

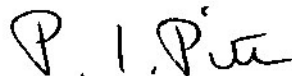
Steve Atkinson MA(Oxon) MBA MloD FRSA
Chief Executive

Date: 30 June 2008

Dear Sir/Madam

I hereby summon you to attend a meeting of the **HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL** in the Council Chamber at these offices on **TUESDAY, 8 JULY 2008 at 6.30 pm.**

Yours faithfully



Pat Pitt (Mrs)
Corporate Governance Officer

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2008. Attached marked 'C15'.
3. To be advised of any additional items of business which the Mayor decides by reason of special circumstances shall be taken as matters of urgency at this meeting.
4. To receive verbally from Members any disclosures which they are required to make in accordance with the Council's code of conduct or in pursuance of Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. This is in addition to the need for such disclosure to be also given when the relevant matter is reached on the Agenda.
5. To receive such communications as the Mayor may decide to lay before the Council.
6. To receive petitions presented in accordance with Council Procedure Rule number 10.11.

7. To deal with questions under Council Procedure Rule number 11.1.
8. Position Statement. The Leader of the Council will give a brief presentation.
9. To receive, for information only, the minutes of the Scrutiny Commission held on 12 June 2008 attached marked C16.
10. To consider the following reports:-
 - (a) Regeneration of the Hinckley Bus Station Site. Attached marked C17 (pages 1-10).
 - (b) Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA). Attached marked C18 (pages 11-13).
 - (c) Play and Open Space Supplementary Planning Document – Adoption. Attached marked C19 (pages 14-18).

To: All Members of the **HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL**
(other recipients for information).

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
24 JUNE 2008 AT 6.30 P.M.

PRESENT: MR. J.G. BANNISTER - MAYOR
MR. K. NICHOLS - DEPUTY MAYOR

Mrs. M. Aldridge, Mr. P.R. Batty, Mr. P.S. Bessant, Mr. D.C. Bill, Mr. C.W. Boothby, Mr. J.C. Bown, Mr. S.L. Bray, Mrs. R. Camamile, Mr. M.B. Cartwright, Mr. D.S. Cope, Mr. W.J. Crooks, Mrs. S. Francks, Mr. D.M. Gould, Mrs. A. Hall, Mr. P.A.S. Hall, Mr. D.W. Inman, Mr. C.G. Joyce, Mr. C. Ladkin, Mr. M.R. Lay, Mr. K.W.P. Lynch, Mr. R. Mayne, Mr. K. Morrell, Mrs. J. Richards, Mr. A.J. Smith, Mr. B.E. Sutton, Mr. R. Ward and Ms. B.M. Witherford.

Officers in attendance: Mr. S.J. Atkinson, Mr. Michael Brymer, Mr. D. Bunker, Miss L. Horton, Mrs. B. Imison, Mr. S. Kohli, Mr. R. Parkinson, Mrs. P.I. Pitt, Mr. T.M. Prowse and Mrs. S. Stacey.

64 **PRAYER**

The Reverend Barbara Beckingham-Shaw, Superintendent of Hinckley Methodist Circuit, offered prayer.

65 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf Mr. J.D. Cort, Dr. J.R. Moore, W.A. Moore, Mr. L.J.P. O'Shea and Mr. D.O. Wright.

66 **MINUTES (C7)**

It was moved by Mr. Lay, seconded by Mrs. Aldridge and

RESOLVED - the minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2008 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

Mr. Ladkin entered the meeting at 6.35pm.

67 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No interests were declared at this stage.

68 **MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Mayor referred to his recent visit to Le Grand Quevilly, stages of the Motor Rally of the Midlands held in Hinckley and to the recent Youth Games and Disability Games, all of which had been very successful.

69 QUESTIONS

The following questions and replies were received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.1.

- (a) Question raised by Mrs. R. Camamile and addressed to Mr. K.W.P. Lynch

"If the increasingly protracted deal for the sale of the council-owned land at Brodick Road is ever completed, how much money will the Housing Revenue Account receive in respect of the former garage site adjacent to Langdale Road?"

Response from Mr. K.W.P. Lynch

"I thank Councillor Camamile for her question and I presume that she is referring to both the underused former garage site and the adjacent open space and play area in Brodick Road, for the sale of which the Council signed an agreement with a local developer for housing prior to the May 2007 election.

The proceeds from the sale of the whole site will contribute to the funding of regeneration and housing projects within the capital programme. The value of the amount relating to the former garage site is estimated at around £100,000".

In response to a supplementary question from Mrs. Camamile Mr. Lynch indicated that he would ask officers to respond to Mrs. Camamile in writing regarding the ransom strip.

- (b) Question raised by Mrs. R. Camamile and addressed to Mr. D.C. Bill

"Would The Leader of the Council agree that without the deal involving the land at Brodick Road this Authority would not be in a position to progress with a number of key projects for the Borough and its residents, including the redevelopment of the play area at Brodick Road and the partnership, which is facilitating its relocation into the town centre, with North Warwickshire and Hinckley College?"

Response from Mr. K.W.P. Lynch

"I would thank Councillor Mrs Camamile for asking this question. It is quite correct that the grant of the option to purchase the land at Brodick Road has provided this Authority with the capacity to progress with the re-location of Hinckley and North Warwickshire College to the former Atkins site and to develop the Goddards building into a Business Enterprise Centre bringing innovation and employment to the Town Centre. Also, it will provide additional funding to significantly improve the recreational facilities at Langdale Park. Having said this, I have made it quite clear at previous meetings that I wish that we had provided this capacity by other ways other than the sale of the recreational land at Brodick Road. However, that is where we are and we now should all be concentrating our efforts in delivering on the

various projects which will bring significant regeneration and related employment benefits to the Borough of Hinckley and Bosworth."

(c) Question raised by Mrs. J. Richards and addressed to Mr. S.L. Bray

"The news of the potential relocation of the Borough's leisure centre seems to have received a mixed reaction from the facility's users and local residents alike. In the Leicester Road area in particular, residents are extremely concerned about increased road traffic movements and the consequent safety implications. What assurances at this stage can the Borough Council give to Leicester Road residents that existing road safety issues will not be exacerbated if the leisure centre is moved to this area?"

Response from Mr. S.L. Bray

"Members can be assured that a thorough Traffic Impact Assessment will be conducted as part of the planning process. This will highlight any issues that may need to be addressed.

If residents feel there are existing road safety issues on Leicester Road, these should be highlighted to their local Ward Councillors who can forward these concerns onto Leicestershire County Council Highways Department."

(d) Question raised by Mr. M.B. Cartwright and addressed to Mr. S.L. Bray

"The closure of Farmfoods leaves yet another boarded-up empty retail unit in Hinckley Town Centre at a time when the overall economic climate is looking unfavourable to say the least.

Therefore, given this very serious situation, I would like ask a question in two parts as follows:

Does the Borough Council have a short to medium term action plan to help breathe some life back into what was once a vibrant market town and what measures are currently being undertaken to address this very worrying situation?

Further to any other initiatives this Authority may or may not be considering to address the decline of retailing in Hinckley and given that the situation is likely to get worse before it gets better, will the Administration agree to a comprehensive review of town centre car parking charges while making a commitment to try to positively stimulate the local retail economy by offering periods of free parking for shoppers?"

Response from Mr. S.L. Bray

"I have every sympathy for any business that is currently suffering in the current economic climate. I am sure fellow councillors will agree that we should continue to take positive steps to ensure the town centre continues to remain a vibrant, competitive centre. Consequently the Council has an active approach to the regeneration of Hinckley

town centre that is evidenced through a number of measures. In particular:-

- A Town Centre Masterplan was published in May 2006 following extensive public consultation which proposed a series of strategic aims designed for example to improve the general vitality and diversity of the town centre, to improve the range of facilities offered, and to develop a much improved public realm. This is to be brought about by the proposed redevelopment of several key sites around the town. Two flagship sites are currently progressing within timescales indicated in project plans, i.e. the Bus Station site and the Atkins site. These sites will improve the range of facilities and retail uses offered within the town (including a cinema and the potential of 3,500 students being relocated into the town centre).
- The Council has bid successfully for funding from the Leicestershire Economic Partnership (jointly with Leicestershire County Council) to implement a £250,000 public realm improvements scheme in Upper Castle Street. This will provide repaving, improvements to shop fronts, heritage lighting and publicity for local shops in this part of the town. Works will start next month.
- Works have recently been completed on repaving and lighting schemes to Eales Yard, Cross Keys Yard, Vernons Yard and Bell Entry off Castle Street to improve pedestrianisation access and street scene.
- A £75,000 investment into market improvements is to be undertaken during August, including new stalls, in preparation of celebrating our 700 year history as a market town.
- A dynamic calendar of events takes place in coordination with the Town Centre Partnership aimed at improving the viability and vitality of Hinckley.
- The Council already offers free car parking in key town centre shoppers car parks after 3pm on Saturdays and concessions at Christmas. Of course this can be kept under review, but Members need to be mindful of the financial implications of any change in its car parking policy and charges. The affect of removing parking charges would be £500,000 per annum. The equivalent to 13% on the Council Tax.

