



Scoping Report for the Sustainability Appraisal of Wigan Central Area Action Plan

October 2011

**Wigan Council
Places Directorate**

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Section 1: The Wigan Central Area Action Plan

The Wigan Central Area Action Plan

- 1.1 This Scoping Report is the first stage of the sustainability appraisal process to accompany the production of the emerging Wigan Central Area Action Plan. The process is explained later in this Scoping Report.
- 1.2 The Wigan Central Area Action Plan will form part of our Local Development Framework. Within this Framework, there will be a Core Strategy and a series of Development Plan Documents. The Wigan Central Area Action Plan will be one of these documents.
- 1.3 The Wigan Central Area Action Plan will cover an area of approximately 14 square kilometres including Wigan town centre. It will allocate specific areas for development, provide detailed guidance for developers and specify what infrastructure works are required.
- 1.4 The plan will set out detailed planning policies for the area up until 2026 and will help the council make decisions on planning applications. It will also influence decisions about transport, jobs, community and leisure facilities, health provision and education.
- 1.5 The plan will cover Wigan's established shopping centre and its rail stations and bus station, along with a number of areas around the town centre which need improvement or which are likely to see major change in future years. These areas are:
 - The historic core and retail centre, including Wallgate / Market Street and the town's two rail stations, the Galleries / Marketgate and Grand Arcade shopping centres, Lower Standishgate and Crompton Street;
 - The Eastern Gateway, based around Chapel Lane and Harrogate Street, which includes the Old Town Hall and former Police Station sites;
 - The Northern Crescent, which includes the Galleries and Marketgate Shopping Centres and Lower Standishgate;
 - The Pier Quarter, which includes the Eckersley Mill and Trencherfield Mill complexes at Swan Meadow Road;
 - The Wallgate / Queen Street / Caroline Street areas.
- 1.6 If we opted not to prepare an area action plan for the Wigan central area, this would reduce the opportunities for sustainable development within the area and would also limit the potential to create a greener, more energy efficient urban centre.
- 1.7 This is because the area has a number of specific complex, inter-related issues, including public transport facilities which are poorly connected. Without a detailed plan, prepared jointly with key partners, these issues cannot be addressed in a comprehensive way.
- 1.8 In recent years, there has been very little new commercial and residential development within the plan area, with new developments taking place on out of centre sites in response to market demands. Without a detailed, up to date development plan, it is likely that the lack of investment and development within the area will continue, leading to less sustainable patterns of development being created.

Section 2: Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal

- 2.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment applies to a range of plans and programmes including development plan documents such as the Wigan Central Area Action Plan.
- 2.2 It stems from a European Directive (2001/42/EC) and came into force in the UK on 21 July 2004. It is a method for predicting, evaluating and mitigating the likely environmental impacts of a policy, plan or programme.
- 2.3 Sustainability appraisal extends the concept of strategic environmental assessment to fully encompass economic and social concerns. It is required under Section 39(2) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) for new or revised development plan documents which form part of the Local Development Framework, and this includes the Wigan Central Area Action Plan.
- 2.4 Sustainability appraisal is a continuous process that informs firstly the evidence gathering stage of a plan's preparation, and subsequently the formulation of alternative options and the preparation of the preferred strategy. It enables potential adverse impacts to be identified at an early stage and where possible avoided, or the impacts reduced by mitigation.
- 2.5 Government guidance advocates the use of an integrated approach to appraisal, combining the legal requirements of strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal into a single, unified process.
- 2.6 We have followed the government guidance for carrying out sustainability appraisal as set out in the 'Communities and Local Government Plan Making Manual' which accompanies the revised 'Planning Policy Statement 12'. We have also followed the government's 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive'.

Section 3: Purpose of the Scoping Report and Proposed Sustainability Appraisal Method

Sustainability Appraisal

- 3.1 As the Wigan Central Area Action Plan is developed, it will be subject to sustainability appraisal to ensure that sustainability issues are taken fully into consideration when preparing the plan. The sustainability appraisal process will enable us to ensure that the likely significant environmental, social and economic effects of the plan can be identified and considered.
- 3.2 This scoping report represents the first stage of the sustainability appraisal process for the Wigan Central Area Action Plan. The purpose of the report is to set out the initial context and findings of the sustainability appraisal and the proposed approach to the rest of the appraisal.
- 3.3 The aim is to ensure that the appraisal is comprehensive and addresses all relevant issues and objectives, taking account of input from key stakeholders and consultation bodies at an early stage in the process.
- 3.4 The scoping report does the following:
 - Reviews the environmental, social and economic issues and objectives contained in other plans and programmes that are relevant to the Wigan Central Area Action Plan
 - Provides baseline information on the environmental, social and economic characteristics relevant to the Wigan Central Area Action Plan
 - Identifies the key sustainability issues for the Wigan Central Area Action Plan, based on an assessment of the baseline information
 - Sets out the likely objectives of the Wigan Central Area Action Plan
 - Invites comments from statutory consultees and other stakeholders.

Proposed sustainability appraisal method

- 3.5 Our proposed approach to the integrated sustainability appraisal of the Wigan Central Area Action Plan is based on government guidance and has five stages. These will run in parallel to the preparation process for the Wigan Central Area Action Plan.
- 3.6 Table 3.1 lists the proposed sustainability appraisal stages and tasks.

Table 3.1

Pre-production: evidence gathering
Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope
<p>A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives (contextual review).</p> <p>A2: Collecting baseline information.</p> <p>A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems.</p> <p>A4: Developing the sustainability framework and outlining what happens next.</p> <p>A5: Consulting on the scope of the sustainability appraisal.</p>
Production – preparing the draft Wigan Central Area Action Plan
Stage B: Developing and refining the options and assessing the effects
<p>B1: Testing the Wigan Central Area Action Plan objectives against the SA framework.</p> <p>B2: Developing options and alternatives for the Wigan Central Area Action Plan.</p> <p>B3/B4: Predicting and evaluating the effects of the draft Wigan Central Area Action Plan.</p> <p>B5: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects.</p> <p>B6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Wigan Central Area Action Plan.</p>
Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report
C1: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report.
Stage D: Consulting on the draft Wigan Central Area Action Plan and the Sustainability Appraisal Report
D1: Public participation on the draft Wigan Central Area Action Plan and Sustainability Appraisal Report and
D2: Appraising significant changes.
Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Wigan Central Area Action Plan
E1: Finalising aims and methods for monitoring.
E2: Responding to adverse effects.

Section 4: Scoping approach

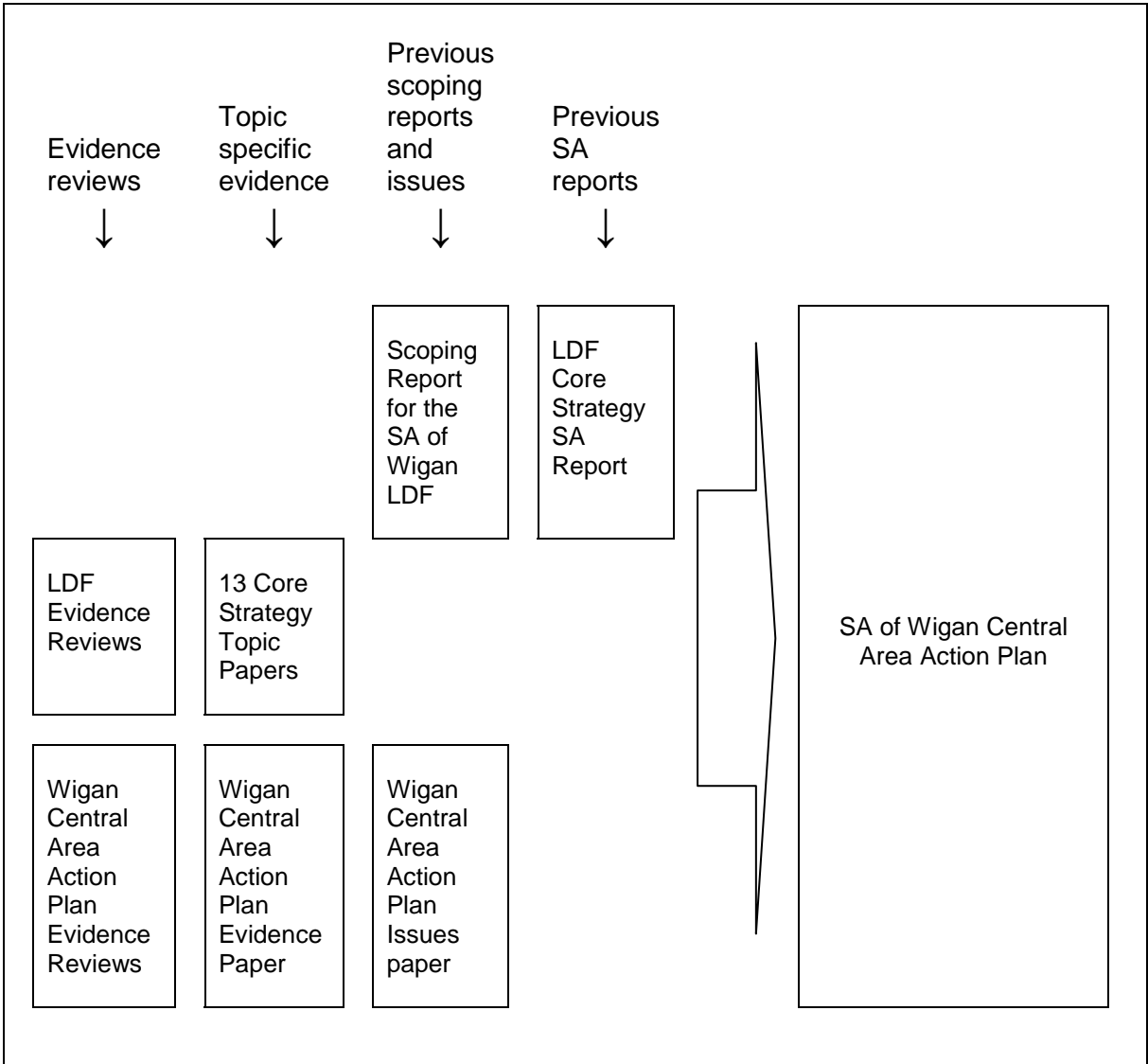
- 4.1 Wigan Council adopted the approach of producing a general scoping report for the Wigan Local Development Framework. This was supported by a series of 13 Core Strategy topic papers which summarise the evidence base for the core strategy and sustainability appraisal.
- 4.2 For the Wigan Central Area Action Plan, the evidence base summarised in the Core Strategy topic papers has been clarified by a single Evidence Paper containing thirteen chapters which relate specifically to the Wigan central area. This ensures that all relevant and up to date evidence is available to support the plan preparation process and sustainability appraisal. The relationship between this Evidence Paper and the Core Strategy topic papers is shown in Table 4.1. This Evidence Paper is currently being finalised and will be published shortly.
- 4.3 As this Evidence Paper also provides the information for the Wigan Central Area Action Plan evidence base, it is more detailed in places than is actually necessary for the sustainability appraisal. However, the Evidence Paper makes it clear what the information will be used for.
- 4.4 The Evidence Paper contains:
- lists of the subject-related background documents checked for relevant information; the key messages drawn from that review
 - a description of the baseline position within the plan area for the topic concerned (and any data sources and gaps / limitations, in line with the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive)
 - an analysis of future trends, projections or requirements within the plan area.

