

**MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN 1996 – 2011  
ADOPTED LOCAL PLAN**

**SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL**



**July 2006**

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## Sustainability Appraisal of Malvern Hills District Local Plan

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Government considers that the planning system and in particular the preparation of development plans can contribute to the objectives of ensuring that development and growth are sustainable. It currently requires all local authorities to carry out a full environmental appraisal of their development plan but encourages such an appraisal to encompass economic and social issues to ensure the plan incorporates the principles of sustainable development.
- 1.2 Sustainability appraisals help to ensure that plans, strategies and proposals take into account the principles of sustainable development. An appraisal should “*identify ... the extent to which the implementation of the plan or strategy would achieve environmental, economic and social objectives by which sustainable development can be defined, in order that the performance of the strategy and policies is improved*”- (Good Practice Guidance on Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Planning Guidance<sup>(1)</sup>).
- 1.3 The Government’s approach to sustainable development was first set out in A Better Quality of Life – A Strategy for Sustainable Development in the UK (1999)<sup>(2)</sup>. The Strategy is based on four broad objectives:
- social progress which recognises the needs of everyone;
  - effective protection of the environment;
  - prudent use of natural resources; and
  - maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.

The document defines sustainable development as “*ensuring a better life for everyone, now and for generations to come.*”

- 1.4 In March 2005, the Government published a new national Strategy for Sustainable Development ‘Securing the Future’. This document sets out criteria which expand on the previous objectives but with greater emphasis on societal impacts.
- 1.5 Planning Policy Guidance Note 12 (PPG12) Development Plans indicates that an appraisal should be integral to the preparation of development plans: “*The appraisal process should be an important element of every stage of the development plan process. The whole process should be iterative, so that the authority finish the process with a clear set of environmental objectives which inform each part of the development plan*” (PPG12, para 4.18)<sup>(3)</sup>. The outputs from an appraisal are then used in the future revision of policies and proposals, which are then subject to further appraisal, leading to a continued improvement in sustainability performance.
- 1.6 Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks reiterates the importance of sustainability appraisal in Plan making and future proposals will require local authorities to undertake sustainability appraisal and strategic environmental assessments (requirements of the European Union Directive). These processes will test the “*soundness of local development documents by ensuring that they reflect sustainable development objectives, as well as being consistent with each other in terms of their objectives and policies*”.<sup>(4)</sup>
- 1.7 The aim of this Sustainability Appraisal is to demonstrate that sustainable development principles capable of being applied through land use policy process, have been integrated into the Local Plan Review. However, given the dates of the publication of the Local Plan, this sustainability appraisal does not incorporate the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment.
- 1.8 The Sustainability Appraisal has been reviewed and updated to reflect the changes incorporated into the Adopted Local Plan as a result of the Local Plan Inspector’s Binding Report. The changes to Local Plan policies and reasoned justifications predominantly relate to clarifications and generally do not change the principle intentions of the Plan strategy or individual policies. The incorporation of Policies DS12A and DS12B into one policy as a result of the Inspector’s Report Decision (May 2006) has resulted in a minor change to the appraisal.

## **2. Methodology**

2.1 The District Council has developed a methodology for a sustainability appraisal through a review of government guidance of environmental and sustainability techniques and 'best practice' adopted by other local authorities. The methodology is broadly based upon the principles set out in *Planning for Sustainable Development: Towards Better Practice*, DETR (1998). This methodology incorporates guidance set out in *Environmental Appraisal of Development Plans: A Good Practice Guide*, DOE (1993). Figure 1 sets out the process for the sustainability appraisal.<sup>(5)</sup>