For the first time in four years, the administration has frozen parking charges and removed the charge on Station Road toilets to boost Town Centre visitors.

- A Town Centre Business Improvement District Scheme is being developed for Hinckley Town Centre. The BID that will aim to assist Hinckley in competing with other local town centres. It will be put to a vote later this year.

- The Chairman of the Hinckley Chamber of Trade has recently been quoted as saying “in response to suggestions that we are at present suffering decline in retail trading, the feedback from our Chamber of Trade members would argue against this with many members reporting good trading in the Town”.

Following a supplementary question from Mr. Cartwright Mr. Bray responded that he would arrange for the Director of Community and Planning Services to write to Mr. Cartwright with regard to free car parking provision for limited time spans.

(e) Question raised by Mrs. J. Richards and addressed to Mr. S.L. Bray

"Once the full implications of the plans became apparent, local residents overwhelmingly rejected the flawed plans of this Council's previous Liberal Democrat administration to build a giant superstore on what has become known as the bus station site.

Each of the proposed new developments for the so-called bus station site include an even bigger supermarket than ever previously envisaged so given that the increased traffic generated by such proposals is extremely likely to be unsustainable on the town's road network while the potential impact on retailers in Hinckley's already decimated traditional shopping area may well be catastrophic, is the Council's administration confident that its plans for this development are in the best interests of Hinckley?"

Response from Mr. S.L. Bray

"The proposals for the redevelopment of Hinckley's Bus Station site emerged from the strategies contained in the Renaissance Town Centre Masterplan. This sought to improve the quality and range of facilities on offer to those who visit, work, shop or live in Hinckley. This Plan, published by the previous administration, contained plans for a range of retail units including a supermarket.

To provide further information on the level of future retail capacity that could be assimilated into the town centre, a detailed consultancy study was undertaken in 2007. The study provided evidence that leakage of trade to surrounding centres was of a high level, and that the town needed to grow its retail offer to attract people back into the town centre. Specifically, the lack of larger units contributed to this factor. It was also evidenced in the study that the additional capacity proposed would compliment rather than conflict with the existing retail offers.

With regard to specific weaknesses (revealed through consultation), the absence of a cinema was perceived to be a critical gap in Hinckley's leisure offer. A cinema is a key component of the new Bus Station proposal, the provision of which will be brought about as part of the overall investment into the site redevelopment.

The Bus Station Steering Group has a Senior Officer from Leicestershire County Council Highways Authority working alongside Borough Council Officers to ensure the impacts arising from the regeneration of the Bus Station site are both understood and fully mitigated.

In addition, Officers have been working on a transport impact assessment document designed to provide a programme of transport measures to mitigate the impact of future development proposals located within Hinckley town centre. Effectively, this would ensure that a transparent and equitable contribution is made by developers into a 'contributions pot'. A report on this will be brought to the Planning Committee meeting being held on 1 July 2008.

In conclusion, it is considered that not only are these proposals in the best interests of Hinckley's future vitality as a town centre, but also essential to its continued viability.

All three Group Leaders, along with myself, took part in the interview process to select a new developer and everyone agreed that the plans submitted were imaginative and exciting. I look forward to presenting the finalised developer at July's Council meeting. I hope then that at long last, work will begin on giving Hinckley the vibrant and successful town centre it deserves."

(f) Question raised by Mr. K. Morrell and addressed to Mrs. S. Francks

"On the front page of the Leicester Mercury on 11th June Cllr Sandra Francks staunchly defended the Borough Council's refuse collection arrangements and made it very clear that she believes most residents are "managing admirably" under the system introduced by the Authority's previous Conservative administration.

However, after these same arrangements were introduced in 2004, Mrs Francks took part in a march from Castle Street to the Council Offices apparently to protest against what she at the time described as "fortnightly refuse collection". Furthermore, she promised residents that she would "carry on protesting against" the Borough Council's refuse collection service.

It should also be noted that election leaflets from her party have stated that "the Liberal Democrats are committed to bringing back weekly collections of rubbish".

Would Cllr Francks please attempt to clarify matters in order that local residents can sort the political mischief from anything that might resemble a solid policy position and actually get to know where they stand in respect of this Administration's policy regarding the refuse collection service?"

Response from Mrs. S. Francks

"I would like to thank Councillor Morrell for his question as I welcome any opportunity to clarify my (and the administrations) position on waste collection. I believe that our refuse collectors carry out a magnificent job in what is a challenging role. In fact, they manage to collect 99.975% bins on time every time. This level of service would struggle to be matched by any other type of organisation. Furthermore, I continue to support the council's decision to reduce the amount of waste that is sent to landfill and maximise the amount of waste that is reduced, reused or recycled. As you know this council's ambition is to recycle 50% of its household waste by 2010.

My objection (that you refer to) was in response to the method of implementing a fortnightly refuse collection service rather than the outcome that was trying to be achieved. I believe that in the main the use of a 'carrot' is much preferred to the use of a 'stick'. The reality is that a weekly waste collection service is provided (one week residual waste the other week recyclable waste). However, the administration is also interested (if feasibility and affordable) in enhancing further the methods by which we collect waste i.e. expansion of a food waste collection service following on from current trials."

I hope that this response clarifies matters.

70 POSITION STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

In his presentation the Leader highlighted the very positive report on the Council's performance for 2007/08 and the continued Direction of Travel achieved. The Leader also referred to the current economic climate, with talks being held locally to ascertain the impact of the credit crunch and to the forthcoming Local Government Conference which, it was hoped, would outline national government thinking.

As requested by the Finance and Audit Services Select Committee on 23 June 2008, circulated to Members at the meeting were details of the Housing Revenue Account budgets for the fiscal year 2007/08.

71 REVIEW OF HOUSING REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE CAPITAL AND REVENUE BUDGETS (C8)

In presenting the report of the Strategic Leadership Board (SLB), the Chief Executive gave details of the overspend on the above budgets and the conclusions of the investigations commissioned to identify the cause(s). Despite its seriousness, this issue needed to be put into context, and should not diminish the sound and successful management of the rest of the Council's service areas and the high performance in these areas.

So far as corrective measures were concerned, verification measures had been introduced and would be overseen by the Director of Community and Planning Services. The "open book" arrangements were being carefully scrutinised and if found to be ineffective, previous methods of accounting would be adopted. It was emphasised that this issue did not and would not in

itself affect the levels of housing rents or Council tax. It was anticipated that changes in the budgets would have minimal effect on the service deliveries to tenants. Essential works of a health and safety nature would continue. All actions had been discussed with and were fully supported by the Chair of the Tenants' Advisory Panel and it was intended to provide guidance on the implications to all tenants by numerous means within the next two/three weeks.

At this juncture Mr. C.W. Boothby, as a Council tenant, declared a personal interest in this item.

A lengthy discussion ensued with concerns being raised as to the timescales in the reporting of information to Members. It was agreed that there should be more robust passing of data and compatibility between respective database systems, following which the Chairman of the Scrutiny Commission confirmed that the Commission would be examining this whole issue. The Director of Finance advised of the projected costs (currently £30,000) arising from the engagement of Consultants to assist the Council in investigating the overspend and the Chief Executive advised that this was an investment which would inform the longer term position also.

Members were in full agreement as to the regrettable position in which the Council had found itself. Whilst not minimising the seriousness of this matter, the Authority was "where it was" and the Leader of the Council commended the responsible way in which this issue had been handled by Members and Managers.

On the motion of Mr. Bill seconded by Mr. Lynch it was RESOLVED -

- (i) The management action to reduce the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital budget to 2,022,929 for 2008/09 only and to manage the activity according to the priorities set out in the report of the Strategic Leadership Board be endorsed;
- (ii) The ongoing reconciliation work with Inspace (to be concluded in time for the approval of the final accounts by the external auditors) be supported and the final figure be reported back to Council;
- (iii) The accounts for the HRA programme be presented in the light of the information in the report;
- (iv) The actions outlined in section 4.3 of the report of the SLB to manage the activity and the budget during 2008/09 be supported;
- (v) Accounting procedures for the HRA programme be aligned to those operated effectively elsewhere in the Council by no later than 31 March 2009, pending a review of the use of "open book" arrangements for the longer term;
- (vi) It be noted that this issue will have no additional impact on the levels of housing rents or the Council Tax;
- (vii) Members be advised on the effectiveness of the management actions on a quarterly basis during the remainder of the financial year;

- (viii) The recharge policy outlined in the Tenants Handbook be reaffirmed and the review of this be agreed; and
- (ix) A further report on the longer-term position of the management of the Council's housing stock be presented to a later meeting of the Council, following completion of the review of the HRA Business Plan by Tribal Consultancy.

Messrs. Boothby, Bray and Gould and Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Richards left the meeting at 8.12pm. Messrs. Bray and Gould returned at 8.15pm, at which time Mr. Bessant left. Mr. Bessant, Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Richards returned at 8.17pm.

72 FINAL OUT-TURN 2007/08 (C10)

Together with details of the above, the Director of Finance advised on changes to the housing revenue capital budget for 2008/09.