Table 4.1: Relationship between evidence paper and topic papers

Wigan Central Area Action Plan Evidence Paper Chapter		Core Strategy Topic Papers	
2.	Health and wellbeing	1.	Health and recreation
3.	Open space, sport and recreation	1. 9.	Health and recreation Built environment and landscape
4.	Community	3. 2.	Community development and involvement Community safety and neighbourhood quality
5.	Education and learning	4.	Education and learning
6.	Economy and employment	5.	Economy and employment
7.	Housing	6.	Housing
8.	Retail and leisure	7. 1.	Retail and centres Health and recreation
9.	Accessibility	8.	Accessibility
10.	Built environment, heritage and design	9.	Built environment and landscape
11.	Wildlife	10.	Wildlife habitats and species
12.	Energy	11.	Energy
13.	Waste	12.	Waste
14.	Natural resources and pollution	13.	Natural resources and pollution

4.5 Table 4.2 shows the documents which together will inform the sustainability appraisal of the Wigan Central Area Action Plan.

Table 4.2: How documents feed into appraisal process



4.6 The documents can be downloaded from Wigan Council’s web pages at: www.wigan.gov.uk/wigancentralactionplan .

4.7 By drawing on all these sources, we aim to ensure that the contextual review, baseline information, evidence and analysis for the sustainability appraisal of the Wigan Central Area Action Plan are as comprehensive and up to date as possible. All of these elements will be continuously kept under review and updated as necessary throughout the sustainability appraisal process.

4.8 This scoping report will inform the drafting of the Wigan Central Area Action Plan and the development of the options for the plan area. These options will be tested against the sustainability appraisal framework. However, the framework will in turn be informed by (and, where necessary, revised in response to) the plan preparation process, as new evidence emerges.

Section 5: Involving stakeholders in the appraisal process

Consultation for the scoping report

- 5.1 It is a requirement of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive that the scoping report is referred to the three statutory consultation bodies with environmental responsibilities. These are:
- The Environment Agency
 - English Heritage
 - Natural England.
- 5.2 During a five-week consultation period (from 22 June to 27 July 2011) we asked the three statutory consultation bodies and other external organisations with environmental, social and economic responsibilities to provide their opinion on our proposed scoping approach. The organisations we consulted, and their responses, are recorded in Appendix A of this scoping report.
- 5.3 This scoping report will be sent to these bodies and organisations to invite their further comments and it will also be made available to the public on the council's website.
- 5.4 The aim of our consultation is to:
- ensure the sustainability appraisal is both comprehensive and robust enough to support the Wigan Central Area Action Plan during its stages of public consultation
 - seek advice on the completeness of the contextual review and baseline data and gain further information where appropriate
 - seek advice on the suitability of the key sustainability issues
 - seek advice on the suitability of the sustainability objectives.

Wigan Council website

- 5.5 All relevant documents that are produced as a result of the sustainability appraisal process for the Wigan Central Area Action Plan will be made available to view and download on the council's website at:
www.wigan.gov.uk/wigancentralactionplan

Statement of Community Involvement

- 5.6 The integrated sustainability appraisal process set out in this scoping report is designed to meet the guiding principles for community involvement set out in section 3 of the Statement of Community Involvement for the Wigan Local Development Framework.

Section 6: Review of relevant plans and programmes

- 6.1 The general scoping report for the Wigan Local Development Framework Sustainability Appraisal and the thirteen associated Core Strategy topic papers incorporate a comprehensive review of plans, strategies, guidance and legislation which relate to sustainability.
- 6.2 An additional review of plans, policies and programmes which are directly relevant to the Wigan central area has also been carried out. This review is summarised in the Evidence Paper which will be published shortly. The Evidence Paper will support the plan preparation process and the sustainability appraisal of the Wigan Central Area Action Plan.
- 6.3 Table 6.1 shows an example of how each document has been reviewed for the Evidence Paper. Each review details why the document is relevant to the Wigan Central Area Action Plan and spells out the key messages, requirements and objectives arising from the document in question. Each review also examines any specific opportunities, issues or constraints which may be highlighted by the document being reviewed.

Table 6.1: Example extract of evidence review

Title	Wigan Borough Retail Study:
Proponent body	White Young Green on behalf of Wigan Council
Date produced	June 2007 (Updated 2009)
Why is it relevant to the Wigan Central Area Action Plan?	
The study focuses on the future shopping and leisure needs and retail capacity for the borough over the designated plan period.	
Key messages, requirements and objectives	
Successful shopping facilities have to fulfil the role of a destination location. This means providing a wide range of shopping and leisure facilities to enable the attracting and retaining of the interest of the entire family, in return such schemes benefit not only from wider catchment areas, but also from substantially longer shopping trips.	
Town centre expansion allows for new opportunities whilst diluting sales and rental performance in some locations and encouraging it in others.	
The development of the Grand Arcade in 2007 brought changes to the shopping habits of Wigan. The Grand Arcade will derive 50% of its turnover from outside of Wigan Town Centre.	
Due to the Grand Arcade trading forecasts and year on year spending there will be a knock on effect generating a greater capacity for new floorspace in the town.	
Particular attention to detail needs to be addressed with regards to where the additional floorspace will be located, such as Wallgate and the Wigan Pier Quarter.	
Opportunities	
None Identified	
Issues and constraints	
None Identified	

- 6.4 Appendix B of this scoping report provides a summary listing of the plans, policies and programmes which have been reviewed to date for the sustainability appraisal of the Wigan Central Area Action Plan.
- 6.5 This listing builds on the list of plans, policies and programmes contained in Appendix A of the general scoping report for the Wigan Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal.

- 6.6 It is important to note that the list is not definitive and will be kept under review during the sustainability appraisal process, and updated as required.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 6.7 The area covered by the Wigan Central Area Action Plan does not include any sites designated as part of the Natura 2000 and Ramsar networks. The closest such site is the Manchester Mosses Special Area of Conservation, the nearest point of which is over 11km from the Wigan central area. This distance is outside the 5km buffer zone area recommended by the Environment Agency for considering effects on European sites arising from diffuse or distal water and air pollution. Outside of the buffer zone most operations with potential direct water and/or air pollution impacts are considered very unlikely to have a significant effect on the special interest of any European site. Given this and the conclusions of the Habitats Regulations Assessment for Wigan's Core Strategy (Greater Manchester Ecology Unit July 2011), an assessment for the action plan is therefore not required.

Equality and diversity

- 6.8 The council currently carries out 'Customer Impact Assessments' on its strategies, plans and proposals. This process involves several stages, with a more thorough investigation and assessment required when negative impacts are identified.
- 6.9 The sustainability appraisal is designed to complement the customer impact assessment process and avoid duplication of effort. We envisage that the sustainability appraisal will mirror the customer impact assessment process, helping to identify impacts that require more detailed appraisal. Therefore, if the sustainability appraisal does not identify policies that have an adverse impact on those with 'protected characteristics', we are confident that a more detailed equality assessment is not necessary.
- 6.10 The sustainability appraisal framework incorporates the criteria set out in the council's customer impact assessments. In addition, the framework has many questions intended to address inequalities.
- 6.11 Core Strategy Topic Paper 3: Community development and involvement (August 2011) contains further information about equality and diversity.

Health Impact Assessment

- 6.12 The sustainability appraisal framework for the Core Strategy incorporated a number of health objectives and sub-questions, following a review by a Health Impact Group for Wigan (consisting of Public Health and Council officers), to help integrate the assessment process with sustainability appraisal.
- 6.13 As outlined in section 4, the sustainability framework for the Wigan Central Area Action Plan is informed by this review. It is also informed by the Core Strategy Topic Paper 1: Health and Recreation (August 2011) and by the Wigan Central Area Action Plan Evidence Paper: Chapter 2 Health and Wellbeing, which will be published shortly. We are confident therefore that the sustainability appraisal of the Wigan Central Area Action Plan will incorporate full and up to date health impact information relevant to the Wigan central area.

