LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL
SCOPING REPORT UPDATE

North Staffordshire
Core Spatial Strategy

city of
stoke-on-trent

June 2006

NEWCASTLE
UNDER·LYME
BOROUGH COUNCIL

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE CORE SPATIAL STRATEGY

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL SCOPING REPORT UPDATE

JUNE 2006

Public Consultation

Stoke-on-Trent City Council and Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council are seeking views and comments on the Scoping Report for the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal of the North Staffordshire* Core Spatial Strategy. It is being prepared in connection with the Core Spatial Strategy, which is being written jointly by the City Council and the Borough Council and will cover the entirety of the two authorities.

*Now renamed the Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent Core Spatial Strategy

If you would like to make comments please use one of the following methods:

Complete the enclosed form and return it to either:

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council
Regeneration and Planning Services
Civic Offices
Merrial Street
Newcastle-under-Lyme
ST5 2AG

or by e-mail: planningpolicy@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk

or by telephone: 01782 742452 or 01782 742467

OR

Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Development and Transport Plans Team,
Directorate of Regeneration and Community,
PO Box 2461,
Civic Centre,
Glebe Street,
Stoke on Trent
ST4 1WR

or by email: stoke.ldf@stoke.gov.uk

or by telephone: 01782 232302

Deadline for comments <u>13 May 2005</u>

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1. Introduction

One of the functions of the planning system is to deliver sustainable development. Sustainable development is about ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, now and in the future. A widely used definition was drawn up by the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987: "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".

The Government has set out four aims for sustainable development in its strategy: "A Better Quality of Life, a Strategy for Sustainable Development in the UK".

The four aims are:

- social progress which recognises the needs of everyone;

- effective protection of the environment;

- the prudent use of natural resources; and

- maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.

The Development Plan has to deliver policies that support these aims and which can then be used to determine planning applications. To ensure that the policies and strategic approach set out in planning documents deliver sustainable development and do not conflict with each other, Stoke-on-Trent City Council and Newcastle Borough Council are undertaking a Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA/SA) of all of the planning policy documents that are produced.

This Scoping Report sets out how the appraisal of the Core Strategy will be carried out. It sets out the purpose of the SA/SEA and identifies all relevant plans and programmes to ensure that the new local development plan policies and proposals reflect their sustainability objectives. The Report provides an early indication of the types of issues that the plan needs to take into account. The Report also sets out the objectives against which policies and proposals will be tested for the SEA/SA and the indicators that will be used to assess whether or not we are achieving the objectives. This Scoping Report therefore forms the basis for the assessment and the second phase of the SA/SEA, which is the production of an Environmental Report.

This document identifies the baseline data that will be used, the key sustainability issues that have been identified and considers the social, economic and environmental implications of the options considered in the Core Strategy Options Report.

It seeks your views as to whether we have used full and comprehensive data and whether our approach will deliver sustainable development across North Staffordshire

1.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal

In 2001 the EU adopted a Directive that made environmental assessment mandatory for certain plans and programmes from July 2004. The purpose of this Directive is to ensure that environmental consequences of these plans and programmes are identified and assessed during their preparation and before their adoption.

SEA will contribute to more transparent planning by involving the public and by integrating environmental considerations, which will help to achieve the goal of sustainable development.

As part of the review of the planning system, the Government has decided to incorporate the requirements of the SEA Directive with its current system of sustainability appraisal.

The purpose of Sustainability Appraisal is to promote sustainable development through better integration of sustainability considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans. SA is an integral part of good plan-making and should not be seen as a separate activity.

It is the aim of this document to set out how the assessment will be undertaken to ensure that the Core Strategy will take these sustainability considerations into account.

All Local Development Documents that have a significant environmental effect will be accompanied by an environmental report. This will identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme.

1.1.1 Consultation arrangements and next steps

This document is available on the Councils' websites for public comment. Copies have also been placed at all libraries within the Borough and the City.

In addition, copies have been sent to:

- Countryside Agency*
- English Nature*
- English Heritage,
- Environment Agency
- Advantage West Midlands (the Regional Development Agency)
- Newcastle Local Strategic Partnership Environmental Theme Group
- Stoke-on-Trent Local Strategic Partnership
- Staffordshire Wildlife Trust
- All neighbouring local authorities
- Primary Care Trusts
- Highways Agency
- Parish Councils
- West Midlands Regional Assembly

*Now replaced by Natural England

In line with the SEA/SA guidance the consultation will take place over a 5 week period. The opinions expressed by the consultees above and others will be taken into account during the preparation of the Environmental Report.

The diagram below illustrates how the stages of SA and the Local Development Framework fit together and how sustainability issues will be integrated into the plan making process:
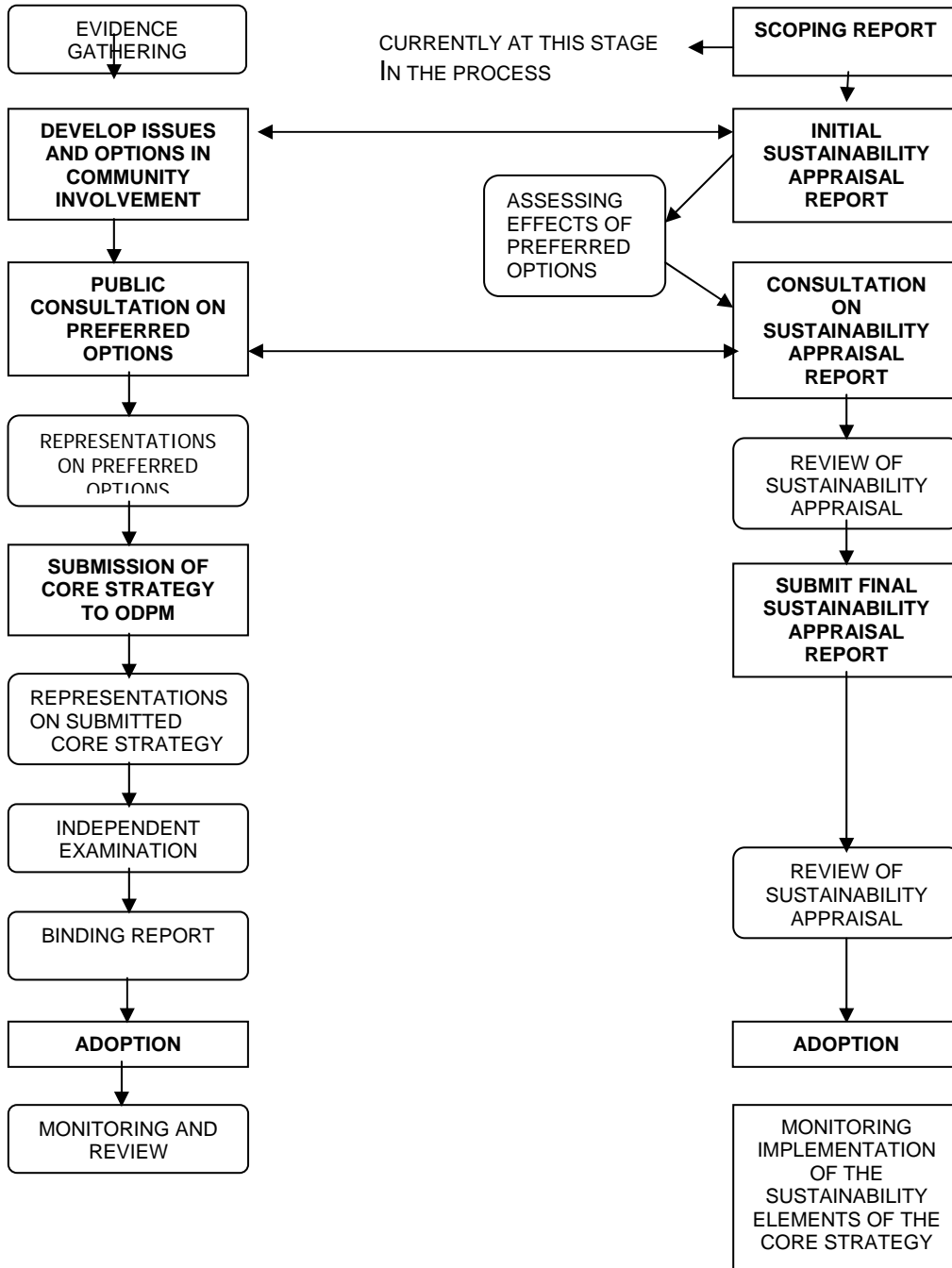
CORE SPATIAL STRATEGY PREPARATION PROCESS

| DOCUMENT | PROCESS |

KEY:

CORE SPATIAL STRATEGY   **SUSTAINABILITY**
APPRAISAL

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EVIDENCE
GATHERING
        |
        v
DEVELOP ISSUES          <----->   INITIAL
AND OPTIONS IN                    SUSTAINABILITY
COMMUNITY                         APPRAISAL
INVOLVEMENT                       REPORT
        |
        v
PUBLIC                  <----->   CONSULTATION
CONSULTATION ON                   ON
PREFERRED                         SUSTAINABILITY
OPTIONS                           APPRAISAL
        |                         REPORT
        v                             |
REPRESENTATIONS                       v
ON PREFERRED                      REVIEW OF
OPTIONS                           SUSTAINABILITY
        |                         APPRAISAL
        v                             |
SUBMISSION OF                         v
CORE STRATEGY                     SUBMIT FINAL
TO ODPM                           SUSTAINABILITY
        |                         APPRAISAL
        v                         REPORT
REPRESENTATIONS                       |
ON SUBMITTED                          v
CORE STRATEGY                     REVIEW OF
        |                         SUSTAINABILITY
        v                         APPRAISAL
INDEPENDENT                           |
EXAMINATION                           v
        |                         ADOPTION
        v                             |
BINDING REPORT                        v
        |                         MONITORING
        v                         IMPLEMENTATION
ADOPTION                          OF THE
        |                         SUSTAINABILITY
        v                         ELEMENTS OF THE
MONITORING AND                    CORE STRATEGY
REVIEW
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CURRENTLY AT THIS STAGE IN THE PROCESS → SCOPING REPORT

ASSESSING EFFECTS OF PREFERRED OPTIONS

The next stage will be to collect relevant baseline data which will refine the sustainability objectives indicated in Appendix D.

This will inform the issues and options that will be considered as part of the plan-making process. An initial sustainability appraisal will be published later in May 2005 setting out an assessment of the issues and options report.

A final SA Report will be available for consultation along with the Draft Core Strategy in summer 2005. The final Core Strategy document will include a statement summarising how the sustainability considerations have been integrated into the plan and the way in which these considerations will be monitored annually.