2.2 The sustainability appraisal consists of two stages:

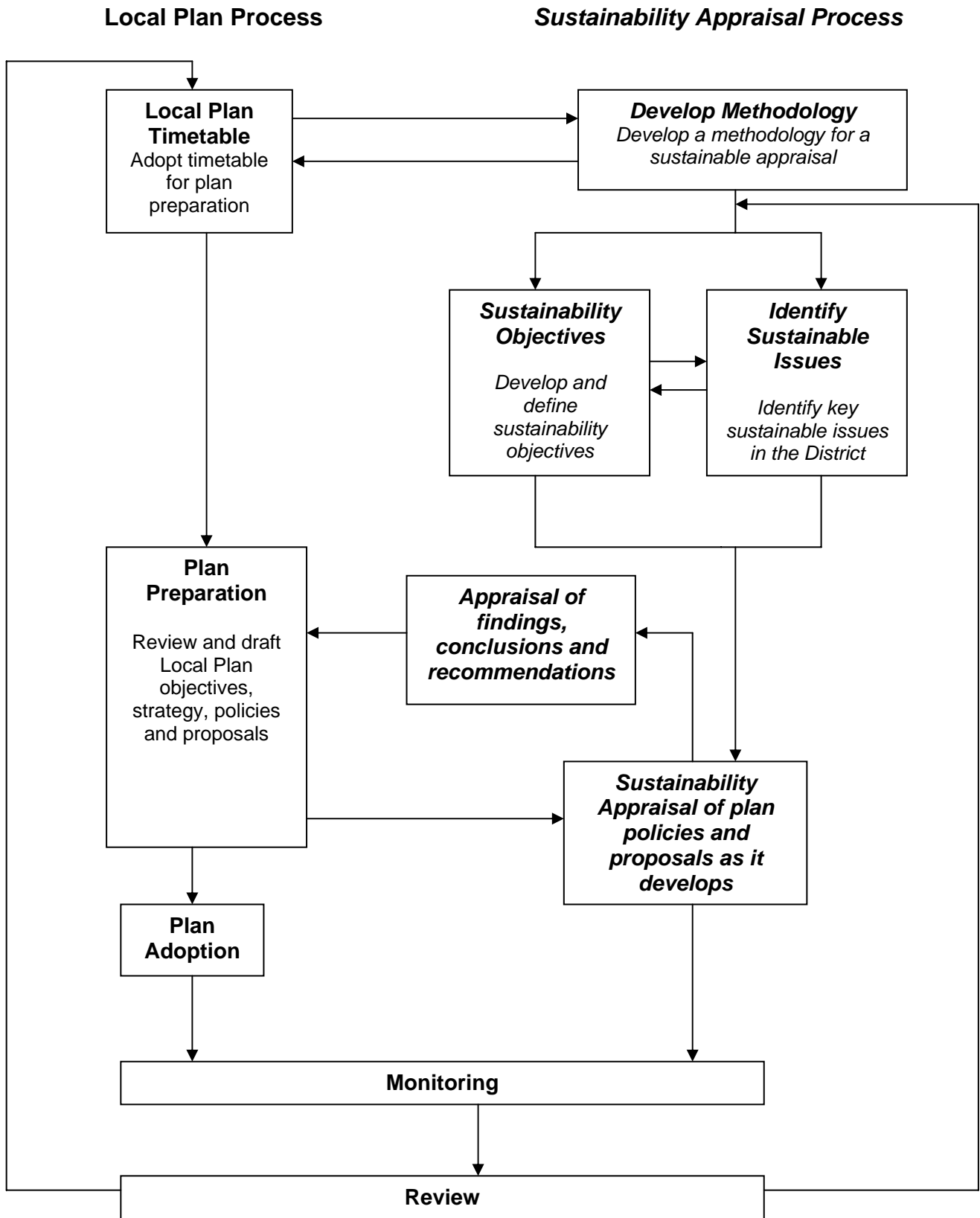
### **Stage One – Compatibility of Objectives**

- a consistency analysis to test whether the Plan's aims are compatible with the Council's Community Strategy, Priority Plans and the Plan's aims itself.

### **Stage Two – Strategy and Policy Appraisal**

- the assessment of individual Local Plan policies against a set of criteria which reflect the full range of issues encompassed within the concept of sustainability.

Figure 1: Process for Sustainability Appraisal



### 3. Stage 1 - Compatibility of Objectives

3.1 The Council's Development Strategy outlines the background against which the Plan and its objectives have been prepared and includes:

- Government guidance in the form of Planning Policy Guidance Notes/Planning Policy Statements and the need to work towards the Government's four objectives for sustainable development (paragraph 1.3. of this document);
- Regional Planning Guidance/Regional Spatial Strategy;
- Worcestershire County Structure Plan <sup>(6)</sup>;
- Local Transport Plan;
- Worcestershire Biodiversity Action Plan; and
- The Council's Community Strategy <sup>(7)</sup>, Priority Plans, Housing Strategy and Economic Development Strategy.

3.2 The Good Practice Guidance on the Environmental Appraisal of Development Plans (DOE 1993) recommends carrying out a consistency analysis of the Plan's objectives. In the light of this guidance, three main areas were identified to test the compatibility of objectives:

- Community Strategy and the Local Plan objectives;
- Priority Plans and Local Plan Objectives; and
- The relationship of Local Plan objectives to each other.

#### Community Strategy

3.3 At the District level, the Community Strategy is the overarching strategy into which all other Plans and Strategies must fit. The starting point for identifying the appropriateness and consistency of objectives was to assess the compatibility of the Local Plan objectives with the Community Strategy. This is outlined at Figure 2.

**Figure 2**

<b>Community Plan Objective</b>	<b>Related Local Plan Objective</b>
An effective transport system that offers choice	13,14,24
A safe community with no crime	22,23
Secure and fulfilling jobs	2,9,11,13
Protection of the environment, countryside and the character of towns and villages, and cleanliness and quietness	2,5,15,16,17,20
Housing to suit everyone's needs	6,7,17
Easy access to good health and support services	2,3,14,21,22
A good range of shops and services	2,3,10,14,21
A sense of belonging to as supportive community	This objective is not directly related to the Plan objectives except through access to services.
The chance to play sport, enjoy culture and relax	20,21
Opportunities for lifelong learning and personal development	This objective is not directly related to the Plan objectives except through access to services.

3.4 It is considered that there is no inconsistency between the objectives of the two Plans. There are however, two objectives of the Community Strategy where the Local Plan can only have a limited impact on their implementation, as they do not relate directly to land use issues:

- a sense of belonging to a supportive community;
- opportunities for lifelong learning and personal development.

- 3.5 The Local Plan can however, support the objectives through the provision of housing, employment and services to help sustain communities and meet the needs of the District. No changes were considered necessary on the basis of this assessment.