7.0 Baseline information

- 7.1 The Strategic Environment Assessment Directive requires information to be gathered on “the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment, and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme” and “the environmental characteristics of the areas likely to be most significantly affected”.
- 7.2 By collecting baseline information about the area to be covered by the plan, we can establish what the environmental situation is without the plan in place. This enables the eventual effects of the proposed options and policies which are set out in the plan to be predicted, evaluated and monitored. Collecting baseline information also helps to identify sustainability problems and alternative ways of dealing with them.
- 7.3 The collection and assessment of broad baseline information about the current and likely state of the Wigan central area will be used within the sustainability appraisal. It will help predict the effect of the Wigan Central Area Action Plan and identify the sustainability issues for the plan area.
- 7.4 Overall baseline information has been produced for the Core Strategy and detailed baseline information for the Wigan central area is set out in the Evidence Paper. The Evidence Paper will be published shortly and will support the Wigan Central Area Action Plan and sustainability appraisal.
- 7.5 The area-specific baseline information in the Evidence Paper will include information from the thirteen Core Strategy topic papers. This is because they include many elements which are relevant to the area covered by the Wigan Central Area Action Plan, despite their borough-wide focus.
- 7.6 In preparing the Evidence Paper, analysts aimed to collect enough information to answer a series of questions about the area, including:
 - How good or bad is the current situation?
 - Do trends show that the current situation is improving or getting worse?
 - If applicable, what are the relevant targets / thresholds and how far from these is the current situation?
 - How does the situation compare with the regional and national pictures?
- 7.7 To supplement the quantitative data provided, the Evidence Paper also incorporates qualitative information about the borough gathered from key documents, officer knowledge and other sources.
- 7.8 The baseline data and sources are listed in the Evidence Paper.
- 7.9 It may be necessary to revisit the collection of baseline data during the appraisal process, because new information and issues emerge all the time. We will therefore collect and update baseline data at appropriate instances in the future.

8.0 Sustainability Issues

- 8.1 We have identified the sustainability issues for the Wigan central area by examining the contextual background and baseline data to pinpoint the important issues and trends in Wigan that are relevant to the Wigan Central Area Action Plan and sustainability.
- 8.2 Our sustainability appraisal framework will help us to make sure that we address the key sustainability issues for the Wigan central area when we are appraising the Wigan Central Area Action Plan.

Table 8.1: Sustainability issues

	Sustainability issue	Evidence presented
A	Reduced life-expectancy and multiple health problems affect the Wigan central area but are a more significant issue in surrounding areas.	Chapter 2: Health and wellbeing
B	The quantity, quality and function of public open space in the town centre area needs to be enhanced, and barriers to physical activity removed. In particular, linkages to other open space, sporting and recreational facilities such as Greenheart, Mesnes Park and Robin Park need to be improved as part of the functional green infrastructure network of the borough.	Chapter 2: Health and wellbeing Chapter 3: Open space, sport and recreation
C	The perception and experience of crime and anti-social behaviour are too high in some parts of the Wigan central area.	Chapter 4: Community
D	Many of the buildings in connection with the two major educational establishments within the area (Wigan and Leigh College and the Deanery High School) are now outdated and do not easily meet future requirements.	Chapter 5: Education and learning Chapter 10: Built environment, heritage and design
E	Future expansion of the education sector in the central area, particularly through higher and further education, would increase the benefits to the area by raising local skills levels and by supporting a range of retail and other services.	Chapter 5: Education and Learning Chapter 6: Economy and employment
F	The Wigan central area needs a wider range of employment opportunities to be created in the area, and under represented sectors to be developed (such as financial and business services, research and development and the low carbon economy).	Chapter 5: Education and learning Chapter 6: Economy and employment
G	Multiple deprivation affects the Wigan central area, but is a more significant issue in surrounding areas such as Scholes, Ince and Newtown.	Chapter 2: Health and wellbeing Chapter 4: Community Chapter 5: Education and Learning Chapter 6: Economy and employment Chapter 7: Housing Chapter 9: Accessibility
H	The use of employment land for business development needs to be optimised. The Queen Street / Wallgate and Wigan Pier Quarter areas provide employment facilities but opportunities to redevelop and modernise existing facilities need to be explored.	Chapter 6: Economy and employment
I	To achieve sustainable neighbourhoods in the Wigan central area, housing needs to be supported by services and infrastructure.	Chapter 7: Housing Chapter 10: Built environment, heritage and design

J	New dwellings need to be sustainably designed and energy-efficient and the existing housing stock must continue to be upgraded and retrofitted.	Chapter 7: Housing Chapter 10: Built environment, heritage and design Chapter 12: Energy
K	Opportunities to fulfil any additional capacity within the town centre for retail space need to be explored to ensure vitality and viability. Town centre vacancy rates are below average but vacancies are concentrated mainly in the Galleries and Marketgate shopping centres.	Chapter 8: Retail and leisure
L	There is currently a very narrow range of leisure, culture and community facilities in Wigan town centre. More alternative and more accessible activities are needed, both in the daytime and in the evening (when access to retail areas is closed off).	Chapter 3: Open space, sport and recreation Chapter 8: Retail and leisure
M	Afternoon peak period traffic congestion in and around the Wigan central area is a problem.	Chapter 9: Accessibility
N	The town centre ring road acts as a physical barrier and can discourage sustainable forms of transport such as walking and cycling.	Chapter 9: Accessibility
O	The physical separation of the two railway stations and bus station and the barriers between them can create difficulties for public transport users.	Chapter 9: Accessibility
P	Road traffic generated by new development within the Wigan central area could produce additional emissions of NOx, PM10 and CO2 which may affect health, impact on climate change and adversely affect existing Air Quality Management Areas.	Chapter 9: Accessibility Chapter 14: Natural resources and pollution
Q	The Wigan central area needs to respond to and plan for climate change by ensuring sustainable drainage, design and construction in all developments and reducing emissions.	Chapter 2: Health and wellbeing Chapter 3: Open space, sport and recreation Chapter 8: Retail and leisure Chapter 10: Built environment, heritage and design Chapter 11: Wildlife Chapter 12: Energy Chapter 13: Waste Chapter 14: Natural resources and pollution
R	The historic quality and character of landscapes, townscapes and buildings need to be preserved and enhanced as appropriate and the streetscape needs to be of higher quality.	Chapter 10: Built environment, heritage and design
S	Cleanliness and environmental quality are key issues for people in the Wigan central area. Derelict sites such as the Old Town Hall have a negative effect on the area's image and public perceptions.	Chapter 4: Community Chapter 10: Built Environment, Heritage and Design Chapter 13: Waste

T	Natural environmental assets in the Wigan central area are limited and need to be protected and enhanced because of their strategic importance for wildlife habitats and species, recreation, resilience to climate change, health and wellbeing.	Chapter 2: Health and wellbeing Chapter 3: Open space, sport and recreation Chapter 10: Built environment, heritage and design Chapter 11: Wildlife
U	Current patterns of energy use in the Wigan central area are unsustainable. Renewable and low carbon energy generation needs to be expanded and full advantage taken of national initiatives such as feed-in tariffs and renewable heat incentives.	Chapter 12: Energy
V	Opportunities to increase decentralised low carbon energy generation in the borough have been identified but need to be developed.	Chapter 12: Energy
W	The Wigan central area produces high volumes of waste. There is a need to improve facilities for dealing with waste streams (and waste transportation) more sustainably and to maximise opportunities for waste reduction and recycling.	Chapter 13: Waste
X	Climate change increases the existing risk of flooding in the Wigan central area, the main threat being from the River Douglas (though some mitigation measures have recently been undertaken).	Chapter 3: Open space, sport and recreation Chapter 10: Built environment, heritage and design Chapter 14: Natural resources and pollution

9.0 Sustainability appraisal framework

- 9.1 The sustainability appraisal framework consists of a set of sustainability objectives and detailed sub-questions / criteria that represent the way we want the borough to develop. By “checking” the Wigan Central Area Action Plan against these objectives and criteria, we can ensure that the plan’s objectives, options and policies are sustainable.
- 9.2 Our framework is also underpinned by indicators that help assess the significance of impacts and monitor performance.
- 9.3 When preparing this scoping report we researched the most up to date evidence to confirm that the sustainability framework is relevant and appropriate for carrying out the sustainability appraisal of the Wigan Central Area Action Plan. This evidence will be summarised in the Evidence Paper which will be published shortly and which will support the Wigan Central Area Action Plan and sustainability appraisal.
- 9.4 However, if any relevant important issues or requirements are identified by our ongoing research that the framework has not already considered, we will incorporate these into the sustainability appraisal framework at the next stage of the process by creating or modifying the objectives, sub-criteria, targets and indicators as necessary.

The sustainability objectives

- 9.5 At this stage of the appraisal process we intend to use the headline objectives listed in table 9.1 (below) to appraise the Wigan Central Area Action Plan.
- 9.6 These objectives have been formulated with relevant officers, taking into account the evidence gathered and consultation described in previous sections of this report. The objectives have been informed by the sustainability issues identified for the Wigan central area (see section 8) and the responses received from statutory consultation bodies and other external organisations (see Appendix A). The full appraisal framework, consisting of sub-questions and indicators can be found in Appendix C.
- 9.7 We have also carried out a compatibility exercise to check whether these sustainability objectives are compatible with one another. The results of this exercise are shown in figure 9.2. Related comments about the compatibility exercise are listed in table 9.3.
- 9.8 In the majority of cases, the sustainability objectives are compatible with one another. This means that working towards one objective will have a positive affect on other objectives – and vice versa.
- 9.9 We identified two instances where the objectives could be potentially incompatible. This means that by working towards one objective it could work against other objectives. For example, by encouraging more employment and economic activity, there could be negative affects on biodiversity and air quality.

