

## Appendix 3: SA of Development Strategy Core Policies

Appraisal Key	
++	Development actively encouraged as it would resolve an existing sustainability problem
+	No Sustainability constraints and development acceptable
0	Neutral effect
-	Potential sustainability issues; mitigation and /or negotiation possible
--	Problematical and improbable because of known sustainability issues ; mitigation or negotiation difficult and /or expensive
X	Absolute sustainability constraints to development
?	Unknown effect

SA Objectives	Economy and Employment	Strengthening Communities	Infrastructure	Housing	Quality Design and Sustainable Construction	Health	Climate Change	Waste	Travel and transport	Biodiversity & geodiversity	Landscape and townscape	Historic Environment	Pollution	Water
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<b>Development Strategy</b>														
SWDP 1 Development Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy for South Worcestershire	+	+	+	++	+	?	?	0	?	+	+	+	0	?
SWDP 2 Employment, Housing and Retail Supply	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	0	?
SWDP 3 Overarching Sustainable Development Requirements	+	+	+	++	++	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+
SWDP 4 Moving Around South Worcestershire	++	++	++	0	++	++	++	0	++	+	0	++	++	+
SWDP 5 Strategic Green Infrastructure	+	++	++	+	+	++	++	0	+	++	+	+	+	++

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Appraisal Summary	+	+	+	++	+	?	?	0	?	+	+	+	0	?
SWDP Policy No: 1	Development Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy for South Worcestershire (see SWDP for full policy wording)													
<p><b>Summary</b></p> <p><b>Socioeconomic Effects</b> This policy approach supports and enhances community identity and the integrity of existing settlement locations, while also enabling the development and integration of new communities through the expansion of urban centres, identified towns and villages that have the capacity of appropriate services and facilities. Effects on travel and transport are uncertain in the short term, although directing development to areas with existing infrastructure and requiring sustainable transport options to be integral to new development (SWDP3) will potentially promote positive outcomes and effects in the medium to long term. Positive effects are appraised for housing SA objectives; in particular this policy facilitates a spread of housing in urban and rural areas, and includes consideration of the need to facilitate housing at varying scales, including affordable housing in smaller, less well served villages.</p> <p><b>Environmental Effects</b> The policy provides strong support for SA objectives for landscape, related biodiversity and historic environment assets by ensuring that open space, green belt and key areas of green infrastructure are protected from development and urban coalescence. No significant effects are identified for pollution and waste SA objectives; long terms issues will be dependant on the nature of development including the delivery of infrastructure, including transport infrastructure networks. Impacts on climate change objectives are uncertain and will depend significantly on the successful and timely delivery of associated transport infrastructure.</p> <p><b>Key Positive Sustainability Effects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Delivery of housing at appropriate scale and level in locations that support or enhance access to essential services and facilities</li> <li>■ Support for community and economic SA objectives by facilitating the delivery of housing enabling a reduction in out commuting and improvement for economic diversity</li> <li>■ Support for landscape, townscape, historic environment and wider biodiversity objectives</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Negative Sustainability Effects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ None</li> </ul>														

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<b>Appraisal Summary</b>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	0	?
<b>SWDP Policy No: 2</b>	Employment, Housing and Retail Supply (see SWDP for full policy wording)													
<p><b>Summary</b></p> <p><b>Socioeconomic Effects</b> The policy proposals for employment, housing and retail supply provide good support for SA objectives aiming to promote employment and improve skills and opportunities for local people. In particular the approach to ensure that where possible new employment and housing development is co-located and/or related enhances economic opportunities and improves equality of access. Community objectives are also supported in the long term by the policy which directs growth proportionately with the highest volume of homes and employment land allocated to existing urban and market centres. There is the potential for some short term disbenefit to existing communities arising from the disturbance effects on new development. The policy also ensures that the identity of the smaller/ rural settlements is maintained by managing development volumes, but also supported in the long term by allowing new/proportionate growth in suitable areas. Good support for health objectives by placing developments where services exist or can be enhanced/ established for communities.</p> <p><b>Environmental Effects</b> The policy supports SA aims to protect biodiversity and landscape/ GI assets by focusing major development in or adjacent to urban areas. Towns and small villages will support reduced/ proportionate levels of development, which in combination with GI and sustainable development policies will provide good protection of biodiversity assets and locally valued landscape features. Effects on water are uncertain and whilst policy protection for water resources and quality is in place, overall effects will depend on the phasing and individual features of site based development,</p> <p><b>Key Positive Sustainability Effects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Employment, housing and retail allocations support and enhance established urban centres and smaller market towns communities proportionately</li> <li>■ Minor positive effects for transport, climate and travel and transport objectives; key impacts will be determined by specific locations and nature of implementation</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Negative Sustainability Effects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Potential short term pressures on existing communities from new/ increased development</li> </ul>														