### Priority Plans

- 3.6 The Council's Priority Plans outline agreed priorities identified in conjunction with the community to deliver actions and service improvements. A similar exercise was undertaken to ensure consistency with the Local Plan objectives as outlined above. The relationship between the Priority Plans and the Local Plan objectives is set out at Figure 3. Again no changes were considered necessary on the basis of this assessment.

**Figure 3**

<b>Priority Plans 2003-2007</b>		<b>Related Local Plan Objective</b>
Plan 1.1	To protect and enhance the natural and built environment	2,5,15,16,17,18,21
Plan 1.2	To maintain the district as a safe and healthy place to live and work	18,19,21,22,23
Plan 1.3	To support the provision of an adequate supply of affordable housing	6,7
Plan 1.4	To improve economic prosperity	8,9,10,11,12,20
Plan 1.5	To improve local transport	1,3,13,14,24
Plan 2.1	To improve customer satisfaction	Good project management techniques will enable monitoring and review of progress towards adoption against a publicly adopted timetable aimed at improving customer satisfaction and improving performance.  The Council's Statement of Community Involvement will provide a further mechanism for identifying community involvement in Plan preparation.
Plan 2.2	To improve performance	
Plan 3.1	To increase the number of residents who feel informed about and involved in, the working of the Council	
Plan 4.1	To improve the morale and motivation of employees	Internal consultation with employees and Members will assist in achieving corporate objectives and in understanding the impact of the Plan on other service providers.
Plan 4.2	To equip employees with the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes to meet the Council's objectives	
Plan 4.3	To improve communication and consultation with employees	

### Local Plan Objectives

- 3.7 The objectives of the Plan address a combination of environmental, social and economic issues and are all aimed at working towards the Government's sustainable aims (paragraph 1.3.) or actions to improve the quality of the District for the benefit of its residents who live and work in the area.

- 3.8 Assessment of the Local Plan objectives involves examining all the possible combinations of the objectives to identify possible incompatibility. The process helps to highlight possible conflicts before they arise and to account for them in the way policies and proposals are drawn up. None of the objectives are intrinsically inconsistent with any other.
- 3.9 Although there is not always a direct relationship between the objectives, they do not work independently of each other. The promotion of sustainable development, minimising the need to travel and good design are integral to the Plan's objectives in achieving high quality development which meets the needs of the District and in protecting the environment.
- 3.10 A balance needs to be met between the focus of development within defined settlements aimed at sustaining and enhancing the vitality of these areas and the need to address rural regeneration issues. This will require careful consideration of the appropriateness of the proposed development and the need for it in that location.
- 3.11 It is not considered that these potential incompatibilities necessitate any changes to the Plan's objectives providing the sustainability agenda is progressed through the implementation of relevant policies to ensure that potential conflict is reduced or mitigated.
- 3.12 The preparation of development briefs and design guides and the use of planning conditions and obligations can also minimise the impact of development by ensuring that mitigation measures are in place to address any negative impacts arising from development.
- 3.13 The Local Plan objectives are set out at Appendix 1 of the Sustainability Appraisal.

## 4. Stage Two – Strategy and Policy Appraisal

### Identifying Environmental Stock and Sustainability Criteria

- 4.1 Environmental Appraisal of Development Plans – A Good Practice Guide provided the framework for developing the Council’s appraisal. The document recommends characterising the environment through an assessment of environmental stock. This provides a baseline position so that policies and proposals are considered in terms of the changes that they are likely to make.
- 4.2 The use of stock enables:
- the systematic consideration of all environmental factors throughout the Plan;
  - consistency across planning areas and with other environmental information bases held by different organisations;
  - monitoring the Plan’s effectiveness.
- 4.3 In defining the categories of stock for the purposes of this environmental appraisal, consideration has been given to the need to:
- identify all significant aspects of the environment on which land use plans can impact;
  - distinguish clearly between these so that their use will be informative; and
  - keep the number of components in the stock to as few as possible to keep the process manageable.
- 4.4 Appendix 2 of the Sustainability Appraisal sets out the Council’s sustainability criteria based on the Good Practice Guide and criteria to reflect issues particularly pertinent to the Malvern Hills District as referred to in the District Council’s Community Strategy 2003-2006 and the District Council’s Priority Plans 2003-2007.

### Sustainability Appraisal of the Plan’s policies

- 4.5 Appendix 3 of the Sustainability Appraisal forms a sustainability appraisal of the Plan’s policies and includes an evaluation of the ability of the policy to work towards sustainable development. Policies have been scored against the following:

Positive impact	✓
Neutral impact	0
Negative impact	X
Unknown	?

- 4.6 There are limitations to the approach adopted for the policy impact matrix. Firstly the process is subjective and value judgements are made in applying the criteria of the appraisal. The level of impact is commented upon in the analysis column of the matrix table, however, this is again subject to the judgements made in analysing the results of the policy impact matrix.

## 5. Monitoring and Review

- 5.1 The sustainability appraisal aims to identify how far the strategy and policies accords with the objectives of sustainable development. It was applied at the Deposit Draft, Revised Deposit and Adopted Plan stages as policies and proposals evolved or were amended.
- 5.2 The Council’s Annual Monitoring Report will ensure that the policies and proposals continue to be monitored following the Plan’s adoption.