- 9.10 There are also nine instances where we were unsure of the impact because it depends on how the objective would be implemented in practice.
- 9.11 Some objectives are not directly linked to each other or the link is insignificant. For example, reducing crime and anti-social behaviour does not really influence the improvement of air quality – or vice versa.
- 9.12 The numbers in the matrix boxes in table 9.2 correspond with the comments listed in table 9.3. These comments outline our thoughts on the compatibility of the sustainability objectives.

Table 9.1: Sustainability objectives

No	Sustainability objective	Issues addressed
1	Tackle deep-seated short and long-term health problems especially those linked to deprivation in the locality and surrounding area and contribute to increased life expectancy	A,G
2	Improve the quality and quantity of public open space and improve access to locations for physical activity and leisure facilities.	B,L,Q
3	Develop and enhance the retail and leisure offer across the locality to provide varied, vital and viable retail and leisure opportunities and tackle vacancy issues including vacant and underused land and properties.	B,K,L,R
4	Reduce crime and reduce fear of crime, and promote community cohesion.	C
5	Improve and/or develop the quality and fabric of educational facilities within the plan area so that they can deliver an educational offer covering skills relevant for the future to a broad range of people.	D,E,G
6	Increase employment opportunities and develop a more diverse employment offer in the Wigan central area, including supporting under-represented sectors and future high-growth sectors.	F,G,H,Q
7	Improve current housing provision and develop new / maximise current infrastructure to support quality housing within the locality and surrounding areas.	I
8	Ensure high quality sustainable design of all developments and streetscape whilst respecting, enhancing and capitalising on the area's historic environment.	J,Q,R
9	Ensure the Wigan central area tackles congestion and capitalises on its location by ensuring it is accessible by all modes of travel, especially sustainable modes, for all sectors of society.	B,I,M,N,O,X
10	Protect and enhance biodiversity and wildlife habitats in the locality and surrounding area.	Q,T
11	Ensure security of energy supply to enable development including maximising the opportunity for low carbon, renewable and decentralised energy.	Q,U,V
12	Address the waste hierarchy by helping the Wigan central area minimise waste as a priority, then reuse, recycle and recover for energy, before disposal as a final resort.	Q,S,W
13	Protect and enhance local air quality and safeguard access to natural resources.	P,Q,X

Figure 9.2: Compatibility of the Sustainability Objectives with one another

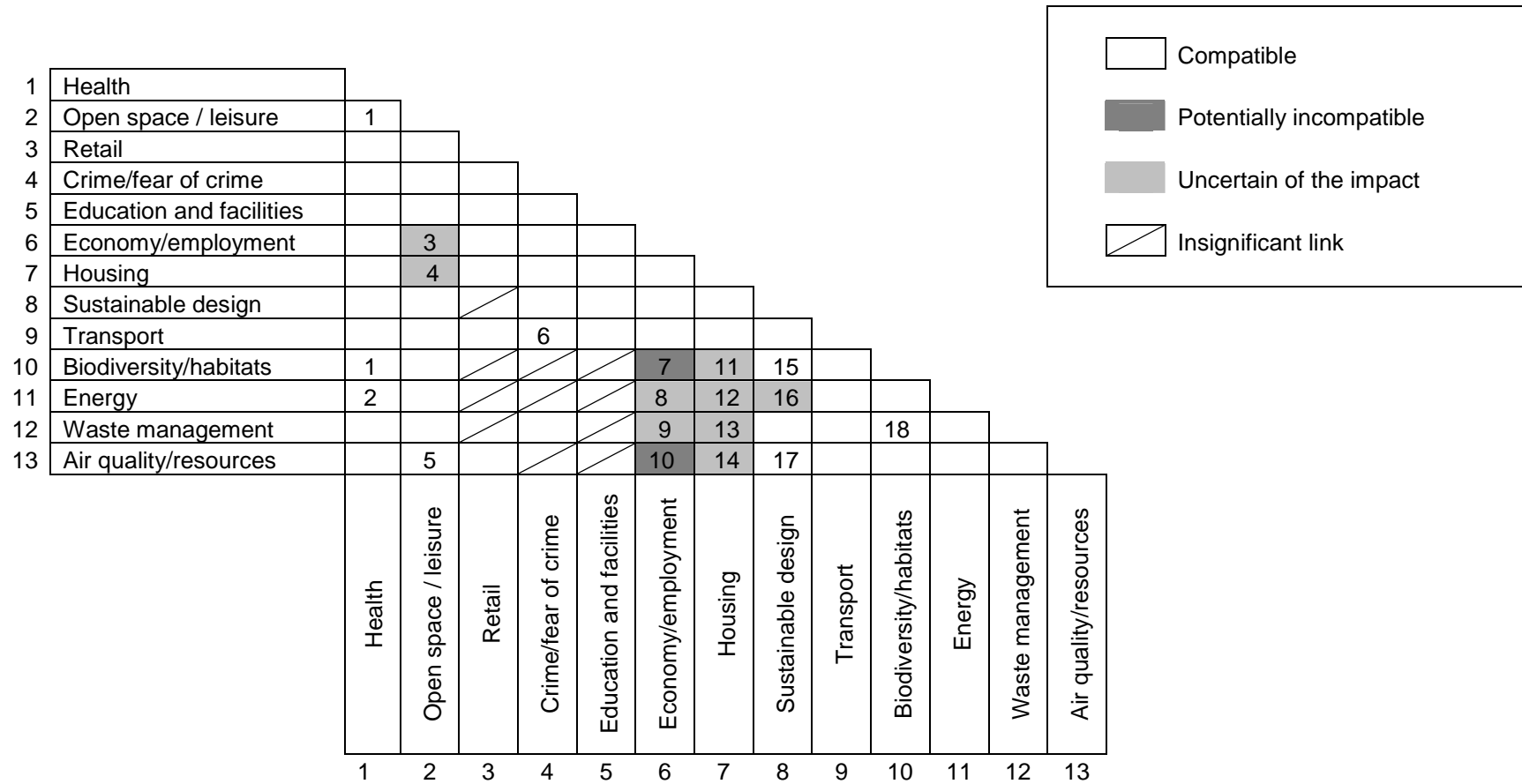


Table 9.3: Comments on the compatibility of sustainability objectives

1	Contact with wildlife, nature and green and open spaces has a positive effect on health and wellbeing.
2	With more affordable, renewable energy supplies, health issues arising from fuel poverty could be alleviated.
3	New development could reduce available green and open spaces. However sympathetic development and 'section 106' mitigation could improve/increase the overall amount of green and open space.
4	The need for new homes could reduce available green and open spaces. However sympathetic development and 'section 106' mitigation could improve/increase the overall amount of green and open space.
5	Green and open spaces can act as a 'green lung', improving air quality.
6	Encouraging cycling and walking puts more people on the streets; which has been shown to have a beneficial effect on feelings of safety.
7	Species and habitats could be disturbed or damaged as a result of more business development. However, a built environment that is sustainably designed and environmentally progressive may contribute to biodiversity through street trees, green roofs, gardens, bird and bat boxes. Section 106 mitigation could also provide new or alternative habitats.
8	More businesses could mean more energy use. However, greener energy (for example, renewables and microgeneration) is encouraged and the expansion of the environmental energy sector could create jobs locally.
9	More businesses could mean more waste generation. However, sustainable waste management practices (for example, recycling and energy generation from waste) are encouraged and the expansion of the environmental energy sector could create jobs locally.
10	Economic growth could potentially increase road traffic (and air pollution) with more people travelling to work and goods being transported.
11	Species and habitats could be disturbed or damaged as a result of more housebuilding. However, housing that is sustainably designed may contribute to biodiversity through street trees, gardens, bird/bat boxes. Section 106 mitigation could also provide new or alternative habitats.
12	More housing means more energy demand as well as energy to build new homes. However sustainable design incorporating greener energy (renewables and microgeneration) and the retrofitting of existing housing stock should mean more affordable energy and fewer CO2 emissions in the long-term.
13	More housing is likely to mean more domestic and construction waste. However sustainable design incorporates facilities for more recycling and composting as well as the use of recycled materials in construction.
14	More housing is likely to increase the number of people in the area and therefore the number of journeys made (adding to air quality problems). However, as sustainably designed housing is located close to essential facilities it can reduce the need to travel, and therefore help to improve air quality.
15	A built environment that is sustainably designed may contribute to biodiversity through street trees, green roofs, gardens, bird and bat boxes.
16	Sustainable design and construction reduces the overall requirement for energy use and promotes low-carbon technologies. However the character of the historic environment could be harmed by insensitively located renewable energy equipment (for example, solar panels, wind turbines or heat pumps).
17	Sustainably designed developments could include features such as green roofs, trees and other green infrastructure, which help to mitigate local pollution.
18	Reducing the need for landfill takes pressure off natural habitats. Composting can also be beneficially at a micro level in gardens.

10.0 What Next?

- 10.1 Work will progress with the development of the Wigan Central Area Action Plan. Consultation has already taken place on an Issues Paper about the plan. The comments received, along with any relevant new evidence, will help to shape the next stages of the plan.
- 10.2 The next stage will be to look at the various options to address the issues identified. These options will need to be assessed to examine their suitability, viability and whether they can realistically be delivered within the plan period. They will also be subject to sustainability appraisal.
- 10.3 The following steps will be carried out for the remaining stages of the sustainability appraisal process:
- Comparing the objectives of the Wigan Central Area Action Plan with the sustainability objectives (task B1)
 - Identifying options and alternatives (task B2)
 - Predicting and evaluating the effects of the Wigan Central Area Action Plan and proposing mitigation measures where necessary (tasks B3/B4/B5). This will be achieved through the use of matrices, baseline information and professional judgement
 - Proposing monitoring arrangements (task B6).
- 10.4 A draft Wigan Central Area Action Plan will then be published for consultation alongside a sustainability appraisal report (stages C & D). Once representations have been considered and any necessary amendments have been made, the Wigan Central Area Action Plan will be adopted, following independent examination.

