



**Shropshire Local Development Framework
Draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report**

July 2008

Prepared Jointly By
Bridgnorth District Council
North Shropshire District Council
Oswestry Borough Council
Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council
Shropshire County Council
South Shropshire District Council



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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This report documents the scoping exercise carried out as part of the Sustainability Appraisal for Shropshire's new unitary Local Development Framework (LDF). It has been prepared jointly by Shropshire's six existing Local Planning Authorities as part of the move towards local government reorganisation in the county.
- 1.2. Broadly speaking the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process seeks to ensure that sustainable development principles provide the key driving force for the preparation of all new planning policy documents. The SA is carried out alongside the preparation of new planning documents and therefore influences policy preparation from the outset.
- 1.3. This SA Scoping Report is the first important stage of SA process and identifies a wide range of baseline information and key sustainability issues facing Shropshire. A key output from this report is a draft Sustainability Appraisal Framework which will be used to assess emerging broad LDF options and specific planning policies.
- 1.4. Comments are invited on this draft SA Scoping Report for six weeks starting **21 July until 1 September 2008**

Local Government Reorganisation in Shropshire

- 1.5. In July 2007 the Government announced that Shropshire would be one of a handful of areas where its local government structure would be changed, replacing the current two tier system with a unitary council. This will mean that as of April 2009 the six existing authorities of Shropshire County Council, Bridgnorth District Council, North Shropshire District Council, Oswestry Borough Council, Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council and South Shropshire District Council will be merged to form a single Shropshire wide unitary authority: Shropshire Council. All the services currently provided by these authorities, including the planning service, will be transferred to the new authority.

The Shropshire Local Development Framework

- 1.6. The move to a single unitary council, acting as the Local Planning Authority for Shropshire, will mean that the number and type of planning documents produced across the county will be radically reduced, but in most cases will have greater geographical reach. The collective name for these new planning policy documents is the Local Development Framework (LDF).
- 1.7. In advance of the start of the new Council, the six existing authorities have already begun working together on preparing a new county wide

LDF. A draft Local Development Scheme (LDS) detailing the documents the new council will produce, and when, is currently being agreed by the Government Office for the West Midlands and will be publicly available soon. The production of this Scoping Report is a key milestone in the LDS.

- 1.8. Shropshire’s new LDF will comprise a range of planning policy documents. Development Plan Documents (DPDs) provide planning policies on a range of issues. Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) provide more detailed information on specific planning policies contained in DPDs, but themselves cannot introduce new policy. The collective name for these documents is Local Development Documents (LDDs).
- 1.9. The first key document to be produced for the new LDF will be the Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD). This will set the vision for the future of Shropshire over the next twenty years and will provide a strategic policy framework that will shape development to achieve this vision. The Core Strategy DPD will be the first planning policy document to be assessed against the Sustainability Appraisal.

Sustainability Appraisal and Sustainable Development

- 1.10. It is the role of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) to ensure that the principles of sustainable development are embedded into the LDF process from the very start. The SA process is incremental and ongoing, and thus can influence each stage of the plan making process. Table 1.1 below outlines the interaction between the SA and the DPD processes.

Table 1.1: SA / DPD Interaction

SA Stage	DPD Stage
1. Draft Scoping Report	1. Evidence gathering
2. Interim Sustainability Appraisal of Alternative Options	2. DPD ‘Issues and Alternative Options’ Document
3. Sustainability Appraisal Report	3. Preferred Options Report for DPD
4. Final Sustainability Appraisal Report	4. Submission of DPD to Secretary of State
5. Revisions to Final Sustainability Appraisal Report	5. Independent examination and Inspector’s binding report

- 1.11. The Sustainability Appraisal will provide a key part of the evidence base for Shropshire's new Local Development Framework. It will inform the evaluation of alternative plan options and policies, and its conclusions can help justify a particular course of action.
- 1.12. The government has prepared guidance on the definition of sustainable development which is included in the publication 'Securing the Future: Delivering the UK Sustainable Development Strategy' (2005). This states five key principles:
- Living within environmental limits;
 - Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society;
 - Achieving a sustainable economy;
 - Promoting good governance; and
 - Using sound science responsibly
- 1.13. Whilst broadly these key principles impact on three distinct aspects of sustainability; social, environmental and economic, there is considerable cross over between them. In some circumstance there may also be potential for these principles to conflict with each other.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 1.14. The requirements of European Directive EC/2001/42, commonly referred to as the *Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)* Directive, are incorporated into the SA process. The key objective of the SEA Directive is:

“to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans... with a view to promoting sustainable development”

- 1.15. Whereas the role of the SEA is focussed primarily on the assessment of environmental impacts of plans and strategies, the Sustainability Appraisal process broadens this out to include wider social and economic impacts. In order to clearly signpost how the SEA Directive has been taken account of in this SA Scoping Report, each chapter highlights which section of the SEA legislation is covered.

Habitats Regulation Assessment

- 1.16. The Habitats Regulation Assessment, often referred to as 'Appropriate Assessment', has been introduced as a method of transposing the requirements of the European Habitats Directive into UK legislation. The purpose of the assessment is to appraise the impacts of a land use

plan against the conservation objectives of a European Site and to ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity of that site.

- 1.17. A full Habitat Regulation Assessment will be carried out as part of the preparation of the new Shropshire wide LDF. This assessment will be linked to the SA process and will use much of the same baseline information, but will be prepared and reported on separately.

How to Get Involved

To view and download the draft SA Scoping Report, visit the One Council Website: www.shropshire.gov.uk/onecouncil.nsf and follow the link to 'Planning Policy'.

You can also view the SA Scoping Report at all local libraries and Community Information Points across Shropshire.

Paper copies of the SA Scoping Report are available on request from the contact details below.

If you would like to comment on the SA Scoping Report, please e-mail your comments to:

planning.policy@shropshire.gov.uk

Or send them to:

Eddie West
Shropshire County Council
Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
Shropshire
SY2 6ND

All comments should be received by the **1 September 2008**

For further information about the SA Scoping Report contact:

Eddie West tel: 01743 252574 / e-mail:

edward.west@shropshire.gov.uk

2. SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL SCOPING REPORT METHODOLOGY

2.1. The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report has been prepared jointly by the six existing Local Planning Authorities in Shropshire. The methodology used has followed closely the government guidance on the preparation of Sustainability Appraisals¹. Additionally, the report has taken into account more recent guidance produced by the Planning Advisory Service².

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report Stages

2.2. The scoping report is intended as the first stage in the SA process and covers five key requirements. These are outlined below.

Table 2.1: Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report Stages

Stage 1: Pre-production – Evidence Gathering	
A1	Identify other relevant plans, programmes, and sustainability objectives
A2	Collecting baseline information
A3	Identifying sustainability issues & problems
A4	Developing the SA framework
A5	Consulting on the Scope of the SA

2.3. The scoping report covers a broad range of relevant background information. This includes details of the plans and strategies Shropshire’s LDF documents will need to consider, and a wide range of baseline information relevant to sustainability issues in the county. A key output of the report is the SA Framework which includes a suite of objectives to be used to assess Shropshire’s emerging planning documents against.

2.4. It is intended that this scoping report will provide a sufficient levels of information with which to assess all future planning documents prepared for Shropshire’s LDF. However, the report will of course be kept under review, and updated when necessary.

Consultation on the Sustainability Appraisal

2.5. This SA Scoping Report is open to consultation for a period of five weeks between ... and ... Each chapter includes a series of questions to help focus any comments you may have, but all comments on the document will be welcome.

¹ Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents, ODPM, November 2005

² Local Development Frameworks – Guidance on Sustainability Appraisal, PAS, December 2007

3. IDENTIFY OTHER RELEVANT PLANS, PROGRAMMES, AND SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES (TASK A1)

SEA Directive Stage
Annex 1 (a) – an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes

- 3.1. In order to establish a clear scope for the Sustainability Appraisal, it is necessary (and a requirement of SEA) to review and develop an understanding of a wide range of relevant plans, programmes, policies and strategies.
- 3.2. Shropshire’s LDF will need to be framed in the context of international, European, national, regional and local objectives, and take account of strategic planning, transport, environmental, social and economic policies. The purpose of the review is to highlight the key elements of these plans and strategies that will influence the preparation of the LDF and Sustainability Appraisal, rather than simply reproduce the detailed information held within each document.
- 3.3 A technical appendix to this scoping report provides more detail on each of these plans and strategies reviewed, and outlines the implications for the preparation of the LDF. This technical appendix can be viewed on the new ‘One Council’ webpage at <http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/onecouncil.nsf> by following the link to ‘Planning Policy’, or can be provided on request.
- 3.4. The following plans and strategies have been reviewed:

International and European:

- The Convention on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro (1992)
- EC Directive on Ambient Air Quality 96/62/EC (Air Quality Framework Directive)
- EC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna (92/43/EEC)
- EC Directive on Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) (The Birds Directive)
- EC Directive on Landfilling Waste (1999/31/EEC)
- Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development (2002)
- Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1997)
- Renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy (June 2006)
- The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International importance, especially waterfowl habitat (1971)

- Waste Framework Directive (91/156/EEC)
- Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)
- European Landscape Convention (2000)

National Policy Statements and Strategies:

- Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development (2005)
- Planning Policy Statement: Planning and Climate Change – Supplement to Planning Policy Statement 1 (2007)
- Planning Policy Guidance 2: Green Belts (2001, amended)
- Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing (2006)
- Planning Policy Guidance 4: Industrial and Commercial Development (1992)
- Planning Policy Statement 4: Planning for Sustainable Economic Development - Consultation Draft (2007)
- Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning in Town Centres (2005)
- Planning Policy Statement 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (2004)
- Planning Policy Guidance 8: Telecommunications (2001)
- Planning Policy Guidance 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (2005)
- Planning Policy Statement 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management (2005)
- Planning Policy Statement 11: Regional Spatial Strategies (2004)
- Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Spatial Planning (2008)
- Planning Policy Guidance 13: Transport (2001)
- Planning Policy Guidance 14: Development on Unstable Land (1990)
- Planning Policy Guidance 15: Planning and the Historic Environment (1994)
- Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning (1990)
- Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (2002)
- Planning for Tourism: A Good Practice Guide (2006)
- Planning Policy Statement 22: Renewable Energy (2004)
- Planning Policy Statement 23: Planning and Pollution Control (2004)
- Planning Policy Guidance 24: Planning and Noise (1994)
- Planning Policy Statement 25: Development and Flood Risk (2006)
- Mineral Planning Statement 1: Planning and Minerals (2006)
- Mineral Planning Statement 2: Controlling and Mitigating the Environmental Effects of Mineral Extraction in England (2005)
- Mineral Planning Guidance 6: Guidelines for aggregates provision in England
- Building a Greener Future: policy statement (CLG, 2007)
- Climate Change Bill (Defra, 2007)
- Climate Change: The UK Programme (Defra, 2006)

- Code for Sustainable Homes: A Step Change in Sustainable Home Building Practice (CLG, 2006)
- Countryside Rights of Way Act (CROW) (2000)
- Energy White Paper – Meeting the Challenge (DTI, 2007)
- Environmental Quality in Spatial Planning (Countryside Agency, English Heritage, English Nature, Environment Agency, 2005)
- Game Plan (2020): A Strategy for Delivering Government's Sport and Physical Activity Objectives (DCMS, 2002)
- Heritage Protection for the 21st Century: Heritage White Paper (DCMS, 2007)
- Housing and Regeneration Bill (CLG, 2007)
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) (2006)
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
- Planning for a Sustainable Future: White Paper (CLG, 2007)
- Rural Strategy (Defra, 2004)
- Soil Strategy for England (Draft) (Defra, 2008)
- UK Sustainable Development Strategy: Securing the Future (Defra, 2005)
- UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK Biodiversity Action Group, 1994)
- The Historic Environment: A Force for our Future (DCMS, 2001)
- Waste Strategy for England (Defra, 2007)
- Water Strategy – Future Water (Defra, 2008)
- Working with the Grain of Nature - England Bio-diversity Strategy (Defra, 2002);

