhance existing areas of biodiversity value?	Proportion of Local Sites where positive conservation management has been or is being implemented
	Will the plan help create new areas of biodiversity value?	Area of biodiversity value created (ha)
Provide a quality living environment	Will the plan help make places where people live and work cleaner?	Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of litter, detritus, graffiti and fly-posting)
	Will the plan encourage improved culture and leisure facilities?	None identified
	Will the plan make places where people live and work greener?	Number of street trees planted.

Consultation Question

Do you agree with the sustainability framework? Are there any further key questions or indicators you think need adding?

Internal Compatibility

5.5 Now that we have identified relevant sustainability objectives within the framework that the Core Strategy and other DPDs should be seeking to achieve, it is useful to test them against each other. This is so we can identify any potential areas of conflict and suggest how to resolve them. Appendix 4 sets out a matrix, which measures each of the 16 sustainability objectives against each other. This comparison identified areas of potential incompatibility and table 5.2, below, sets provides a commentary on these. For this exercise the conflicts considered are those that would occur without any mitigation.

Table 5.2 Internal compatibility of sustainability objectives

Objective 1	Objective 2	Explanation
Reduce worklessness	Reduce pollution and waste	Increasing the number of people in employment, and therefore travelling to work, will inevitably lead to more journeys. This will be likely to increase air pollution.
Reduce worklessness	Adapt and mitigate to climate change	As above. Increased car emissions would contribute to climate change.
Encourage economic growth and investment	Protect and enhance biodiversity	Increased economic growth and investment is likely to create demand for land. This may impinge on land that is valued for nature.
Encourage economic growth and investment	Protect the coast and countryside	Increased economic growth and investment is likely to create demand for land. This may impinge on the coastal areas of Sefton and its countryside.

5 Developing the Sustainability Appraisal Framework

Objective 1	Objective 2	Explanation
Encourage economic growth and investment	Reduce pollution and waste	Increased economic activity may lead to more pollution and waste through manufacturing, transport and other processes.
Encourage economic growth and investment	Adapt and mitigate to climate change	As above. Increased economic activity leads to more energy use and transport.
Maintain vibrant town, local and village centres	Reduce pollution and waste	Attracting more people to centres may result in increased litter and possibly more car use.
Meet Sefton's diverse housing needs	Protect and enhance biodiversity	Increased demand for land for housing may impinge on land that is valued for nature.
Meet Sefton's diverse housing needs	Protect the coast and countryside	Increased demand for land for housing may impinge on land near the coast and in the countryside.
Meet Sefton's diverse housing needs	Adapt and mitigate to climate change	Increasing the amount of housing to meet people's needs will inevitably increase energy use.
Provide better access to services and facilities	Protect and enhance biodiversity	Increasing access to open spaces and other natural spaces may damage or compromise areas valued for nature.
Provide better access to services and facilities	Protect the coast and countryside	Increasing access to the coast and countryside may be in conflict with the protection objectives of the coast and green belt designations.
Bring back derelict land and buildings back into use	Protect and enhance biodiversity	Often derelict land has gained biodiversity value over time, particularly if it has become overgrown.

5.6 Inevitably the main areas of conflict are between the economic and environmental sustainability objectives. Economic growth brings demands on land and resources and often generates more journeys. One of the key aspects of the sustainability appraisal process will be to balance the economic growth requirements against environmental protection.

Added Value

5.7 In addition to identifying sustainability objectives that may be incompatible, it is also useful to identify areas of added value (i.e. sustainability objectives that work together to produce enhanced results). Table 5.3 below identifies the pairs, or groups, of sustainability objectives that could produce improved results when they work together. Appendix 5 sets out a matrix which measures each of the sustainability objectives against each other.