Mrs. Aldridge left the meeting at 8.20pm.

The Executive Member for Finance indicated that despite restraints, the Council was in a healthy financial position for the next three years with no significant overspend other than on the HRA (Housing Repairs) Capital Programme. Should there be any material change in the out-turn position between approval by the Council of this and the final accounts and completion of the final audit by Price Waterhouse Cooper LLP, such change would be brought back to Members for approval.

Mrs. Aldridge returned at 8.25pm.

It was moved by Mr. Lynch, seconded by Mr. Bill and

RESOLVED - the following be approved

- (i) The General Fund Out-turn for 2007/08 and the transfers to Earmarked Reserves and Balances outlined in paragraphs 3.7 and 3.8 of the report of the Director of Finance;
- (ii) The carry forward to 2008/09 of the specific underspends on the General Fund incurred in 2007/08 as set out in paragraph 3.9 of the report and detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (iii) The recommendation to transfer the year end underspend on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) to the HRA fund balance, as set out in paragraph 3.10 of the report; and
- (iv) The recommendations in respect of the year end Out-turn for the General Fund Capital Programme and the Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme, as set in paragraph 3.1 of the report.

73 DRAFT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2007/08 (C9)

In accordance with the terms of the Account and Audit Regulations that a Statement of Accounts be prepared each year consideration was given to the above. In response to a Member's question regarding payback with interest in the event of any overpayment, the Director of Finance indicated that this would be part of on-going discussions.

Members paid tribute to the officers involved in producing the accounts in a timely fashion, following which it was moved by Mr. Lynch, seconded by Mr. Bill and

RESOLVED - the draft Statement of Accounts for 2007/08 be approved.

74 ANNUAL CORPORATE GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (C11)

This, together with the 2 preceding items on this evening's agenda, had been examined and fully supported by the Finance and Audit Services Select Committee on 23 June 2008. It was emphasised that this Statement was a key measure of the overall effectiveness of the Authority and had been produced following assessment of all service areas.

On the motion of Mr. Lynch, seconded by Mr. Bill it was

RESOLVED - the Annual Corporate Governance Statement be approved.

75 REVISIONS TO CONSTITUTION (C12)

Further to Minute No. 375 of 11 December 2007 Members were reminded that revisions had been made to the Constitution to take account of new roles and responsibilities arising from the recent restructures and legislative changes.

Mr. Bown left the meeting at 8.28pm, returning at 8.30pm.

Clarified to the Council was that, so far as speaking at Planning Committee Meetings was concerned, the Constitution provided that Ward Members could speak for two periods of two minutes each (i.e. a total of four minutes). Members of the public speaking at Planning Committee meetings would now each be allowed a maximum of three minutes in which to address the Committee.

Discussion ensued regarding training for Planning Committee Members and substitutes and Members were unanimous in their view that such training, despite constraints on Members' time, should be mandatory for all.

It was moved by Mr. Bill, seconded by Mr. Bray and

RESOLVED - the updated Constitution, to be effective from 25 June 2008, be approved.

Mr. Lay left the meeting at 8.37pm.

76 LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (LSP) - REVIEW OF YEAR 1 AND OUTCOMES AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2008/09 (C13)

Arising from discussions on this, Members were agreed, in view of the amount of agricultural land within the Borough, on the need to encourage farmers to examine diversification. In response to the Older People's Member Champion request that improved facilities for Older People be provided in the form of a meeting centre, the Leader of the Council replied that such a facility would be beneficial to all organisations within the Borough.

The call was made that the LSP should remain focussed in its key roles and reference was made to the neighbourhood action teams which, Members were informed, were intended to become more accountable through local Members.

On the motion of Mr. Bill, seconded by Mr. Bray it was

RESOLVED -

- (i) The progress of the LSP be noted; and
- (ii) The strategic priorities for 2008/12 be noted and agreed.

77 LEICESTERSHIRE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY (C14)

Members were advised that the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act identified the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) as a means of identifying and sharing local priorities and introduced a duty to prepare a Local Area Agreement (LAA). Further, this legislation made clear that the next LAA should be the delivery plan for the SCS.

Minor textual amendments having been observed by Members on HB 1.7 ("fewer" for "less") and Desford now being in the Market Bosworth Community Forum Area, it was moved by Mr. Bill, seconded by Mr. Bray and

RESOLVED - the Leicestershire Sustainable Community Strategy and the new Local Area Agreement (LAA2) be endorsed.

(The meeting closed at 9pm)

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
SCRUTINY COMMISSION
12 JUNE 2008 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Mr MR Lay - Chairman
Mrs R Camamile - Joint Vice-Chairman
Mr PAS Hall - Joint Vice-Chairman

Mr PR Batty, Mr PS Bessant, Mr DM Gould, Mrs A Hall, Mr CG Joyce, Mr C Ladkin, Mr K Nichols and Mrs Bron Witherford.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.4, Mr WJ Crooks also attended the meeting.

Officers in attendance: Ms K Akoslovski, Mr S Atkinson, Mr C Bellavia, Mr Michael Brymer, Mr B Cullen, Mrs T Darke, Ms E Grant, Miss L Horton, Mr D Moore Miss R Owen and Mr R Palmer.

Also in attendance: Moosa Patel, Leicestershire County & Rutland Primary Care Trust.

36 **APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Messrs DW Inman and K Morrell.

37 **MINUTES (SC1)**

On the motion of Mr Nichols, seconded by Mr Joyce, it was

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 1 May 2008 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

38 **OUT-OF-HOURS HEALTHCARE REVIEW – REVIEW OF WITNESS RE COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES**

Moosa Patel from Leicestershire County & Rutland Primary Care Trust (PCT) attended the meeting to give presentation on the Community Health Services Review which was currently being undertaken by the PCT.

With regard to the feasibility of offering an out-of-hours minor injuries service in Hinckley, it was noted that the only new service planned would be in the borough of Oadby & Wigston. However, Mr Patel suggested that Members should feed this into the consultation process if they felt there was a requirement in the area.

It was explained that when looking at the need for services within a community, data was collected from the local hospitals. Members asked for clarification about whether data was collected from the George Elliott as well as from the Leicester Hospitals.

Members were informed that consultation exercises would be undertaken at the Leisure Centre, but that all information was available and up to date on the PCT website.

39 LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP PROGRESS REPORT AND FORWARD PLAN (SC2)

The Scrutiny Commission was provided with an overview of the progress of the LSP, achievements against the year 1 action plan, future plans and the LSP's strategic priorities for 2008-2012.

Concern was expressed that there was no tangible way of measuring improvement of the Neighbourhood Action Teams and that measurable objectives needed to be set for the future. In response it was noted that the LSP had reviewed their objectives in February. It was suggested that the annual monitoring report be brought back to the Commission as this would indicate progress against the Community Plan.

It was agreed that representatives of the LSP be invited to a future meeting of the Scrutiny Commission to response to Members' concerns. It was requested that questions be submitted before the meeting to allow for a structured debate and for LSP representatives to have adequate preparation.

RESOLVED

- (i) The report be noted;
- (ii) The LSP's strategic priorities for 2008-2012 be endorsed;
- (iii) A representative of the LSP be invited to the next meeting of the Scrutiny Commission.

Mr Ladkin left the meeting at 7.37pm.

40 RURAL AREAS REVIEW ANNUAL REPORT (SC3)

The achievements and outcomes arising from the annual rural areas review were reported to Members.

Members were disappointed that the bid for additional Neighbourhood Wardens had not been successful, as more were needed in the northern parishes. It was explained that this would be discussed again as part of the budget setting process for 2009/10.

It was suggested that communications with rural parishes needed to be improved, and that more work needed to be undertaken with parish councils to encourage use of the parish and community initiative fund.

With regard to affordable housing, concern was expressed that local people were often not aware of the properties available and were not registering for them, and as a result housing was being offered to people with no local connection. In response it was requested that the Housing Allocations team look again at the criteria used when considering local connections in allocating housing.

A progress report was requested in 12 months.

RESOLVED – a further progress report be brought to the Scrutiny Commission in 12 months.

Mr Gould left the meeting at 7.54pm and returned at 7.56pm.

41 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE REVIEW (SC12)

The Scrutiny Commission was informed of the independent review of the Grounds Maintenance Service and was presented with an Action Plan in response to the review. Members noted that keeping the service in-house until 2017 had been agreed last year on the condition that this review be undertaken. It was explained that although there was general satisfaction with the service, the service was underfunded and staff were poorly qualified.

RESOLVED –

- (i) the Grounds Maintenance Review be welcomed and its recommendations be endorsed;
- (ii) the Action Plan in response to the Review be endorsed.

42 PLAY AND OPEN SPACE SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT ADOPTION (SC4)

Members were presented with the Play & Open Space Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and Sustainability Appraisal as part of the Hinckley & Bosworth Local Development Framework. A document was tabled at the meeting which summarised the consultation responses received.

Some Members queried the need for a 2% admin charge for Section 106 Agreements, despite being advised that this was a minimal fee in comparison with some other authorities. It was explained that the County Council had appointed an officer to collect the money from Section 106 Agreements which had made the process easier and facilitated monitoring use of the money. It was felt that the administration charge was taken from money that could be used to the benefit of the community. Some Members felt that the interest from S106 contributions should go to the relevant parish council.