## References

- 1) Proposals for a Good Practice Guide on Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Planning Guidance – DETR, 1999;
- 2) A Better Quality of Life: A Strategy for Sustainable Development for the UK – DETR, April 1999;
- 3) Planning Policy Guidance Note 12 – Development Plans, December 1999;
- 4) Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks – ODPM,2004;
- 5) Environmental Appraisal of Development Plans: A Good Practice Guide – DOE, 1993;
- 6) Shaping the New Worcestershire: Worcestershire County Structure Plan 1996-2011 – Sustainability Appraisal – Worcestershire County Council, May 1999;
- 7) Community Strategy 2003-2006 – Malvern Hills District Council, November 2002;
- 8) Sustainable Settlements: A Guide for Planners, Designers and Developers – University of the West of England/Local Agenda 21/Local Government Management Board;
- 9) Sustainability Appraisal of the Regional Planning Guidance Policies for the West Midlands – October 2001;
- 10) Planning for Sustainable Development: Towards Better Practice, DETR, October 1998.

**APPENDIX 1****Local Plan Objectives****The Development Strategy**

1. Seek to locate development in areas which will minimise the need to travel.
2. Encourage development which will help retain and enhance the identity, character and vitality of settlements.
3. Guide new development to sustainable locations which reflect the role of Malvern as the main focus for future development and the needs of rural areas.
4. Promote the reuse of previously developed land and buildings for development particularly in urban areas.
5. Protect the open countryside from sporadic and inappropriate development.
6. Ensure the supply of suitable land and buildings to meet the District's strategic housing requirement of about 3,900 new dwellings to 2011 through the application of the 'plan, monitor, manage' approach to housing land supply.
7. Meet the housing requirements of the population of the District through the provision of a range of dwelling types, sizes, densities and tenures including general market, affordable and social housing in a way which protects the environment and makes the most effective use of the existing settlement patterns.
8. Ensure that sufficient employment land is identified and available to meet the District's strategic employment requirement of about 55 hectares to 2011.
9. Ensure there is a range of employment sites and premises available across the District to provide a balanced portfolio of employment opportunities and meet the varying requirements of new and existing businesses.

**Economic Prosperity**

10. Sustain and enhance the vitality and viability of the District's town centres of Malvern, Upton upon Severn and Tenbury Wells and to protect shopping facilities located in district and local centres, together with those in rural areas.
11. Encourage greater diversification of the rural economy.
12. Encourage sustainable tourist development which reconciles economic growth with the conservation of the environment.

**Sustainable Transport**

13. Seek a more sustainable and balanced transport system based upon reduced dependence on the private car and increased emphasis on public transport, community transport, cycling and walking.
14. Improve the levels of accessibility within and to the District via sustainable modes of transport.

**Quality Of Life**

15. Enhance biodiversity and protect from damaging development and land use activity, important environmental, landscape, townscape and historic features and characteristics.
16. Ensure the integration of development within the landscape in order to protect and enhance essential landscape characteristics and features.

17. Encourage the design of new development to be of a high quality which respects and enhances local character and distinctiveness.
18. Protect and expand amenity areas and open spaces, and access to them, in both town and country.
19. Minimise the pollution of air, water and land.

**Community Needs**

20. Work towards a better balance between housing, employment, social and community facilities within settlements.
21. Resist the loss of community, social and leisure facilities and of open space unless there are proposals for appropriate alternative provision.
22. Meet the needs of the local community and pay regard to the needs of specialist groups such as the elderly and the disabled, measures for crime prevention and ancillary requirements such as parking provision and open space.
23. Seek to reduce crime, the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour by introducing crime prevention as a material consideration into the land-use and development planning process.
24. Ensure that appropriate community infrastructure is secured with new developments.

## Sustainability Assessment Criteria

Sustainability Criteria	Explanation	Sustainable Indicators
<b>Global Sustainability</b>		
<b>Transport Energy - Trips</b>	Motor transport accounts for one third of the UK's energy consumption and 20-25% of all carbon dioxide emissions. Planning has the potential to reduce transport carbon dioxide emissions through locational policies aimed to reduce trip length and number of trips.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimise the need to travel</li> <li>• Reduce travel distances</li> </ul>
<b>Transport Energy - Modes</b>	Public transport plays an important role in reducing car dependency. In addition the provision of convenient, safe and attractive cycle and pedestrian routes can influence the level of car use for local trips.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximise the convenience of, and access to public transport, including rail</li> <li>• Maximise walking and cycling opportunities</li> </ul>
<b>Built Environment – Energy Efficiency</b>	Buildings are major consumers of energy and account for half of UK carbon dioxide emissions. Planning can encourage more efficient use of energy through the siting of buildings, their layout and density, design and reuse of materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The efficient use of energy through the siting of buildings, their layout, density, design and re-use of materials</li> <li>• Discouraging the wasteful use of resources</li> </ul>
<b>Renewable Energy Potential</b>	Renewable energy sources (wind, tidal, wave, eater, geothermal and biofuel) can be exploited to provide a substitute for fossil fuels avoiding significant carbon dioxide emissions. Planning can encourage exploitation or safeguard potential.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the development of renewable energy</li> </ul>
<b>Rate of CO2 Fixing</b>	Plants play an important role in maintaining steady levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Planning can protect existing tree cover and promote new planting as part of developments to offset carbon dioxide emissions resulting from energy use by transport, industry and housing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain or increase tree cover</li> </ul>
<b>Biodiversity</b>	Encouraging biodiversity in urban and rural areas through protection of habitats and species, including designated wildlife sites, and protection of other natural features of importance to wildlife. Wildlife is important for aesthetic, recreational and sustainability reasons. Form and layout of development, as well as its location can influence biodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection of important sites, habitats and species</li> </ul>
<b>Prudent Use of Natural Resources</b>		
<b>Air Quality</b>	Atmospheric pollutants have negative impacts on the local environment and global sustainability. Vehicular traffic and industry are the main sources of pollution. Locational policies influence level and impact of pollutants arising from industry and traffic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the improvement of air quality</li> <li>• Reduce CO2 emissions</li> <li>• Minimise the need to travel</li> <li>• Reduce travel distances</li> </ul>
<b>Water Conservation</b>	An appropriate level of water supply and quality is important not only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Locate development to minimise risk to water</li> </ul>