1.2   Key questions for consultees

- Have we identified the relevant plans and programmes (Appendices A & B)

- What other information, facts and figures may be suitable for inclusion? (Appendix C)

- What are the main sustainability issues facing the conurbation and rural North Staffordshire? Appendix D)

- Are we using appropriate indicators?

- Have the relationships and conflicts between the SA objectives and plan objectives been reasonably identified? (Appendix E)

- Is the appraisal matrix appropriate? (Appendix F)

2 SA/SEA Process

2.1 Aims and Objectives

Sustainability Appraisal is an iterative process that identifies and reports on the likely significant social, environmental and economic effects of the plan and the extent to which implementation of the plan will achieve the identified sustainable development objectives.

Sustainability Appraisal should:

- Take a long-term view of whether and how the area covered by the plan is expected to develop, taking account of the social, environmental, and economic effects of the proposed plan;

- Provide a mechanism for ensuring that sustainability objectives are translated into sustainable planning policies;

- Reflect global, national, regional and local concerns;

- Provide an audit trail of how the plan has been revised to take into account the findings of the SA;

- Form an integral part of all stages of plan preparation, and

- Incorporate the requirements of the SEA Directive.

(Source: Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks Consultation Paper, ODPM, 2004)

2.2 Process Overview

The SA/SEA process has 2 main stages:

Scoping Report (identifies the scope and level of detail of the SEA /SA)	• Identify in relevant national, regional and local plans and programmes • Devise SA/SEA objectives and identify indicators.
Environmental Report (Identifies describes and evaluates the likely significant effects of implementing a plan)	• Screen policies and proposals for consistency with other relevant plans and programmes • Assess the effect of policies and proposals against the objectives • Propose appropriate mitigation measures • Propose options for monitoring effects of the plan on the objectives of the SA/SEA

2.3   Background work

The Core Spatial Strategy takes forward a plethora of documents which affect the North Staffordshire area in terms of economic development, social policy and environmental protection. This includes regional, national and international guidance, as well as the programmes of various regeneration agencies in the conurbation, including Renew (the Housing Market Renewal Programme), LIFT (health centre replacement programme),the Stoke-on-Trent schools Private Finance Initiative, and the North Staffordshire Regeneration Zone.

The plans and programmes that have been identified as having an impact on the Core Strategy and help to inform the key sustainability issues for North Staffordshire are set out in Appendix A.

Relationships between these plans and programmes will be identified, enabling potential synergies to be exploited and any inconsistencies or constraints to be highlighted in the Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report.

Where conflicts arise, principles of precedence between levels or types of plan, recent policy developments and legal requirements will be defined.

Appendix B sets out the key sustainability issues, objectives or requirements identified in these respective plans and programmes. The list of policies has been separated out into five main categories as follows:

- Global Sustainability

- Natural Resources

- Local Environmental Quality

- Social Inclusiveness

- Economic Prosperity

The third column of the table indicates how the relevant policies might be taken on board in the Core Strategy.

The SA must address any current or potential sustainability problems and opportunities identified in the baseline data, such as poor accessibility by public transport which leads to congestion of private cars causing air pollution, longer journey times and so on. These issues will then be addressed at a strategic level in the Core Strategy, and in more detail in area action plans, and through development control policies.

2.4   Baseline data collection

To effectively assess the likely environmental, social and economic impact of the Core Spatial Strategy, we need detailed information to predict and monitor the effects of the plan. The two Councils have collected significant data about the current state of the environment, economy and society within North Staffordshire to do this. In many cases the data is collected by a range of organisations at a variety of scales, often not at ward or even local authority level. This is a key element of the assessment and hence the priority is to establish a reliable source of data. This baseline data is identified and the appropriate source is identified in Appendix C.

The baseline data will be used to provide the basis for predicting and monitoring the sustainability effects in order to monitor whether the core strategy is delivering sustainable development. This approach will help to identify problems and alternative ways of dealing with such issues in the future.

3 The North Staffordshire Core Spatial Strategy

3.1 Purpose of the Core Spatial Strategy

The Core Spatial Strategy is a strategic document that will set out the framework within which all other the Newcastle and Stoke Local Development Documents sit. It sets out the vision and strategic objectives for the area, including sustainability principles. It will also contain a number of the key City and Borough-wide policies, for example the number of houses to be provided throughout the area within a given time period.

This report has been prepared in conjunction with the Issues and Options stage of LDF preparation which considers whether, and how, the main development issues, such as provision of housing, retail facilities, recreational open space and transport should be delivered across both the City and the Borough. This will be the subject of extensive consultation. By producing this Scoping Report at the same time as the Issues/Options Paper the Council seeks to ensure that from the start of the process sustainability considerations are taken on board.

3.2 Contents of the Core Spatial Strategy

The Core Spatial Strategy provides a strategic overview for the future development of Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke on Trent. It aims to promote the sustainable regeneration of the North Staffordshire city-region as an outward looking, successful and rewarding place for the benefit of people who live and work here, its visitors, investors and for future generations.

Nineteen draft objectives have been identified to achieve this aim. They are set out below:

1. To meet the overall development requirements for the sub-region in accordance with the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy.

2. To concentrate new development within the North Staffordshire conurbation to promote sustainable patterns of development, reduce the need to travel and promote accessibility by transport modes other than the private car.

3. To focus development in rural areas on brownfield sites within the larger settlements.

4. To create a more sustainable built environment through the appropriate location, design, materials and control of new development leading to a more prudent use of environmental resources.

5. To reduce outward migration from the North Staffordshire sub-region and retain and attract new population to the conurbation.

6. To balance the supply and demand for housing by removing surplus properties and providing a better choice of homes in appropriate locations and to ensure that a sufficient number of new houses are affordable.

7. To ensure that new residential development makes adequate provision for community facilities including health care, education and leisure and that existing facilities are retained and enhanced.

8. To increase investment in the economy and broaden the employment base of North Staffordshire.

9. To encourage the growth of the higher education sector and training facilities to meet the needs of indigenous and incoming industries.

10. To focus appropriate large scale office and retail development within the strategic centres of City Centre (Hanley) and Newcastle whilst maintaining a role and provision of balanced growth for each of the other 6 centres.

11. To ensure that a balanced portfolio of quality and usable employment land is provided and maintained. This should include a Regional Investment Site and a Regional Logistics Site if required.

12. To increase the opportunities for sustainable modes of travel by securing improvements to public transport infrastructure and the provision of facilities to promote walking and cycling.

13. To enhance the North-Staffordshire Green Belt and open countryside and protect it from inappropriate development.

14. To protect and enhance the built and natural environment of North Staffordshire including the landscape, bio-diversity, settlement patterns, historic buildings, and heritage sites (including parks and gardens and battlefields).

15. To increase the attraction of North Staffordshire as a tourist destination, utilising the unique brand created by its industrial heritage, network of vibrant urban centres and attractive rural hinterland.

16. To promote the use of renewable energy sources.

17. To reduce the risk of flooding, pollution, and energy wastage in all new developments.

18. To provide a sustainable framework for the winning and working of minerals in Stoke-on-Trent.

19. To provide a framework for the consideration of planning applications for the development of waste management facilities or other forms of development with significant waste implications in Stoke-on-Trent.

NB – these aims and objectives have been revised in response to the public consulation conducted as part of the plan making process. For the most up to date aims and objectives, please refer to the Newcastle under Lyme and Stoke on Trent Core Spatial Strategy – Submission Draft (March 2008)

4   Sustainability Appraisal Framework

4.1   Spatial portrait of the plan area

Geography and demographics

The plan area is comprised of two neighbouring authorities - the City of Stoke on Trent and the Borough of Newcastle under Lyme. This sub - region is located on the boundary between the West Midlands and the North West Regions. As such, the plan area occupies a strategically advantageous position between the major urban centres of Manchester and Birmingham and alongside national transport corridors linking the South – East and the Midlands, to the North West.

The plan area covers approximately 30,000 hectares and is home to just over 360,000 people. Of these, approximately 240,000 people are residents of the 'six towns' – Hanley, Stoke, Tunstall, Burslem, Fenton and Longton that form the polycentric City of Stoke on Trent; 74,000 live in the market town of Newcastle; 22,000 in the smaller town of Kidsgrove; and approximately 26,000 live in rural settlements.

As the chart below clearly shows the area has seen significant changes to its population in recent decades - the City's population declining by approximately 24,000 since 1971; and the Borough gaining approximately 2,000 over the same period.

Population Change in Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle-under-Lyme 1971 - 2001
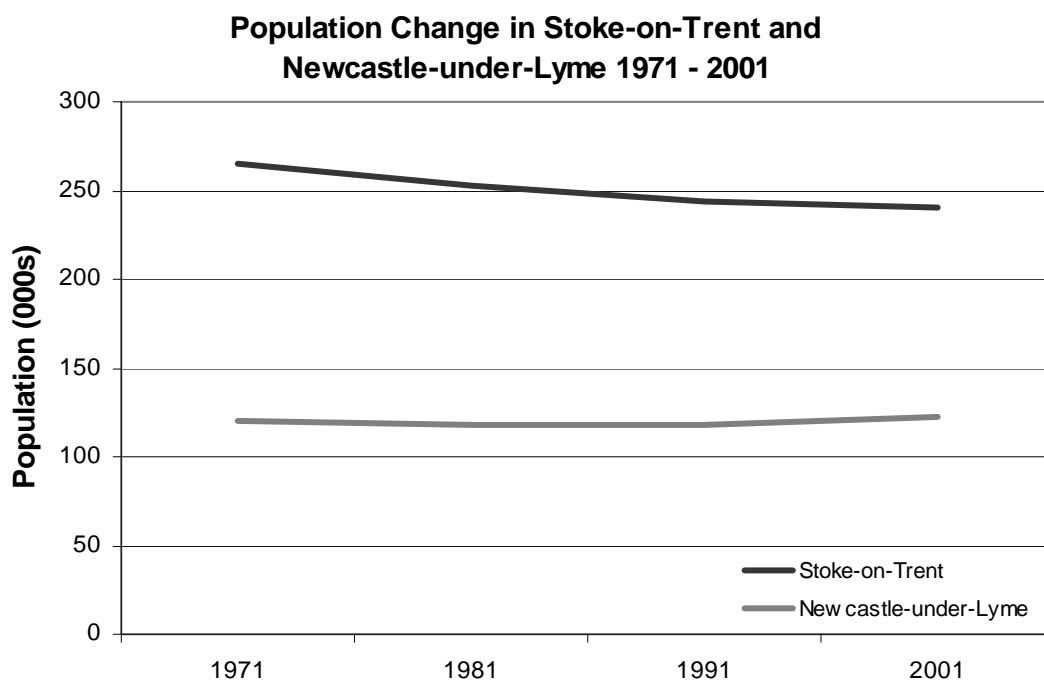
Source: Office of National Statistics

The plan area has experienced significant levels of out – migration over the last few decades, particularly from the City. The diagrams below, which map patterns of GP re-registrations over a five year period, clearly show significant trends of out migration from the City into neighbouring authorities, in particular Staffordshire Moorlands and Newcastle under Lyme.