Regional Plans and Strategies:

- Cultural Life in the West Midlands 2001 - 2006: The West Midlands Cultural Strategy (West Midlands Life, 2001) - updated by Valuing People and Places
- Delivering Advantage: The West Midlands Economic Strategy and Action Plan 2004- 2010 (Advantage West Midlands, 2004)
- Regional Sustainable Development Framework (West Midlands Regional Assembly, 2006)
- Regional Rural Delivery Framework (Rural Accord West Midlands, 2006)
- Restoring the Region's Wildlife: The Regional Biodiversity Strategy (West Midlands Biodiversity Strategy Partnership, 2005)
- Rural Renaissance – Advantage West Midlands Rural Framework (Advantage West Midlands, 2005)
- Sign Up for Sport: A Regional Plan for Sport in the West Midlands 2004-2008 (Sport England, 2004)
- Sustainable Communities in the West Midlands: Building for the Future (ODPM, 2003)
- Water Resources Strategy for the West Midlands (Environment Agency, Undated)
- West Midlands Region State of the Environment Report (Environment Agency, 2001)

- West Midlands Regional Economic Strategy: Connecting to Success (Advantage West Midlands, 2007)
- West Midlands Regional Energy Strategy 2004
- West Midlands Regional Forestry Framework - Growing our Future (2004)
- West Midlands Regional Housing Strategy (West Midlands Regional Assembly, 2005)
- West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (Revised: Incorporating Phase 1 review) (West Midlands Local Government Association, 2008)

Countywide:

- Safer Shropshire Partnership Crime, Disorder and Substance Misuse Strategy 2005-2008 (Safer Shropshire Partnership, 2005)
- Draft Shropshire Climate Change Strategy (Shropshire County Council 2002)
- Shropshire Partnership Community Strategy 2006-2010 (Shropshire Partnership, 2006)
- Shropshire Local Transport Plan 2006-2011 (Shropshire County Council, 2006)
- Shropshire Biodiversity Action Plan (revised) (Shropshire County Council, 2006)
- Shropshire Futures 2004 An Economic Development Strategy for Shropshire (Shropshire Economic Development Forum, 2004)
- Shropshire Geodiversity Action Plan (Shropshire County Council, Shropshire Geological Society and the Shropshire Wildlife Trust, 2007)
- Shropshire Hills AONB Management Plan 2004-2009 (Shropshire Hills AONB, 2004)

Local Plans:

- Bridgnorth Local Plan 1996-2011 (Saved Policies) (Bridgnorth District Council, 2006)
- North Shropshire Local Plan 2000-2011 (Saved Policies) (North Shropshire District Council, 2005)
- Oswestry Borough Local Plan 1996-2006 (Saved Policies) (Oswestry Borough Council, 1999)
- Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Local Plan (Saved Policies) (Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council, 2001)
- Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin Joint Minerals Local Plan 1996 – 2006 (Saved Policies)
- Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Joint Structure Plan 1996-2011 (Saved Policies)
- Shropshire Waste Local Plan 2002-2014 (Saved Policies) (Shropshire County Council, 2004)
- South Shropshire Local Plan 2004-2011 (Saved Policies) (South Shropshire District Council, 2005)

- 3.5. The plans and strategies identified do not act in isolation and links between their scale and objectives can be made. International and national plans and policies usually provide high level guidance and their broad perspective tends to be reflected in plans at the regional and local level. The interaction between the higher level policies and those at the regional and local level provides a wide context for the preparation of the LDF.
- 3.6. The list shows the diversity of documents that are considered to have a bearing on the production of the LDF. However, the list is not considered to be definitive and additional documents will continue to be reviewed and added so as to maintain an element of flexibility in the process.

CONSULTATION QUESTION:

Are there any other key documents that you feel should be included in the review?

4. COLLECTING BASELINE INFORMATION AND IDENTIFYING SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES & PROBLEMS (TASKS A2 AND A3)

SEA Directive Stage
Annex 1(B) – The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme
Annex 1(C) – The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected

Baseline Information

- 4.1. It is crucial that Shropshire’s new Local Development Framework (LDF) and the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal (SA) are both based upon a robust set of baseline information relating to the key environmental, social and economic characteristics of Shropshire. The baseline information collected here has come from a variety of sources from the local, regional and national levels. Where there is a lack of baseline information on issues this has been highlighted.
- 4.2. We do not start from a blank sheet when collecting the baseline information. Each of Shropshire’s existing Local Planning Authorities has a wealth of up to date information relating to their area. Additionally, as part of the establishment of three new Area Partnerships in the North, Central and South areas of the County³, a wide spectrum of up-to-date information has been collected relating to these geographic areas.
- 4.3. Where quantitative data is provided in the baseline section, the geography of the information is made clear. It is hoped that as new monitoring arrangements are established in the move towards unitary status for Shropshire, a single consistent set of baseline information will begin to be collected for use in future planning documents. The collection of further evidence for the LDF will be coordinated with information collected for the Sustainable Community Strategy and with Shropshire’s Local Area Agreement.

Key Sustainability Issues

- 4.4. Highlighting sustainability issues helps to focus the sustainability appraisal on the most important problems Shropshire faces today, and potential problems of the future. Whilst a lot of the issues highlighted

³ The North Area comprises the existing Oswestry and North Shropshire District boundaries; The Central Area comprises the existing Shrewsbury and Atcham District boundary; and the South Area comprises the existing South Shropshire and Bridgnorth District boundaries.

relate to all areas of Shropshire, there are clearly specific issues facing particular areas of the County, and these have also been highlighted.

- 4.5. The key sustainability issues have been identified largely from:
- An analysis of the policy context;
 - The baseline information;
 - Existing local knowledge based on past plans and strategies
- 4.6. Following guidance from the Planning Advisory Service, the baseline information and key sustainability issues are presented here on a topic-by-topic approach. The topics covered here are:
- Shropshire's population structure;
 - Housing and accommodation;
 - Safer communities;
 - Economy, skills and employment;
 - Transport and accessibility;
 - Health, recreation and sport;
 - Carbon emissions and energy;
 - Natural environment;
 - Built and historic environment;
 - Water, flood risk and air quality;
 - Material resources

4a. SHROPSHIRE'S POPULATION STRUCTURE

Baseline Information

Issue	Data	Comparators / Time Series	Targets / Trends	Source
<i>Current Population</i>	Shropshire 2005: 289,000 Bridgnorth: 52,200 North Shropshire: 59,100 Oswestry: 39,200 Shrewsbury & Atcham: 96,300 South Shropshire: 42,300	Shropshire 1991: 268,700 Bridgnorth: 50,600 North Shropshire: 53,500 Oswestry: 34,300 Shrewsbury & Atcham: 92,100 South Shropshire: 38,300	% Population increase since 1991: Shropshire - 7.2% West Midlands – 2.6% England – 5.3%	SCC (Sustainability Group) 'Shropshire Profile'
<i>Forecasted % Population Growth</i>	2006 – 2026: Bridgnorth: 7.7% North Shropshire: 18.8% Oswestry: 25.7% Shrewsbury & Atcham: 6.6% South Shropshire: 18.9%	No comparison available	The growth rates are based on ONS forecasts which are significantly higher than previous local forecasts.	ONS
<i>Population Density</i>	Shropshire 2005: 0.9 persons per hectare	West Midlands 2005 – 4.10 persons per hectare England 2005 – 3.86 persons per hectare	Shropshire is one of the most sparsely populated counties in England. The urban areas of Shrewsbury and Oswestry have the county's highest densities whilst rural areas in South Shropshire have the lowest.	SCC (Sustainability Group) 'Shropshire Profile'
<i>Diversity of Population</i>	Shropshire: White – 98.8% Black or Black British – 0.1% Asian or Asian British – 0.3% Mixed – 0.4% Chinese or other ethnic group – 0.4%	West Midlands: White – 88.7% Black or Black British – 2% Asian or Asian British – 7.3% Mixed – 1.4% Chinese or other ethnic group – 0.6%	Shropshire has a much less diverse population than both regional and national figures in terms of its ethnic make up.	2001 Census
<i>Age structure of Shropshire</i>	Shropshire 2006: 0 – 15 years: 18.2% 16 – 29 years: 14.3%	England 2006: 0 – 15 years: 19.0% 16 – 29 years: 18.3%	Since 1991 the number of people of retirement age in Shropshire has increased	Mid Year Estimate

	<p>30 – 44 years: 20.1% 45 – Retirement Age (RA): 24.5% RA – 74: 13.6% 75+: 9.2%</p>	<p>30 – 44 years: 22.1% 45 – Retirement Age (RA): 21.9% RA – 74: 10.9% 75+: 7.7%</p>	<p>faster than national averages.</p> <p>The South of the County has the highest percentage of retirement age population at 25.3%.</p> <p>The number of people in Shropshire aged 16-29 has fallen by twice the national average since 1991.</p> <p>Shropshire has seen a slower percentage rise than national averages in its population between ages 30 – 44.</p>	<p>s, ONS 2007</p>
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Key Sustainability Issues

- 4.7. The make-up of Shropshire's current and future population will have important implications Shropshire's long term sustainability. For example, the county's ability to supply an adequate labour force will impact on long term social and economic sustainability, whilst population growth could have an impact on the environmental capacity in some areas of the county.

Key issues identified:

- Shropshire has seen a higher percentage increase in its population than regional or national equivalents since 1991. Added to this, growth forecasts between now and 2026 are predicted to be significantly higher than previous forecasts, especially in the North and South Areas of the county. This change could place particular sustainability issues on the provision of services, jobs, housing and infrastructure.
- Shropshire's low population density places particular pressure on sustainable access to services and employment opportunities, especially in the more isolated rural areas of the county;
- The age structure of Shropshire sees a relatively high proportion of people of retirement age and relatively low proportion of young working age people. This issue is most acute in the south of the county.
- This county's age structure has important implications for the long term creation of a balanced work force, the attractiveness of the area for future investors and for employment and housing opportunities to suit all ages.
- The growth in people of retirement age places particular pressure on continued service provision throughout Shropshire, but is likely to have particular implications in the more isolated rural areas.