RESOLVED –

- (i) The Scrutiny Commission's concerns with regard to the 2% administration charge be noted;
- (ii) The issue of interest from S106 contributions be investigated.

43 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK 2007/08 – END OF YEAR REPORT (SC5)

Members were presented with the Council's end of year performance position for 2007/08. Members requested that as the quarterly performance information was presented to the Council Services Select Committee, only the annual reports should come before the Scrutiny Commission unless there were any particular areas of concern highlighted by the Select Committee.

RESOLVED –

- (i) Future quarterly reports on performance management be taken only to the Council Services Select Committee, which would raise any issues of concern by exception, with the Scrutiny Commission receiving only the end of year reports;
- (ii) the report be noted.

44 RISK MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK – END OF YEAR REPORT 2007/08 (SC6)

The Scrutiny Commission was informed of progress to manage strategic and operational risks and the development of the Council's risk management arrangements. It was reported that the Finance & Audit Services Select Committee had agreed that the newly added Risk 23 should include mitigation and adaptation and the commentary for this item should include the Climate Change Action Plan.

RESOLVED – the report and recommendations contained therein be endorsed with the amended Risk 23 as outlined above.

45 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2008/09 (SC7)

Members gave consideration to the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for 2008/09. It was reiterated that should the Council Services Select Committee highlight any areas of particular concern in relation to the performance management framework, a report would be presented to the Scrutiny Commission.

RESOLVED – the Work Programme be agreed.

46 FORWARD PLAN OF EXECUTIVE AND COUNCIL DECISIONS (SC8)

Members received the Forward Plan of Executive and Council decisions.

RESOLVED – the Forward Plan be noted.

47 MINUTES OF SELECT COMMITTEES / SCRUTINY PANELS

Minutes of the following meetings were received:

- (i) Finance & Audit Services Select Committee, 21 April 2008 (SC9);
- (ii) Council Services Select Committee, 24 April 2008 (SC10);
- (iii) Finance & Audit Services Select Committee, 19 May 2008 (SC11).

(The meeting closed at 9.10 pm)

COUNCIL - 8 JULY 2008

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE
RE: REGENERATION OF THE HINCKLEY BUS STATION SITE

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To announce the Council's preferred development partner to undertake the regeneration of the Hinckley Bus Station site.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members endorse:-

- a) The proposal to select the Tin Hat Partnership (Wilson Bowden/ Ashcroft Estates) as the Council's preferred development partner in taking forward the regeneration of the Hinckley Bus Station site.
- b) The continued support of an external resource to provide specialist skills in regenerating the site.
- c) The promotion and delivery of high quality "award winning" sustainable mixed use development, based on the concept submitted by the Tin Hat Partnership.

3. **BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT**

3.1 The proposed redevelopment of Hinckley's Bus Station site was identified in the approved Town Centre Masterplan (May 2006) as a key site contributing to the town's regeneration.

3.2 To bring forward the site for redevelopment, a Development Brief was published in November 2007 to invite expressions of interest from suitably qualified development partners. The Council sought, through the brief aspirations, a flagship and comprehensive proposal for the sustainable redevelopment of the Bus Station site.

3.3 The Council outlined in the brief its clear ambitions for the bus station site as follows:-

- Significantly improve the retail shopping offer
- Deliver a new state of the art multi-screen cinema
- Secure a high quality development with landmark buildings
- Achieve a fully sustainable development enhancing the public realm

3.4 To provide specialist skills and to assist in resourcing and evaluating the appointment of a preferred development partner, the Council commissioned the consultancy firm Lambert Smith Hampton (LSH). Representatives from LSH have been working closely with officers both in short-listing the respondent submissions and in undertaking formal interviews with the short-listed parties. LSH are contracted to assist the Council through the process up until the completion of the Conditional Development Agreement (September 2008).

4. **THE DEVELOPMENT BRIEF**

4.1 The brief informed:-

- The Council's objectives for the site (including aspirations, design, statutory planning context and mix of uses).
- An implementation process for the chosen scheme.
- The procedure to be adopted by the Council to evaluate the developer's offers and proposals together with a timetable indicating key processes in advance of selecting a preferred development partner in July 2008.

Objectives

4.2 The approach to the redevelopment of the Bus Station site can be summarised as follows:

- a) To build on the aspirations of the Hinckley Town Centre Masterplan (and the emerging Hinckley Town Centre Area Action Plan) in providing a clear vision for future social, economic and environmental enhancement and development of the town centre through the promotion of a mixed use site.
- b) To provide an opportunity to widen the retail base and leisure offer within the town by providing an opportunity for quality convenience retail development as well as a multi-screen cinema and associated other leisure uses.
- c) To promote sustainable development by increasing accessibility for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport through an improved bus station facility as well as rationalising car parking facilities in Hinckley through the provision of a 560 space consolidated car park.
- d) To promote high quality design that aims to 'place shape' the town centre and address existing issues relating to poor public realm and site connectivity.

Implementation Process

4.3 The Council undertook an OJEU (Official Journal of the European Union) Competitive Dialogue selection process in inviting developers to submit their proposals. The first stage requested initial proposals to be provided together with a completed pre-qualification questionnaire.

4.4 Fifteen developers responded to the expression of interest advertisement and OJEU notice. Five of these respondents were short-listed following a robust evaluation assessment. This assessment focussed on a number of criteria, including their outline proposals, the organisations' experience, financial standing, environmental policies and practices etc.

4.5 The short-listed developers were then asked to prepare final submissions complete with detailed proposals and financial offers by noon on 28 April 2008.

Criteria for Final Submission

4.6 A criteria document to guide final submissions and build on the initial development brief was produced to assist the final submissions.

- 4.7 The criteria for final submissions highlighted the following key requirements to be addressed:-
- Meeting the objectives of the development brief (as indicated above).
 - Providing further consideration of the highway and transportation implications for each proposal, together with mitigating measures.
 - A clear approach to a relocation assistance strategy.
 - Clarification of the 'Leisure Offer' to be incorporated into the site.
 - A strategy to assess car parking provision and phasing throughout the site redevelopment.
 - Proposals to mitigate impacts of adjoining residents.
 - Addressing the implications of the removal of Brunel Road as a through route.
- 4.8 Three compliant final submissions were received by the due date from the following parties:-
- St Modwen
 - Henry Boot
 - Tin Hat (a partnership of Ashfield Estates and Wilson Bowden)
- 4.9 Each party was then invited to attend formal interviews with the Council during May 2008. The criteria for judging short-listed schemes were set out in a document outlining detailed submission requirements.

5. **PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 Following the closing date for submission, the Council provided the opportunity to engage further response from the public and local stakeholders in respect of the final submission. Consequently, a staffed public exhibition took place between 7 – 11 May within the town to seek opinion on the short-listed schemes, together with providing the opportunity of raising any detailed matters that could subsequently be addressed through the interview process with the short-listed parties. A series of staffed exhibitions took place with over 400 people attending. Questionnaires were also produced to gauge public response to the different elements of each scheme. The Council also carried the information on its website throughout the consultation period.
- 5.2 The anonymity of the short-listed parties was protected during the consultation period to ensure that respondents to the public consultation focussed comments on the proposal shown rather than support a particular scheme due to a particular retail operator or developer representation.
- 5.3 In addition to the recent public consultation the Council has continued to meet regularly with local landowners affected through the redevelopment proposals through a series of public meetings. Local residents, including those from Clarendon Road and Rugby Road, have also been informed by letter of the proposals and were invited to a specific residents session during the consultation period.
- 5.4 The consultation exercise raised a series of questions designed to ascertain which elements of each scheme best met public expectation.
- 5.5 Assessment of the public response to the three proposals indicated strong support for the quality of the design and mix of uses incorporated into the Tin Hat Partnership proposal. The public response clearly indicated that the proposal had particular merit in terms of integrating the site layout within the

existing townscape and providing a quality design that sought to complement its surroundings.

6. **THE SHORT-LISTED PROPOSALS**

6.1 As indicated above, three compliant submissions were received. Summaries of the three scheme proposals are highlighted as follows:-

6.2 St. Modwen

The developer proposed a mixed-use scheme incorporating a food store (82,300 sq ft), 15 retail units (totalling 67,526 sq ft), a 5 screen cinema, restaurant units, health and fitness provision, 66 bed hotel and a tiered multi-storey car park capable of accommodating up to 732 spaces.

6.3 Henry Boot

This scheme proposed a mixed use development incorporating a food store (85,789 sq ft), ground level retail floor space of 99,654 sq ft with a mezzanine retail and storage area of 87,633 sq ft, a 6 screen cinema, restaurant units, gymnasium and an underground car park capable of accommodating up to 570 spaces.

6.4 Tin Hat Partnership

The developer proposed a mixed-use scheme incorporating a food store (78,749 sq ft), ground level retail floor space of 75,211 sq ft with a mezzanine retail and storage area of 50,416 sq ft, cinema, restaurants, residential (38 units), a bowling alley and a car park capable of accommodating up to 560 spaces.