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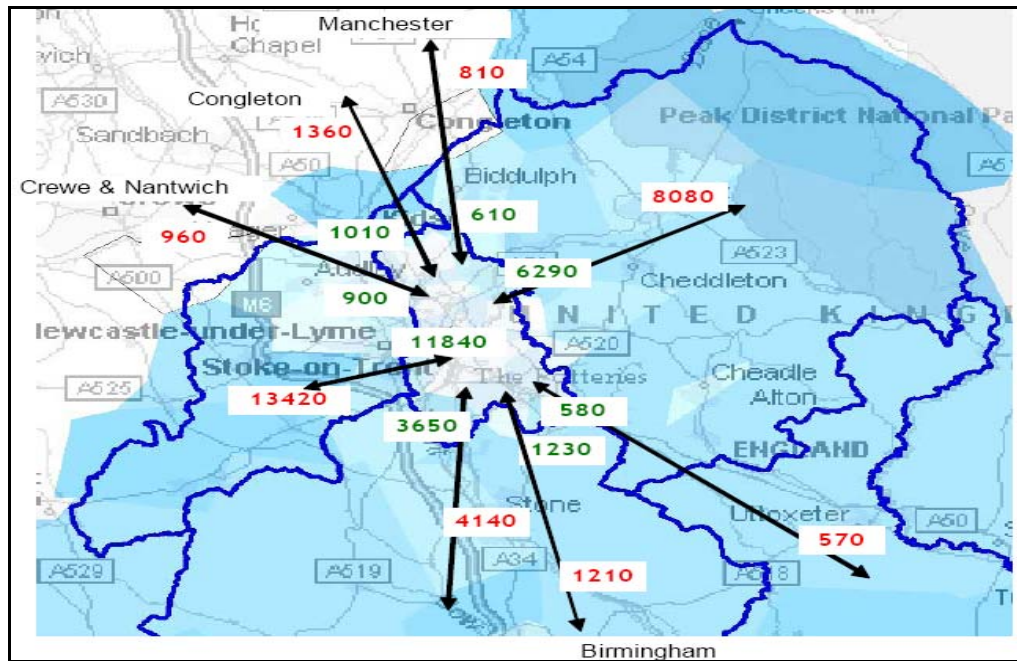
Stoke on Trent – in/out migration (Source: Office of Public Sector Information 2007)
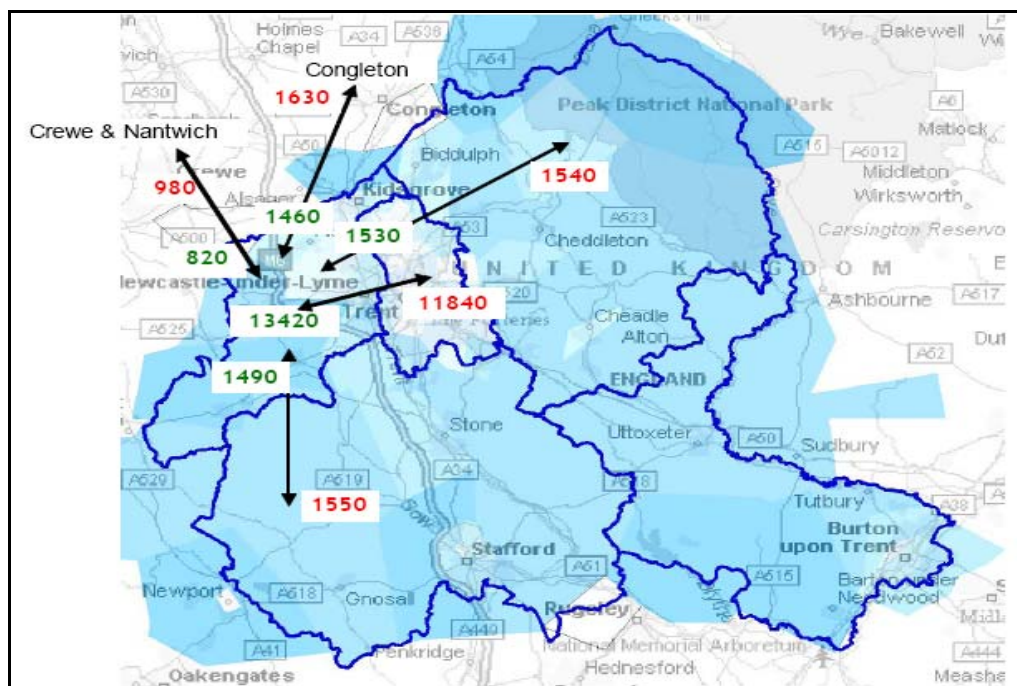
Newcastle under Lyme – in/out migration (Source: Office of Public Sector Information 2007)

In addition to this, the diagram above suggests that there is some movement from Newcastle into neighbouring rural authorities.

As the table below shows, the age profile of the plan area's population generally reflects regional and national profiles, although the data does suggest that Newcastle has a marginally older population, with a median age of 39 in comparison to 37 for Stoke, the West Midlands and England.

Age Structure
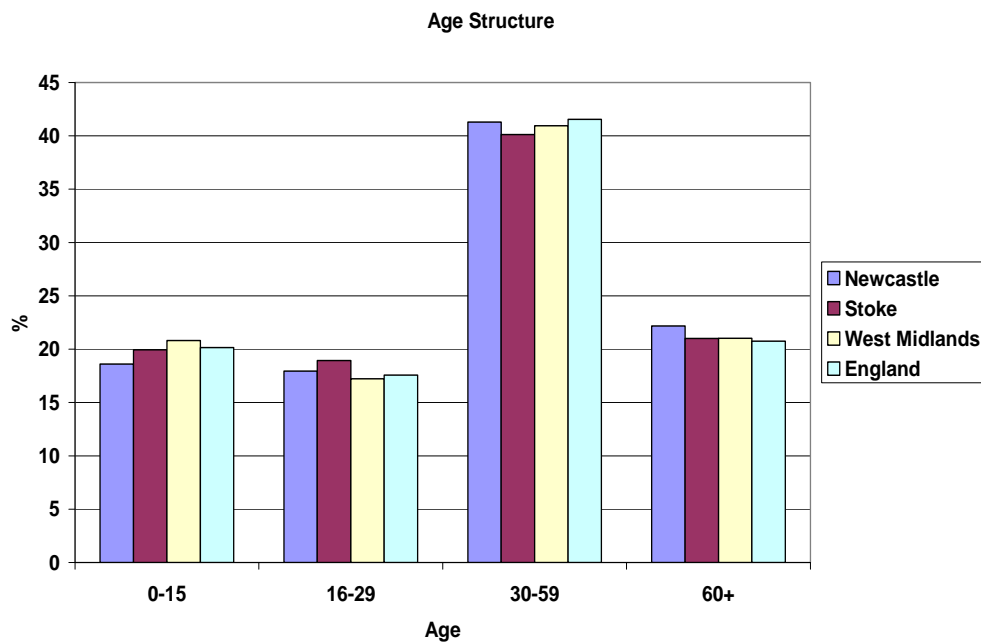
Source: Office of National Statistics

Economy

The economy of the plan area was traditionally dominated by coal mining and heavy manufacturing industries. In the City, the economy has been historically reliant upon the ceramics industry. The decline of these industries throughout the latter half of the twentieth century has had a significant impact upon the environmental, economic and social landscape of the area. As a result, both Newcastle under Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent currently possess relatively weak economic bases.

As the diagram below shows, the major employment sectors within the plan area are distribution, hotels and restaurants, and public administration, education and health. In the City manufacturing remains relatively important – a third of these jobs are still connected to the ceramics industry. Between 1995 and 2002 there has been a transition from manufacturing towards services, particularly distribution, consumer and public services, but far less towards financial and business services, particularly in Stoke-on-Trent. Even though the service sector has expanded over time, total employment has declined.

Within Newcastle Town Centre, retail and night-time activities – bars, restaurants, clubs etc are dominant alongside an established and growing Financial and Professional Services sector.

Employment sectors
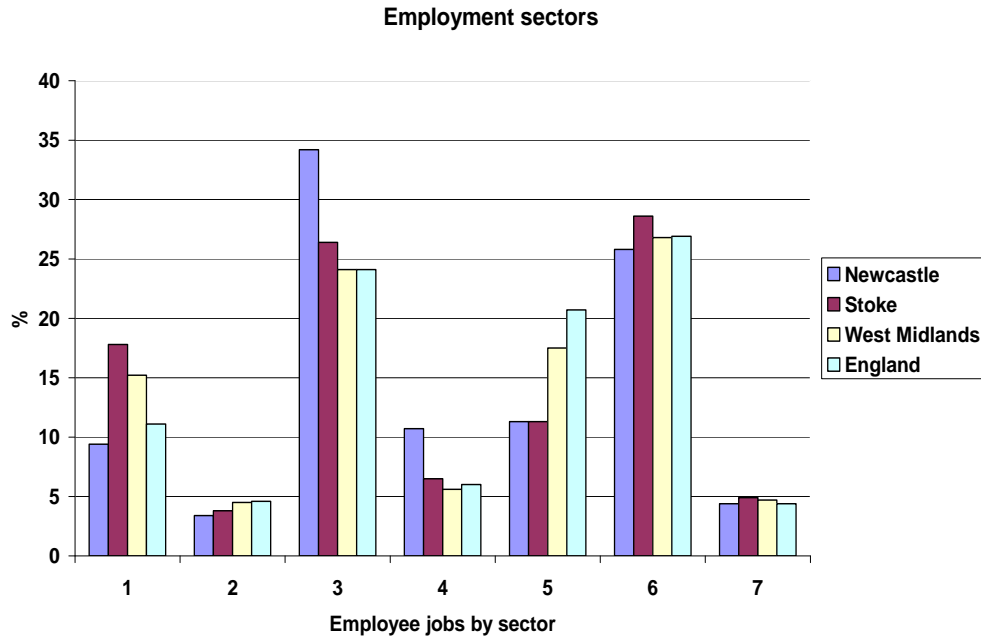
1. Manufacturing
2. Construction
3. Distribution, hotels and restaurants
4. Transport and communications
5. Finance, IT and business
6. Public admin, education and health
7. Other services

Source: Office of National Statistics

This restructuring of the plan area's economy, and the under representation of employees within financial sectors is reflected in average weekly earnings for both Newcastle (£371.50) and Stoke (£363.20) which are significantly lower than regional and national averages.