4b. HOUSING AND ACCOMMODATION

Baseline Information

Issue	Data	Comparators / Time Series	Targets / Trends	Source
<i>Housing completions for Shropshire's existing local authority areas</i>	2006/07 Shropshire - 1180 Bridgnorth: 175 North Shropshire: 235 Oswestry: 261 Shrewsbury & Atcham: 270 South Shropshire: 239	2005/06 Shropshire - 1295 Bridgnorth: 126 North Shropshire: 405 Oswestry: 233 Shrewsbury & Atcham: 341 South Shropshire: 190	The draft Regional target for the whole of Shropshire is 1285 dwelling completions per year, 310 of which should be in Shrewsbury Town (acting as a New Growth Point) Net housing completions in Shropshire have maintained fairly consistent levels over the past 10 years.	SCC (Sustainability Group) 'Development Trends Report'
<i>Average house prices (£)</i>	2006: Shropshire – 205,464 West Midlands – 172,697 England – 210,557	2001: Shropshire – 108,681 West Midlands – 98,457 England – 122,426	House prices in Shropshire are considerably higher than average regional prices, and have seen a sharper rise than both regional and national trends. On average the highest house prices are in South Shropshire with the lowest in Oswestry.	Land Registry Data
<i>Income ratio and affordability by existing local authority area (Ratio of lower quartile house prices to lower quartile incomes)</i>	2006: Bridgnorth – 11.26 North Shropshire – 7.97 Oswestry – 7.50 Shrewsbury & Atcham – 8.07 South Shropshire – 10.24 West Midlands – 6.78 England – 7.12	2001: Bridgnorth – 5.30 North Shropshire – 4.45 Oswestry – 3.51 Shrewsbury & Atcham – 4.48 South Shropshire – 6.02 West Midlands – 3.47 England – 3.65	The ratio between average house prices and average incomes has widened significantly in all areas of Shropshire since 2001, greater than regional or national averages. South Shropshire and Bridgnorth have seen the most significant rises.	Shropshire and Herefordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2007)
<i>Affordable housing completions</i>	2003-2007: North Area – 243 (44%) Central Area – 108 (20%) South Area – 194 (36%)		Over the past five years the North Area of the county has seen the most affordable housing completions, while the Central Area has had the fewest. County wide, affordable dwelling completions have seen a decrease since a peak of 185 in 2004/05.	SCC (Sustainability Group) Development Trends Report

<i>Single Person households</i>	All single households 2001: Shropshire – 32,575 Below pensionable age, 2001: Shropshire – 15,012	All single households 1991: Shropshire – 25,439 Below pensionable age, 1991: Shropshire – 9,898	The highest increases of below pensionable age single households generally came in the urban areas of Shrewsbury and Oswestry, The highest increase in single pensionable households was generally in the rural market towns. Projections indicate that the percentage of single person households in Shropshire will rise from 29% in 2004 to 38% by 2026.	2001 Census, 2004 based household projections
<i>Households in priority need of housing</i>	2006: Bridgnorth – 65 North Shropshire – 85 Oswestry – 105 Shrewsbury & Atcham – 180 South Shropshire - 100	2005: Bridgnorth – 60 North Shropshire – 205 Oswestry – 70 Shrewsbury & Atcham – 295 South Shropshire - 105	Shrewsbury and North Shropshire have seen a recent significant fall in priority need levels, whilst Bridgnorth and Oswestry levels have risen slightly.	
<i>Overcrowding (occupancy rates) 2001</i>	Percentage of households with an occupancy rating of -1 or less (one room too few or less) North – 3.3% Central – 4.1% South – 2.9% Shropshire – 3.5%	Percentage of households with an occupancy rating of -1 or less (one room too few or less) West Midlands – 5.6% England – 7.1%	It is considered that 3% of Shropshire’s households live in overcrowded conditions, compared with 7% nationally and 6% regionally. Over 4,000 households live in overcrowded conditions, with particular pockets of overcrowding located in a number of urban wards in Shrewsbury.	Census 2001
<i>Gypsies and Traveller accommodation needs</i>	LA Pitch Requirements 2007-2012: Shropshire: 63 additional pitches; (North: 30) (Central: 10) (South: 23)			Sub Regional Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GATT) 2008

Key Sustainability Issues

- 4.8. The supply and type of housing across Shropshire is a key issue in terms of promoting social, economic and environmental sustainability, and is vital to creating mixed and sustainable communities in the main urban areas, market towns and rural areas of Shropshire.

Key Issues identified:

- The average house price in Shropshire is now considerably higher than averages wages for the county;
- Housing affordability issues exist in all areas of Shropshire, but are most prevalent in the South Area of the county, where on average a single person now needs to earn over £41,400 to be able to afford an entry level property;
- The number of affordable housing completions in all areas of Shropshire has shown a recent decrease. This trend is particularly apparent in the Central area of the county. When combined with other important issues, such as the rise in average house prices, relatively low wages and the increasing cost of energy and food, it is becoming increasingly difficult for younger people and other first time buyers to get on the property ladder.
- The issue of housing quantity and affordability is exacerbated by the increasing trend towards single person households in Shropshire, which affects both urban and rural areas. The trend towards increasing single pensioner households in rural areas highlights particular issues of accessibility to key services and amenities in these areas.
- The number of households considered to be in priority need for housing has seen a recent increase in the Oswestry and Bridgnorth areas of Shropshire.
- There are pockets of overcrowding in some urban wards in Shrewsbury, which can have particular impact on individuals' quality of life.
- The accommodation needs of all members of society need to be met, including young families, the elderly and retired, single people and the gypsy and travelling communities. The type, mix and location of future housing development are crucial to this issue.

4c. SAFER COMMUNITIES

Baseline Information

Issue	Data	Comparators / Time Series	Targets / Trends	Source
<i>Crime Levels</i>	<p>Percentage of population living within the 20% most deprived SOA's* nationally: North: 3% Central: 8% South: 2% Shropshire: 4%</p> <p>* Super Output Areas (SOAs) are geographic layers used to map areas. Shropshire has 39 SOAs.</p>	No data available	<p>Crime levels are relatively low in Shropshire. Concentrations of crime do however occur in the main centres of population. Whilst only having 33% of the county's population, the central area has a 42% share of all crime in Shropshire.</p> <p>It is forecast that whilst volume crime has been reduced in Shropshire recently, this trend is set to plateau or slightly increase in the longer term.</p>	IMD / Home Office
<i>Fear and perception of crime</i>	The vast majority of Shropshire residents feel very safe in their neighbourhood after dark. Residents in the Central and North Areas of the county feel less safe in comparison with the South.	No data available	<p>The most common types of crime the people of Shropshire fear are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vandalism (criminal damage); • Car crime; • Burglary 	
<i>Anti social behaviour</i>	There were 8619 anti social behaviour incidents between April and August 2007. This was split: North – 2639 Central – 3977 South - 2003	No data available	Trends in anti social behaviour reflect the concentrations of population in Shropshire, with the highest number of incidents occurring in the Shrewsbury area.	West Mercia Police Incident Data, 2007

Key Sustainability Issues

- 4.9. Crime levels and people's fear of crime are important factors in assessing how safe a community feels, a factor which contributes particularly overall levels of social sustainability.

Key issues identified:

- Overall levels of crime are relatively low in Shropshire. However, peoples' perception and fear of crime are significantly higher, particularly in respect of vandalism, burglary and car crime;
- The highest levels of crime are found in the Central Area of the county, reflecting the largest urban concentration in Shrewsbury;
- Anti social behaviour is a significant contributor to individuals' perceptions and fear of crime and to their quality of life, and can have an impact on the overall attractiveness of an area for people, tourists and investors. Anti social behaviour levels are highest in the Central Area of the county reflecting its larger urban form;
- Spatial planning should play a key role in helping to reduce opportunities for people to commit crime, whilst encouraging an environment where people feel safe

4d. ECONOMY, SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT

Baseline Information

Issue	Data	Comparators / Time Series	Targets / Trends	Source
<i>Working age population as a % of total population (2006)</i>	Shropshire: 58.9% North: 59.4% Central: 59.5% South: 57.9%	West Midlands: 61.2% GB: 62.3%	The proportion of working age population in Shropshire as a whole and in its 3 sub areas is lower than both regional and national levels. The lowest proportion is in the south of the county, reflecting the older age structure in that area.	Shropshire Partnership – LAA Evidence Base 2007
<i>Economically active people 2006/07</i>	Shropshire: 81.7%	West Midlands: 77.2% GB: 78.5%	Steady increase in the amount of economically active people in Shropshire over the last 3 years.	Nomis April 2008
<i>Unemployment 2006/07</i>	Shropshire: 4.2%	West Midlands: 5.7% GB: 5.2%	Shropshire's unemployment rate is lower than both national and regional figures.	Nomis April 2008
<i>Employee job growth between 1998 and 2006</i>	Shropshire: 17.6% North: 15.7% Central: 19.4% South: 17%	West Midlands: 3.8% England: 8.8%	Job growth in Shropshire has increased faster than both regional and national levels.	Annual Business Inquiry 2007
<i>Employment structure in 2006</i>	Shropshire: Total employee jobs – 107,300 F/T - 64.8% P/T - 35.2%	West Midlands: F/T – 68.8%; P/T – 31.2% GB: F/T – 68.9%; P/T – 31.1%	Shropshire's economic structure shows a higher than average percentage of part time employees, although the current figure is lower than any time in the last 5 years.	Nomis April 2008
<i>In and out commuting levels</i>	Shropshire, 2001: In commuters – 20,786 Out commuters – 33,011	No comparison available	Over time an in-balance between jobs and workers has emerged in Shropshire. In 2001 there was a shortfall of around 12,225 jobs, equivalent to levels of out-commute	Shropshire Economic Profile 2008
<i>Average size of workplace, 2006</i>	Shropshire: 8.2 people per workplace	West Midlands: 11.8 England: 11	Workplaces in Shropshire employ less people compared with regional and national averages.	Shropshire Economic Profile 2008
<i>Gross weekly pay, 2007</i>	Shropshire: Full Time – £400.2	West Midlands: F/T – £430 GB: F/T - £458.6	Average gross earnings by people working in Shropshire are significantly lower than both the regional and national average.	Nomis April 2008
<i>Employee Jobs by sector 2006</i>	Shropshire: Manufacturing: 12.5%	GB: Manufacturing: 10.9%	There is considerable disparity within the service sector between Shropshire and the	Nomis April 2008

	Construction: 6.2% Service sector: 80.1% Within the service sector: 26.4% in distribution, hotels and restaurants 11.6% in Finance, IT, other business activities	Construction: 4.8% Service sector: 82.9% Within the service sector: 23.5% in distribution, hotel, restaurants 21.2% in Finance, IT, other business activities	national picture, especially in the percentage of people employed in Professional activities such as finance and IT, and tourism based jobs such as hotels and restaurants.	
<i>Employment in the farming sector</i>	Shropshire, 2006: 12,616 people employed in farming	1988: 14,500 people employed in farming	Between 1988 and 2006 there has been a 13% decline in the number of people employed in the farming sector.	Shropshire Economic Profile 2008
<i>Employment in the tourism sector</i>	Shropshire, 2005: 6,188 equivalent full time jobs in the tourism in Shropshire	No comparison available	In 2005 the tourism sector in Shropshire was worth £457 million	Shropshire Economic Profile 2008
<i>Employment in the Technology and Knowledge sector</i>	Shropshire, 2006: 30.8% of Shropshire's employees were employed in the technology and knowledge sectors.	West Midlands 2006: 38.3% England 2006: 40.6%	Shropshire has a significantly lower than average percentage of its workers in the technology and knowledge sector compared to regional averages.	Shropshire Economic Profile 2008
<i>Productivity (Gross Value Added (GVA) per head) in 2004</i>	Shropshire: £13291	West Midlands: £15325 England: £17532	GVA per head in Shropshire between 1995 and 2004 increased at a faster rate than regional levels, but lower than national levels.	Nomis 2007
<i>Qualifications 2006</i>	Shropshire: NVQ level 4 and above: 26.9% NVQ level 1 and above: 82.5%	West Midlands: NVQ level 4 and above: 23.9% NVQ level 1 and above: 74.8% GB: NVQ level 4 and above: 27.4% NVQ level 1 and above: 77.8%	The percentage gaining NVQ level 4 in 2005 and 2006 was increasing slower than national levels. The Central area of the County has statistically the highest percentage of the County's population with no or low qualifications, particularly in the Meole Brace and Harlescote electoral wards.	Nomis April 2008 / Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 (education and skills)
<i>Class B employment land completions</i>	Shropshire 06/07: 17.133 ha	Shropshire: 05/06: 12.823 ha 04/05: 13.825 ha	Provisional RSS target for employment land provision: 72 ha five year reservoir (14.4 per year) Class B land completions	SCC (Sustainability Group) Develop