Who will carry out the appraisals?

- 10.5 The appraisals / impact assessments will be carried out by the following:
- Sustainability officers
 - Policy authors
 - Other planning policy officers and/or specialist officers as appropriate
- 10.6 This approach ensures that those with the relevant skills, knowledge and experience are involved in assessing the likely impacts in their field of expertise and should help identify a fuller range of mitigation measures and suggestions for improvement.

Appraisal methodology

- 10.7 We will appraise the plan options and predict the impacts of the draft plan and proposals by using appraisal matrices.
- 10.8 Appraisal matrices are useful for systematically cross-checking a plan against a set of aspirational sustainability objectives. They help to ensure that the characteristics of impacts are assessed in detail.
- 10.9 Using a matrix will help us to:
- Identify whether a policy or proposal will have a negative, positive or neutral impact on the sustainability objectives, taking into account the sub-questions, baseline information and any relevant targets and thresholds.
 - Identify the significance of the impact by considering various factors including magnitude and severity, sensitivity of receptors, likelihood, duration and permanence of impact.
 - Look at the impacts over the short, medium and long term.
 - Identify any secondary, synergistic, cumulative and cross-boundary impacts.
 - Prompt suggestions for mitigation measures and improvements.
- 10.10 Examples of the types of matrices we will use to appraise the Wigan Central Area Action Plan have been provided in Appendix D.

Review of the appraisal

- 10.11 After the appraisals have been completed, a group of officers will review the results. Collectively, the officers will be able to take a balanced and objective view, be familiar with the geography of the borough and local trends, be experienced in impact assessment, draw upon good practice and be capable of evaluating the full range of sustainability issues.
- 10.12 They will be able to check that no important impacts have been missed and relevant mitigation or enhancement measures have been proposed. Cumulative and synergistic impacts can also be identified at this stage.
- 10.13 It is likely that officers from the Planning Policy team including sustainability officers will review the results

Appendix A: List of consultees and summary of comments received

List of consultees

Adlington Town Council
Billinge Chapel End Parish Council
Billinge Chapel End Parish Council
Blackrod Town Council
British Telecommunications Plc
Burtonwood and Westbrook Parish Council
Coppull Parish Council
Croft Parish Council
Culcheth and Glazebrook Parish Council
Department for Transport
English Heritage (statutory consultation)
Environment Agency (statutory consultation)
Greater Manchester Police
Haigh Parish Council
Highways Agency
Homes and Communities Agency
Horwich Town Council
National Grid Company Plc
Natural England (statutory consultation)
NHS Ashton, Leigh and Wigan
Northwest Regional Development Agency
Rainford Parish Council
Seneley Green Parish Council
Haigh Parish Council
Shevington Parish Council
The Coal Authority
United Utilities
Upholland Parish Council
Winwick Parish Council
Wrightington Parish Council

Summary of comments received from consultees

Acknowledgements (with no comments to make) were received from:

- Highways Agency;
- Haigh Parish Council;
- Horwich Town Council.

Responses (with comments) which we received are summarised below:

Consultee Date	Judith Nelson, English Heritage <i>12 July 2011</i>
Comments received	Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainability Appraisal is opportunity to fine tune and give more (place and issue specific) detail tailored to Area Action Plan area and purposes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainability appraisal will focus directly on Area Action Plan area and purposes, and will inform development of Area Action Plan through analysis which is specific to Area Action Plan places and issues.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on historic environment / heritage assets? What are the historic environment / heritage asset issues? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area Action Plan Evidence Paper Chapter 10: Built environment, heritage and design will incorporate detailed information on historic environment / heritage assets and related issues. Evidence Paper will directly inform development of Area Action Plan and sustainability appraisal.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do sustainability objectives need refining? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainability objectives refined, and will be continuously refined in light of ongoing review of contextual background and baseline data.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are more detailed monitoring arrangements needed? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring approach will be set out in the final sustainability appraisal document and be consistent with that of the Core Strategy sustainability appraisal.

Consultee Date	David Carter, Natural England <i>22 July 2011</i>
Comments received	Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current policy background must be reflected in SA. Continuous review needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence Paper incorporates the most up to date plans, policies and strategies and will be continuously reviewed throughout the Area Action Plan sustainability appraisal process.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include Natural Environment White Paper – The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature (June 2011, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Considered as part of the Area Action Plan Evidence Paper which will inform the sustainability appraisal.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In references to landscape character, update to take account of national character area profiles (previously known as joint character areas). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character areas considered as part of the Area Action Plan Evidence Paper which will inform the sustainability appraisal.

Consultee Date	David Sherratt ,United Utilities Water plc 27 July 2011
Comments received	Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include United Utilities Water Resources Management Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considered as part of the Area Action Plan Evidence Paper which will inform the Sustainability Appraisal.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorses issue CD7 (climate change) in Core Strategy Topic Paper 3: Community Development and Involvement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorses Regional Spatial Strategy policy DP4 (making best use of existing resources and infrastructure), as referenced in Core Strategy Topic Paper 6: Housing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased water capacity: planners and developers should obtain local capacity information from United Utilities Water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted. • Development-specific. Also, see note below on infrastructure.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water efficiency: encourages use of water efficient designs and development, and water efficiency products. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbon impact: when determining location for future development, planners and developers should consider the total carbon impact, including that of additional infrastructure assets, associated treatment processes and future maintenance and operation requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted. • Wigan Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan aims to address these issues.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure: developments should not be permitted until infrastructure capacity is available. Wigan has a high number of capacity issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taken into account when developing sustainability objective 8.
<p>Surface water:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question the development of flooded sites where existing surface water does not have an existing natural drainage solution. • A site's current natural discharge should be mimicked. • Developments must drain on a separate sewerage system, with only foul drainage connected into the foul sewer. • Planners should discourage the practice of connecting surface water to the public sewerage network. • Priority options for surface water drainage are: store rainwater for later use; use infiltration techniques such as porous surfaces in non-clay areas; attenuate rainwater in ponds or open water features for gradual release to a watercourse; discharge rainwater to a surface 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted. Much of this will be picked up on a site-specific basis. • Work has also been undertaken, with United Utilities consulted, on infrastructure issues across Wigan – including water infrastructure.

<p>water sewer; controlled discharge of rainwater to a combined sewer (as a last resort).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development on greenfield sites must not discharge surface water into the public combined sewerage network or increase the rate of run-off into the public surface water network. • On previously developed land, a reduction in the rate of run-off of at least 30% will be sought, rising to a minimum of 50% in critical drainage areas. • Any discharge to the public sewerage system must be via an approved sustainable urban drainage system and will require approval of the discharge rate. • Consideration should be given to green infrastructure, low carbon, soft engineering sustainable urban drainage system solutions such as ponds, swales, wetland areas and detention basins, etc. • A discharge to groundwater or watercourse may require the consent of the Environment Agency. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infill land: development will not be acceptable in locations where United Utilities Water have underground utility assets which can not be built over or near. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted.

Appendix B: Review of additional plans, policies, programmes and key messages for the Wigan Central Area Action Plan

This appendix provides a summary listing of the plans, policies and programmes which have been reviewed to date for the sustainability appraisal of the Wigan Central Area Action Plan. The listing builds on the list of plans, policies and programmes contained in Appendix A of the general Scoping Report for the Wigan Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal.

It is important to note that this list is not definitive. It will be kept under review during the sustainability appraisal process, and updated if required.

Health and wellbeing

Title
A1. National
Healthy lives, healthy people: A call to action on obesity in England
Royal Town Planning Institute Good Practice Note 5: Delivering Healthy Communities
Fair Society, Healthy Lives: The Marmot Review
Physical Activity and the Built Environment
Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2007
B1. Regional
None
C1. Sub Regional
None
D1. Local
Alcohol Strategy
Living Well in Wigan Borough: Joint Public Health Strategy
Wigan Borough Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

Open space, recreation and green infrastructure

Title
A1. National
Planning Policy Guidance17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation
Assessing needs and opportunities: a companion guide to PPG17
Draft National Planning Policy Framework
Active design
Local Green Infrastructure
B1. Regional
None identified
C1. Sub Regional
Towards a Green Infrastructure Framework for Greater Manchester
Next Steps towards a Greater Manchester Green Infrastructure Framework
D1. Local
Wigan Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs Assessment
Wigan Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy and Action Plan
Taking SHAPE for the future: 2006-2012
A Parks and Greenspaces Strategy for Wigan Borough
Green Vision: Greenheart Vision Document
Greenheart Action Plan

Evidence Considered but not formally reviewed
Spatial planning for sport and active recreation (2009), Sport England development control guidance note
Planning for sport in growth and regeneration areas (2008), Sport England Planning Bulletin 20

Community

Title
A1. International
None
B1. National
Safer Places: The Planning System and Crime Prevention 2004
Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development 2005
Draft National Planning Policy Framework 2011
C1. Regional
None
D1. Sub Regional
Greater Manchester Police Authority Policing Plan 2011-2012
E1. Local
Wigan Anti-Social Behaviour Policy 2009
What's Your Issue? Consultation 2008

Education and Learning

Title
A1. International
Indices of Multiple Deprivation
B1. National
None
C1. Regional
None
D1. Sub Regional
None
E1. Local
Children and Young Peoples Plan 2008-2011
Wigan Schools for the Future consultation conference
Wigan and Leigh College Property Strategy