The historical dependence upon a narrow range of traditional industries has also arguably contributed to the fact that neither the Borough nor the City can be described as particularly entrepreneurial.   Both have business start up rates (based upon VAT registrations) significantly lower than national levels.

The plan area does, however, possess a number of significant key assets that are driving the economy forward (as evidenced in the North Staffordshire Integrated Economic Development Study) including good access to markets in the City Centre of Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle town centre, which in the case of Newcastle includes its prominence as a home to Financial and Professional Services industries; the cluster of prestigious, high value medical technologies and research industries centred around Keele University and Science Park; the University Hospital; the abundant supply of developable brownfield land; and the excellent strategic position in relation to key regional and national transport links. Other potentially powerful economic drivers include a wealth of industrial heritage; attractive green spaces; proximity to tourism magnets and the sustained investment resulting from the designation as an Assisted Area and Regeneration Zone.

Social Inclusion

Much of the City and some neighbourhoods within the Borough suffer from many of the social issues frequently associated with areas of economic deprivation. The table below, whilst only showing data at local authority level, and therefore concealing many of the more extreme conditions within some areas, clearly shows that the plan area suffers from issues such as poor health, poor educational achievements, relatively high levels of worklessness, low wages etc, in comparison to regional and national levels.

	Newcastle	Stoke	West Midlands	England
BME groups	2.03%	5.21%	11.26%	9.08%
People not in good health	10.6%	12.8%	9.7%	9.02%
People with limiting long term illness	20.84%	19.40%	18.86%	17.93%
Mortality rates*	627.3	731.4	637.6	610.5
Average weekly wage by work place (full time)	£371.5	£363.20	£415.5	£448.6
Average weekly wage by residence (full time)	£405.20	£361.70	£421.10	£449.60
Population living in the 20% most deprived Super Output Areas	14.5%	50.4%	26.3%	20.00%
Job Seekers Allowance claimants (% of working population)	1.7%	2.9%	3.1%	2.3%
Economically Active	74.8%	73.3%	77.3%	78.6%
Qualifications NVQ or above	19.5%	17.1%	23.9%	27.4%
Travel to work by car	63.7%	57.44%	59.97%	54.92%

Source: Office of National Statistics
* Compendium of Clinical Health Indicators. per 100,000

Housing

The 2001 Census records that owner occupation within the Borough, at approximately 72.5% of all households, is marginally higher than for the West Midlands region (69.5%) and for England (68.7%). The majority of the remaining stock is provided through local Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) (the largest being Aspire), and a relatively small percentage of private rented housing. In the City, owner occupation is significantly lower at 65.2%, with the majority of the socially rented stock still owned and managed by the City Council.

As the diagram below clearly demonstrates, house prices within both the Borough and the City have increased significantly over the last decade. However average house prices remain significantly lower than national averages.
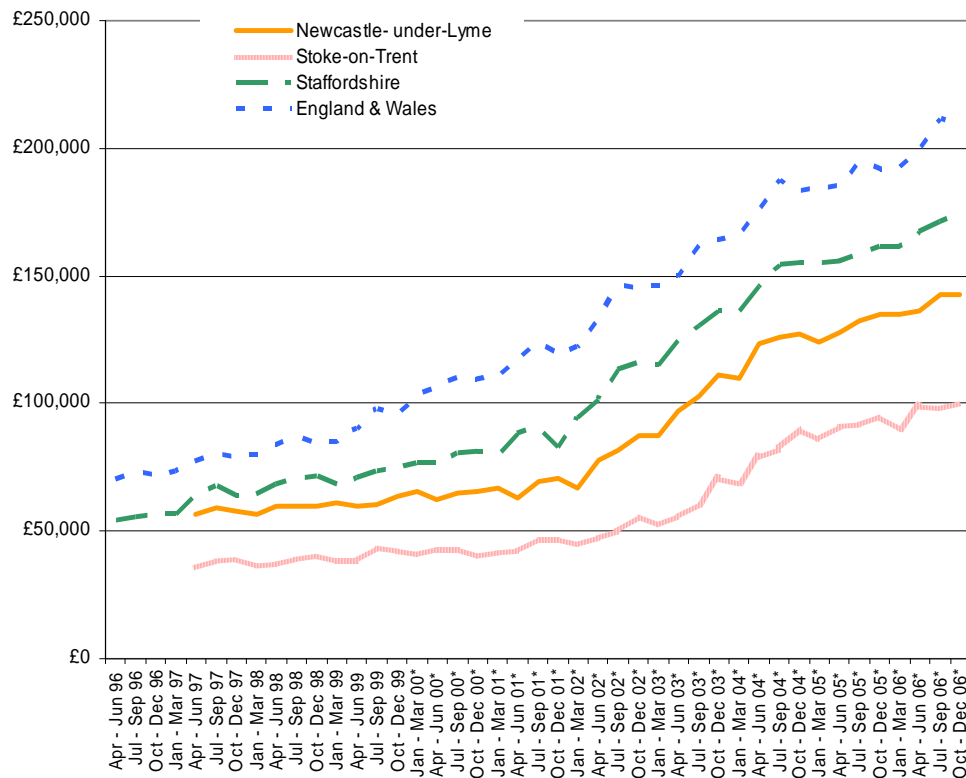
Source: Land Registry 2007

Jan – March 2007	Detached	Semi - Detached	Terraced	Flat/Apartment	Average Price
Newcastle	219371	130194	104113	104353	142560
Stoke	171876	107215	77395	104874	100090

Source: Land Registry 2007

A significant part of the City, particularly within the Inner Urban Core, and some urban neighbourhoods in Newcastle have suffered from severe housing market failure, low demand, an imbalance of housing types and tenures, and in some neighbourhoods, high levels of vacant stock.

The North Staffordshire conurbation was identified in 2003 as one of nine urban areas in the UK in need of intervention through the central government funded Housing Market Renewal Initiative. The overarching strategy of RENEW North Staffordshire, the low demand Housing Market Pathfinder is to create genuinely sustainable and revitalised neighbourhoods by improving the quality of the housing stock and transforming the urban form and local environment. Key to achieving these aims is to transform the housing offer of the sub region in terms of both the quality and choice of offer, i.e. achieving an appropriate mix of housing types, sizes and tenure.

However, despite these weaknesses in the local housing market, affordability is a key issue within the sub region. Until recently, affordability was not an issue in much of the City and certain neighbourhoods within the Borough. However, the price of terraced housing in the region has increased by approximately 200% over the last decade whereas wages have only risen by approximately 20% over the same time period. Furthermore the 'Right to Buy' scheme has had a significant impact upon the quantity, and arguably the quality and mix of the sub region's social housing offer. Indeed the loss of homes to the right to buy, continuing job losses, combined with the recent sharp increase in the costs of private housing, has over the past three to five years led to an increase in the demand for social housing.

Affordability is also pronounced within the rural areas of the sub region. Average house prices within the villages in the south and west of the Borough such as Madeley and Loggerheads are up to 8 times the average household incomes of local residents.

Place and Image

The sub region's topography and historical development has meant that the conurbation has developed as an unusual polycentric collection of distinct but connected settlements rather than a conventional mono – centric city structure. However the nature of this settlement pattern has, to some extent amplified the adverse impacts of several decades of economic decline, decentralisation of services and employment, and out migration. The reality is that the City, rather than being a network of vibrant, complementary centres within a spacious and green urban environment, appears to be a fractured and illegible cluster of disconnected, failing centres.

The loss of employment in North Staffordshire's traditional industries has led to considerable pressure to replace these losses as quickly as possible. This has led to a tendency towards accepting poorly designed or inappropriate development for fear of turning away much needed inward investment. This has had a significant impact upon the quality of both the physical environment of the conurbation and the quality of newly created employment opportunities.

However there are examples where innovative, high quality design has been instrumental in raising aspirations, attracting high quality investment and transforming the external image of the sub region:- recent developments at the Keele University and Science Park; the residential development at No. 1 London Road in Newcastle Town Centre; the Victoria Hall extension in the City Centre; live/work units at Queens Street, Burslem and the new medical school at the University Hospital of North Staffordshire.

The sub region has a unique and distinctive built environment, with around 570 listed buildings, 41 Conservation Areas, 17 ancient monuments and 7 historic parks and monuments.

The County of Staffordshire has more miles of canals than any other county in England - a legacy of the rapid economic transformation of the area during the industrial revolution. The Trent and Mersey Canal, the Cauldon Canal, the Newcastle to Stoke Canal and the Burslem Branch Canal were all central elements of the transport infrastructure serving North Staffordshire's then thriving ceramics industry.

Today, what remains of this canal network (the Newcastle and Burslem canals were both closed early in the 20th century and are now largely abandoned) continues to be a valuable local asset, serving the region's growing leisure and tourism industries. The 'ring' formed by the Trent and Mersey, the Staffordshire and Worcester and the Shropshire Union canals being a particularly popular route.

The historical landscapes, townscapes and buildings of the sub region are irreplaceable; not only for their intrinsic architectural and aesthetic value and their contribution towards creating a collective sense of place and civic pride, but also for their contribution towards making the sub region an economically attractive and competitive focus for inward investment.

Hierarchy of Centres

The polycentric nature of the conurbation means that the plan area contains a number of highly distinctive centres. The characteristics and individual roles of the key centres are set out in the paragraphs below.

The City Centre of Stoke-on-Trent – the City Centre at Hanley is the largest retail destination in North Staffordshire and South Cheshire. The City Centre has a primary role at a sub-regional level in attracting large scale shopping development. It is the popular location for business and brands of national renown. It is identified as a strategic centre in the Regional Spatial Strategy

Newcastle Town Centre – possesses a vibrant retail sector which complements that offered by the City; a strong evening/night - time economy and a strong financial and professional services sector; all set within a distinctive, historic market town environment. Newcastle also plays a key role as a university town. It is identified as a strategic centre in the Regional Spatial Strategy

Longton Town Centre – is the third largest retail centre in North Staffordshire serving the southern part of the conurbation.

Tunstall Town Centre - serves a wide catchment to the north of the urban area and its offer is expanding by virtue of large scale retail developments to the south and east of the town centre.