			reached a 10 year peak in 06/07. The majority of these completions were in North Shropshire and Shrewsbury and Atcham.	ment Trend Reports 2007
<i>New business start up / closure rate in 2005</i>	Start up rate Shropshire: 7.1 North: 7.2 Central: 8.6 South: 6.3 Closure rate Shropshire: 6.4 North: 6.7 Central: 6.2 South: 6.2	Start up rate West Midlands: 9.4 UK: 9.6 Closure rate West Midlands: 8.2 UK: 8.3	Business start up rate in Shropshire is highest in the Central area, but overall levels remain below the regional and national average.	Nomis 2006
<i>Shropshire's Retail Hierarchy and rankings, 2007 (based on comparison goods)</i>	Shrewsbury: £ 399million Oswestry: £106 million Bridgnorth: £20 million Ludlow: £60 million	The 2007 Retail Centre Rankings for the West Midlands, ranks Shrewsbury in 9th place, Oswestry in 37th, Ludlow in 41st. Other centres which feature regionally are Whitchurch, Bridgnorth and Ellesmere The predicted 2017 Retail Centre Rankings show little or no change for these centres.	Shrewsbury is far and away the largest retail centre in Shropshire and is also classed as a regionally significant centre. Figures from Shropshire's retail capacity studies show there is a 'leakage' from Shropshire's smaller centres to larger centres both in and outside Shropshire.	Experian 2007, Shropshire Council's Retail Capacity Assessments (2006 / 2007)
<i>Estimate of future retail growth by current district boundary in 2006 / 2007</i>	Bridgnorth: 5.2% South Shropshire: 4.6% Shrewsbury: 5.2% Oswestry: 4.2% North Shropshire: Not Known	RSS Regional Centres Study 2007: 4.4%	The forecasts for South Shropshire and Oswestry Districts carried out in 2007 indicate less growth compared to the Bridgnorth and Shrewsbury forecasts carried out in 2006. This partly reflects the less buoyant national economic climate in 2007.	Shropshire Council's Retail Capacity Assessments (2006 / 2007)

Key Sustainability Issues

- 4.10. The long term economic and social sustainability for the county is affected by a range of issues such as skills and qualifications levels, employment structure and average wages.

Key Issues Identified:

- Headline Gross Value Added (GVA) per head for Shropshire is lower than both regional and national trends, largely due to the relatively low value nature of Shropshire's economy, net out commuting and lower than average wages;
- As a whole Shropshire has a lower proportion of working age people than regional or national trends; this affects the availability of a local workforce.
- A shortfall in the number of jobs has led to more people commuting to jobs outside of Shropshire than there are commuting in.
- The structure of the County's economy is less focussed on high value added sectors than national or regional averages. This trend has contributed to a relatively low wage economy.
- Shropshire's tourism sector has been a significant supplier of jobs, and has been positive for the county's overall economy. A balance needs to be struck between continuing growth in this sector and promoting new high-value jobs, such as the knowledge and technology sector.
- Employment in the agricultural sector has decreased over the past few years, leading to particular issues for Shropshire's rural areas. This issue places particular emphasis on the role of farm and rural diversification schemes to help sustain the rural economy.
- Trends show that Shropshire has found it difficult to retain graduates because of a lack of suitable employment opportunities;
- New business 'start up' rates in Shropshire are lower than regional and national averages, particularly in the south of the county;
- Shropshire performs consistently above the national averages for educational attainment. However, there has been a slower than average increase of Shropshire's population achieving the highest NVQ levels.
- Some of Shropshire's key retail centres have experienced a 'leakage' from their traditional catchment areas as people favour travelling further to larger towns and cities outside of the county. This trend has a particular impact on local rural economies.
- The provision of a range of employment sites and business premises in suitable locations is important in offering a real choice for potential investors, and for the expansion of existing businesses. Shrewsbury's role as New Growth Point needs to be appropriately reflected.

TRANSPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY

Baseline Information

Issue	Data	Comparators / Time Series	Targets / Trends	Source
<i>Percentage of households with no car</i>	Shropshire: 17.7 North: 17.6 Central: 20.0 South: 15.2 (Rural areas: 8.3, Urban areas – 22.5)	West Midlands: 26.8 England: 26.8	There are significantly higher levels of car ownership in Shropshire than regional or national levels, particularly in the predominantly rural South Area of the County.	Census 2001
<i>Traffic and Congestion</i>	No. of cars entering Shrewsbury Town Centre 2006/07: 22,000 No quantitative data for other areas of Shropshire	1997/08: 28,000 2003/04: 25,000 2005/06: 23,000	Local Transport Plan (LTP) Target: No increase in peak traffic flows in Shrewsbury. Apart from a slight rise between 2003 and 2005 there has been a steady decrease in the number of cars entering Shrewsbury town centre.	LTP monitoring
<i>Travel to work: Average distances travelled</i>	Total average for Shropshire: 15.88 km Over 10km: 32.9% Over 30km: 9%	No quantitative data available	Shropshire residents travel longer distances to work compared to the regional and national averages	
<i>Travel to work Patterns (% use of different transport modes)</i>	Shropshire 2001: Car – 65.6 Bus – 3.6 Train – 0.7 Motorcycle – 1.5 Bike – 4.3 Walk/work at home - 25.8	Shropshire 1981: Car – 54.3 Bus – 6.0 Train – 0.7 Motorcycle – 2.7 Bike – 5.6 Walk/work at home – 20.7	The private car is by far the most used mode of transport to work in Shropshire, increasing significantly over the past 20 years.	Census 2001
<i>Percentage of people travelling to work by public transport (2001)</i>	Shropshire: 3.5% North: 2.3% Central: 5.6% South: 2.5%	West Midlands: 10.5% England: 14.9%	The percentage people travelling to work by public transport in Shropshire are significantly lower than regional and national levels, particularly in the north and south of the county.	Census 2001
<i>Road safety</i>	No. of people killed and seriously injured on Shropshire roads (2006/07): 139	2005/06: 162	LTP Target: Total killed and seriously injured casualties The most recent figures show a fall of 29% in deaths and serious injuries.	LTP monitoring

<p><i>Accessibility: Percentage of people within 30 mins by public transport⁴ and walking⁵ to key services and facilities</i></p>	<p>Primary school: 88 Secondary school: 87 GP/Health clinic: 81 Market town: 73 Supermarket: 72 Employment destinations: 66 Public leisure centres: 66 HNS Registered dentist: 65 Public Library: 54 Sixth form college: 42 Further Education colleges: 41 Hospitals (out patient): 30 Major town centre: 29 Hospitals (acute services): 15</p>		<p>LTP Targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 70% people of working age to access a key employment destination within 45 mins by public transport that operates at least hourly on six days per week - 69% of rural households to access a town centre by public transport or demand responsive transport that is available on at least two days per week 	<p>Census 2001</p>
<p><i>Accessibility: % of people able to access a market town centre by public transport available at least two days per week</i></p>	<p>2006/07: 57% (all rural households) 64% (rural households with no access to a car)</p>	<p>No comparison data available</p>	<p>Shropshire County Council is currently preparing a new Rural Transport Strategy to improve public transport in rural areas of the county.</p> <p>The strategy's overall target is 95% of all rural households (with or without a car) to be able to access a market town by public transport which runs at least two times a week.</p>	

⁴ Bus and Rail

⁵ Maximum distance of 800 meters

Key Sustainability Issues

- 4.11. Sustainability considerations for transport and accessibility in Shropshire differ significantly between the county's urban and rural areas, particularly in relation to access to jobs and services and the priorities for encouraging a modal change by residents.

Key Issues Identified:

- Accessibility to key services, market towns and employment is a major issue for many areas in Shropshire, although this is particularly the case for more isolated rural settlements. These accessibility issues have significant implications for the long term economic and social sustainability of rural areas in Shropshire, as well as the quality of life for individual households.
- The current standards of accessibility of households to hospitals is considered 'very poor', as are opportunities for 16-19 year olds access to further education colleges. This has major implications for the long term health of an aging population, and for opportunities for people to access key training and develop necessary skills.
- The relatively poor access to public transport for much of the county, especially in market towns and more isolated rural areas, has contributed to higher than average levels of car ownership.
- The likely growth of Shrewsbury town in line with its Growth Point status is likely to affect the numbers of vehicles entering its town centre. This has implications for long term congestion levels in and around Shrewsbury, particularly at peak times.
- Levels of commuting in and out of Shropshire have increased considerably reflecting the growing in-balance between jobs and economically active people in the county, particularly for the county's rural areas.
- The private car is by far the most common mode of transport used to get to work in Shropshire. This reflects the increased number of people employed in the county, the increased levels of car ownership and the longer distances people are willing to travel for work.
- The increased use of the private vehicle for business, travel to work and leisure use is a major contributor to carbon emissions and to climate change. This will have a significant impact on both rural and urban areas.

4f. HEALTH, RECREATION AND SPORT

Baseline Information

Issue	Data	Comparators / Time Series	Targets / Trends	Source
<i>Percentage of people living in health deprivation</i>	Shropshire: 2% North: 0% Central: 3% South: 1%		Health deprivation is primarily confined to the Central and, to a lesser extent, South areas of County. Harlescott, Monkmoor and Ludlow Henley wards fall within the fifth most deprived wards nationally.	Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2004
<i>Percentage of people in 'not good' health</i>	Shropshire: 8.5% North: 8.6% Central: 8.3% South: 8.5%	West Midlands: 9.7% England: 9%	Over 70% of Shropshire residents consider themselves in 'good' health, higher than the national average. Specific wards considered in least good health are Gobowen, Monkmoor, Bagley, Market Drayton and Ludlow Henley.	2001 Censuses data
<i>Percentage of people with a limiting long-term illness</i>	Shropshire: 17.9% North: 18.4% Central: 17.5% South: 17.9%	West Midlands: 18.9% England: 17.9%	The number of people with a limiting long-term illness has increased from 12% in 1991 to 18% in 2001. The South Area saw the highest increase due to the large increase of older people in the area. Specific wards with the highest proportion include Gobowen, Ludlow Henley, Market Drayton North, Church Stretton North and Ludlow St Lawrence.	2001 Census data
<i>Physically active people</i>	Percentage of people who do thirty minutes physical activity at least three times a week Shropshire: 22.1%	West Midlands: 19.3% GB: 21.0%	The number of people in Shropshire engaged in physical activity is slightly above the regional and national average.	Sport England's Active People survey December 2006
<i>People engaged in organised sport</i>	Percentage of people who have taken part in organised sport in the last twelve months. Shropshire: 16.9%	West Midlands: 13.9% GB: 15.0%	Shropshire's percentage of people engaged in organised sport is above both the regional and national levels.	Sport England's Active People survey December 2006