Economy and Employment

Title
A1. International
None
B1. National
Planning Policy Statement 4: Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth
C1. Regional
Manchester Independent Economic Review – Wigan Brief
Identification and Market Demand-led Assessment of Large Employment Sites within Greater Manchester
D1. Sub Regional
Greater Manchester Town Centres Study
Greater Manchester Spatial Framework
Greater Manchester Strategy
E1. Local
Wigan Employment Land Review
Wigan South Central Masterplan
Testing the Case for an Employment Site of Exceptional Quality in the Borough
Wigan Economic Framework

Housing

Title
A1. National
Planning For Housing – The Potential for Sustainable Communities
Barker Review
Campaign for Protection of Rural England – Useless Old Houses?
Joseph Rowntree Foundation - Affordability and the intermediate housing market
House of Commons - Housing - Building a Sustainable Future
Building on Barker report
Government's Response to Barker Review
Office of the Deputy Prime Minister – Affordability Targets Implications for Housing Supply
Joseph Rowntree Foundation - Briefing on the growth in one person households
Affordability and the Supply of Housing
New projections of households for England and the regions to 2029
Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessments: Identifying appropriate land for housing development
Homes for the future: more affordable, more sustainable
Homes for the future: more affordable, more sustainable: How we create places and homes that people want to live in
Eco-towns: Living a Greener Future – Consultation Paper
The Future of Residential Development – unlocking the housing market
Changes to Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing
B1.Regional
Regional Housing Strategy for the North West (2009)
The Northern Way: Quality of Place: The North's Residential Offer Phase 1
The Northern Way: Quality of Place: The North's Residential Offer Phase 2
Low Carbon Housing and Fuel Poverty Activity Plan 2007 - 2009
Northern England Residential Development Review 2008/09
North West Regional Homelessness Strategy 2008
C1. Sub Regional
Making Housing Count in Manchester City region: Review of existing research

on drivers of housing market change in the Manchester City Region
Manchester City Region Housing Market report
Greater Manchester Strategic Housing Market Assessment
D1. Local
Wigan Borough Housing Strategy 2002 – 2007
Wigan's Changing Housing Markets
Housing Core Proof
Wigan's Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document
Wigan Council Affordable Housing Strategy 2006 - 2010
Affordable Housing Provision in new residential Developments Guidance Note on the Implementation of the Policy
Wigan Housing Needs & Demand Study (2008)
Wigan's Homelessness Strategy 2008 -2013
Wigan's Changing Housing Markets: Update report
Initial Wigan Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment
Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (2010 update)
Affordable Housing Viability Study for Wigan Council (September 2010)
Wigan Housing Market Update (Issue 5) (July – September 2010)
Vision 2026 Wigan Housing Strategy

Retail and Leisure

Title
A1. International
None
B1. National
Draft National Planning policy Framework
Planning Policy Statement 4: Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth
Planning for Town Centres: guidance on Design and Implementation Tools
“Two to Watch” – Retail Week Top 100 Shopping Centres
Planning for Accessible and Sustainable Retail
Better Town Centres at Night – Raising the Standard and Broadening the Appeal
Retail Rents 2008
The Sequential Approach to Retail Development
Planningstatistics.org.uk – Town Centre and Retail Planning Statistics for England and Wales
The Future of Retail Property – Future Shopping Places
Future of Retail Property: Shopping Places for People
Focus on Retail
Planning for Accessible and Sustainable Retail
Clone town Britain
Retail Development Bill
Under Served Markets: Retail and Regeneration
How many stores will we really need? UK non-food retailing in 2020
C1. Regional
None
D1. Sub Regional
Greater Manchester Town Centres Study

Title
E1. Local
Linacre Theatre Audience Research Project
Wigan borough Retail Study
Wigan Town Centre Northern Crescent Masterplan and Urban Design Framework
Wigan Eastern Gateway Development Framework
Wigan Pier Quarter Strategy

Accessibility

Title
A1. National
PPG13 Transport
Draft National Planning Policy Framework
Network Route Utilisation Strategy – electrification
National Stations Improvement Update
Better Rail Stations
B1. Regional
A bright future for rail in the north
Northern hub: transforming rail in the north
C1. Sub-Regional
Land Use Planning and Public Transport
Principles of the Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive Park and Ride Strategy
Greater Manchester Freight
Greater Manchester Local Transport Plan 2 Bus Strategy
D1. Local
Annual Transport Statistics
Wigan Public Transport Schemes
Wigan Council Walking Strategy
Wigan Cycling Strategy
Wigan Congestion Study 2010
Wigan LDF Transport Modelling (2010 / 2011)

Built environment, heritage and design

Title
A. International
None
B. National
National Planning Policy Framework
Planning Policy Guidance Note 5 'Planning for the Historic Environment'
Practice Guide on PPS5 'Planning for the Historic Environment'
National Heritage Protection Plan (2011-2015)
White Paper: Heritage Protection for the 21 st Century
Climate change and the Historic Environment
Conservation Principles: Policy and Guidance
Understanding Place: Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management
Understanding Historic Buildings: Policy and Guidance for Local Planning Authorities
Constructive Conservation in Practice
Seeing the History in the View
Setting of Heritage Assets
Theft of Metal from Church Buildings
Planning Policies for Sustainable Buildings
Enabling development and the conservation of significant places. Policy and guidance.
Good Practice Guide for Local Listing
Tall Building Advice Note
Land in limbo: making the best use of vacant urban spaces.
The Brownfield Guide: A practitioner's guide to land reuse in England
Building for Life
Planning Policies for Sustainable Buildings

Title
Streets for All
Planning for Places: Delivering Good Design through Core Strategies
Manual for Streets 1
Manual for Streets 2
By Design: Urban Design in the Planning System
C1. Regional
Heritage at Risk in the North West
Creating inspirational spaces – a guide for quality public realm in the northwest
North West Best Practice Design Guide
Streets for All: North West
Creating inspirational spaces – a guide for quality public realm in the northwest
D1. Sub Regional
Greater Manchester Historic Landscape Character Assessment
GM Green Roof Guidance
E1. Local
Mesnes Conservation Area Appraisal
Wigan Town Centre Conservation Area Appraisal
Wigan Pier Conservation Area Appraisal
Dicconson Conservation Area Appraisal
Shopfront Design Supplementary Planning Document
Buildings at Risk – Local list
Heritage Capital Strategy for the Borough of Wigan
Eastern Gateway
Wigan Town Centre Streetscene Strategy

Wildlife

Title
A1. International
EU Directive on the Conservation of Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EEC as amended by 97/62/EC)
B1. National
The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010
Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation
Government Circular 06/05: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – Statutory Obligations and Their Impact within the Planning System
Draft National Planning Policy Framework
The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature
Biodiversity by Design: A guide for Sustainable Communities
Biodiversity and the Built Environment
C1. Regional
None
D1. Sub Regional
Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan
An Ecological Framework for Greater Manchester
E1. Local
Wigan's Biodiversity – An Audit of the Biodiversity Resource within the Borough
Wigan's Biodiversity Strategy

Energy

Title
A1. International
None
B1. National
Climate Change, The UK Programme, 2006
Planning Policy Statement – Planning and Climate Change (Supplement to Planning Policy Statement 1)
Working draft of practice guidance to support the Planning Policy Statement: Planning and Climate Change
The Stern Review – The Economics of Climate Change, 2006
Meeting the Challenge on Energy: Energy White Paper
The Planning Response to Climate Change
Policy Framework for Renewables
UK Renewable Energy Strategy
Community Energy: Urban Planning for a Low Carbon Future
The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan
Consultation on a Planning Policy Statement: Planning for a Low Carbon Future in a Changing Climate
The Climate Change Act 2008
The Planning and Energy Act 2008
Feed in Tariffs
Renewable Heat Incentive Proposals
Climate Change: Taking Action
Adapting to Climate Change: UK Climate Projections, 2009
Annual Energy Statement 2010
How well prepared is the UK for Climate Change (2010)
Community Energy: Planning, Development and Delivery 2010
The Energy Bill, 2010-11

Title
Localism Bill, 2010
The Carbon Plan, 2011
Microgeneration Strategy Consultation, 2010
Red Point Energy Electricity Market Reform Analysis of Policy Options, 2010
Local Government Group and Department of Energy and Climate Change Memorandum of Understanding on Climate Change (2011)
C1. Regional
North West Sustainable Energy Strategy
The Climate Change Action Plan for the North West (Updated 2010)
D1. Sub Regional
Summary of ASCUE Study of the Impacts on Climate Change for Greater Manchester.
AGMA Decentralised Energy Study 2010
The economic impact on of European Union and United Kingdom climate change legislation on Manchester City Region and the North West
Greater Manchester Sustainable Energy Action Plan 2010
Peak oil, oil price volatility and the vulnerability of key industry sectors, 2010
Greater Manchester Climate Change Strategy Association of Greater Manchester Authorities Environment Commission 2011
Greater Manchester Low Carbon Economic Area Programme
E1. Local
Wigan Carbon Management Programme (Strategy and Implementation Plan).
Nottingham Declaration
Climate Change Strategy for Wigan (Draft)
Vision 2026 Community Strategy
Wigan Carbon Management Programme (Strategy and Implementation Plan).
Wigan Energy Study, 2010

Waste

Title
A1. International
EU Directive on the Landfill of Waste 99/31/EC
B1. National
Waste Strategy for England 2007
Planning Policy Statement 10 Planning for Sustainable Waste Management
C1. Regional
None
D1. Sub Regional
The Greater Manchester Joint Waste Development Plan Document will form part of the Wigan Local Development Framework and includes its own evidence base on Sub Regional Waste matters.
E1. Local
Wigan Municipal Solid Waste Management Strategy 2009 - 2030