	for human consumption and wildlife but also for domestic, industrial and recreational use. Planning impacts on water supply and quality through nature and location of development and the pattern of recreational use.	resources and quality
<b>Land and Soil Quality</b>	It is important to retain good quality agricultural land for food production and to safeguard land against contamination and dereliction. Planning plays a key role in encouraging the re-use of brownfield sites that are often contaminated or derelict.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New development should avoid the use of the best and most versatile agricultural land</li> <li>• New development should maximise the use of brownfield land</li> <li>• Reduce the amount of contaminated land</li> </ul>
<b>Re-Using Previously Developed Land</b>	Re-using previously developed land i.e. brownfield in urban areas is an important planning priority at national, regional and local level. The use of such land minimises the use of greenfield land and assists in reducing the amount of contaminated land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximise use of brownfield land</li> <li>• Minimise use of greenfield land</li> </ul>
<b>Safeguarding Mineral Resources</b>	Husbanding of key mineral resources is a key sustainability goal. Planning has influence directly through development control and indirectly through the amount and nature of development, the encouragement of reuse and the promotion of recycling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimise impact on known deposits of usable and working minerals</li> </ul>
<b>Effective Protection of the Environment</b>		
<b>Landscape and the Countryside</b>	Development may encroach on valued landscapes and open countryside including designated areas of particular landscape importance. The character of the landscape is important to the economic well being of the area particularly tourism and valued by residents requiring protection and enhancement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limit the impact of development on landscape quality</li> <li>• Protect and enhance the diversity and character of local landscapes</li> <li>• Conserve and enhance areas of woodland, AONB, AGLV</li> </ul>
<b>Built Environment – Liveability</b>	The built environment contributes to the environmental quality of an area and can be influenced by urban design. The layout and design of new development should have regard to local distinctiveness and, within the urban areas, the value of greenspaces which contribute to the character and setting of the local area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure high quality design in built development.</li> <li>• Protect and enhance valued urban greenspace</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	Development may enhance or harm protected buildings, conservation areas or sites of archaeological value. It can impact on the history of a place and special significance people attach to it.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimise the potential impact of new development on listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled ancient monuments, other archeologically important sites and historic parks and gardens</li> </ul>
<b>Rivers and Flooding</b>	Climate change has resulted in the greater incidence of flooding and an increase in the extent of the areas at risk of flooding. Locational policies should aim to reduce the risk of flooding by choosing appropriate sites for new development and by promoting sustainable drainage systems as an alternative to mains drainage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Locate development out of flood risk areas</li> <li>• Promote the use of sustainable urban drainage systems</li> </ul>
<b>Public Access To Open Space</b>	Both formal and informal recreational land and open spaces in towns and villages are important for their visual and ecological qualities as well as recreation. Planning can help protect these areas and retain public access to them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure availability and quality of land for informal and formal recreation opportunities</li> <li>• Enable and promote public access to open space</li> <li>• Minimise loss of open space</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect and enhance valued urban greenspace</li> </ul>
<b>Social Progress</b>		
<b>Housing</b>	Provision of adequate level and choice of housing to meet the needs of the resident and migrant population. Mix in size and tenure can be encouraged through the Plan. Planning can help meet housing need through the provision of affordable housing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to a range of housing including affordable housing</li> <li>• Meet the District's market and social housing needs</li> <li>• Mix in housing size and tenure</li> </ul>
<b>Providing for Community Needs and Equal Opportunity</b>	<p>Support the vitality of rural and urban communities by promoting self-sufficiency through the protection of existing and provision of new community facilities, shops, services and employment opportunities. Affordable housing provision plays an important role in allowing local people to live locally. Sympathetic development and good quality design can help promote a sense of pride within communities.</p> <p>Ensuring equality of access to housing, facilities, services and resources for different groups. Developments can put pressure on existing facilities or generate a need for new facilities. Developers may be required to address the implications of their development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preventing the loss of, and encouraging new provision of community facilities, shops, services and employment opportunities</li> <li>• Provide affordable housing which meets local needs</li> <li>• Ensure design in new development has regard to local distinctiveness</li> <li>• Access to community facilities</li> <li>• Optimise use of developer contributions</li> <li>• Public transport provision</li> </ul>
<b>Community Safety</b>	Reducing accidents and crime, improving perception of safety through design of buildings, roads, cycleways, walkways and open spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design out crime in new developments</li> </ul>
<b>Economic Growth</b>		
<b>Providing Employment</b>	Ensuring a diverse range of local employment opportunities through the provision of employment land to help reduce levels of unemployment in urban and rural areas. These opportunities can arise from urban and rural regeneration including rural diversification.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a balanced portfolio of employment sites</li> <li>• Ensuring a diverse range of local employment opportunities through the provision of employment land</li> <li>• Encouraging appropriation rural diversification</li> <li>• Encourage urban and rural regeneration</li> </ul>
<b>Vitality of Centres</b>	Town centres are important focuses for retailing, services, employment and public transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mix and range of uses</li> <li>• Attractiveness</li> <li>• Accessibility</li> </ul>