<i>Recreational Cycling</i>	Number of days with recreational cycling of at least 30 minutes over a four week period: Shropshire: None 91.1% 1-6 days 6.6% 7-10 days 1.0% 12 or more 1.3%	West Midlands: None - 92.6% 1-6 days - 5.4% 7-10 days - 0.8% 12 or more - 1.1% England: None - 91.4% 1-6 days - 6.3% 7-10 days - 1.0% 12 or more - 1.3%	The number of Shropshire's residents participating in recreational cycling is consistent with both the regional and national figures.	Sport England's Active People survey December 2006
<i>Recreational Walking</i>	Number of days with recreational walking of at least 30 minutes over a four week period: Shropshire: None - 44.1% 1-6 days - 28.7% 7-10 days - 8.0% 12 or more - 19.3%	West Midlands: None - 55.0% 1-6 days - 24.6% 7-10 days - 6.1% 12 or more - 14.3% England: None - 52.5% 1-6 days - 26.0% 7-10 days - 6.7% 12 or more -14.9%	Shropshire has a higher number of people undertaking a larger number of walks than the regional and national figures with 20% undertaking recreational walks over 30 minutes at least 12 times or more in a four week period (at least 3 times a week).	Sport England's Active People survey December 2006
<i>Open space Provision</i>	Shropshire has well over 2000 open spaces ranging from parks and gardens, through childrens' play areas, amenity land and civic space, to allotments and churchyards.		North Shropshire, Oswestry and Shrewsbury & Atcham have carried out recent studies to audit provision, identify local needs, recommend provision standards and protect existing facilities. South Shropshire and Bridgnorth are currently undertaking studies.	Local open space studies, Shropshire councils and PMP
<i>Green Infrastructure</i>	Green infrastructure is the network of open spaces that enhances biodiversity, positively affects community well being, and provides key routes for sustainable travel and leisure activities.		Effective green infrastructure throughout Shropshire will ensure that developments including new open spaces are linked to existing networks. This is particularly important for Shrewsbury and the market towns although green infrastructure links all settlements.	Shrewsbury and Atcham TEP Green Infrastructure report 2008
<i>Countryside Access</i>	Shropshire has 5,500kms of rights of way and 10,000hectares of accessible open land.		Access for walkers is generally good throughout Shropshire. The Shropshire Hills and Clun Hills have the best access for all users. Demand for access is highest in the Shropshire Plains area although this holds only a quarter of the rights of way network.	Countryside Access Strategy (Consultation Draft) SCC 2007

Key Sustainability Issues

- 4.12. The accessibility of health services, and the provision of, and access to, recreation and sporting facilities are key issues for achieving social, environmental and economic sustainability, and vital to promoting sustainable communities throughout Shropshire. Health levels are influenced by many factors, including demographic make up, socio economic structure and individual lifestyle choices. Spatial Planning can shape the quality of people's surroundings and contribute to behavioural change in people, for instance through encouraging people to cycle or walk instead of using the car.

Key Issues Identified:

- Despite having a slightly higher than average number of people engaged in physical activity and organised sport, Shropshire has small pockets of health deprivation, predominantly in a handful of urban wards in Shrewsbury and Ludlow. These deprivation levels can have a negative impact on peoples' ability to access appropriate levels of health provision.
- Open space is multifunctional; it contributes to people's health and wellbeing, and provides opportunities for sport and recreation. The provision of accessible open space throughout Shropshire is therefore an important sustainability consideration.
- Countryside access is good within Shropshire. The Shropshire Hills and Clun Hills are renowned areas for walking. However, provision in the Shropshire Plains area is low compared to those willing to use rights of way.
- Green networks can contribute to the economic sustainability through increased tourism and can help provide an attractive place to live and work, and reduce the need to travel by car. Creating and maintaining opportunities to access to these networks is therefore an important sustainability issue.

4g. CARBON EMISSIONS AND ENERGY

Baseline Information

Issue	Data	Comparators / Time Series	Targets / Trends	Source
<i>CO₂ Emissions per sector (estimate)</i>	<p>Shropshire emissions for 2005 (kt CO₂) (percentage of total emissions in brackets):</p> <p>Industry and Commercial: 979 (34%) Domestic: 722 (25%) Road Transport: 1085 (38%) Land use, land use change & Forestry: 76 (3%)</p> <p>Total: 2862 kt CO₂</p>	<p>West Midlands (kt CO₂) (2005):</p> <p>Industry and Commercial: 18773 (41%) Domestic: 12666 (27%) Road Transport: 14209 (31%) Land use, land use change & Forestry: 358 (1%)</p> <p>(Experimental data for 2003 and 2004 are not comparable with 2005 figures)</p>	<p>Road transport provides the highest CO₂ emissions within Shropshire (38% of total emissions) and reflects the rural nature of the County and the distances between settlements. The relatively high percentage from Land use, land use change and forestry also reflects the importance of agricultural industries within Shropshire.</p>	<p>Local and Regional Estimates Carbon emissions by End User summary 2005 - Defra 2007</p>
<i>Energy Consumption in Shropshire by sector (GWh) (estimate)</i>	<p>Shropshire energy consumption for 2005 (GWh) (percentage of total consumption in brackets):</p> <p>Industry and Commercial: 2714.8 (30%) Domestic: 2600.7 (28%) Road Transport: 3830.6 (42%) Total: 9146.1</p>	<p>West Midlands (GWh):</p> <p>Industry and Commercial: 56,021.9 (36%) Domestic: 50,486.2 (32%) Road Transport: 49964.7 (32%)</p>	<p>Transport accounts for nearly half of the energy consumption in Shropshire reflecting the rural nature of the County.</p> <p>Experimental energy consumption data for 2003 and 2004 are not comparable with 2005.</p>	<p>Total final energy consumption at regional and local authority level – DBERR 2008</p>
<i>Renewable energy potential</i>	<p>Shropshire has capacity for several kinds of renewable energy, including biomass, landfill gas, small scale hydro, waste, solar and wind.</p> <p>Whilst renewable energy potential is high, output to date has been low with less than 1% of</p>		<p>Ironbridge power station now co-fires with biomass and produced 19759 MWh electricity from biomass (April 06-March 07). The South Shropshire biowaste digester in Ludlow, taking food and garden waste, started operating in 2006 and generated 35MWh of which a proportion was exported to the grid.</p>	<p>Shropshire Energy Team / Halcrow, 1997 SCC (Sustainability Group) 'Shropshire Profile'</p>

	Shropshire's total energy.			
<i>Energy efficiency</i>	No data exists regarding energy efficiency within Shropshire.		The energy hierarchy ranks energy efficiency higher than renewable energy production.	SCC (Sustainability Group) 'Shropshire Profile'
<i>Fuel Poverty (where more than 10% of income is spent on adequately heating homes)</i>	<p>Shropshire has a high rate of fuel poverty with around 20,000 households considered to be affected. Rural areas to the south are particularly affected.</p> <p>The majority of people in fuel poverty (around 80%) live in poorly heated and uninsulated homes</p>	1.5 million households considered to be in fuel poverty in England in 2005.	<p>Fuel prices are increasing well above the rate of inflation which will lead to the possibility of more fuel poverty within the County.</p> <p>'Keep Shropshire Warm', funded by Defra, aims to reduce fuel poverty by providing effective energy efficiency advice and grants for insulation.</p>	<p>Fuel Poverty Advisory Group 6th Annual report 2007</p> <p>'Keep Shropshire Warm' organisation</p>
<i>Low carbon communities</i>	The Low Carbon Communities is a pilot project run by SCC and Marches Energy Agency to increase energy efficiency in Shropshire in three areas: Ellesmere, Cleobury Mortimer and 'Floodplain community' (Kinnerley and Melverley Parishes).		The programme seeks a 5.88% (3820 tonnes) reduction in carbon usage by April 2009. The Low Carbon Communities for Business has funding to expand to encompass the whole of the Rural Regeneration Zone (RRZ) which encompasses a large proportion of Shropshire and Hereford.	SCC Sustainability Team

Key Sustainability Issues

- 4.13. There is a broad consensus that CO₂ emissions are the major contributor to climate change. Reducing energy consumption in Shropshire is vital for mitigating, and adapting to, the effects of climate change. Increased energy efficiency also brings with it wider social benefits including the reduction of energy costs to industry and residents, thus reducing the potential for fuel poverty.

Key Issues identified:

- There is currently very little exploitation of renewable energy resources within Shropshire with around 1% of energy produced from renewables. Increasing the supply of energy from renewables is important in relation to ensuring sustainable energy production now, and in the future.
- Many areas of Shropshire are significantly disadvantaged by energy inefficiency due to a lack of access to mains gas. Some £25 million per annum is being wasted by Shropshire householders and more than £7 million per annum by Shropshire's commercial, voluntary and public sector organisations by not having cost effective energy efficiency measures in their buildings.
- Energy efficiency measures are key to reducing Shropshire's contribution to climate change and reducing fuel poverty. It will be important to ensure energy efficiency measures are implemented in new commercial and residential properties and take steps to reduce energy cost inequalities. The Code for Sustainable Homes provides a guide for attaining energy efficiency in residential development.
- The 'Low Carbon Communities' project aims to provide opportunities for energy efficiency measures for three specific areas of Shropshire. For the business sector this is being rolled out over the RRZ and there are plans to also expand the community and domestic projects.
- Road transport accounts for nearly half the energy consumption in Shropshire and totals 38% of overall CO₂ emissions. Reducing the need to travel, and increasing the opportunities for sustainable travel choices, are key issues for Shropshire.

4h. THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Baseline Information

Issue	Data	Comparators / Time Series	Targets / Trends	Source
<i>Number and Condition of SSSIs</i>	<p>Shropshire has 123 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs):</p> <p>Condition of SSSIs (April 2008), % area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • favourable – 30.52% • unfavourable and recovering – 52.26% • unfavourable no change – 14.88% • unfavourable declining – 2.07% 	<p>Condition of SSSIs (2006), % area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • favourable – 27.07% • unfavourable and recovering – 39.14% • unfavourable no change – 29.16% • unfavourable and declining – 4.35% 	<p>Public Service Agreement (PSA) target: 95% SSSIs in favourable condition by 2010</p> <p>% area meeting PSA target as of April 2008 – 82.78%</p>	Natural England
<i>Biodiversity Enhancement Areas (BEAs)</i>	<p>There are a number of BEAs within Shropshire: The Shropshire Hills, Oswestry Uplands, Mere and Mosses (north and south), Wrekin to Wenlock Edge, and Clee Hills.</p> <p>The regional 'Landscapes for Living' project is currently providing information to update the BEAs.</p>	<p>14 BEAs have been defined within the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy.</p> <p>'Landscapes for Living' has mapped the Region and is moving on to sub-regional maps. The maps cover the whole land area and are divided into broad categories showing high to low existing biodiversity and approaches to managing biodiversity in each category.</p>	<p>Defining these areas means working at the 'landscape scale' to focus funding and reduce the impacts of climate change, habitat fragmentation and loss of biodiversity.</p> <p>The Shropshire Biodiversity Partnership use the national Biodiversity Action Reporting System to report on biodiversity enhancement works within BEAs. Regional identification will improve awareness of the need to protect, enhance and connect these areas.</p>	<p>West Midlands Biodiversity Partnership</p> <p>Shropshire Biodiversity Action Plan – SCC (2006 Revision)</p>
<i>Populations of species and areas of priority habitat</i>	<p>Shropshire's Biodiversity Action Plan (2006 revision) includes specific Action Plans for 22 habitats and 55 species.</p>		<p>Targets for Shropshire's priority habitat and species are included in Shropshire's Biodiversity Action Plan and reported on through the Biodiversity Action Reporting System.</p>	<p>Shropshire Biodiversity Action Plan – SCC (2006 Revision)</p>