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<b>Appraisal Summary</b>	+	+	+	++	++	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+
<b>SWDP Policy No: 3</b>	Overarching Sustainable Development Requirements (see SWDP for full policy wording)													
<p><b>Summary</b></p> <p><b>Socioeconomic Effects</b> The requirement to deliver sustainable design standards in all new developments provides opportunities for new and existing businesses to diversify and expand environmental competencies. However, new design requirements can in the short to medium term increase costs to business and therefore positive economic effects are more likely to be realised in the longer term. There are also opportunities to promote local goods and services in meeting sustainable design needs. The policy recognises the need for development to respect and take account of existing communities and includes commitments to protecting a sense of space, and access to services providing positive progression for this objective. Requirements to deliver against Code for Sustainable Homes objectives and BREEAM requirement directly addresses SA objectives for housing and sustainable design and cumulative benefits will arise for a more integrated 'lifecycle' approach to development that considers lifetime usages and changing requirements.</p> <p><b>Environmental Effects</b> Policy provides direct support for the protection and enhancement of landscape and historic assets, with a focus on local distinctiveness, and ensuring that development is reflective of local character. Some positive effects for biodiversity and wider SA objectives for water and pollution are likely in the longer term through an emphasis on sustainable design and build and a focus on the protection of existing valued assets.</p> <p><b>Key Positive Sustainability Effects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Mandatory requirements for sustainable design and build standards on all development proposals of 10 units or more</li> <li>■ Building for life standards and requirements for flexibility supports equality of access for existing and future communities</li> <li>■ Takes forward SA PO findings to seek innovation and best practice in development delivery</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Negative Sustainability Effects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ None</li> </ul>														

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Appraisal Summary	++	++	++	0	++	++	++	0	++	+	0	++	++	+
SWDP Policy No: 4	Moving around South Worcestershire (see SWDP for full policy wording)													
<p><b>Summary</b></p> <p><b>Socioeconomic Effects</b></p> <p>The focus of this policy on supporting and delivering sustainable transport solutions for new &amp; existing developments is likely to have a positive effect for communities and infrastructure objectives. Improving the ability of communities to reach services through walking, cycling and public transport supports equality of access. Additionally, the focus of ensuring that new developments must set out measures to reduce the demand for travel by private cars provides support for a 'people' led approach to travel that enhances long term community health and wellbeing. The policy also addresses the requirement to reduce congestion at defined pinch points in the existing transport network through measures set out in the Local Transport Plan3. Improvements to traffic flow provide indirect support for economic SA objectives by improving conditions for business and accessibility for employees across the plan area.</p> <p><b>Environmental Effects</b></p> <p>The promotion of sustainable travel solutions, that seek to move away from private car/ road based transport provides direct support for SA objectives on climate change, pollution and biodiversity, by reducing the long term cumulative impacts of greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles. Measures to manage the volume and car parking spaces and promote infrastructure provisions for low emission vehicles also provide indirect support for design/ sustainable construction objectives through the linkages with BREEAM and Code for Sustainable Homes criteria. A policy approach that seeks to manage travel demand (private car remains the primary transport mode in South Worcestershire) and improve sustainable travel options is likely, at a strategic level, to have positive long term effects for biodiversity and wider historic environment and pollution objectives by reducing the levels of emissions arising from combustion sources. Key improvements contingent on delivery of LTP3 strategy and/or new funding sources.</p> <p><b>Key Positive Sustainability Effects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Promotes sustainable transport measures, focused on delivering viable alternatives to private car use</li> <li>■ Requires travel plans for new developments</li> <li>■ Improves accessibility to services and employment for all sectors of the community</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Negative Sustainability Effects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ None</li> </ul>														

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<b>Appraisal Summary</b>	+	++	++	+	+	++	++	0	+	++	+	+	+	++
<b>SWDP Policy No: 5</b>	<b>Strategic Green Infrastructure (see SWDP for full policy wording)</b>													
<p><b>Summary</b></p> <p><b>Socioeconomic Effects</b> The provision of integrated GI is a key element of providing attractive places for employment (employers and employees), e.g. by improving walkability/ places to socialise and recreate. This approach provides particular support for communities by supporting access to recreational and green space and promoting an attractive environment for living and working. Positive long term impacts are likely for infrastructure SA objectives seeking to enhance GI and blue infrastructure. Minor positive effects are also likely for housing and design objectives through the requirement to incorporate GI with multifunctional purposes into new developments. GI promotion has recognised health benefits in terms of relaxation and supporting social relationships. Green space also improves air quality and reduces the impact of emissions and pollutants with positive, cumulative long term benefits.</p> <p><b>Environmental Effects</b> This policy provide strong support for climate change objectives as maintaining connected greens spaces is core to adaptation , helping flood attenuation and providing opportunities for carbon sinks. Historic space and landscape character are inextricably linked and this policy makes clear commitments to a landscape led approach for GI in support of existing strategic approach. There are likely to be direct gains for habitats and species through the promotion of connectivity and enhancement of green space. Improvements will be required to show an understanding of local distinctiveness, and existing protected areas/ designations. Long term positive, cumulative effects are appraised. Natural spaces are key in supporting the improvement of air quality (through buffers and synthesis) and can provide natural treatments, e.g. water based drainage treatments. GI networks help to retain the natural regimes of river catchments with benefits for flood attenuation and pollution management. Explicit support for the incorporation of blue infrastructure into the definition of GI in this policy would enhance potential outcomes of this policy.</p> <p><b>Key Positive Sustainability Effects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Core benefits for living and working spaces through the provision of natural/ green places for recreation, improving health and wellbeing</li> <li>■ Strong support for biodiversity, water and landscape assets through the promotion of connectivity and GI, including long term positive effects for climate change (e.g. flood attenuation, natural drainage systems)</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Negative Sustainability Effects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ None</li> </ul>														