Stoke upon Trent Town Centre – plays a number of key roles - the city's administrative centre, a university town, a nationally important destination for ceramics factory shopping; as well as providing local convenience shopping and the conurbation's primary railway station.

Kidsgrove Town Centre – located at the northern edge of the plan area, Kidsgrove primarily provides food shopping and services to meet local needs.

Burslem Town Centre – historically the heart of the region's ceramics industry, Burslem now plays a key role as a historic/cultural destination in addition to providing local convenience shopping and services.

Fenton Town Centre - derives its town centre designation because of its historic role, rather than its retailing provision which is more characteristic of a local centre.

Meir Centre - provides the eastern gateway of Stoke-on-Trent and serves a small localised catchment in the surrounding communities.

In addition to these key centres, the plan area also benefits from a number of smaller but locally important centres providing essential local services, in both the urban and rural areas.

Natural and rural landscape

The region's rural area stretches from the eastern border with Staffordshire Moorlands, the north western border with Cheshire, the south western border with Shropshire and Stafford to the south.

The rural areas that surround the North Staffordshire conurbation are designated as green belt, this designation stretches westward as far as the West Coast Mainline Railway.

The sub region benefits from a distinct and diverse natural and rural landscape. The sub region falls within two 'Natural Areas' (as defined by Natural England); the uplands, wooded valleys and ancient agricultural landscapes of the Potteries and Churnet Valley Natural Area in the north east of the sub region; and the gently rolling plains and wetlands of the Meres and Mosses Natural Area to the south and west of the region.

The sub region has two sites identified under the 1971 Ramsar Convention as internationally important wetland sites – Betley Mere, and Black Firs & Cranberry Bog, Newcastle-under-Lyme. The sub region also benefits from several sites designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), a number of Grade 1 County Sites of Biological Importance (SBI) and Natural Heritage Areas, eleven Local Nature Reserves, several high quality country parks and approximately 330 hectares of woodland identified as 'ancient semi-natural woodland'. The Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan identifies the priority actions for addressing biodiversity issues within the plan area.

Greenspace

The sub region's urban centres benefit from an extensive network of formal and informal green spaces, all of which provide a valuable contribution towards recreational space, amenity, and wildlife habitats within the urban fabric. The mix of greenspace and built development heightened by local ridge and valley topography is a distinctive feature of the conurbation.

Transport

Everyone, everyday relies on and is affected by transport. North Staffordshire is connected at the heart of the national transport network. Good transport is essential to the prosperity and well being of North Staffordshire and the quality of life for local people and visitors. Detailed transportation modelling is being undertaken within the plan area to determine the capacity constraints and infrastructure requirements to match regeneration aspirations.

Within North Staffordshire the diffuse pattern of our built environment gives rise to complex local travel demands. There are many people in North Staffordshire who find access to essential services (education, healthcare, employment and retail facilities) and local facilities difficult. Congestion on key strategic roads and junctions is undermining the ability of local people to access their services and jobs, particularly by non car means. Bus routes operating in traffic congestion causes delays, unreliability and reduced viability of services. Bus travel and operation has declined causing North Staffordshire to experience serious social exclusion problems. Poor access to jobs and training hampers regeneration efforts and this in turn impacts on the attractiveness of North Staffordshire for inward investment.

4.2   Key sustainability issues

Through analysis of baseline data, a number of key sustainability issues for North Staffordshire have been identified to focus the Sustainability Appraisal process and develop the sustainable plan objectives and options.

The identification of these key sustainability issues provides an opportunity to start identifying key issues for the Core Strategy Development Plan Document and developing sustainability objectives and alternatives for the Sustainability Appraisal process. The table below sets out the key issues identified and the information source.

	Key Sustainability Issues	Source
Social	• A significant part of the City, particularly within the Inner Urban Core, and some urban neighbourhoods in Newcastle have suffered from severe housing market failure, low demand, an imbalance of housing types and tenures, and in some neighbourhoods, high levels of vacant stock. *	Renew Prospectus/ Business Plans Strategic Housing Market assessment 2007
	• 20 out of 33 urban wards are in the 20% most deprived wards in England. 9 wards are in the least deprived 50% of wards in England.	Index of Multiple Deprivation Score,
	Crime rates in North Staffordshire have risen a little over the last few years, but fear of crime has increased far more.	Crime Audit; BVPI
Economic	• There has been a decline in employment concentrated in traditional manufacturing industries.	Nomis/ONS/ North Staffordshire Integrated Economic Development Strategy2005
	• Investment in North Staffordshire has generally required a low-skilled and low paid workforce, which has resulted in little disposable income for re-investment in the area.	North Staffordshire Integrated Economic Development Strategy2005
	• North Staffordshire contains a hierarchy of centres from the City Centre in Hanley to the smaller villages of rural Newcastle. Each is unique and should be developed to maximise its individual potential.	North Staffordshire Retail and Leisure Study 2005
Environment	• The Borough and City Councils need to contribute to a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions (the major contributor to climatic conditions) if the frequency of unexpected climatic events is to be minimised. This can be achieved by encouraging the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency in existing and new commercial and residential developments.	International/Nation al/Regional planning and sustainability policies and strategies
	• The M6 motorway and other major trunk roads, impact on Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle Borough, both in terms of noise and air pollution	LTP2006

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• North Staffordshire provides an extensive habitat with great biodiversity including many protected species. The Councils will seek to protect, and where possible enhance, the biodiversity of the Borough	English Nature; Staffordshire Ecological Record (maintained by Staffs Wildlife Trust) Staffs Bio Diversity Action Plan
• North Staffordshire can be identified through the sprawling industrial towns of the Potteries, boasting brick and sandstone older buildings with tile and slate roofs. It also has a unified rural landscape, dominated by dairy farming dairying, with strong field patterns, merging with more mixed and arable farming. This landscape should be protected.	North Staffordshire Conurbation Assessment of Historical Significance 2006
• Land water and soil are scarce resources and should be protected.	International/National/Regional Policy

*This key sustainability issue has been re-drafted – the original issue no longer presents an accurate picture of the housing market in the plan area.

4.3 Sustainability objectives and targets

The objectives for the SA/SEA have been adapted from the topics identified in the Directive and government guidance with amendments to include issues that are relevant to Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle-under-Lyme.

These Objectives are set out in detail in Appendix D alongside a number of indicators, against which performance can be measured, to identify whether the objectives have been achieved or whether any progress towards achieving them has been made.

Appendix E contains a compatibility matrix to identify any possible inconsistencies and conflicts in the objectives, which enables an assessment to be made of those plan objectives that may conflict with the sustainability objectives contained within the SA framework. Where potential conflicts exist between the plan objectives and the sustainability objectives, these have been highlighted in the compatibility table and will be further investigated through the Initial SA Report.

4.4 Methodology for assessing sustainability performance of plan

The SA framework will be used to assess the options that emerge from the Issues &options stage consultations. The sustainability of each development option and its likely significant effects will be recorded on matrices (see Appendix F).

Each option will be assessed according to:

- Impact i.e. positive or negative, or no impact
- Significance i.e. either marginal or strongly significant
- Urban/rural – effect on Urban/rural area or beyond Core Strategy area.
- Timescale – short/medium/long
- Cumulative effect – either positive or negative.

APPENDIX A: KEY PLANS AND PROGRAMMES THAT MIGHT AFFECT THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE CORE SPATIAL STRATEGY

International And European Documents

- The Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development (UN 2002)
- The European Spatial Development Perspective (1999)
- The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (UN 1992)
- Ramsar Convention, 2 February 1971 and amendments
- EU Water Framework Directive (2000)
- EC Directive on Habitats (1992)
- Kyoto Protocol – Framework Convention on Climate Change (1997)

National Documents

- Sustainable Communities: Building for the Future (2003)
- Securing the Future: The UK Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)
- Meeting the Energy Challenge - Energy White Paper (DTI 2007)
- Planning for a Sustainable Future – White Paper (CLG 2007)
- Planning and Climate Change – Supplement to Planning Policy Statement 1
- Climate Change – Adaption by Design (TCPA 2007)
- Our Health, Our Care, Our Say: A New Direction for Community Services – White Paper (Department of Health 2007)
- Our Towns and Cities: The Future – Delivering an Urban Renaissance (DETR 2000)
- Our Countryside: The Future – A Fair Deal for Rural England (Defra 2000)
- The Historic Environment: A Force for Our Future (DCMS 2001)
- Public Service Agreement 2005 - 2008 (DEFRA 2004)
- Restoring the Region's Wildlife: Regional Biodiversity Strategy for the West Midlands (West Midlands Biodiversity Partnerhip 2005)
- The Climate is Changing:Time to Get Ready (Environment Agency 2005)
- Policy Regarding Culverts (Environment Agency 2005)
- State of the Environment Report 2001 (Environment Agency 2001)
- Policy and Practice for the Protection of Groundwater (Environment Agency 1998)
- PPS 1 – Delivering Sustainable Development
- PPG 2 – Green Belt
- PPS3 – Housing
- PPG 4 – Industrial, commercial development and small firms

- PPS 6 – Planning forTown Centres

- PPS 7 – Sustainable Development in Rural Areas

- PPG 8 – Telecommunications

- PPS 9 – Biodiversity and Geological Conservation

- PPS 10 – Planning for Sustainable Waste Management

- PPS 11 – Regional Spatial Strategies

- PPS 12 - Local Development Frameworks

- PPG 13 – Transport

- PPG 14 – Development on Unstable Land

- PPG 15 – Planning and the Historic Environment

- PPG 16 – Archaeology and Planning

- PPG 17 – Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation

- PPG 18 – Enforcing Planning Control

- PPS 22 – Renewable Energy

- PPS 23 – Planning and Pollution Control

- PPG 24 – Planning and Noise

- PPS 25 – Development and Flood Risk

- Mineral Policy Statements (MPS) and Minerals Policy Guidance (CLG)

- By Design: Urban Design in the Planning System – Towards Better Practice (CLG 2000)

Regional documents

- Delivering Advantage: The West Midlands Economic Strategy and Action Plan 2004-2010

- West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy 2004

- West Midlands Cultural Strategy 2001 – 2006

- West Midlands Housing Strategy 2005 (WMRA 2005)

- Transport Delivery Plan 2007 (WMRA)

- A Sustainable Future for the West Midlands: West Midlands Sustainable Development Framework (WMRA 2006)

- Restoring the Region's Wildlife: Regional Biodiversity Strategy for the West Midlands (West Midlands Biodiversity Partnership 2005)

- River Trent Strategy (Environment Agency)

- Regional Visitor Economic Strategy

Local / Sub-Regional

- Shaping the Future of Staffordshire 2006 – 2021: The Sustainable Strategy for the County (Staffordshire County Council)

- Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Structure Plan 1996-2011

- Newcastle under lyme Local Plan 2011 – 'Saved Policies'

- Stoke on Trent Revised City Plan 2001 – 'Saved Policies'

- Our County, Our Vision – A Sustainable Community Strategy for Staffordshire 2008 – 2023 (Draft) (SCC 2008)

- Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan (SBAP)

- Stoke-on-Trent Community Strategy

- Stoke-on-Trent Sustainable Community Strategy

- Newcastle-under-Lyme Sustainable Community Strategy

- Stoke-on-Trent Local Transport Plan

- Staffordshire Local Transport Plan

- North Staffordshire Retail and Leisure Study 2005 -2011

- North Staffordshire Integrated Transport Study

- North Staffordshire Integrated Economic Development Strategy

- Renew North Staffordshire Business Plan 2008 -11

- Stoke-on-Trent Regeneration Strategy

- Greening for Growth Strategy

- Stoke-on-Trent LA21 Strategy

- Newcastle-under-Lyme LA21 Strategy

- Stoke-on-Trent Waste Management Strategy

- Stoke-on-Trent Cultural Strategy

- Stoke-on-Trent Community Safety Strategy

- Stoke-on-Trent Sport & Recreation Strategy

- Stoke-on-Trent Education Plan

- Stoke-on-Trent Rivers Strategy

- Newcastle Urban Design Study 2006

- Newcastle Borough Council Housing Strategy 2005

- Newcastle Town Centre Public Realm Strategy 2004

- Urban North Staffordshire Green Space Strategy 2007

- Newcastle Leisure Needs Assessment and Playing Pitch Strategy 2005

- North Staffordshire Conurbation Assessment of Historical Significance 2006

- North Staffordshire Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2008

- West Midlands North – Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2007/08

- North Housing Market Area – Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment 2007

- Both authorities respective portfolios of Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans

APPENDIX B: KEY SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES, OBJECTIVES OR REQUIREMENTS IDENTIFIED IN OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Source of Guidance	Summary of Guidance	How Objectives and Requirements Might be Taken on Board
Global Sustainability		
PPS12 (3.14) Sustainable Communities (3) Delivering Advantage (3.3)	Contribution of Development Plan to the achievement of sustainable development	Show how introduction, objectives and all relevant sections of Core Strategy relate to sustainable development
PPS1 (27(ii), 27(vii)) PPG4 (15) PPS6 (1.5, 2.22) PPG13 (4, 13) RSS (T2, T4)	Mixed use development – seek to create vitality and diversity whilst reducing the need to travel	Include in introduction, objectives and all relevant sections of Core Strategy
PPS1 (28) PPG13 (4, 28, 30, 32) S-o-T Community Strategy (4.4) S-o-T LTP (b) Staffs LTP (p.8) RSS (UR1)	Achieve sustainable patterns of development through integrated land use and transport policy	Include in main introduction, objectives and all relevant sections of Core Strategy
PPS3 (47)	Make optimum utilisation of land through use of housing densities of a minimum of 30 dwellings per hectare	Include as a housing policy in Core Strategy
PPG13 (59) S-o-T LTP (b, c) RSS (T6)	Encourage provision of well-designed and conveniently located Park and Ride facilities to reduce the need to travel by car	Include as a transport policy in Core Strategy

Source of Guidance	Summary of Guidance	How Objectives and Requirements Might be Taken on Board
PPG13 (49) S-o-T LTP I Staffs LTP (p.11) RSS (T7)	Provide maximum rather than minimum standards for parking provision, and manage car parking to deter unnecessary car use	Include as a transport policy in Core Strategy
PPS1 (21, 22, 27(viii)) PPS3 (40-44) PPG4 (21) PPS7 (1(v)) S-o-T Community Strategy (4.4) RSS (CF4)	Maximise the re-use of previously developed land, and prioritise it over greenfield land; identify vacant urban land for industrial and commercial development	Include in main introduction, objectives and all relevant sections of the Core Strategy
Natural Resources		
PPS1 (5, 17–20) PPS7 (15(v)) PPS9 (3) PPS12 (2.19) S-o-T Community Strategy (5.6) Staffs BAP RSS (QE6) West Midlands Biodiversity Strategy (p.7)	Protect, manage and maintain the best quality landscapes; protect and enhance the natural environment, the quality of the countryside and existing successful communities	Include as a Landscape/Nature Conservation policy in Core Strategy
PPS1 (17, 20, 27(ix)) PPS7 (15(v)) PPS9 (5-7) S-o-T Community Strategy (5.6) Staffs BAP RSS (QE7) West Midlands Biodiversity Strategy (p.7)	Enhance and protect biodiversity and conserve wildlife; identify wildlife corridors; use derelict land as wildlife sites	Include as a Landscape/Nature Conservation policy in Core Strategy
PPS1 (17, 21, 22) PPS7 (1(i), 28) PPS12 (2.19) S-o-T Community Strategy (5.7) Staffs BAP RSS (PA16)	Protect and enhance the environment, and make prudent use of natural resources; protect the best and most versatile agricultural land	Include as a Landscape/Nature policy in Core Strategy

Delivering Advantage (3.4)		
PPS1 (20, 21, 22) PPS22 (1(i), 1(ii)) S-o-T Community Strategy (5.4) RSS (EN1)	Include policies for developing renewable energy sources or specify suitable sites for the various types of installation	Include as a Landscape/Nature policy in Core Strategy

Source of Guidance	Summary of Guidance	How Objectives and Requirements Might be Taken on Board
Local Environment Quality		
PPS1 (13(iv), 33-39) PPG15 (2.26) RSS (QE3)	Design new buildings to produce a high standard built environment	Include as an environment policy in Core Strategy
S-o-T Community Strategy (5.1) RSS (QE8)	'Green' the residential environment through the incorporation of landscaping and planting	Include as an environment policy in Core Strategy
PPS1 (17, 18, 20, 27(ix)) PPS7 (1(1)) PPS12 (2.19) S-o-T Community Strategy (5.6) Staffs BAP RSS (QE1)	Conserve and enhance the natural beauty and amenity of land	Include as a Landscape/Nature policy in Core Strategy
PPS1 (17, 20, 27(ix)) PPS12 (2.19) PPG15 (2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.9, 2.24, 2.26) S-o-T Community Strategy (6.4d) RSS (QE5) The Historic Environment: A Force for Our Future (4.6)	Preserve and enhance the historic environment	Include as a Historic Environment policy in Core Strategy
PPS1 (20, 27(viii) PPS23 (21) S-o-T Community Strategy (4.4f, 4.4g)	Include policies for development on, and remediation of, existing contaminated and derelict land	Include as an infrastructure policy in Core Strategy
PPS23 (Appendix A) PPG24 (3) S-o-T Community Strategy (5.5, 5.7	Separate potentially polluting and other uses to reduce conflicts	Include as an infrastructure policy in Core Strategy
PPS25 (2) S-o-T Community Strategy (5.6e) River Trent Strategy (p.3)	Reduce risks of flooding to people and the environment; use sustainable drainage systems	Include in main introduction and as an infrastructure policy in Core Strategy

Source of Guidance	Summary of Guidance	How Objectives and Requirements Might be Taken on Board
Social Inclusiveness		
PPS1 (16, 27(iv, v, vi)) PPS7 (1(iii)) S-o-T Community Strategy (6.2) NUL Sustainable Community Strategy (13) S-o-T LTP (a) Staffs LTP (p.11, p.12) RSS (T1, UR3)	Provide a more accessible environment for everyone	Include in all sections of the Core Strategy
PPS1 (16, 23(vii), 27(iv)) PPS3 (20-25, 32 – 39) RSS (CF1) NUL Sustainable Community Strategy (10, 13) RSS (CF1)	Provide a sufficient amount and range of housing to meet the needs of the community in the right place at the right time	Include in main objectives and as a housing policy in Core Strategy
PPS1 (14, 16, 26(i), 27(ii, iii)) PPS3 (20-30) S-o-T Community Strategy (6.1) WM Housing Strategy (p.11) Sustainable Communities (3)	Create a balanced and mixed community	Include in main objectives and as a housing policy in Core Strategy
PPS1 (14, 16, 23(vii), 27(iii)) PPS3 (27 – 30) NUL Sustainable Community Strategy (10, 13) RSS (CF1, CF5) WM Housing Strategy (p.12)	Deliver affordable housing in the urban area	Include as a housing policy in Core Strategy
PPS1 (14, 16, 24, 27(i, ii, v) PPS6 (1.4, 1.5)	Encourage local needs shopping provision and the sustenance of neighbourhood shops	Include as a Shopping/retail policy in Core Strategy
PPS1 (27(v, vii)) PPG13 (79) S-o-T Community Strategy (4.4, 5.3) S-o-T LTP (b) Staffs LTP (p.11)	Provide facilities for public transport, pedestrians and cyclists	Include as a transport policy in Core Strategy

Source of Guidance	Summary of Guidance	How Objectives and Requirements Might be Taken on Board
RSS (T3, T5) State of the Environment (p.6)		
PPS1 (16, 18, 20, 23(iii), 27(iv, v) PPG17 (4, 6) S-o-T Community Strategy (5.2) RSS (QE4)	Ensure local networks of high quality and well-managed and maintained open spaces, sports and recreational facilities; set local open space and recreational standards that reflect the needs of the community	Include as a tourism, leisure and recreation policy in Core Strategy
Source of Guidance	**Summary of Guidance**	**How Objectives and Requirements Might be Taken on Board**
Economic Prosperity		
PPS1 (23, 27(i, iv)) PPG4 (6, 10, 11) PPS7 (1(ii)) PPS12 (2.1, 2.17) S-o-T Community Strategy (4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4) S-o-T LTP (e) Staffs LTP (p.12) RSS (PA1, PA2, PA4, PA5, PA6, PA7, PA8, PA9) WM Housing Strategy (p.11) Delivering Advantage (p.9, 3.4)	Encourage economic development and provide for locational requirements of businesses	Include in main introduction and as an employment policy in Core Strategy
PPS1 (27(i, vi)) PPS6 (1.3) S-o-T Community Strategy RSS (PA11)	Sustain and enhance vitality of town centres	Include as a shopping/retail policy in Core Strategy
PPG4 (8)	Provide for potentially polluting industry	Include as an employment policy in Core Strategy
PPG4 (19) RSS (CF4)	Re-use buildings, especially upper tier floors in retail areas	Include as a shopping/retail policy in Core Strategy
PPS6 (1.6, 2.9)	Indicate hierarchy of retail centres	Include as a shopping/retail policy in Core Strategy
PPS6 (1.3, 1.4, 2.8) RSS (UR2)	Encourage diversification of uses in town centres	Include as a shopping/retail policy in Core Strategy
PPS6 (1.4, 1.8, 2.16, 2.23-2.25)	Make proper provision for leisure uses and the	Include as a shopping/retail policy in Core