			Setting of targets for most habitats and some species are hampered by a lack of base-line data and therefore changes can not be determined.	
<i>Shropshire Ecological Data Network</i>	Species and habitat records are generated and maintained by a range of specialist volunteer groups/NGOs as well as Local Authorities, private consultancies and Government Agencies.		Shropshire currently does not have a typical Local Record Centre for biological data. The Shropshire Ecological Data Network was set up in 2007 to start to co-ordinate easy access to species and habitat data. SWT are collating species data and Shropshire County Council is collecting and generating habitat data, in partnership with other recording groups.	Shropshire Wildlife Trust (SWT) / Shropshire County Council
<i>Habitat Indicator Species Mapping</i>	These are a range of maps showing overall biodiversity density, location of key areas for priority habitats and potential resilience of biodiversity to climate change.		These maps provide a means of identifying networks of habitats, producing biodiversity alert maps for development control and a range of other applications.	
<i>Inventory of Local Wildlife Sites (Local Site System)</i>	Shropshire has around 550 local Wildlife Sites encompassing the areas of highest biodiversity in the county, outside nationally designated sites.	Decisions on addition and deletion of sites are made twice a year by the Local Wildlife Sites Partnership	National Indicator 197: Improved local biodiversity – active management of Local Sites.	Shropshire Wildlife Trust on behalf of the Local Wildlife Sites Partnership.
<i>Landscape types</i>	Shropshire has 7 key landscape areas either totally or partially within its boundary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oswestry Uplands; • Meres and Mosses; • Shropshire Hills; • Clun and North West Herefordshire Hills • Malvern Hills and Teme Valley; 		There are a number of landscape types that exist in certain parts of the county and add to the make up of a locally distinctive Shropshire environment. These include: Open Moorland only in the Shropshire Hills; wooded hills and farmland predominantly	Shropshire Landscape Character Assessment - SCC 2006

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Midlands Plateau; Central Herefordshire (a small part of which is in South Shropshire) <p>On a more localised scale Shropshire has 27 distinctive landscape types recognised through the Landscape Character Assessment.</p>		in the South West; Wooded Hills and Estatelands only in Southern Shropshire along Wenlock Edge; Sandstone Hills within North Shropshire; and Sandstone Estatelands in the East.	
<i>Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)</i>	The Shropshire Hills AONB covers 806.66 sq km to the south of Shropshire.	There are 4 AONBs in the West Midlands region.	The Government has outlined its planning policy towards AONBs in PPS7 – ‘Sustainable Development in Rural Areas’.	
<i>Geology</i>	Shropshire has over 300 regional important sites or rocks that reflect all but 2 of the internationally recognised divisions of geological time. Shropshire is also famed for fossils including the Condover Mammoth, Grinshill Rhynchosaurus and Ludlow Bone Bed.		Threats to Shropshire’s geology come from the natural deterioration of exposed rock exposures and infilling of old quarries.	Shropshire Geodiversity Action Plan – SCC 2007
<i>Light Pollution</i>	<p>Amount of unnatural light shown by percentage of Shropshire’s area for the year 2000.</p> <p>(measurements: 0 = no unnatural light, 50 = brighter, 255 = saturated with light):</p> <p>0 - 1.70 18% 1.71 - 50 18% 50.01 - 150 58% 150.01 - 240 5% 240.01 - 255 1%</p>	<p>1993 figures:</p> <p>0 - 1.70 24% 1.71 – 50 45% 50.01 - 150 26% 150.01 - 240 4% 240.01 - 255 1%</p>	Shropshire has a significant proportion of dark skies (predominantly in South/South West). However, light pollution is growing in the County. The ‘saturated light’ area remains around Shrewsbury and brighter areas are occurring in Oswestry, Whitchurch and Bridgnorth.	Light Pollution Map: West Midlands - CPRE 2003
<i>Noise</i>	High levels of noise disturbance around Shrewsbury, Oswestry and along transport routes A5, A49. A significant proportion of the South of Shropshire has many of the		Shropshire is regarded as ‘tranquil’, although noise disturbance has increased steadily in the last 50 years. Potential sources of noise pollution may be	Tranquillity Map for Shropshire – CPRE 2007

	region's areas regarded as 'most tranquil'.		industrial works, traffic noise or localised residential areas.	
<i>Contaminated Land</i>	No data exists relating to the extent of contaminated land within the County.	The Environment Agency estimates that nationally there are up to 300,000 hectares of contaminated land, as defined by Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, amounting to as many as 100,000 sites.	Local Authorities are under a statutory duty to address the issue of contaminated land alongside ensuring sites are cleaned up through planning conditions attached to consents. They have to undertake a review of land that might fall into the Part IIA definition of contaminated from 'time to time'.	Dealing with Contaminated Land in England - Environment Agency 2002
<i>Soil quality</i>	There is currently a lack of data on the quality of soil in Shropshire. It is hoped that future strategies can provide a better overall baseline for this issue.	No available data	No available data	

Key Sustainability Issues

- 4.14. Shropshire has a rich and varied natural environment that includes a wide range of national and international designations. The natural environment also contributes to the economic and social sustainability of Shropshire by directly affecting sectors such as agriculture and tourism. Careful management of Shropshire's natural environment is therefore key to delivering broader sustainability benefits, both now and in the future.

Key Issues Identified:

- Whilst the percentage area of SSSIs considered favourable and recovering in Shropshire is increasing indicating an improvement to these important designations, the levels remains below the agreed PSA target.
- The achievement of Biodiversity Action Plan targets related to Shropshire's identified habitat and species priorities is reported on through the Biodiversity Action Reporting System. The achievement and reporting of these targets requires activities from many organisations, including NGOs, Government agencies the Local Authorities, in making Plans and taking planning decisions.
- The Shropshire Hills AONB is one of only 4 in the West Midlands and plays a significant role in enhancing the environmental quality of the county. Spatial planning must seek to conserve and enhance this locally, regionally and nationally significant area.
- Shropshire's Landscape is a significant part of the county's distinctiveness, and adds to the attractiveness of the area for residents and visitors.
- The exact affect of climate change on Shropshire's biodiversity is not known. Rising temperatures, and indirect changes from shifting patterns of agriculture, the growth of new crops, and changes to river systems will affect natural habitats and ecosystems. Spatial planning has a key role to play in protecting areas of high biodiversity and in reconnecting habitat networks to aid species migration and dispersal.
- Shropshire's natural systems play an important role in providing conditions for human living in Shropshire. As well as purifying air and water, preventing flood, nutrient cycling and carbon storage, they are fundamental to Shropshire's economic and social sustainability.
- Agriculture, tourism, in-migration and industry are sectors that are closely linked to the natural environment whilst population expansion, new development, climate and human interaction all affect the environment.

4i. BUILT AND HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

Baseline Information

Issue	Data	Comparators / Time Series	Targets / Trends	Source
<i>Number of listed buildings</i>	Shropshire has 6,719 listed buildings: 99 at Grade I 457 at Grade II* 6,163 at Grade II Shropshire also has 431 scheduled monuments	Number in GB: Listed buildings in West Midlands: 34,276 Scheduled monuments in West Midlands: 1,395	Shropshire has around 20% of the region's listed buildings and 31% of the region's scheduled monuments. This reflects the rich heritage of Shropshire and its significant contribution to the region's cultural and historical diversity.	DCMS are currently responsible for Listing and Scheduling, advised by English Heritage
<i>Number of buildings on the Buildings at Risk register</i>	33 buildings are considered to be at risk in Shropshire. This includes Grade I, II* and Scheduled Ancient Monuments	West Midlands: 179 Grade I, II* and Scheduled Ancient Monuments at risk GB: 1235 Grade I, II* and Scheduled Ancient Monuments at risk	Shropshire has a significant number of the region's buildings at risk at (due to the significant proportion of listed buildings and scheduled monuments). The reduction in the numbers of buildings at risk is a national, regional and local aim. Local Buildings at Risk Registers exist for Bridgnorth, North Shropshire and Shrewsbury & Atcham and a survey is currently being undertaken for Oswestry.	Buildings at Risk register English Heritage 2007
<i>Number of registered historic parks and gardens</i>	Shropshire has 29 historic parks and gardens: 1 Grade I, 24 Grade II* and 4 Grade II registered historic parks and gardens 1 Registered Battlefield for Battle of Shrewsbury, 1403	No available data		
<i>Number of conservation areas</i>	Shropshire has 117 conservation areas. BDC: 34 NSDC: 16 OBC: 4 SABC: 17 SSDC: 46	The West Midlands has 737 conservation areas in total.	Conservation areas exist in the town centres of Bridgnorth, Ludlow, Oswestry and Shrewsbury. They reflect the architectural and historic value of the areas.	Local Authorities
<i>World Heritage</i>	The Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site was	No available data	The majority of the site lies within Borough of Telford	Bridgnorth Local Plan

<p><i>Site</i></p>	<p>designated due the areas unique contribution to the Industrial Revolution and sits partially within the administrative area of Shropshire.</p> <p>The Pontcysyllte Canal and Aqueduct was nominated by UK as its candidate World Heritage Site in 2007. The Southern end of the canal and its buffer Zone lie in Oswestry Borough. The decision on this designation is due later in 2008.</p>		<p>and Wrekin. The area covered by Shropshire is predominantly wooded.</p>	<p>1996-2011</p>
<p><i>Historic Environment Record</i></p>	<p>Shropshire County Council currently has records of all currently known designated and non-designated historic environment assets in the county. This system is likely to become statutory when the new Heritage Bill is adopted by parliament.</p>	<p>No available data</p>	<p>The Record provides vital evidence base to support provision of curatorial advice in relation to PPG16 and other consultations.</p>	<p>Historic Building, Sites and Monuments Records database (HBSMR)</p>
<p><i>Historic Landscape character</i></p>	<p>The Historic Landscape Character (HLC) assessment identified 52 different Historic Landscape Types, ranging from 20th century suburbs and WWII airfields to ancient field patterns and woodlands. The results have subsequently been integrated with the Landscape Character Assessment.</p>	<p>No available data</p>	<p>Shropshire has a diverse landscape character emerging from different historical time periods.</p>	<p>Draft HLC Final Report – due to be published late 2008.</p> <p>The Shropshire Landscape Typology SCC 2006</p>

Key Sustainability Issues

- 4.15. Our built and historic heritage contributes to sustainability in a number of ways, from enhancing the overall environment, to encouraging tourism and improving the quality of life for local residents. For the long term sustainability of Shropshire it is important that the county's wide range of built and historic assets is fully recognised, protected and enhanced.

Key Issues Identified:

- Shropshire has a significant proportion of the region's listed buildings, reflecting the historic nature of the County. These buildings contribute to the character and attractiveness of Shropshire whilst also reflecting its cultural, social and economic heritage.
- Shropshire's wealth of built assets and rich historic environment contribute to making Shropshire an attractive place for people to live and work. It makes a vital contribution to the environmental economy of the county and to the ongoing sustainability of its towns and villages. It also provides important opportunities for heritage led regeneration, exemplified by the Ditherington Flax Mill in Shrewsbury.
- The historic landscape of Shropshire is unique. The cultural landscape reflects a number of historical periods. Remains such as Mitchell's Fold Bronze Age stone circle, Offa's Dyke and the Roman City at Wroxeter contribute to this historical legacy. Shropshire's rich heritage must be preserved and enhanced and local distinctiveness taken into account.
- Urban design and the historic environment are closely linked. Good design should contribute to the character and local distinctiveness of places and sit appropriately within existing surroundings. To achieve sustainable development it is important to maintain the vernacular of Shropshire's historic market towns and villages.