Sustainability Appraisal of Malvern Hills District Local Plan – Adopted Plan

APPENDIX 3

Policy No:	Global Sustainability						Prudent Use of Natural Resources					Effective Protection of the Environment					Social Progress			Economic Growth		Sustainability Impact and Comment
	Transport Energy - Trips	Transport Energy – Modes	Built Environment – Energy Efficiency	Renewable Energy Potential	Rate of CO2 Fixing	Biodiversity	Air Quality	Water Conservation	Land and Soil Quality	Re-using Previously Developed Land & Buildings	Safeguarding Mineral Resources	Landscape and the Countryside	Built Environment – Liveability	Cultural Heritage	Rivers and Flooding	Public Access to Open Space	Housing	Providing for Community Needs & Equal Opportunity	Community Safety	Providing Employment	Vitality of Centres	

<b>Dev. Strategy DS1</b>	✓	✓	✓	0	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	✓	✓	The sequential approach to development has a positive impact on the protection of land resources. The location of development in areas with access to a range of services minimises the need to travel which further impacts on conserving resources. The specific impact of a particular site will be assessed against other policies of the Plan.
<b>DS2</b>	✓	✓	✓	0	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	The need to work towards sustainable development is integral to the Plan and represents a constant theme running through the Plan's development strategy and its policies. The Policy sets out the general criteria, which should be taken into account to reflect the principles of sustainable development.
<b>DS3</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	0	✓	✓	0	0	Policy DS3 sets out the criteria applicable to all development proposals and ensures that the possible effects of development are understood and adverse impacts are minimised. It should be read in conjunction with relevant Plan policies.
<b>DS4</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	0	The Policy sets out the strategic housing requirement for the District. Sites such as windfalls and replacements will be subject to Policy DS3 and other relevant Plan Policies.

<b>DS5</b>	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	✓	0	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	0	0	✓	✓	✓	0	✓	✓	<p>All allocated sites listed within Policy DS5 are previously developed or vacant derelict sites within the existing urban area and will have a positive impact by protecting the use of greenfield sites both within and beyond the urban area. The location of sites within Malvern offers opportunities to access a wide range of services and a choice of transport modes thus minimising the need to travel by car.</p> <p>The identification of mixed use sites supports regeneration and housing aims.</p> <p>The construction of new development together with associated infrastructure will impact on the use of mineral resources and will have a negative impact.</p>
<b>DS6</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	0	<p>The Plan, Monitor, Manage Approach ensures a continued supply of housing land over the Plan period and provides the opportunity for early release of land to meet specific housing needs such as affordable housing.</p>
<b>DS7</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	0	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<p>The identification of mixed use sites can contribute to the vitality and viability of settlements by providing opportunities to meet housing, employment and community needs in sustainable locations. The identification of brownfield sites will have a positive impact by protecting greenfield sites.</p> <p>Development consumes minerals and is therefore, identified as having a negative impact.</p>

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<b>DS8</b>	0	0	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	The employment land requirement ensures that provision is made for meeting the needs of the District over the life of the Plan. This together with the provision of a range of sites identified in Policy DS9 and other Policies of the plan will assist in meeting economic aims and objectives. The aim of securing development on brownfield sites has been balanced against the supply of existing employment allocations and the contribution they can make in meeting the employment needs of the District.	
<b>DS9</b>	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	✓	0	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	✓	The majority of land is directed towards Malvern in accordance with the County Structure Plan and has positive impacts in working towards the Plan's aim of sustainable development.
<b>DS10</b>	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	✓	This Policy has a positive impact by encouraging the diversification of the region's industries while providing employment opportunities for the benefit of the District.
<b>DS11</b>	✓	✓	✓	0	0	✓	✓	0	✓	0	0	✓	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	The location of development within sustainable locations will have a positive benefit in securing sustainable development aims.

<b>DS12</b>	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	✓	✓	0	0	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	The location of development within defined settlements minimises the need for greenfield sites and can help to sustain rural communities. All settlement categories have been assessed against their accessibility to services, public transport; capacity of existing and potential infrastructure and physical and environmental constraints. Category 3 and 4 settlements have limited services and have the potential to generate more trips by car.
<b>DS13</b>	✓	✓	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	✓	0	0	0	✓	0	✓	0	0	✓	0	✓	0	The Policy will have a positive impact in directing development to sustainable locations where it can assist in meeting local needs for employment. Limiting the scale of development will minimise its impact on the character of the area.
<b>DS14</b>	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	✓	0	0	✓	0	✓	0	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	This Policy assists in protecting the openness of the countryside, landscape quality, nature conservation and wildlife interests. The provision of housing in exceptional circumstances provides opportunities to meet local housing needs and to make the best use of existing buildings and land which have positive impacts. Development isolated from defined settlements may encourage greater trips by car.
<b>DS15</b>	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	✓	0	0	✓	0	✓	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	The Policy seeks to protect the open countryside from unnecessary development and to avoid unsustainable development in keeping with the Plan's aim.
<b>DS16</b>	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	✓	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	✓	0	✓	0	✓	0	0	This Policy will have a positive impact on human safety and the protection of land, water resources and property.
<b>DS17</b>	0	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	✓	0	✓	✓	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	0	0	The Policy will have a positive impact by providing additional protection to vulnerable gaps and will help to protect the character and setting of settlements.