Table 5.3 Added value of combining sustainability objectives

Sustainability objective	Added value with -
Reduce worklessness	Strengthen communities and get people involved
	Foster civic pride and identity
	Reduce crime and improve safety
	Reduce inequalities and support regeneration
	Maintain vibrant town, local and village centres
	Encourage economic growth and investment

Developing the Sustainability Appraisal Framework 5

Sustainability objective	Added value with -
Encourage economic growth and investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a quality living environment Bring back derelict buildings and land into use Reduce inequalities and support regeneration Maintain vibrant town, local and village centres
Maintain vibrant town, local and village centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a quality living environment Bring back derelict buildings and land into use Protect the coast and countryside Strengthen communities and get people involved Provide better access to services and facilities Foster civic pride and identity Reduce crime and improve safety Reduce inequalities and support regeneration
Reduce inequalities and support regeneration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a quality living environment Bring back derelict buildings and land into use Reduce pollution and waste Strengthen communities and get people involved Provide healthy environments Provide better access to services and facilities Meet Sefton's diverse housing needs Reduce crime and improve safety
Reduce crime and improve safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a quality living environment Bring back derelict buildings and land into use Reduce pollution and waste Strengthen communities and get people involved Provide healthy environments
Foster civic pride and identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a quality living environment Bring back derelict buildings and land into use Protect the coast and countryside Reduce pollution and waste

5 Developing the Sustainability Appraisal Framework

Sustainability objective	Added value with -
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen communities and get people involved Provide healthy environments
Meet Sefton's diverse housing needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring back derelict buildings and land into use
Provide better access to services and facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce pollution and waste Adapt and mitigate to climate change Strengthen communities and get people involved Provide healthy environments
Provide healthy environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a quality living environment Protect and enhance biodiversity Bring back derelict buildings and land into use Reduce pollution and waste Adapt and mitigate to climate change Strengthen communities and get people involved
Strengthen communities and get people involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a quality living environment
Adapt and mitigate to climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a quality living environment Protect and enhance biodiversity Protect the coast and countryside Reduce pollution and waste
Reduce pollution and waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a quality living environment Protect and enhance biodiversity Bring back derelict buildings and land into use Protect the coast and countryside
Protect the coast and countryside	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a quality living environment Protect and enhance biodiversity Bring back derelict buildings and land into use
Bring back derelict buildings and land into use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a quality living environment
Protect and enhance biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a quality living environment

Developing the Sustainability Appraisal Framework 5

5.8 As can be seen from the above table we would expect many of the objectives to work in conjunction with other sustainability objectives to provide increased benefits. For example, if worklessness is reduced it is likely that crime will also decrease as social inclusion is improved and people are less likely to fall into poverty. Another example of added value between objectives is reducing pollution and waste and improving health. Air pollution can cause respiratory problems, so seeking to reduce poor air quality, particularly in residential areas, will also have the added value of improving health. When carrying out an appraisal we will try to see which areas of added value can be maximised to increase the benefits of policies.

6 Consulting on the Scoping Report

6 Consulting on the Scoping Report

Information required for the Strategic Environmental Assessment

'The authorities...which, by reason of their specific environmental responsibilities, are likely to be concerned by the environmental effects of implementing plans and programmes...shall be consulted when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information which must be included in the environmental report'.

6.1 In line with the regulations the three statutory bodies with environmental responsibilities have been consulted on the content of this scoping report. These are the Environment Agency, English Heritage and Natural England. The document has also been made available on our website, at our Bootle and Southport planning offices and at Bootle, Crosby, Maghull, Formby and Southport libraries. A newspaper advert was placed in The Bootle Times, Crosby Herald, Formby Times, Maghull and Aintree Star and the Southport Visitor on 15th or 16th January 2009.

6.2 A series of questions are provided throughout this scoping report to assist in making comments. However comments may be made on any aspect of this document. In line with the requirements of our Statement of Community Involvement we will seek to respond to all those who submit comments within 4 weeks of the end of the consultation period. A consultation statement will be produced following the consultation period setting out all comments received and how these have been addressed.

6.3 Comments may be made to the content of this Scoping Report either by post, fax, e-mail or online no later than **5.00pm Friday 20 February 2009**.

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