4j. WATER, FLOOD RISK AND AIR QUALITY

Baseline Information

Issue	Data	Comparators / Time Series	Targets / Trends	Source
<i>Water Quality (Biological)</i>	Shropshire (2006): Good quality – 84.54% Fair – 12.22% Poor – 3.24% Bad – 0%	Shropshire (2005): Good – 83.82% Fair – 13.0% Poor – 1.62% Bad – 1.58% West Midlands (2006): Good – 58.9% Fair – 30.8% Poor – 6.8% Bad – 3.5%	Overall the biological quality of Shropshire’s river stretches is significantly better than regional averages. There has been a slight decrease in the overall percentage considered ‘good’ since 2005. Stretches in North Shropshire compare less favourably than the county average.	Defra
<i>Water Quality (Chemistry)</i>	Shropshire (% , 2006): Good quality – 84.26% Fair – 15.62% Poor – 0% Bad – 0.14%	Shropshire (overall % in 2005): Good – 84.64 Fair – 15.18 Poor – 0.06 Bad – 0.14 West Midlands (% in 2006): Good – 63.8 Fair – 29.6 Poor – 6.0 Bad – 0.6	Overall the chemistry quality of Shropshire’s river stretches is significantly better than regional averages. There has been a slight decrease in the overall percentage considered ‘good’ since 2005. There are significantly less ‘good’ quality river stretches in the north of the County and a small percentage of river stretch in South Shropshire is considered ‘Bad’.	Defra
<i>Flood Risk</i>	Shropshire has 4473 properties in flood zone 3 (highest risk of flooding) Shrewsbury has an estimated 1000 properties in flood zone 3 Shropshire has 12042 properties in flood zone 2		The Severn is the main watercourse in Shropshire and also a cause of most of the County’s severe and frequent flooding incidents. Flooding incidents in Shropshire are significantly higher than other comparable cities.	Shropshire Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Phase 1
<i>Number of objections made by Environment</i>	2006/07: There weren’t any planning applications received by the six Shropshire	Nationally there were 90 planning applications granted against		Environment Agency: High

<i>Agency on flood risk grounds</i>	Local Planning Authorities where a decision was made contrary to Environment Agency advice on flood grounds.	Environment Agency advice on flood grounds.		Level Target 5 April 06 – March 07
<i>Water Resources</i>	Shropshire has several key water resource areas known as aquifers, mainly in the central and north of the County and in the Bridgnorth area.	No available data	Planning policies should reflect the need to maintain a sustainable water resource in accordance with the Water Framework Directive and reflect the Environment Agency's 'Water Resources for the Future' strategy.	Council documentation
<i>Air Quality</i>	Shropshire has 5 Air Quality Management Areas* (AQMAs), 3 of which are located in Shrewsbury, 1 in Oswestry and 1 in Bridgnorth. (* if it is anticipated that national Air Quality Objectives will not be met for particular areas, the relevant Local Authority should designate that area an AQMA)	No available data	The UK Air Quality Strategy includes a range of objectives for local authorities for reducing air pollution to human health and vegetation and ecosystems. In 2006 Shrewsbury's AQMA encompassing the Frankwell and Smithfield Rd area was expanded to include the wider town centre.	UK Air Quality Archive,

Key Sustainability Issues

- 4.16. Water is an essential resource; we rely on it to drink, keep us clean and as a source of recreation and enjoyment. Maintaining a sustainable water resource is therefore important for long term environmental, social and economic sustainability.
- 4.17. Flooding is increasingly being recognised as a major threat to people, properties and wildlife, and affects all aspects of sustainability. The heightened awareness of the impacts of climate change on sea and river levels has meant that ensuring an integrated approach to water management is becoming increasingly important.
- 4.18. Our air quality has a significant affect on overall levels of environmental sustainability and can have a significant impact on health levels amongst resident populations.

Key Issues Identified:

- There is a risk to groundwater sources from diffuse pollution from run-off from contaminated land and potentially from new development sites, especially around key centres such as Shrewsbury.
- The overall water quality in Shropshire has decreased slightly over the last few years, with particular issues in the northern areas of the county where the percentage of river stretches considered 'good' and 'fair' are significantly lower than central and southern areas.
- The main urban centre of Shrewsbury is located on the River Severn and therefore large areas are at risk of flooding. This will have important implications on the growth of the town in relation to its growth point status, and more specially the location of new development.
- Other areas in Shropshire have also experienced flooding, with notable events occurring in 2000 in Shrewsbury and 2007 in Ludlow.
- It is important to make the most efficient use of Shropshire's water resources to protect major aquifers from over abstraction.
- Shrewsbury has 3 designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) largely resulting from pollutants from road traffic.
- Increases in the number and concentration of vehicles could have a negative impact on meeting National and local Air Quality targets. This is likely to be a major issue around existing centres, particularly Shrewsbury where the existing AQMA area has already been expanded in recent years.

4k. MATERIAL RESOURCES

Baseline Information

Issue	Data	Comparators / Time Series	Targets / Trends	Source
<i>The production of land won aggregates in Shropshire</i>	Sand & Gravel production - 2005: 0.829 Million Tonnes (MT) Crushed Rock production – 2005: 2.51 MT	Sand & Gravel production - 2004: 0.840 MT 2003: 0.822 MT Crushed Rock production – 2004: 2.47 MT 2003: 2.46 MT	Production of both Sand & Gravel and Crushed Rock has remained at fairly consistent levels since 2003, and has remained at levels consistent with Shropshire’s regional annual apportionment set out in the West Midlands RSS.	RAWP Annual Monitoring Report 2005
<i>The use of alternative aggregates in Shropshire</i>	West Midlands Sub Region (Shropshire, Staffordshire and Telford & Wrekin): 36% (1.58 MT) of construction and demolition waste produced used as secondary aggregate.	No comparison available	There is a lack of data for Shropshire specifically on the amount of recycled aggregate used.	CDEW Survey of Arisings and Use of Alternatives to Primary Aggregate in England 2005
<i>Total Waste generated in Shropshire</i>	2005: 1.22 MT of waste was generated in Shropshire. - 45% from commercial and industrial businesses; - 40% from construction and demolition sector - 15% from municipal waste	No available data	No reliable trend data is available	Local waste management data
<i>Management of waste in Shropshire (all waste streams)</i>	2004/05: • Landfill – 36%; • Recycled – 47% • Other recovery – 17%	No available data	No reliable trend data is available	Local waste management data
<i>Management of municipal waste in Shropshire</i>	2006/07 • Landfill – 62%; • Composted – 18% • Recycled – 20%	2001/02 • Landfill – 92%; • Composted – 1% • Recycled – 8%	<i>Landfill Directive:</i> Reduce the amount of Biodegradable Municipal Waste (BMW) going to landfill to 75% of 1995 levels by 2010.	Local waste management data

			Current trends show there has been a significant sea change in the way municipal waste management is handled in Shropshire. However, whilst rates are falling, landfill continues to be the main type waste management used for municipal waste.	
<i>Biodegradable Municipal Waste Diversion Rates (away from landfill)</i>	Shropshire: 2006/07 - 39%	Shropshire: 2005/06 – 38%	The Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS) provides a year-on-year target diversion rate for BMW away from landfill for each Local Waste Authority. Whilst Shropshire is currently performing well ahead of the LATS targets, these targets will become increasingly difficult to hit by 2012/13 without sufficient new waste infrastructure.	Local waste management data

Key Sustainability Issues

4.19 How we use our material resources has a significant influence on sustainability on a number of levels. For instance, in terms of environmental sustainability, the reuse and recycling of waste material plays a key role in diverting waste from landfill sites, which is a key producer of the greenhouse gas methane. Whilst in terms of economic sustainability, there is external pressure being placed upon businesses to increase recycle rates on their commercial waste or face substantial financial penalties.

Key Issues Identified:

- The mineral industry makes an important contribution to the local economy and Shropshire is a significant producer of mineral aggregates, clay and building stone, which are essential to support construction and industry locally, and are exported regionally and nationally;
- Local economic performance will be adversely affected by rising waste costs unless access to business waste recycling facilities and services can be improved. The Shropshire economy largely comprises small businesses employing less than 10 people, which combined with the distribution of businesses across a large rural area, makes the Shropshire economy particularly susceptible to increases in waste costs. The provision of a sustainable network of waste facilities throughout Shropshire is therefore a key sustainability issue;
- It is crucial we maximise opportunities for recycling and the diversion of waste from landfill, for a host of environmental and economic reasons. Shropshire continues to have a dependence on landfill for managing its waste, especially municipal waste. European legislation (through LATS targets) place significant requirements on the future management of municipal waste, which could have significant economic implications on Local Authorities if these are not achieved.
- There is a need to promote greater resource efficiency through the adoption of sustainable construction methods, maximising re-use and recycling in order to reduce the environmental impacts of primary aggregate extraction;
- There is potential for adverse impacts on local communities from mineral extraction and waste management.
- The development and restoration of quarries and landfill sites can present opportunities to develop or enhance community facilities

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS:

Is the level of baseline information provided sufficient for the purposes of preparing the Sustainability Appraisal for Shropshire's Local Development Framework (LDF)?

Are there any other key sources of baseline information you think we should be taking into account?

Have we got the key sustainability appraisal issues correct?

Are there any other key sustainability issues you think we need to consider in developing the LDF?

5. DRAFT SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK

SEA Directive Stage

Annex 1 (e) – the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State 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

5.1. This section outlines how Shropshire’s new Local Development Framework will be tested against sustainability considerations. This will be achieved through the preparation of a **Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Framework**. The key output of the SA Framework is a series of Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Objectives relating to the topic areas covered in this report.

SA Objectives and Indicators

5.2. The SA Objectives have been developed from an analysis of the baseline information and reflect key strategic priorities of the Shropshire Partnership. The SA Objectives are not intended to be a statement of policy; rather their purpose is to appraise emerging LDF options, objectives and policies against a series of sustainability considerations. Table 5.1 below shows the draft SA Objectives.

5.3. To comply with the SEA legislation the following SEA topics have been borne in mind when defining these objectives:

- Biodiversity, fauna and flora;
- Cultural heritage and Landscape;
- Water and soil;
- Climatic factors;
- Air; and,
- Population and human health

5.4. The appraisal of emerging LDF options, objectives and policies will give a clear indication whether or not the LDF is being prepared with sustainable development as its key driver. Because the appraisal process is incremental and carried out alongside the preparation of the plan, there will be an opportunity for alterations to be made to the plan in order to prevent or mitigate any predicted negative sustainability impacts.

5.5. Each SA Objective is accompanied by a series of supplementary questions covering the key considerations that will be taken into account as part of the assessment. Whilst it is likely that not all the SA Objectives will be of relevant to all planning policies, the broad

approach will allow for a rigorous and consistent assessment of Shropshire’s emerging LDF.

- 5.6. At this stage a series of draft sustainability appraisal indicators have been suggested. These will be finalised following the consultation responses to the draft Scoping Report. Once LDF documents become operational (upon adoption) it will be important to use sustainability indicators to measure how far the LDF is contributing to achieving the SA Objectives. In preparing the final SA Framework we will need to ensure that the indicators used are appropriate and measurable. A series of ‘significant effects’ indicators will also be included in the final SA Framework. These will be used to assess the predicted sustainability effects of a DPD. The sustainability indicators will be reported on as part of the council’s Annual Monitoring Report (AMR).