Natural resources and pollution

Title
A1. International
None
B1. National
Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development
Supplement to Planning Policy Statement 1: Planning and Climate Change
Planning Policy Statement 23: Planning and Pollution Control
Planning Policy Statement 23: Annex 1: Pollution Control, Air and Water Quality
Planning Policy Statement 23: Annex 2: Development on land affected by Contamination
Planning Policy Guidance 24: Planning and Noise (1994)
Planning Policy Statement 25: Development and Flood Risk
The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature (June 2011)
The National Planning Policy Framework
C1. Regional
Water for life and livelihoods: River Basin Management Plan, North West River Basin District 2009-2015
Water for people and the environment: Water Resources Strategy – Regional Action Plan for the North West
Reclaim the North West (2001)
UUW Water Resources Management Plan
D1. Sub Regional
River Douglas Catchment Flood Management Plan Scoping Report
River Douglas Catchment Flood Management Plan
Greater Manchester Phase 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
Greater Manchester Derelict Land Strategy
Greater Manchester LTP2 Air Quality Strategy and Action Plan
Greater Manchester Air Quality Action Plan Progress Report 2007/8

Title
Greater Manchester Environmental Infrastructure Study
E1. Local
Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy
Wigan Derelict Land Survey 05/06
Second Round Local Air Quality Management Detailed Review and Assessment of Air Quality
Emissions Modelling for the Core Strategy
Air Quality Monitoring Data for Wigan Council
Wigan Contaminated Land Study (2008)
Wigan Borough Hybrid Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
Wigan's Infrastructure Plan
Environmental Protection GIS Mapping data for Wigan
Planning Applications - accompanying environmental impact information
Water Quality monitoring data - EA

Appendix C: The Sustainability Framework

If any relevant important issues or requirements are identified by our ongoing research that the framework has not already considered, we will incorporate these into the sustainability appraisal framework at the next stage of the process by creating or modifying the objectives, sub-criteria, targets and indicators as necessary.

Sustainability Objective(s)	Sub-questions to help with appraisal	Detailed Indicators
1. Tackle deep-seated short and long-term health problems especially those linked to deprivation in the locality and surrounding area and contribute to increased life expectancy	Will it encourage healthy lifestyles and improve life-expectancy in the area?	% of residents who regularly participate in sport and active recreation. Gap in life expectancy – male & female – Wigan v England (in years).
	Will it help to address the short and long term health problems of people in the locality and neighbouring areas?	% of adults who considered their health (mental and physical) to be poor over the last 12 months. Under 75 COPD, CHD & Lung Cancer Mortality (WISDOM). % of working age population claiming ESA (DWP Statistics).
	Will it improve access to high quality healthcare services and facilities for people in the locality and neighbouring areas?	Number of healthcare facilities. Average distance to primary and acute healthcare facilities (to be developed or use TfGM data).
2. Improve the quality and quantity of public open space and improve access to locations for physical activity and leisure facilities.	Will it protect, enhance and improve access to the area's open spaces, as part of the functional green infrastructure network of the borough?	Areas designated for green infrastructure purposes (e.g. tree coverage / number of trees planted). Amount of civic space designated.
	Will it provide opportunities for leisure and physical activity within the area?	Amount of amenity space designated. Number of facilities (e.g. sports halls, swimming pools).

Sustainability Objective(s)	Sub-questions to help with appraisal	Detailed Indicators
3. Develop and enhance the retail and leisure offer across the locality to provide varied, vital and viable retail and leisure opportunities and tackle vacancy issues including vacant and underused land and properties..	Will it lead to an increase in visitors to the Wigan central area?	Footfall and number of visitors.
	Will it enhance the range of leisure and cultural activities on offer in the area?	% of residents who feel that the provision of cultural / leisure facilities / activities benefit their lives.
	Will it help to reduce vacancy levels in the Wigan central area?	Vacancy levels.
	Will it help to ensure the adaptability of the retail and leisure offer in the area?	Vacancy levels by shop type.
	Will it address the issue of vacant and underused land and properties?	Amount of vacant land/properties recovered for use.
4. Reduce crime and reduce fear of crime, and promote community cohesion.	Will it help to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour?	British Crime Survey crime rate. Rate of Burglary. Theft from Vehicles. Violent crime.
	Will it help to improve people's perceptions about antisocial behaviour in hot-spot areas?	Perceptions of anti-social behaviour.
5. Improve and/or develop the quality and fabric of educational facilities within the plan area so that they can deliver an educational offer covering skills relevant for the future to a broad range of people.	Will it help to improve the qualifications of a broad range of people?	% of pupils achieving 5 GCSE's A* - C or equivalent at schools within the plan area. % of pupils achieving A levels or equivalent at colleges within the plan area.
	Will it help to provide suitable and flexible educational facilities for a broad range of people?	Number of new / improved educational facilities.

Sustainability Objective(s)	Sub-questions to help with appraisal	Detailed Indicators
6. Increase employment opportunities and develop a more diverse employment offer in the Wigan central area, including supporting under-represented sectors and future high-growth sectors.	Will it help to expand the knowledge sector of the local economy?	Amount of floor space developed for employment within the knowledge sector and percentage of total. Amount of private sector employment as a proportion of the total.
	Will it improve the diversity and innovation of the economy in the area, especially in under represented and high growth sectors?	People employed in and growth of environmental technologies; food; waste; manufacturing/engineering; creative; digital/ICT and low carbon construction sectors. (Wigan Sector Development Commission reports)
	Will it contribute to higher and more stable levels of employment in the locality?	Net 'in-year' increase in employees by key sector (referenced above). Amount of floorspace developed for employment by type. Amount of floorspace developed for employment by type, in employment or regeneration areas. Amount of floorspace by employment type, which is on previously developed land. Vacancy levels of business premises (NDR).
7. Improve current housing provision and develop new / maximise current infrastructure to support quality housing within the locality and surrounding areas.	Will it help to meet the forecast housing need in the locality?	Net additional dwellings in the area for the current year compared to forecast net additional requirement. Number of homeless people in the area.
	Will it increase the proportion of affordable housing in the area?	Lower quartile house price to lower quartile income in the area.
	Will it help to improve the energy efficiency ratings of the area's housing stock?	Energy efficiency ratings of local authority and private sector dwellings (average SAP rating).
	Will it add to the vitality of the Wigan central area?	Number of new residents moving into the plan area annually.

Sustainability Objective(s)	Sub-questions to help with appraisal	Detailed Indicators
8. Ensure high quality sustainable design of all developments and streetscape whilst respecting, enhancing and capitalising on the area's historic environment..	<p>Will it provide energy efficient buildings and developments which are fit for purpose and suitable for modern needs?</p> <p>Will it provide opportunities for innovative, high quality, contemporary, iconic designs?</p> <p>Will it protect and enhance sites, features and areas of historical, archaeological, artistic and cultural value, and the historic character of the area?</p>	<p>Number of new / improved energy efficient buildings.</p> <p>Number of new / improved buildings of innovative design.</p> <p>% of listed buildings / structures at risk (Heritage At Risk Register).</p> <p>Change +/- of number of buildings contained within the Buildings at risk register.</p> <p>Change of character or appearance of conservation areas (Conservation Areas At Risk).</p> <p>Loss or damage to listed buildings, ancient monuments and their settings (planning applications).</p>
	<p>Will it be based on high-quality, sustainable design that respects local character and enhances local distinctiveness?</p>	<p>EPC ratings of new buildings (DC/BC).</p> <p>BREEAM assessment and Code for Sustainable Homes rating of new buildings (DC/BC).</p> <p>Appeals allowed against refusal of conservation area or listed building consent.</p>
	<p>Will it affect the water supply and drainage network?</p>	<p>SUDS installations.</p> <p>Details also through discussions with network providers.</p>






































Sustainability Objective(s)	Sub-questions to help with appraisal	Detailed Indicators
	<p>Will it utilise the area's built heritage as an asset, contributing to a positive image of the area as an attractive place to live, visit and do business? <i>(For example conservation-led regeneration opportunities, heritage based tourism, traditional building skills and the wider environmental economy).</i></p>	<p>Number of people undertaking conservation led training/education.</p> <p>Number of people engaging in an heritage activity/group/open day.</p> <p>Change +/- of number of buildings contained within the Local List.</p> <p>Change +/- of number of buildings contained within the buildings at risk register.</p> <p>Number of listed buildings demolished.</p> <p>Number of buildings demolished in a conservation area.</p>
	<p>Will it enhance the streetscape?</p>	<p>Street uses accommodated</p>
<p>9. Ensure the Wigan central area tackles congestion and capitalises on its location by ensuring it is accessible by all modes of travel, especially sustainable modes, for all sectors of society.</p>	<p>Will it encourage people from inside and outside of the borough to visit the Wigan central area?</p>	<p>Visitor numbers.</p> <p>Journey times from key urban areas across the borough and from neighbouring areas (Wigan Council Traffic Section and HFAAS).</p> <p>Car park and public transport usage.</p>
	<p>Will it provide safer, high quality parking facilities in the area?</p> <p>Will it provide more integrated public transport in the area?</p> <p>Will it encourage sustainable modes of travel in the area, including walking and cycling?</p>	<p>The percentage of people who travel to and within the area by car.</p> <p>Satisfaction surveys.</p> <p>Percentage of people using public transport (bus or train) when travelling to and within the area.</p> <p>Percentage of people cycling or walking when travelling to and within the area.</p>

10. Protect and enhance biodiversity and wildlife habitats in the locality and surrounding area.	Will it maintain, enhance and increase urban tree coverage in the area?	Number of new trees planted or tree preservation orders.
	Will it conserve and enhance species within the urban area, and effectively mitigate any negative impacts?	Number of planning permissions where biodiversity enhancement opportunities required.
	Will it conserve and enhance wildlife corridors in the Wigan central area?	Indicator needs to be developed.
	Will it create or help to conserve and enhance waterways habitats in the Wigan central area?	Indicator needs to be developed.
11. Ensure security of energy supply to enable development including maximising the opportunity for low carbon, renewable and decentralised energy.	Will it minimise the requirement for energy use and improve energy efficiency in new and existing buildings and infrastructure within the Wigan central area?	Total emissions (tonnes) of CO ₂ per resident (Industry, commercial, public sector). Total emissions (tonnes) of CO ₂ per resident (Domestic). Average annual domestic consumption of gas (kwh). Average annual domestic consumption of electricity (kwh).
	Will it lead to an increased proportion of energy produced and supplied from renewable sources within the Wigan central area?	Installation of renewable energy schemes within Wigan Central Area (DC). Take up of Feed in Tariff and Renewable Heat Incentive (DECC).
	Will it lead to a higher proportion of buildings in the area with sustainable design features (<i>energy efficient, water saving, good access, etc</i>) and using sustainable materials with lower embodied energy.	BREEAM assessment and Code for Sustainable Homes rating of new buildings (DC/BC). Take up of Green Deal (DECC – 2012 onwards).