**Sustainability Appraisal of Malvern Hills District Local Plan – Adopted Plan**

**APPENDIX 3**

Policy No:	Global Sustainability						Prudent Use of Natural Resources					Effective Protection of the Environment					Social Progress			Economic Growth		Sustainability Impact and Comment
	Transport Energy - Trips	Transport Energy – Modes	Built Environment – Energy Efficiency	Renewable Energy Potential	Rate of CO2 Fixing	Biodiversity	Air Quality	Water Conservation	Land and Soil Quality	Re-using Previously Developed Land & Buildings	Safeguarding Mineral Resources	Landscape and the Countryside	Built Environment – Liveability	Cultural Heritage	Rivers and Flooding	Public Access to Open Space	Housing	Providing for Community Needs & Equal Opportunity	Community Safety	Providing Employment	Vitality of Centres	
<b>DS18</b>	0	✓	0	0	0	✓	0	✓	✓	0	0	0	✓	0	✓	✓	0	✓	✓	✓	0	This Policy has positive impacts in securing sustainable development which will support the needs of the community.
<b>Employment EP1</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	✓	✓	The Policy safeguards employment land and assists in delivering a balanced portfolio of sites to meet the long-term needs of the District. This has a positive impact on mineral conservation, land and soil quality by retaining sites and limiting the pressure for the release of greenfield land.
<b>EP2</b>	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	✓	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	✓	0	The Policy has a positive impact by retaining sites for employment use. The need to use land resources to allow for expansion is balanced against the need to secure economic prosperity for the District.
<b>EP3</b>	✓	✓	✓	0	0	✓	✓	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	✓	✓	The application of the sequential approach has positive impacts in securing sustainable development.
<b>EP4</b>	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	✓	0	0	✓	✓	✓	0	The Policy has positive impacts in minimising potential conflicts between different land uses through the application of good design. The Policy also seeks to secure sustainable development.
<b>EP5</b>	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	Home working provides a sustainable form of employment through the dual use of existing buildings and potential for reduced work trips.

<b>Agriculture EP6</b>	X	X	✓	0	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	?	0	✓	0	The re-use of buildings forms sustainable development and helps to conserve land and soil quality and minerals. The rural location of schemes may have negative impacts in terms of increased trip length and frequency and the availability of alternative forms of transport to the car.
<b>EP7</b>	X	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	?	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	Farm diversification schemes are supported as a way of contributing to the rural economy where they are environmentally acceptable and do not conflict with countryside protection policies. The impact of the proposal will depend on the business proposed and its scale.  In rural locations, proposals may result in increased trip lengths and frequency. The re-use of existing buildings will minimise impacts by reducing the need for new build.
<b>EP8</b>	X	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	The Policy seeks to balance the operational needs of agriculture and forestry industries against the need to protect the countryside.
<b>Town Centres &amp; Retailing EP9</b>	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	✓	0	✓	0	0	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	✓	0	✓	✓	The application of the sequential test will have a positive impact on environmental, social and economic objectives of the Plan.
<b>EP10</b>	0	0	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	✓	0	✓	✓	The Policy will assist in maintaining the vitality and viability of the town centre.
<b>EP11</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	The controls placed on development are likely to have a positive impact on air quality, the built environment and residential amenity.
<b>EP12</b>	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	✓	0	0	✓	0	0	✓	✓	0	0	✓	✓	0	✓	✓	The Policy has a positive impact by alternative uses in areas where there is good access to services and public transport.
<b>EP13</b>	X	X	X	0	0	0	0	0	✓	?	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	✓	0	Negative impacts may occur through trip generation to rural locations.
<b>Tourism EP14</b>	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	?	?	0	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	✓	0	Focussing development in settlements and through the re-use of existing buildings meets sustainable development aims.