Table 5.1: Draft Sustainability Appraisal Objectives (SO)

SO1: Promote safer communities;
SO2: Provide a sufficient quantity of good quality housing, which meets the needs of all sections of society;
SO3: Promote a strong and sustainable economy throughout Shropshire;
SO4: Encourage high quality inward investment, and support existing businesses to expand and diversify;
SO5: Encourage a modal shift towards more sustainable forms of transport;
SO6: Reduce the need of people and businesses to travel;
SO7: Promote community participation in a diverse range of sporting, recreational and cultural activities;
SO8: Create active and healthier communities for all and reduce inequalities in health services;
SO9: Reduce Shropshire’s contribution to climate change;
SO10: Adapt to the impacts of climate change;
SO11: Protect and maximise the benefits of Shropshire’s cultural and landscape heritage;
SO12: Protect and enhance the range and populations of species and the quality and extent of wildlife habitats;
SO13: Protect and improve Shropshire’s water and air quality;
SO14: Reduce the risk of flooding to people, property and wildlife;
SO15: Protect and improve soil quality and soil retention;
SO16: Ensure the efficient use of land and material resources

Table 5.2: Draft Sustainability Appraisal Framework

	DRAFT SA OBJECTIVE	SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS Will the Plan Option / Objective / Policy:	POTENTIAL SA INDICATORS
1	Promote safer communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage new development to design out crime, e.g. through layout and access? • Help reduce incidence of disorder, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse? • Encourage social inclusion? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incidence of anti social behaviour in different parts of Shropshire; • Percentage of people feeling safe after dark in each area of Shropshire; • Number of recorded incidents and distribution of burglary, car crime and vandalism; • Number of new developments incorporating 'secure by design' principles
2	Provide a sufficient quantity of good quality housing, which meets the needs of all sections of society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet demonstrable housing needs, in terms of affordability, tenure and mix? • Reflect the needs of an ageing population? • Help to meet the needs of priority households? • Raise design and quality standards for housing development? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenure and mix of housing; • % of households considered to be in overcrowded conditions; • Number of households considered in priority need; • % of housing meeting Code for Sustainable Homes standards
3	Promote a strong and sustainable economy throughout Shropshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure an appropriate supply of employment land to support sustainable economic development? • Support opportunities to create high value jobs in both urban and rural areas? • Continue to support sustainable tourism? • Support opportunities for home working? • Support a better balance of people and jobs? • Encourage the wider distribution of broadband / ICT infrastructure in rural areas? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Productivity rates per head; • % employed in different sectors of the economy; • Employment rates; • Balance of jobs and workforce; • Percentage of workforce working at home; • Consumer spend on comparison goods in Shropshire's retail centres
4	Encourage high quality inward investment, and support existing businesses to expand and diversify.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an attractive setting for potential investors and workforce? • Encourage the diversification of the rural economy? • Encourage investment in new or improved physical infrastructure and communication technology? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of new VAT registered businesses against closures; • Number of new rural and farm diversification schemes; • Percentage of people with NVQ levels 1-4;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the development of a skilled workforce, and supports the needs of new education infrastructure? 	
5	Encourage a modal shift towards more sustainable forms of transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to improving access to quality public transport? Exploit existing transport infrastructure? Co-ordinate development proposals with future public transport proposals and funding streams? Enable walking & cycling? Encourages use of rail by passengers and freight? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modal split in transport use; % of people travelling to work by public transport or other alternatives to the private car; Length of new cycle tracks in the county; Implementation of Rural Transport Strategy objectives
6	Reduce the need of people and businesses to travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus development in accessible locations? Encourage alternative ways of working, e.g. home working, local meeting points, internet trading, home deliveries? Encourage the retention of accessible local services? Help promote a sustainable network of services and facilities in urban and rural areas? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of people considered to have 'good' access to key services and facilities, particularly hospitals, schools and service centres; Average distance of people travelling to work
7	Promote community participation in a diverse range of sporting, recreational and cultural activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure an appropriate provision of multifunctional open space? Enhance the amenity value of Shropshire's countryside and green urban areas? Encourage community participation by providing opportunities for social, cultural, spiritual, political and other types of community interaction? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numbers of people engaged in organised sport; Percentage of people engaged in recreational cycling and walking Area of accessible open space
8	Create active and healthier communities for all and reduce inequalities in health services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage the people of Shropshire to make active, healthy lifestyle choices? Improve access to health facilities, especially in rural areas? Improve access to health provision for older people? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of people in 'not good' health in different areas of Shropshire; Physical activity rates; % of people within 30 mins of health facilities by public transport
9	Reduce Shropshire's contribution to climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage new development to meet the 'Code for Sustainable Homes' efficiency targets? Seek to raise energy efficiency standards in new commercial development? Promote renewable energy and other low carbon technologies? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of energy production from renewable or low carbon technologies; Greenhouse gas emissions per sector; % of new housing development meeting Code for Sustainable Homes

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise the need for people to travel? Encourage behavioural change amongst Shropshire's resident and working population? 	standards (in terms of energy efficiency and renewable energy provision);
10	Adapt to the impacts of climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage the use of sustainable drainage systems? Ensure new development is climate change proofed? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of new housing and commercial development incorporating sustainable drainage systems
11	Protect and maximise the benefits of Shropshire's cultural and landscape heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure development is sensitive in its treatment of historic buildings and historic settings? Respect the public realm? Reflect and enhance the sense of place? Preserve the character of the Shropshire Hills AONB and historic market towns? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number and percentage of listed buildings (Grade 1 and 2*) registered 'at risk' in Shropshire; Quality of buildings in conservation areas
12	Protect and enhance the range and populations of species and the quality and extent of wildlife habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect ecosystems from harmful development? Consider the impacts of climate change on species and habitats, for example through creating biodiversity networks? Protect vulnerable species? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress towards targets set out in Shropshire's Biodiversity Action Plan for species and habitats; % of SSSIs considered in 'good' condition
13	Protect and improve Shropshire's water and air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect water and air from harmful pollutants? Consider the use of water efficient design in new built development? Promote the balance of water supply and need? Address air quality impacts from specific development and broad locations? Support the improvement of the air quality in AQMAs? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> River Quality (Biological and chemistry); Number of developments incorporating water efficiency measures to Code for Sustainable Homes standards; Number and extent of AQMAs;
14	Reduce the risk of flooding to people, property and wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider options for reducing flood risk and managing flooding impacts? Seek to locate new development in areas of lowest possible flood risk? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of developments in Flood Zones 2 and 3 throughout Shropshire; Number of developments considered 'at risk' of flooding
15	Protect and improve soil quality and soil retention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect the county's best and most versatile agricultural land? Reduce the quantity of contaminated land? 	
16	Ensure the efficient use of land and material resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage the use of previously developed land? Support initiatives / projects to re-use waste as a resource? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of new development on previously developed land; Average densities of new

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage a reduction the use of primary aggregate? • Encourage an increase in levels of recycling and use of secondary resources? 	<p>residential development;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount of waste generated per year; • Landfill diversion rates; • Percentage of waste being recycled; • Amount and percentage of alternative aggregate used in construction
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CONSULTATION QUESTIONS:

Do the draft Sustainability Appraisal Objectives adequately reflect the key sustainability considerations for Shropshire?

Are the draft Sustainability Appraisal Objectives suitable for the purpose of appraising emerging LDF documents?

Are the draft supplementary questions appropriate, and do you feel we need to include any more?

Are the potential Sustainability Appraisal Indicators suitable for the purposes of monitoring levels of sustainability in Shropshire? Are there more appropriate, and measurable, indicators we should be using to gauge the SA Objectives?

6. SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL OBJECTIVES COMPATIBILITY TEST

- 6.1. The key purpose of this section is to test how compatible the draft Sustainability Appraisal (SA) objectives (outlined in table 5.1 above), are with each other. The test will allow us to identify where there are potential conflicts between the priorities of the SA Objectives.
- 6.2. Table 6.1 below details the compatibility test. The table uses the following key to indicate compatibility between objectives:
- P – Positive Compatibility;
 - N – Neutral Compatibility;
 - C – Potential Conflict
- 6.3. Where objectives show *neutral compatibility* it is considered that they have either no direct relationship with each other, or any potential conflicts identified are neutralised by other aspects of the Objective. For instance, providing sufficient quantities of housing could have negative impacts on environmental protection objectives, however providing good quality housing indicates that environmental issues in the design of new residential development will be taken into account.

Key Findings

- 6.4. In most cases the SA Objectives are considered to be either neutral or have a positive compatibility with each other. There are particularly strong 'positives' between the environmental based objectives (SO 9 – 16), and between objectives seeking changes to transport and travel patterns and reducing Shropshire's contribution to climate change.
- 6.5. Potential conflicts between objectives are identified between the economic based objectives (SO 3 – 4) and the environmental based objectives, particularly between supporting economic growth throughout Shropshire (SO 3) and protecting and enhancing species and habitats (SO 12). It is the role of the Local Development Framework to weigh up potential conflicts and ensure a balanced approach is taken to ensuring sustainable development. Therefore, at this stage it is considered no change is required to the wording of any of the draft SA Objectives.

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Table 6.1: Sustainability Appraisal Objective (SO) Compatibility Test

	SO1	SO2	SO3	SO4	SO5	SO6	SO7	SO8	SO9	SO10	SO11	SO12	SO13	SO14	SO15	SO16
SO1		P	N	N	P	N	P	P	N	N	N	N	N	P	N	N
SO2	P		P	P	N	N	N	N	P	P	N	N	N	N	N	N
SO3	N	P		P	N	P	N	P	C	N	C	C	C	N	C	N
SO4	N	P	P		P	P	N	N	C	N	C	C	C	N	C	N
SO5	P	N	N	P		P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	N	N
SO6	N	N	P	P	P		N	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	N	N
SO7	P	N	N	N	P	N		P	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
SO8	P	N	P	N	P	P	P		P	P	N	N	N	N	N	N
SO9	N	P	C	C	P	P	N	P		P	P	P	P	P	P	P
SO10	N	P	N	N	P	P	N	P	P		P	P	P	P	P	P
SO11	N	N	C	C	P	P	N	N	P	P		P	P	P	P	P
SO12	N	N	C	C	P	P	N	N	P	P	P		P	P	P	P
SO13	N	N	C	C	P	P	N	N	P	P	P	P		P	P	P
SO14	P	N	N	N	P	P	N	N	P	P	P	P	P		P	N
SO15	N	N	C	C	N	N	N	N	P	P	P	P	P	P		P
SO16	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	P	P	P	P	P	N	P	

Key: P – Positive Compatibility; N – Neutral Compatibility; C – Potential Conflict

7. NEXT STEPS

- 7.1. Following stakeholder feedback to the consultation on this draft SA Scoping Report, the council will revise the report appropriately and place it on Shropshire's new 'One Council' Planning Webpage.
- 7.2. The first document subject to the Sustainability Appraisal process will be the Core Strategy 'Issues and Alternative Options' report later this year. The revised SA Framework will be used to assess the emerging Core Strategy options and will play an important role in deciding the most appropriate option to take. The results of this assessment will be published alongside the 'Issues and Alternative Options' Report. The SA report will include a detailed methodology on the assessment and where appropriate will suggest alternative options.