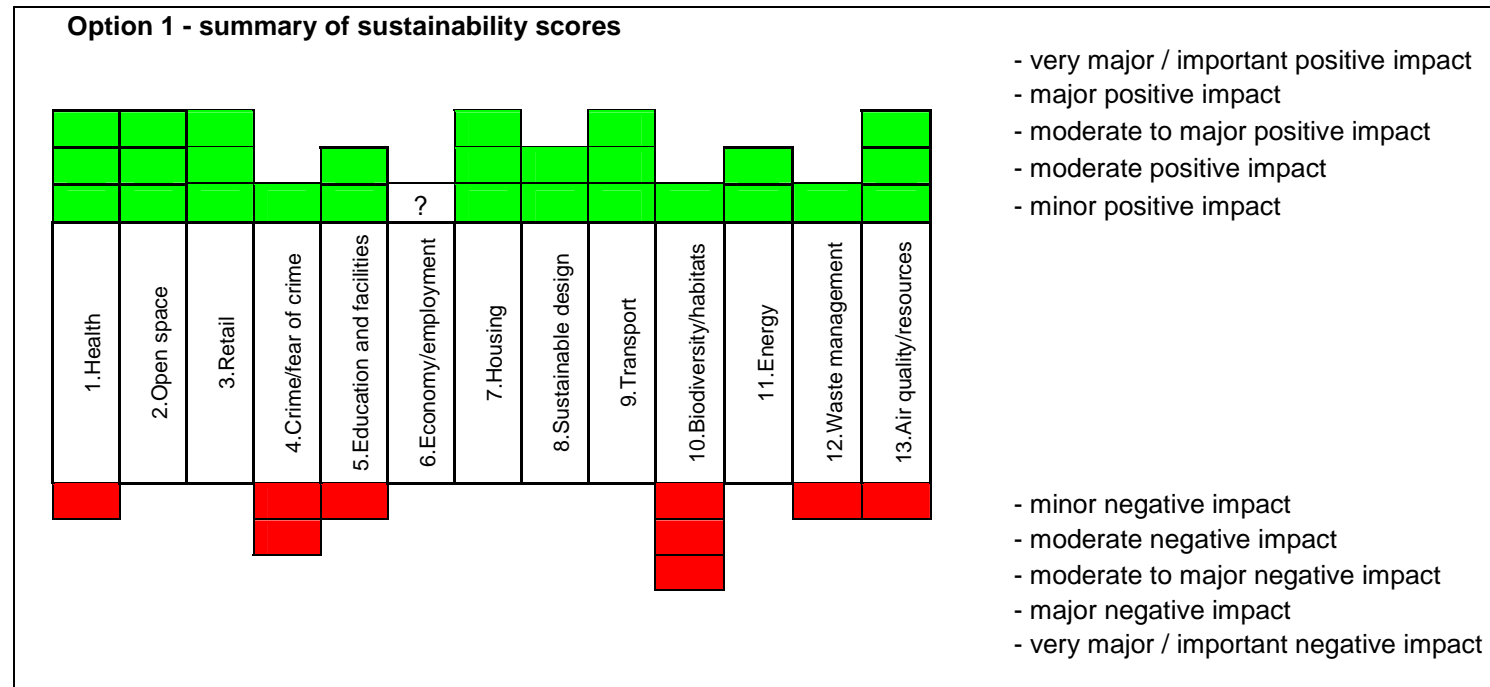
12. Address the waste hierarchy by helping the Wigan central area minimise waste as a priority, then reuse, recycle and recover for energy, before disposal as a final resort.	Will it reduce the production of waste (whether household, industrial or commercial) within the Wigan central area?	Number of kilograms of household waste collected per person. Tonnes of municipal solid waste produced. Business waste: possible data gap.
	Will it reduce the proportion of recyclable and residual waste which is sent to landfill from the Wigan central area?	Household waste sent to landfill (%)
	Will it promote the use of waste as a resource in the area, by encouraging reuse, energy recovery and recycling?	% of household waste recycled or composted. % of household waste energy recovery.
	Will it reduce levels of litter in the locality?	Litter surveys.
13. Protect and enhance local air quality and safeguard access to natural resources.	Will it improve or have a significant effect on local air quality in the area?	No of days when air pollution exceeds national standards for dust particles (PM10). Annual average nitrogen dioxide concentration (ug/m3).
	Will it help to reduce CO2 emissions in the Wigan central area?	Total emissions (tonnes) of CO ² per resident (Industry, commercial, public sector). Total emissions (tonnes) of CO ² per resident (Domestic).
	What affect will it have on natural resources such as water, watercourses, soil etc?	Soil quality. Landscape character assessment. Flood areas covered.
	How will this improve derelict and/or contaminated land?	Amount of derelict and/or contaminated land recovered for use.

Appendix D: Appraisal Matrix templates

We plan to appraise the plan options using summary tables similar to those shown below. Each option will be appraised against the 13 sustainability objectives as a whole (*considering sub questions*). This will involve assigning each option a positive and negative impact “score”; which allows multiple impacts to be identified for each option. We believe this is more realistic than an approach that simply defines impacts in terms of only positive or negative.

	Option 1		Option 2		Option 3	
	Impact	Comment	Impact	Comment	Impact	Comment
1. Health	    		    		   	
2. Open space	  		   		  	
3. Retail	  		     		   	
etc..						

Carrying out the appraisal with this methodology will also allow us to present the results in a way that illustrates the strengths and weaknesses of each option in terms of sustainability clearly. For example, in the chart below, the impact of option 1 on objective 10 is a major negative, but there are some minor positives too.



In subjecting the Wigan Area Action Plan to further detailed appraisal, we will need to ensure that all sustainability impacts are taken fully into account and that mitigation and enhancement measures are identified and implemented. For this stage, we will use a matrix similar to that shown below. We will also be able to draw upon the results from the previous stage of options appraisal.

Sustainability objective	Nature of impact	Impact over time			Overall impact	Comment	Mitigation/ enhancement	Residual impact
		Short	Med	Long				
1. Health								
2. Open space								
3. Retail								
etc..								

Glossary of terms

Adoption

The final confirmation of a development plan document as having statutory status by a local planning authority.

Area Action Plan

A development plan document that focuses on a specific location or area which is subject to significant change or conservation.

Baseline

This is information gathered to describe current conditions, against which future changes can be measured.

Biodiversity

The variety of life on earth or in a region, measurable as the variety within species and between species, and the variety of ecosystems.

Consultation body

An authority which (because of its environmental responsibilities is likely to be concerned by the effects of implementing plans and programmes) must be consulted under the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive. The consultation bodies, designated in the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations are Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment Agency.

Development plan document

A spatial planning document that forms part of the Local Development Framework. It is subject to independent examination.

Environmental report

Document required by the SEA Directive as part of an environmental assessment, which identifies, describes and appraises the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing a plan or programme: see 'Sustainability Appraisal Report'.

Indicators

A measure of variables over time which can be used to measure achievement of objectives.

Local Development Framework

Introduced by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) as the replacement for Local Plans. It is the term to describe the whole portfolio of planning policy documents which set out the planning strategy and policies for the area.

Objective

A statement of what is aimed for, making clear the desired direction of change.

Scoping

The process of deciding the scope and level of detail of a sustainability appraisal, including the sustainability effects and options which need to be considered, the assessment methods to be used, and the structure and contents of the SA report

Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive

European Directive 2001/42/EC 'on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment'.

Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations

The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 which transposes the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive into UK law.

Statement of Community Involvement

Sets out the standards which authorities will achieve with regard to involving local communities in the preparation of Local Development Documents and development control decisions. The Statement of Community Involvement is not a Development Plan Document but is subject to independent examination.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

Internationally used term to describe environmental assessment as applied to policies, plans and programmes. The European 'Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' (2001/42/EC) requires a formal 'environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes, including those in the field of planning and land use'.

Sustainability Appraisal

A tool for appraising policies to ensure they reflect sustainable development objectives (i.e. social, environmental and economic factors) and required to be undertaken for all Local Development Documents. Sustainability Appraisal is undertaken alongside Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Sustainability Appraisal Report

The document required to be produced as part of the sustainability appraisal process to describe and appraise the likely significant effects on sustainability of implementing a plan (and which also meets the requirement for the Environmental Report under the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive)

Sustainable drainage system / Sustainable urban drainage system

Drainage mechanisms designed to limit or reduce the existing rate of surface water run-off. Impermeable surfaces are created in most built development, and if water is allowed to run-off rather than be absorbed into the ground this can increase flooding as well as create pollution, damage watercourse habitats and cause bank erosion.