6.5 Whilst the above summarises the key proposals contained in each bid submission the proposals were required to be evaluated against a series of factors which the steering group determined as essential to providing a deliverable bid which best met the range of expectations outlined in the Council's brief.

6.6 The evaluation criteria assessed the ability of each scheme in meeting the following requirements;

- a) How the developed proposal performed in terms of the overall design quality (i.e. its integration with the existing town centre, sustainability and value of public realm).
- b) The funding proposals of each bid (i.e. evidence of funding and approach to funding delivery).
- c) The financial offer.
- d) Presentation/submission (i.e. quality, clarity of proposals, compliance with brief).
- e) Delivery and phasing (i.e. evidence of landowner engagement and delivery rationale).

7. **THE FINANCIAL OFFER**

- 7.1 As part of their submission the potential development partners were asked to make a financial offer to the Council in respect of their land holdings that would be included in the redevelopment scheme.
- 7.2 The three short listed developers have put forward very different proposals that are difficult to compare directly but have been considered by the evaluation panel. In order to make their financial offer each developer undertook an investment appraisal and this was evaluated as part of the overall evaluation process. The factors involved in the evaluation included an assessment of the realism of the offer to the Council, realism of the construction costs, realism of any profit shares, degree of financial risk to the Council, the value of the offer, realism of rents, yields and other assumptions.
- 7.3 Much of the Council's land holding in the redevelopment area is currently used for car parking which produces a significant income stream for the Council. The Council would wish to retain or enhance this stream and this would be preferable to a Capital Receipt.

7.4 The Council is also risk adverse in that it did not wish to be faced with additional costs if the schemes did not cover their investments.

7.5 Tin Hat

This offer comprises a ground rent for the car park on an annual basis. The ground rent offered at £155,000 is less than the amounts offered by the other developers in respect of the car park. However this is a fixed payment not related to the income and costs generated by the car park and also is adjusted annually for inflation. The costs and yields used in the investment appraisal seem reasonable. The offer also includes a share of the developers profit if a threshold is reached.

7.6 Conclusion

By accepting the Tin Hat offer the Council will receive £155,000 Ground rent for the Car Park, the Current net income for the parking on the site is £105,000 per annum.

8. **EVALUATION CONCLUSIONS**

- 8.1 Taking into account the details of each submission and how each developer had attempted to meet the objectives of the delivery brief, the assessment evaluation determined that the submission by the Tin Hat Partnership was the scheme best placed to deliver the Council's objectives for the regeneration of the Bus Station site. This submission proved particularly strong in respect of its delivery criteria and design quality.
- 8.2 The latter aspect was clearly recognised in respect of the public consultation support highlighted in Section 5 of this report.
- 8.3 Following the announcement of the preferred development partner, a further report will be prepared to outline key milestone and timelines for taking the project forward.

9. **NEXT STAGES**

- 9.1 Following the selection of a preferred developer, a Conditional Development Agreement is scheduled to be signed as soon as possible.

- 9.2 The Conditional Development Agreement will be the contractual basis for the relationship between the Council and the developer.
- 9.3 The main part of the Conditional Development Agreement shall come into force once certain pre-conditions are met. If after an agreed period these conditions are not met the Council may terminate the agreement. If after a further agreed period the conditions are still not met then either party may terminate the agreement.
- 9.4 The pre-conditions to the Conditional Development Agreement are at present:
- That the developer has agreed a lease with both a food store and leisure providers acceptable to the Council.
 - That the developer has obtained full planning permission for the development.
 - That the developer has either purchased or has a legal agreement to purchase those parts of the site not already owned by the Council.
 - That the developer has made reasonable provision to assist with the relocation any businesses currently occupying the site that requires it.
 - That any necessary road closure agreements are in place.
- 9.5 The other significant terms of the Conditional Development Agreement are:
- When negotiating the purchase of those areas of the site not currently owned by the Council the developer will do so at its own expense and, if necessary, the Council shall support the developer by using its powers of compulsory purchase.
 - Any significant changes to the design and specifications of the development will only be possible if they are agreed by the Council.
 - The developer shall compensate the Council for the loss of use of the land it owns on the site during the construction of the development and in particular shall make a monthly payment to compensate for the loss of income from the car parks on the site.
 - The developer shall ensure that any third party contractors working on the development shall provide the Council with a full warranty in respect of the quality of the works carried out by them.
 - It is the responsibility of the developer to negotiate and agree satisfactory planning permission for the development.
 - There shall be regular meetings between the developer and representatives of the Council to discuss the progress of the development.
 - The developer shall agree to employ the services of the Council's own building control service in respect of obtaining building regulations approval.
 - The developer commits to produce and agree a stakeholder engagement strategy with the Council.

- That the developer commits to use all reasonable endeavours to mitigate the impacts of the development on adjacent residential properties.

10. **KEY MILESTONES**

An indicative programme has been submitted which indicates:-

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| | Summer 2008 ongoing |
| • Liaison with residents and stakeholders | |
| • Negotiations with landowners on relocations, acquisitions and requirements | Summer 2008 ongoing |
| • Conditional Development Agreement | Autumn 2008 |
| • Planning application submission - | Spring 2009 |
| • Site possession | Autumn 2010 |
| • Site work commencement | Early 2011 |
| • Development completion | Autumn 2012 |

11. **SUSTAINABILITY**

11.1 The proposed scheme is to be consistent with the Council's aims and ambitions for proposed transport improvements including an improved bus station facility. The transport infrastructure will provide strong links to the town centre providing alternative modes of transport for the site, and major public realm improvements.

11.2 Furthermore, the development is to meet the sustainability agenda in terms of providing a development that is energy efficient, sources local materials whenever possible and considers reducing carbon emissions aiming towards being carbon neutral, and achieving very good BREEAM standards, possibly achieving excellent.

12. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (DB)**

12.1 These are incorporated within Section 7 of the report (The Financial Offer).

12.2 The cost of ongoing consultant support of this process is not yet known, but it can be financed from two potential sources. The Council has a reserve of £100,000 set up in support of the delivery of the Masterplan and has also secured funding of £218,000 from the LSEP to support the Masterplanning process of town centre regeneration sites.

13. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (AB)**

13.1 Contained within the body of the report.

14. **CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

14.1 This report contributes to the Council's corporate objective to achieve a thriving economy.

15. **RISK IMPLICATIONS**

15.1 It is the Council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks that may prevent delivery of business objectives.

15.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision/project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively. Specific risks associated with the preferred partner are highlighted as follows:-

Tin Hat

| | ISSUE | Risk | Impact | Mitigation Measures |
|---|--|-------------|---------------|--|
| 1 | Financial Delivery | Medium | High | This is an inherent risk. Close scrutiny of proposals. |
| 2 | Methodology and approach to delivery | Low | High | Effective project management. Capacity and resource dedicated to project from all sides. |
| 3 | Risk in delivery of design/Planning | Low | Medium | Engagement at professional and community level. Effective programming (PPA's) |
| 4 | Occupier risk. Will the scheme let | Low | Medium | Design of Units. Market testing and flexibility in design. Development Agreement conditions |
| 5 | Development Agreement. Can it be delivered | Medium | High | Minimised through effective negotiation of agreement. Adequate commitment from Wilson Bowden and Ashcroft. |
| 6 | Transport/highway solutions | High | High | Early consultation with Highway consultants. Effective programming of processes and engagement with the community. |
| 7 | Offsite public realm | Medium | High | Ensure cost plan allowance. Design/planning negotiations. |
| 8 | Public confidence in scheme | Low | High | Effective community engagement at all stages. |
| 9 | Managing land ownerships | High | High | Early engagement with landowners and occupiers. Commitment to consultation. Monitoring and commitment by HBBC to CPO if necessary. |

16. **RURAL IMPLICATIONS**

16.1 The redesigned bus station will provide an improved facility for all residents of the Borough. Similarly the range of facilities and improved retail offer provided by the site redevelopment will be accessible to residents of the Borough.

17. **CONSULTATION**

17.1 As indicated in the report, a public consultation exercise was undertaken on the short-listed proposals from 7 – 11 May.

17.2 In addition, regular meetings with landowners have taken place since the publication of the developer brief last November.

17.3 A separate consultation has also taken place with local residents who received letters about the proposal and were invited to a resident's session that took place during the public consultation period. Regular updates will be provided to inform residents of future progress.

18. **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community Safety Implications
- Environmental Implications
- ICT Implications
- Asset Management Implications
- Human Resources Implications

Background papers: Town Centre Renaissance Plan

Contact Officer: Richard Palmer Strategy and Regeneration Manager extn 5695

Executive Member: Cllr Stuart Bray

(35C8July08)
RP/jw 30.06.08

COUNCIL - 8 JULY 2008

REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE
RE: COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT
- SUBMISSION FOR RECATEGORISATION

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To approve the Council's submission to the Audit Commission for an upward recategorisation within the Comprehensive Performance Assessment categories.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Council:

- (i) supports and approves the submission to the Audit Commission for CPA recategorisation; and
- (ii) delegates authority for any final revisions to the Chief Executive and Leaders of each political group.