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	Transport Energy - Trips	Transport Energy – Modes	Built Environment – Energy Efficiency	Renewable Energy Potential	Rate of CO2 Fixing	Biodiversity	Air Quality	Water Conservation	Land and Soil Quality	Re-using Previously Developed Land & Buildings	Safeguarding Mineral Resources	Landscape and the Countryside	Built Environment – Liveability	Cultural Heritage	Rivers and Flooding	Public Access to Open Space	Housing	Providing for Community Needs & Equal Opportunity	Community Safety	Providing Employment	Vitality of Centres	
<b>EP15</b>	X	X	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The impact on the locality and the landscape will depend on the scale and location of the proposal.
<b>EP16</b>	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	Opportunities for recreation and tourism activities to benefit both the community and economic activities need to be balanced against the need to protect against environmental damage.
<b>Site Specific policies</b>	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	✓	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	The re-use of previously developed sites within the urban area of Malvern is consistent with the sustainable aims of the Plan.
<b>EP17</b>	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	✓	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<b>EP18</b>	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	✓	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	✓	
<b>EP19</b>	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	✓	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	✓	
<b>EP20</b>	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	✓	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	✓	
<b>EP21</b>	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	This Policy balances the requirement for development to support the TCS against the need to protect the open countryside.
<b>Built Environment</b>	0	✓	✓	✓	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	0	These Policies will have a direct impact upon the appearance of the built environment.
<b>QL1</b>	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	✓	✓	✓	0	✓	0	✓	0	0	0	0	
<b>QL2</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	0	
<b>QL3</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>QL4</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	
<b>QL5</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>QL6</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	?	?	0	0	0	✓	0	✓	?	
<b>QL7</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	These Policies will have a direct impact upon the appearance of the built environment and cultural
<b>QL8</b>	0	0	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>QL9</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

<b>Listed Buildings</b> <b>QL10</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	heritage.
<b>QL11</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>QL12</b>	0	0	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	✓	✓	0	0	0	✓	0	✓	0			
<b>QL13</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
<b>QL13A</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
<b>Monuments /Archaeology</b> <b>QL14</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	✓	✓	0	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
<b>QL15</b>	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	✓	0	✓	0	✓	0	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0		
<b>Natural Environment</b> <b>QL16</b>	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	✓	✓	0	0	✓	0	0	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	This Policy will have significant impacts on biodiversity. Other indirect impacts include landscape character, mineral conservation and CO <sub>2</sub> fixing.	
<b>QL17</b>	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	✓	✓	0	0	✓	0	0	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	The Policies support biodiversity.	
<b>QL18</b>	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
<b>QL19</b>	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	✓	0	0	0	0	✓	?	0	0	✓	0	0	0	0	0		
<b>QL20</b>	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	?	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
<b>QL21</b>	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	The Policies will have positive impacts on landscape quality and on CO <sub>2</sub> fixing.	
<b>QL22</b>	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The Policies will have a positive impact on protecting landscape character.	
<b>QL23</b>	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	✓	0	✓	✓	0	✓	0	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	The Policy will have a positive impact on water quality. It may also have an indirect impact on biodiversity.	
<b>QL24</b>	0	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	✓	0	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
<b>Environmental Protection</b> <b>QL25</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
<b>QL26</b>	0	0	✓	0	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	✓	✓	0	0	✓	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	These Policies will have a positive impact on environmental protection.	
<b>QL27</b>	0	0	✓	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0		
<b>QL28</b>	0	0	✓	0	✓	✓	0	✓	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0		
<b>QL29</b>	0	0	0	0	?	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
<b>QL30</b>	0	0	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The Policy will have a positive impact on resource protection. Some impacts will depend on the location, scale and the nature of the proposal.	
<b>Sustainable Transport</b> <b>ST1</b>	0	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	The Policies are aimed at working towards sustainable transport aims. Opportunities for walking and cycling will have additional health benefits and help to increase access to services.	
<b>ST2</b>	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0		
<b>ST3</b>	0	X	X	0	0	0	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	0		
<b>ST4</b>	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	0		
<b>Community Needs</b> <b>CN1</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	0	0	This Policy will help to meet the housing needs of the district.	

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<b>CN2</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	0	0	This Policy will help to meet the housing needs of the district. Some impacts will be dependent on individual sites.
<b>CN3</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	✓	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	0	0	
<b>CN4</b>	✓	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	✓	0	The need for a rural workers dwelling needs to be balanced against the impact on the open countryside and the aims of sustainable development.
<b>CN5</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	✓	0	
<b>CN6</b>	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	✓	0	✓	✓	This Policy has a positive impact on the prudent use of land resources and ensuring development is sustainable and sensitive to its location.
<b>CN7</b>	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	✓	0	The re-use or extension of existing buildings minimises the need for new building. Some impacts will be dependent on individual proposals.
<b>CN8</b>	✓	0	✓	0	0	0	✓	0	0	✓	0	✓	✓	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	0	0	These Policies will have a positive impact on meeting specific housing needs or improving the quality of life. Secondary impacts will be dependent on individual proposals.
<b>CN9</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	0	
<b>CN10</b>	✓	0	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	✓	✓	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	0	0	
<b>CN11</b>	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	✓	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	✓	0	The provision and protection of open space can enhance the quality of life and landscape character.
<b>Recreation</b>	✓	✓	✓	0	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	0	✓	0	✓	0	0	0	
<b>CN12</b>	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	0	✓	0	✓	0	0	0	
<b>CN13</b>	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	0	✓	0	✓	0	0	0	

<b>CN14</b>	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	✓	0	✓	✓	Focussing development in settlements and through the re-use of existing buildings meets sustainable development aims. The impact on the locality and the landscape will depend on the scale and location of the proposal.
<b>CN15</b>	✓	0	✓	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	✓	The provision of facilities in sustainable locations will help to meet local needs and the needs of those unable to travel to the town centre.
<b>CN16</b>	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	0	✓	0	✓	✓	
<b>CN17</b>	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	✓	0	✓	0	0	0	0	✓	0	✓	✓	The retention of local facilities will have a positive impact by helping to sustain communities and by reducing the need to travel.