West Midlands Visitor Economic Strategy (p.7,9,10)	evening economy	Strategy
PPG21 (4.14) S-o-T Community Strategy (6.4) RSS (PA10) Creating Advantage (p.8)	Consider opportunities to utilise tourism as an element of urban regeneration	Include as a shopping/retail policy in Core Strategy

APPENDIX C: BASELINE DATA AND SOURCE

Possible Indicator	Source	Newcastle baseline 06/7	Stoke on Trent baseline 06/7
Number of non local authority owned vacant dwellings returned to occupation or demolished as a direct result of action by the local authority	Stoke and NBC BVPI 2006/7	27	173
Percentage of new homes built in the year which are affordable housing	AMR 2006/7	0%	0%
Percentage of new homes permitted on previously developed land	AMR 2006/7	66.5%	99.6%
Average house prices	Land Registry	£142,560 – Jan – Mar 2007	£87993
Number of households accepted as statutorily homeless within the last two years	BVPI 2006/7	1%	0.85%
Pattern of deprivation	Indices of Deprivation 2004	14.5 % pf pop live in 20% most deprived SOAs nationally. Part of Lower Milehouse Estate falls within 3% most deprived SOAs nationally	30% of pop live in 10% most deprived SOA'a nationally 16th most deprived authority in England
Percentage of new residential development within 30 minutes by public transport of GP, hospital, primary and secondary schools, employment and major health centre	AMR 2006/7	Hospitals – 86%, town centre – 93%, GP – 99%, High School – 96%, Primary School – 99%, Employment sites - 98%	100%
Participation rates in sport	???	Can only find national data	No data

Loss of Community Facilities	AMR 2006/7	3 facilities – 1 doctors surgery 1 Adult Education Centre 1 nursery school	No Data
Percentage of population with good health	ONS 2001	Good – 66%, Fairly good 23%, Not good – 11%	Good – 63%, Fairly good – 24%, Not good – 13%
Mortality rate	Compendium of Clinical Health Indicators	627.3/100,000	Mortality rates from cardiovascular disease (under 75 years old) 141/100,000
The number of playgrounds and play areas per 1,000 children aged under 12, provided by the Council	NBC LPI 2006/7 North Staffordshire Green Space Audit/Strategy 2007	2.86	2,16 playgrounds
The percentage of authority buildings open to the public in which all public areas are suitable for and accessible to disabled people	BVPI 2006/7	48.39%	63.58%
Average weekly earnings by residence	Nomis 2006	£457.10	£382.10
Average weekly earnings by workplace	Nomis 2006	£400.70	£394.30
Jobs density (ration of total jobs to working age population)	Nomis 2006	0.66	0.78
Economic activity	Nomis 2006	72.4%	74.2%
Number of Jobseeker Allowance claimants in the Borough and City	Nomis 2006	1.9%	3.4%
Sq m of Class B development completed in year	AMR 2006/7	16121m²	33000 sq m
Percentage of Class B development completed that has taken place on brownfield sites	AMR 2006/7	72.8%	100%
Percentage of Class B development which has taken place within the North Staffs Regen Zone	AMR 2006/7	35%	100%
Quantity of national and regional quality employment land	AMR 2006/7	18 hectares	40 hectares

Number of VAT registrations (includes rural areas)	Nomis 2006	2006 Registrations – 265 De - registrations - 230 Total stock – 2930	2006 Registrations – 500 De-registrations – 500 Total stock – 5,040
5 or more GCSE passes at grade A-C	SCC and DfES	49%	53.9%
Journey to work - modal split (% of car, bus, rail, and other means of travel)	LTP 2006	Car 65%, Motorcycle 1%, Cycling 2%, Walking 13%, Taxi 1%, Work at home 9%, Train 1%, Bus 8%	
Cycle trips (annualised index)	LTP 2006	2004/5 – 94.6	
Total journeys by bus	LTP 2006	16,623,000 for 2004/5	
Access to major shopping centre by bus	LTP 2006	Within 15 minutes – 28.9% Within 30 minutes – 82.4%	
Patterns and levels of congestion on primary highway and public transport network	LTP 2006	Average delay per vehicle mile - 44.2 (secs/vm)	
Proportion of workforce covered by travel plans	LTP 2006	2004/5 – 12.8%	
Number of days per year that air quality is below national standards	LTP 2006	See LTP indicator – M18 (LTP8)	
Domestic burglaries per 1000 households	BVPI 2006/7	8.17	17.04
Violent crimes per 1000 population	BVPI 2006/7	25.58	37.70
Vehicle crimes per 1000 population	BVPI 2006/7	9.57	16.65
The level of fear of crime in older people	LPI - Crime Audit 2007	31.3%	No comparable data. 1st Citizen's Panel – 20% of people very worried; 47% fairly worried; 30% not worried; 3% not at all worried.

Percentage retail / commercial floor space by type	North Staffs Retail and Leisure Study 2005	Within Newcastle TC- 19.86% convenience: comparison 51.86%; 18% services; 7.92% vacant.	Within Stoke-on-Trent City Centre (Hanley) 4.68%: 50.81% comparison; 24.86% services; 18.02% vacant.
Population living in urban/rural centres	ONS 2001	Newcastle – 74,000, Kidsgrove - 22,000, Rural – 26,000	No current data.
Rank of centre	Source (Experian?)	237th	50th
Number of vacant shop units	AMR 2006/7	23 in Newcastle 15 in all other centres	No Data
Percentage of primary shopping frontage within town/city centre in A1 uses	AMR 2006/7	66.3%	No Data
The area of Council owned parks and green spaces formally managed for bio-diversity	NBC LPI 2006/7	680 hectares	322 hectares
Number and size of local wildlife sites e.g. LNRs, SBIs	NBC Local Plan A	57 SBIs Total area - ?	22 Natural Heritage Sites. Total area – 486 hectares.
Increase in woodland	Staffordshire Ecological Record NBC LAA Targets 07/08	Not known	No Data
Endangered species e.g. water voles	Staffordshire Ecological Record NBC LAA Targets 07/08 (Habitats)	Not Known	No Data
Number of buildings at risk	NBC & SCC Buildings at Risk Register	At present there is no buildings at risk register for NBC	40 buildings at risk on local register and 9 on English Heritage's national register.
Percentage of new homes built on previously developed land	AMR 2006/7	66.5%	100%
Amount and type of development in the Greenbelt	AMR 2006/7	3 permissions - 1 replacement dwelling 1 new dwelling 1 commercial unit	0 in 2006/7

Amount of waste collected per head of population	BVPI 2006/7	414.7kg	505.4
Percentage of household waste recycled	BVPI 2006/7	13.5%	14.79%
Percentage of energy created from renewable resources	Regional Energy Strategy/AMR 2006/7	0% created from major renewable resources – does not account for decentralised microgeneration – monitoring system is being developed	0% created from major renewable resources – does not account for decentralised microgeneration – monitoring system is being developed
Percentage of commercial development taking place on brownfield land	AMR 2006/7	72.8%	100%
Percentage of rivers/canals classed as good/fair quality	Environment Agency	Can only find regional data	Can only find regional data
Water consumption/ abstracted	Environment Agency	Can only find regional data	Can only find regional data
Development incorporating SUDS	Proposed indicator for 2007/8 AMR	No data at present	No data
Number of planning applications approved against EA advice on flood risk grounds	AMR 2006/7	0	2
Number of listed buildings	NBC/SOT AMR 2006/7	365	194
Number and area of parks and gardens	NBC/SOT AMR 2006/7	738ha of Council owned open space	87 parks and gardens (total of 678 hectares)
Number and area of conservation areas	NBC/SOT AMR 2006/7	18 conservation areas (not sure about area)	23 conservation areas (206 hectares)
Archaeological features and remains	NULBC Local Plan Appendix / SCC Sites and Monuments Recorde	13	749
SSSI land of an 'unfavourable' condition	English Nature	62ha is in favourable condition out of a total of 82ha (75%)	
Number, area and quality of LNRs	AMR 2006/7	2 Local Nature Reserves – check Staffs ecplogical record for area/condition	7
BAP habitats and species	Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan	See SBAP Audit datasets	See SBAP Audit datasets

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APPENDIX D: SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES AND INDICATORS

Key Sustainability Issues	Sustainability Objectives	Possible Indicators
1 - A significant part of the City, particularly within the Inner Urban Core, and some urban neighbourhoods in Newcastle have suffered from severe housing market failure, low demand, an imbalance of housing types and tenures, and in some neighbourhoods, high levels of vacant stock.	To help to meet the housing needs of the whole community	Number of non local authority owned vacant dwellings returned to occupation or demolished as a direct result of action by the local authority Percentage of new homes built in the year which are affordable housing Average house prices Annual housing completions
2 - There has been a decline in employment concentrated in traditional manufacturing industries. 3 - Investment in north Staffordshire has generally required a low-skilled and low paid workforce, which has resulted in little disposable income for re-investment in the local area	To provide the best possible environment to encourage and increase economic enterprise and employment	Sq m of Class B development completed in year Percentage of Class B development which has taken place within the North Staffs Regen Zone Quantity of national and regional quality employment land Number of VAT registrations (includes rural areas) Average weekly earnings by residence Average weekly earnings by workplace Jobs density (ration of total jobs to working age population)

Key Sustainability Issues	Possible Objectives	Possible Indicator
4 - 20 out of 33 urban wards are in the 20% most deprived wards in England. 9 wards in the whole of Stoke and Newcastle are in the least deprived 50% of wards in England.	To provide a more equitable society where the provision of the widest possible range of community, cultural, educational, health, recreational and leisure facilities are available to all sectors of the population with particular emphasis on deprived neighbourhoods	Average weekly earnings by residence

Average weekly earnings by workplace

Economic activity

Number of Jobseeker Allowance claimants in the Borough and City

The percentage of authority buildings open to the public in which all public areas are suitable for and accessible to disabled people

The number of playgrounds and play areas per 1,000 children aged under 12, provided by the Council

Participation rates in sport

Percentage of population with good health

Mortality rate

5 or more GCSE passes at grade A-C

Index of multiple deprivation

Loss of community facilities |

Key Sustainability Issues	Possible Objectives	Possible Indicator
5 - The Borough and City Councils need to contribute to a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions (the major contributor to climatic conditions) if the frequency of unexpected climatic events is to be minimised. This can be done by encouraging the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency in existing and new commercial and residential developments.	To reduce the need to travel while increasing accessibility for all	Journey to work - modal split (% of car, bus, rail, and other means of travel)