3. **BACKGROUND**

3.1 Council has already (26th June 2007 & 22 January 2008) given unanimous support for a submission to the Audit Commission at the February 2008 'window', requesting upward recategorisation of its CPA category. This is fully in line with the strategy decision taken in 2005. The last 'window' under current arrangements is June 2008.

3.2 I have previously given a commitment to the Council that Members would be fully involved in any submission and it is important that Members are engaged in, understand and support the submission (attached to this report). The on-site week of the inspection will be week commencing 15 September 2008.

3.3 The attached submission has been prepared, having considered successful submissions by other district councils and meeting the maximum twenty-page limit. It concentrates on how we have addressed the weaknesses identified in CPA 2004 and the achievements for the community we have secured in the last three years, including our successful partnership working.

4. **CONCLUSION**

Members are asked to consider the submission carefully to ensure that we include references to all the significant improvements and achievements of this Council in the documentation. It should be acknowledged that the Council should be proud of what it has achieved already for the communities and that Members and Officers are committed to further improvement.

5. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The support cost of assisting with the recategorisation process is estimated at £18,750. Budgetary provision has been made for this cost.

6. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (AB)**

There are no legal implications arising directly from the report.

7. **CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

An upward assessment of the Council's categorisation will evidence improvement in all of the Council's Strategic Aims:

Proud of our:

- o Cleaner & greener neighbourhoods
- o Thriving economy
- o Safer and healthier borough
- o Strong and distinctive communities
- o Decent, well managed & affordable housing

8. **CONSULTATION**

The Strategic Leadership Board, Operations Board and other Middle Managers have been invited to comment.

9. **RISK IMPLICATIONS**

It is the Council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion, based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision/project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

The following significant risks associated with this report/decision were identified from this assessment:

| Risk Description | Mitigating Action | Owner |
|---|---|-----------------|
| 1. Reputation of Council to improve if successful in recategorisation | Ensure that required evidence is available in robust form for inspection | Chief Executive |
| 2. Morale of staff /Members will reduce if application unsuccessful | Communicate proposed action to staff/Members to engage support for successful application | Chief Executive |

10. **RURAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Audit Commission review will cover all aspects of the Council's services, including those relating to rural areas.

11. **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

Community Safety implications
Environmental implications
ICT implications
Asset Management implications
Human Resources implications

Background Papers: Report to Council 7th August 2007 - 'Current and Future Planned Inspection Arrangements'; Initial submission report to Council 22 January 2008

Contact Officer: Steve Atkinson, Chief Executive, ext 5606 / Michel Brymer, Head of Business Development & Street Scene Services

Executive Lead: Cllr David Bill

(37C8July08)
SA/js/jw 30.06.08

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

SELF ASSESSMENT

1. Hinckley & Bosworth – The place

- 1.1 Hinckley & Bosworth is a largely rural borough of 297 square kilometres in south-west Leicestershire. The majority of the 103,800 population (mid-2006) live in the main urban areas of Hinckley, Burbage, Barwell and Earl Shilton in the south-west of the Borough. There are also sizeable settlements near the Leicester fringe to the east and in the central and northern parts of the Borough.
- 1.2 Historically, the economy of the area has included a strong element of manufacturing, including family-owned hosiery, textiles and boot and shoe firms. These industries have been in decline, leaving behind a rich urban industrial heritage which complements historic rural settlements such as Market Bosworth. Until the 1980s, coal mining also made a major economic contribution - with pits at Bagworth, Desford, Merrylees and Nailstone employing nearly 3500 in the immediate post-war years. Several of the former pit sites have now been redeveloped with housing and business uses. The economy today retains higher-than-average levels of manufacturing despite the decline of traditional industries. In recent years its central location and good links to the motorway and trunk road network have also encouraged a growth of warehousing and distribution – particularly around the A5 corridor.
- 1.3 Surveys indicate high overall levels of satisfaction with the area as a place to live, and the Borough as a whole has relatively low levels of deprivation: unemployment is 1.6% (Regional average is 4.9% and National average is 5.2%), average life expectancy is 78.1 years for men and 81.5 years for women (compared to averages of 76.6 and 80.9 across England) and the Government's Index of Multiple Deprivation ranks the area as only the 275th most deprived district out of 354. Behind these figures however, lie pockets of much higher deprivation. Lack of skills, low incomes, crime and a poor environment variously affect parts of the urban areas and the former coalfield. In contrast, isolation from local services is an issue in the rural areas - especially parts of the more sparsely populated west of the Borough.
- 1.4 Farming continues to account for the vast majority of land use (79%) and remains one of the main factors shaping the character of the landscape and rural communities – in contrast to its declining role as an employer (1.5% of jobs). Alongside this, high levels of commuting of rural residents to jobs in Leicester, Nuneaton and other surrounding areas is a present day factor shaping the nature of many rural communities. This, and the physical isolation of some rural parts of the Borough, helps to explain its relatively high levels of car ownership and low levels of bus usage compared to other parts of the East Midlands.
- 1.5 Public services are provided by local Government at the County and Borough levels along with 23 Parish and Town Councils serving mainly the rural areas. These local authorities work increasingly closely together and with other service providers including the Primary Care Trust and Police. Co-operation has also developed with the Borough's strong voluntary sector, which involves numerous volunteers as well as providing salaried employment. The sector provides services to vulnerable people as well contributing to environmental improvement and the cultural life of the area. Voluntary organisations and community groups operate a number of sporting and leisure facilities such as Concordia Theatre and Bosworth Water Park, as well as some key visitor attractions such as the Battlefield Line.
- 1.6 In numerical terms, Hinckley & Bosworth's population is less diverse than some neighbouring areas with a small resident Black and Minority Ethnic population of 2.1% (the Regional average is 6.4%

and National average is 9.0%) is fairly dispersed. However a wide range of ethnic backgrounds is represented amongst the Borough's residents and workforce, including a significant number of travellers who live in the Borough for all or part of the year. The largest travellers' settlement – a site known locally as 'Costalot' - is based near Bagworth.

- 1.7 In common with many other areas, older people are making up an increasing proportion of the population. In contrast, numbers of children and young people are predicted to decline. Statistics show a tendency for these different age groups to be concentrated in different geographical areas - creating implications for both the provision of local services and retaining a sense of 'cohesion' within communities.
- 1.8 Whilst the Borough's countryside does not attract tourism on the scale of some areas of the UK (nor is it particularly diverse in wildlife) it nonetheless includes some very attractive and distinctive landscapes with several significant visitor attractions and areas of historic importance, including Twycross Zoo, Mallory Park and Bosworth Battlefield. Day visits currently make up the backbone of the tourism industry. The inclusion of part of the National Forest in the north and east of the Borough has recently expanded recreational and tourism possibilities as well as opportunities for wildlife habitat creation – particularly woodland cover, which is planned to reach 30% across the Forest as a whole. Surveys have confirmed that the countryside is one of the local assets which are most highly valued by the local community and that it is well used for recreation by local people.

2. The Council

2.1 Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council received a "Fair" Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) rating in September 2004, with a score of 36 (the lowest in that category). The assessment identified that on the whole service delivery was good but internal governance and management required improvement. An initial action plan was developed on conclusion of the CPA and this was incorporated into a new Corporate Performance Plan, which identified a set of specific Strategic Aims (the majority of which were internally focussed) to address the areas identified for improvement. Alongside this change a new Chief Executive was appointed, a corporate management restructure followed and was completed in June 2005.

2.2 A number of key changes were introduced including:

- Establishment of a Strategic Leadership Board;
- Introduction of agreed corporate responsibilities into senior officer positions; and
- Delegated responsibility and accountability embedded throughout the organisation.

Political portfolios were aligned to each service area of the Council and effort was put into improving working relationships between members of different political groups and between members and officers. This work was supported by the IDeA and the Leicestershire & Rutland Improvement Partnership (LRIP), which the Council initiated and led in 2005-2007.

2.3 The integration of Council priorities into a single Corporate Plan has been a major catalyst in sharing the understanding of the interrelationships within the Council and cementing a long term vision. The Corporate Planning Framework has developed and aligned key support, strategic and partnership plans and policies. To independently review progress the Council volunteered to be one of the Audit Commission 'Pilot' authorities for the District Council CPA in December 2005. This allowed the Council to 'benchmark' the improvements it had made since the previous CPA in 2004.

The pilot inspection identified a positive direction of travel and recognised the improvements that the Council had put into place that required embedding. Work has continued to improve all aspects of internal governance and management and this is now strong.

2.4 The Borough Council elections in May 2007 changed the political control of the Council from a Conservative to a Liberal Democrat Administration. Scenario planning by senior managers with all groups was undertaken prior to the May 2007 elections to ensure a successful transition, followed by a comprehensive induction process offered to all Members. Both services and performance have improved further since May 2007 by effective working between senior officers and the new administration. A further senior officer restructure took place from November 2007 with a new 'Head of Service' layer forming a Corporate Operations Board. The Corporate Operations Board has taken the responsibility to review 'on-going' and operational matters from the Strategic Leadership Board as well as developing a work programme to address corporate issues. This has facilitated greater accountability and resilience within the organisation and allows the Strategic Leadership Board (Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, Director of Community and Planning and Director of Finance) to focus on strategic and policy development matters.

2.5 The Council meeting in February 2008 made a number of significant decisions for the Authority and the borough including:

- **Affirmation of the Council's vision:**

- 'Hinckley and Bosworth, a borough to be proud of'

- A new **outcome focussed Corporate Plan** based on being proud of our:

- Cleaner & greener neighbourhoods
 - Thriving economy
 - Safer and healthier borough
 - Strong and distinctive communities
 - Decent, well managed & affordable housing

A challenging, but deliverable budget for 2008/09 and Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2008/09 to 2011/12 underpins the delivery of the vision and the Strategic Aims. The Council's priorities and Medium Term Financial Strategy reflect those of its communities.

2.6 A summary of the Council's position is that overall performance continues to improve and internal governance/management has been significantly strengthened. For the year 2005/06 the majority of national indicators had improved; a rate of improvement better than the average of other Councils. Continuous improvement has been sustained through 2006/07 (with the Council's improvement position moving to 14th nationally) and 2007/08 (75% of national performance indicators have improved). Areas of underperformance are addressed by resourced and managed action plans.

2.7 The delivery of the vision is managed through the implementation of the Corporate Planning and Performance Management Framework. The Council recognises that it cannot achieve everything in isolation. It has identified all of the partnerships in which it is involved and reviews the performance of key partnerships quarterly

3. Ambition

Are there clear and challenging ambitions for the area and its communities?

3.1 The Council has a very clear vision statement of its ambitions for and with its community. The vision statement flows from the Community Plan 2007 – 2012, which underpins the Leicestershire Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement (LAA) at a Hinckley and Bosworth – "place" level. Recognising the work already being undertaken by individual agencies and the LAA infrastructure, the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) has identified four key strategic priorities:

- To improve the quality of life in priority areas
- Development of sustainable integrated communities through the growth agenda
- Establish thriving and regenerated town centres in Hinckley & Earl Shilton
- Establish accessible services in Hinckley & Bosworth

The community plan was developed in conjunction with the Local Development Framework for the borough following extensive engagement with local communities, partners and stakeholders. The LSP manages performance and implementation of the Community Plan.

3.2 The Council's ambitions are set out in its Corporate Plan which sets out to achieve the following outcomes, each of which is underpinned by specific targets for 2007-12 and beyond:

To achieve **cleaner & greener neighbourhoods** we will deliver these outcomes:

- A borough which is clean and free of litter, graffiti and fly-tipping
- An attractive, 'green' borough that minimises its impact on the environment

To achieve a **thriving economy** we will deliver the following **outcome**:

- Regenerate the borough and engage local businesses to provide a vibrant economy

To achieve a **safer** and **healthier** borough we will deliver the following **outcomes**:

- Make the borough a safer place through the reduction of crime, the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour
- Improve public health and well being to sustain Hinckley and Bosworth as an area where people live longer than the national average

To achieve **strong** and **distinctive** communities we will deliver the following **outcomes**:

- Enhance local pride and improve residents' satisfaction with Hinckley & Bosworth as a place to live
- Improve the local Authority's reputation by increasing residents' and employees' satisfaction with the Council

To secure **decent**, well managed & **affordable Homes** we will deliver the following **outcomes**:

- Improve the condition of existing homes in the Borough
- Ensure there is sufficient choice in type, tenure and location of affordable homes within the Borough through our enabling and provider role

A number of specific targets are included in the Corporate Plan that detail how achievement of the Strategic Aims and Outcomes will be measured. Each service has a Business Delivery Plan which articulates how the outcomes of the Corporate Plan will be achieved.

- 3.3 Councillors, officers and Staff are clear about their respective roles in achieving the Council's ambitions. The staff survey results (below) identify the high and increasing level of their understanding and how they contribute to them. This combined with the percentage of staff who are proud to work for the Council and are satisfied with their job / the Council demonstrates a high degree of enthusiasm:

| | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 |
|---|-------|-------|-------|
| % of respondents that know what the Council' Strategic Aims and Values are and how their role contributes towards these | 84% | 86.6% | 80% |
| I am satisfied with my job | 87.6% | 80.4% | 79.6% |
| I feel satisfied working for the Council | 91.9% | 85.6% | 74.3% |
| I am proud to work for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council | 90.1% | 70.1% | 63.9% |

The level of member understanding of their role and contribution to the Council aims is set out within the constitution, specific committee terms of reference and individual strategies. All members unanimously agreed the Corporate Plan at Full Council in February 2008 demonstrating their enthusiasm. The level of partner understanding of their role and contribution to these aims is set out within specific partnership terms of reference and a partner survey identified that partners support the aims of the Council.

- 3.4 Local people are clear about what it is that the Council and its partners are trying to achieve following extensive consultation and engagement on the Corporate Plan, Community Plan and Local Development. The Council's Strategic Aims, Outcomes and Targets for the Authority were amended and agreed following a borough-wide consultation in 2007 and 'sign up' by the public and stakeholders.

| DRAFT AIM | RESPONDENTS IN AGREEMENT |
|---|--------------------------|
| Cleaner and greener neighbourhoods | 97% |
| Promoting Hinckley and Bosworth as a distinctive and accessible place | 83% |
| A thriving economy | 90% |
| A safer place | 94% |
| Involve and strengthen community | 92% |
| A healthier place | 93% |
| Securing, decent, well-managed and affordable homes | 86% |

Residents received a copy of the Corporate Plan in the spring 2008 edition of the Borough Bulletin. Stakeholders have also received a copy of the Corporate Plan. This is to ensure that residents and stakeholders are clear how the Council (along with its partners) are trying to achieve local priorities. The Council's ambitions are underpinned by clear support, service and partnership strategies (paragraph 4.5). Extensive consultation has identified and shaped service priorities and these direct the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy. The consultation on the Corporate Plan followed a consistent message from the public on what is and is not a priority service. As a result investment has been made to priority services.

3.5 The Medium Term Financial Strategy resources the Corporate Plan and the longer term sustainable outcomes of the Council. The current capital programme has committed the following amounts to achieve the Council's ambitions:

| | £000 |
|---|--------|
| Cleaner & greener neighbourhoods | 3,342 |
| Thriving economy | 7,576 |
| Safer and healthier borough | 8,442 |
| Strong and distinctive communities | 7,450 |
| Decent, well managed & affordable housing | 13,458 |

In addition to the above provisions made in the capital programme, the delivery of the Town Centre Regeneration Plan, funded by the Council's preferred developer will contribute significantly to achieving a thriving economy. Specific capital projects are planned to address declining satisfaction with leisure and arts through the building of a new Leisure Centre (as part of a sporting hub) and a Creative Enterprise Centre both scheduled for completion in 2011.

3.6 The Council has a communication and community engagement strategy (informed by an independent review of the communications function). The Council's own information and media article are the main ways of informing the public. To improve communicates an additional edition of the borough bulletin is produced each year and the amount of press releases generated (particularly in relation to priority services) has significantly increased. Communication is achieved externally by:

- Borough Bulletin – Distributed quarterly to every household in the borough
- Regular Press releases with a forward plan in place Monthly Media Conferences
- Corporate Plan
- Website
- Community / Parish Forums held every 3 months
- A-Z of services sent as part of the Council tax bill distributed to every household in the borough

Are ambitions based on a shared understanding among the Council and partner organisations of local needs?

3.7 The ambitions contained within the Hinckley & Bosworth Community Plan and the Council's Corporate Plan are based on a detailed analysis of demographic information for the area and extensive public consultation. This has identified community priorities for the Council and a set of 'priority neighbourhoods' within the borough. This information is used in the development of service business delivery plans and by the LSP in developing its four key priorities. Information is gathered and shared with the county-wide Statistical and Research Consultation Group and Information Management Advisory Group.

3.8 In essence community engagement encourages service users to give their views is achieved in four ways:

- i) The primary mechanism used to consult with the public is the Citizens Panel.
- ii) Specific stakeholder events to inform key plans and strategies e.g. Regeneration Strategy, Voluntary Sector Compact
- iii) Supporting the role of local members as community leaders

- iv) Regular engagement forums / surveys with particular groups i.e. the Parish Council Forum, Tenant Advisory Panel, Developer Forum, Registered Social Landlord Forum and Youth Council, service users surveys

This approach helps inform the targets in the Corporate and Performance Management Framework and the means of delivering services for the community. Local Area Agreement information is shared using a common performance management system (TEN). Information is shared with partner organisations such as Leicestershire County Council and Leicestershire Police. In addition, other information sources such as Leicestershire Statistics and Research On-line, Leicestershire County Council Research Team, local information sources and national research, partners' local intelligence and legislative / regulatory requirements are utilised to inform future planning on a wider front.