Access to major shopping centre by bus |
| | To encourage the use of public transport, cycling and walking | Journey to work - modal split (% of car, bus, rail, and other means of travel

Proportion of workforce covered by travel plans

Cycle trips (annualised index)

Total journeys by bus |
| | To increase the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency in existing and new development and re-development | Percentage of energy created from renewable resources |
| 6 - The M6 motorway and other major trunk roads impact upon Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle Borough, both in terms of noise and air pollution | To help to provide a safe, efficient highway network and improve the viability of public transport | Patterns and levels of congestion on primary highway and public transport network

Journey to work - modal split (% of car, bus, rail, and other means of travel) |
| 7 - Crime rates in North Staffordshire have risen a little over the last few years, but fear of crime has increased far more. | Reduce crime and the fear of crime | Domestic burglaries per 1000 households

Violent crimes per 1000 population

Vehicle crimes per 1000 population

The level of fear of crime in older people |

Key Sustainability Issues	Possible Objectives	Possible Indicator
8 - North Staffordshire contains a hierarchy of centres from the City Centre in Hanley to the smaller villages of Newcastle. Each is unique and should be developed to maximise its individual potential.	To enable access to the widest range possible of shopping and commercial services for the resident population	Percentage retail / commercial floor space by type Percentage of primary shopping frontage within town/city centre in A1 uses
	To protect and enhance the vitality and viability of the city, town and district centres within the conurbation and village centres in the rural area	Population living in urban/rural centres Rank of centre Number of vacant shop units Access to major shopping centre by bus Plus - additional data on vitality/viability of centres in North Staffs Retail Study
9 - To protect, and where possible enhance, the biodiversity of the Borough	Retain and enhance the species and habitats targeted for improvement in the Local Biodiversity Action Plan	BAP habitats and species Increase in woodland Endangered species e.g. water voles
	Reduce the amount of land in SSSIs classified in an 'unfavourable' condition. At present only 9 out of 16 SSSIs are considered to be in a favourable condition.	SSSI land of an 'unfavourable' condition
	Ensure that there is no loss in the extent and quality of SBIs, LNRs and RIGs	Number, area and quality of LNRs Number, area and quality of local SBis and RIGs
	Increase the amount of accessible natural green space	The area of Council owned parks and green spaces formally managed for bio-diversity Number and area of parks and gardens

Key Sustainability Issues	Possible Objectives	Possible Indicator
10 - North Staffordshire can be identified through its sprawling industrial towns of the Potteries, boasting brick and sandstone older buildings with tile and slate roofs. It also has a unified rural landscape, dominated by farming, with strong field patterns, merging with more mixed and arable farming. This landscape should be protected.	To help maintain distinctiveness and foster interest in and concern for the heritage of the area	Number of listed buildings Number and area of parks and gardens Number and area of conservation areas Archaeological features and remains Number of buildings at risk
11 – Land, water and soil are environmentally sensitive resources and should be protected and enhanced.	To reduce contamination, regenerate degraded environments, maintain soil resources and air quality and minimise development on greenfield sites	Amount and type of development in the Greenbelt Percentage of new homes permitted on previously developed land Percentage of Class B development completed that has taken place on brownfield sites Amount of waste collected per head of population Percentage of household waste recycled Number of planning applications approved against EA advice
	To increase the efficient use of water resources	Water consumption/ abstracted Quantity of new development incorporating SUDS
	To improve water quality and meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive	Percentage of rivers/canals classed as good/fair quality

	To reduce the amount of development within the floodplain and promote the use of sustainable drainage systems	Number of planning applications approved against EA advice on flood risk grounds Quantity of new development incorporating SUDS
12-The Borough and City Councils need to contribute to the improvement of air quality	To improve air quality, creating cleaner and healthier air	Number of days per year that air quality is below national standards

APPENDIX E: COMPATIBILITY MATRIX

	SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES*
1.	To help to meet the housing needs of the whole community
2.	To increase life expectancy and improve the health of the population overall
3.	To provide the best possible environment to encourage and increase economic enterprise and employment
4.	To enable access to the widest range possible of shopping and commercial services for the resident population
5.	To protect and enhance the vitality and viability of the city, town and district centres within the conurbation and village centres in the rural area
6.	To provide a more equitable society where the provision of the widest possible range of community, cultural, educational, health, recreational and leisure facilities are available to all sectors of the population with particular emphasis on deprived neighbourhoods
7.	Reduce crime and the fear of crime
8.	To reduce the need to travel while increasing accessibility for all
9.	To encourage the use of public transport, cycling and walking
10.	To increase the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency in existing and new development and redevelopment
11.	To improve air quality, creating cleaner and healthier air
12.	Retain and enhance the species and habitats targeted for improvement in the Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan
13.	Ensure that there is no loss in the extent and quality of SBIs, LNRs and RIGs
14.	Increase the amount of accessible natural green space
15	Reduce the amount of land SSSIs classified in an 'unfavourable' condition
16.	To reduce contamination, regenerate degraded environments, maintain soil resources, air quality and minimise development on greenfield sites
17.	To reduce the amount of development within the floodplain and promote the use of sustainable drainage systems
18.	To increase the efficient use of water resources
19.	To improve water quality and meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive
20.	To help to maintain distinctiveness and foster interest in and concern for the heritage of the area
21	To help to provide a safe, efficient highway network and improve the viability of public transport

Core Strategy objectives	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
To meet the overall development requirements for the sub-region in accordance with the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	-		✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓
To concentrate new development within the North Staffordshire conurbation to promote sustainable patterns of development, reduce the need to travel and promote accessibility by transport modes other than the private car.	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
To focus development in rural areas on brownfield sites within the larger settlements.	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	--	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
To create a more sustainable built environment through the appropriate location, design, materials and control of new development leading to a more prudent use of environmental resources.	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-
To reduce outward migration from the North Staffordshire sub-region and retain and attract new population to the conurbation.	✓	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
To balance the supply and demand for housing by removing surplus properties and providing a better choice of homes in appropriate locations and to ensure that a sufficient number of new houses are affordable.	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	--	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Core Spatial Strategy objectives	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
To ensure that new residential development makes adequate provision for community facilities including health care, education and leisure and that existing facilities are retained and enhanced.	-	✓	-	✓	✓	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
To increase investment in the economy and broaden the employment base of North Staffordshire.	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
To encourage the growth of the higher education sector and training facilities to meet the needs of indigenous and incoming industries.	-	-	✓	-	✓	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
To focus appropriate large-scale office and retail development within the strategic centres of city centre (Hanley) and Newcastle whilst maintaining a role and provision of balanced growth for each of the other 6 centres.	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
To ensure a balanced portfolio of quality and usable employment land is provided and maintained. This should include a regional investment site and a regional logistics site if required.	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
To increase the opportunities for sustainable modes of travel by securing improvements to public transport infrastructure and the provision of facilities to promote walking and cycling.	-	✓	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓

Core Strategy objectives	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
To enhance the North-Staffordshire green belt and open countryside and protect it from inappropriate development.	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-
To protect and enhance the built and natural environment of North-Staffordshire including the landscape, bio-diversity, settlement patterns, historic buildings, and heritage sites (including parks and gardens and battlefields).	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-
To increase the attraction of North Staffordshire as a tourist destination, utilising the unique brand created by its industrial heritage, network of vibrant urban centres and attractive rural hinterland.	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
To promote the use of renewable energy sources.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	--	-
To reduce the risk of flooding, pollution, and energy wastage in all new developments.	-	-	-	-	-	--		-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	--	-
To provide a sustainable framework for the winning and working of minerals in Stoke-on-Trent.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	-
To provide a framework for the consideration of planning applications for the development of waste management facilities or other forms of development with significant waste implications in Stoke-on-Trent.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	-

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    ✓   **Positive compatibility**

    -          **Neutral**

    X   **Possible conflict**

* Note – the sustainability objectives identified in this document take account of representations from the statutory consultees during the consultaion on the original

APPENDIX F - APPRAISAL MATRIX

Option/policy									
		Geographical Area			Timescale			Cumulative	Comments mitigation etc.
SA Objective	Baseline info targets	North Staffs		Cross boundary issues	Short	Medium	Long (beyond 2021)		
		urban	rural						
Example: Objective 11 – to protect & enhance the vitality & viability of the town and village centres									
Commentary to be provided on performance of option or policy against objective									

Moving away significantly	Moving away marginally	Moving towards marginally	Moving towards significantly	Positive impact	Negative impact	No impact	Uncertain?

GLOSSARY

Environmental appraisal: a form of environmental assessment used in the UK (primarily for development plans) since the early 1990s, supported by "Environmental Appraisal of Development Plans: A Good Practice Guide" (DoE, 1993). It is less detailed and more qualitative than most other forms of environmental assessment and as how now been largely superseded by sustainability appraisal.

Sustainability appraisal: a form of assessment used in the UK (primarily for RPGs and development plans) since the late 1990s, supported by the "Good Practice Guide on Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Planning Guidance" (DETR, 2000) and the requirements of PPG12. Less detailed and more qualitative than most forms of environmental assessment; includes consideration of social and economic effects.

Strategic environmental assessment (SEA): generic term used internationally to describe environmental assessment as applied to policies, plans and programmes. In this guidance, "SEA" is used to refer to the type of environmental assessment required under the SEA Directive.

Sustainability Scoping Report Comments Form

Comments can be submitted by post on this form or via email to:

planningpolicy@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk   OR   stoke.ldf@stoke.gov.uk

NAME:……………………………………………………………………………

ADDRESS:

Comments:

Have we identified all the relevant plans and programmes?
(Appendices A&B)

What other information, facts and figures may be suitable for inclusion? (Appendix C)

What are the main sustainability issues facing the conurbation and rural North Staffordshire? (Appendix D)

Are we using appropriate indicators?

Comments required by 13 May 2005

Have the relationships and conflicts between the SA objectives and plan objectives been reasonably identified (Appendix E)

Is the appraisal matrix appropriate? (Appendix F)

Any other Comments

Please return to:

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council Regeneration and Planning Service Civic Offices Merrial Street Newcastle-under-Lyme ST5 2AG	The Core Spatial Strategy and the sustainability appraisal are being prepared jointly by the two Councils. To save duplication of responses, please send all your comments to Newcastle Borough on behalf of the two Councils from where they will be taken forward by the City and the Borough.

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Comments required by 13 May 2005