3.9 To enhance this approach further in readiness for the 2008/09 budget setting process the Council asked the citizens panel to reconfirm top and bottom priority services and to identify any elements of the priority services which should receive more, the same or less funding. The purpose of this 'enhancement' was to 'drill down' below the service level to ensure we deliver citizen centred services. The outcomes of this were incorporated into the service and budget plans for 2008/09. The consultation information is analysed by geographical area, diversity and ethnicity. In addition specific action is focussed on priority neighbourhoods within the borough.

3.10 The Council has a low percentage of its population who are from black and minority ethnic or other minority groups. Positive action has taken place, therefore, to engage with particular groups and include them in mainstream consultation activities, in line with our equalities strategy, primarily by recruitment to the citizens panel. Specific focus groups were operated with 'hard to reach' groups to develop service business delivery plans. As part of the on-going development of community engagement equality and geographical analyses are undertaken to inform service planning and to recognise the range and complexity of service users. Consultation responses are reported through the decision-making process and recommendations allocated to services. This work supports the Council's commitment to the equalities agenda and it has achieved level 2 of the Equalities Standard. The Council is currently on target for declaring level 3 of the Equalities Standards on 5th August 2008. This has been achieved with the assistance of a Corporate Equalities Steering Group, consisting of representatives from frontline services as well as support services and the voluntary sector

3.11 Staff are encouraged to give their views to shape the ambitions of the Council in a variety of ways. These include the annual staff survey, Performance and Development Appraisals, Team briefings and Chief Executive briefing meetings.

Does the Council with its partners provide leadership across the community and ensure effective partnership working?

- 3.12 The Council recognises and takes seriously its role as a community leader with its partners. It carries out this leadership role by
- Working in partnership with Leicestershire County Council to fund a Business Improvement District Bid and (with other District Councils) in delivering Public Service Agreements and Local Area Agreements.
 - Delivering results in partnership with the Local Strategic Partnership such as the Neighbourhood Action Teams for priority neighbourhoods

- Working with the Police through the Community Safety Partnership which has reduced crime by 22% in the last 12 months
- Working with local businesses through the Town Centre Partnership on regeneration

3.13 Difficult decisions have been taken to achieve priorities such as changing to a fortnightly refuse collection service to reduce waste arising and increase recycling. This has increased the borough's recycling rate from 34.5% to 46%. Investing in Grounds Maintenance services as a public priority and restricting service growth in other areas as a consequence. Driving through the regeneration of Hinckley Town Centre to ensure that resident expenditure by local consumers is kept within the borough and local businesses are sustained. The Medium Term Financial Strategy prioritises services for increased/decreased spending to manage competing demands:

| | 2006/07 Gross | 2007/08 Gross | 2008/09 Gross | 2009/10 Gross | 2010/11 Gross | 2011/12 Gross |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Waste Collection | 1,167,810 | 1,210,740 | 1,371,210 | 1,440,000 | 1,512,000 | 1,557,000 |
| Recycling | 1,474,300 | 1,526,160 | 1,784,340 | 1,874,000 | 1,967,000 | 2,026,000 |
| Community Safety | 596,300 | 629,400 | 539,650 | 567,000 | 595,000 | 613,000 |
| Noise, Public Health, Pollution, H&S | 794,280 | 959,110 | 1,000,630 | 1,050,000 | 1,103,000 | 1,136,000 |
| Street Cleansing | 821,060 | 848,690 | 917,420 | 963,000 | 1,011,000 | 1,042,000 |

3.14 The Council has agreed a set of internal values for its own culture that our citizens can expect from us. We will:

- **Learn** from the best to develop our people and provide **excellent services**
- Work with our communities to deliver **value for money** and **customer focussed** services
- Reduce our **impact** on the **environment**
- Be **reliable** when working **with partners**
- Provide **support** to **those** who **need it most**

The values have been communicated to staff, Councillors and partners through the distribution of the Corporate Plan and specific briefings. These values are also articulated through the various leadership styles that are deployed by senior officers and members within the organisation. Evidence of effective management and leadership can be presented by the results from the staff survey:

| | %age Satisfied 2008 | %age Satisfied 2007 | %age Satisfied 2006 |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| I am satisfied with my job | 87.58 | 80.40 | 79.56 |
| I feel satisfied working for the Council | 91.93 | 85.60 | 74.26 |
| I am proud to work for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council | 90.06 | 70.10 | 63.97 |
| I am satisfied with my manager | 83.23 | 77.30 | 73.88 |

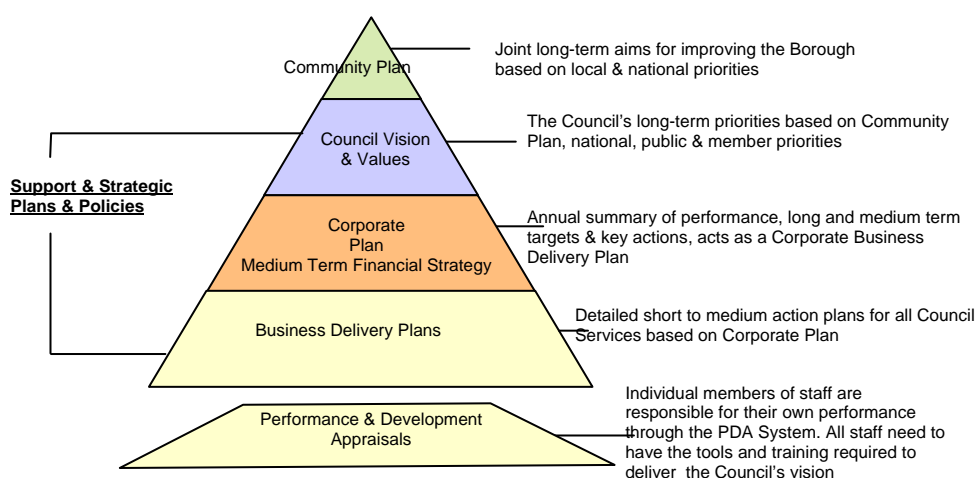
Following a recent partnership survey 83% of Partners agreed that the Council shows clear leadership across the community. A successful example of community leadership was driving a review of the Community Safety Partnership to improve its effectiveness .

3.15 The Council's focus is wider than that of the borough or county and contributes to the wider regional and national agenda. Recent examples of this are the work of the Chief Executive supporting the Home Office in a review of Community Safety Partnerships, regional work on the Sub National Review and sub regionally on Children and Young People and the Voluntary Sector. The Deputy Chief Executive has also undertaken a secondment to Sport England to develop the wider sport and cultural agenda and the Director of Finance leads on Shared Services across the county and into Warwickshire.

4. Prioritisation

Are there clear and robust priorities within the ambitions for the area?

- 4.1 Shared targets and consultation messages have been incorporated within the Corporate Plan, the Local Development Framework and Community Plan reflecting public priorities. The Council is committed to continually improving the quality of customer service that meets the needs and requirements of the user. The Council sets targets in pursuit of continuous improvement.
- 4.2 The Council operates well as one organisation, shared plans and priorities are agreed at the Strategic Leadership Board / Corporate Operations Board following discussion at the Chief Executive's staff briefings and incorporating feedback from corporate groups e.g. Officers Capital Forum. The Council understands community priorities for the borough and undertakes service delivery accordingly. Priorities are delivered through the Council's Corporate Planning & Performance Management Framework:



- 4.3 The Council regularly communicates its vision and strategic aims. The messages are widely understood and incorporated into service and financial planning. The Council is clear about what is and is not a priority and this has been widely publicised. The primary mechanism of communication with the public is through the Council newspaper the "Borough Bulletin". Management of the Council's reputation is seen as the key strategic risk and is the focus of the Corporate Communications Group. Actions to manage this include holding regular press briefings, planning communications in advance and working closely with services.
- 4.4 The importance of the Council's reputation is recognised within the Council's strategic risk register as "failure to focus on priorities and initiatives leads to underperformance and no corporate direction".

Is there a robust strategy to deliver the priorities?

4.5 These include:

| Support Strategy | Service Strategy | Partnership Strategy |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Asset Management & Capital▪ Communication & community engagement▪ Workforce▪ I C T▪ Procurement▪ Risk Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Cultural▪ Customer Services▪ Green Space▪ Hinckley Regeneration Plan▪ Local Development Framework | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Leicestershire Waste Management▪ Community Safety▪ Play Strategy |

And specific roles and responsibilities are identified in robust Business Delivery Plans.

4.6 The Council recognises the importance of, and is committed to partnership working. This is reflected in one of its values to be 'reliable in partnership working'. The Council has to prioritise its involvement in partnerships and take decisions in the best interests of the community. The Council has identified its key partnerships as:

- Hinckley & Bosworth Local Strategic Partnership;
- Leicestershire Together (Management and implementation of the Leicestershire Local Area Agreement);
- Hinckley Town Centre Partnership;
- Hinckley and Bosworth Community Safety Partnership;
- Leicestershire Waste Management Partnership;
- Leicestershire and Rutland Improvement Partnership (An improvement partnership formed to address common issues of concern to authorities after the 2004/05 Comprehensive Performance Assessment – Corporate Assessment inspections); and
- Housing Repairs and Maintenance – Council Properties;

Governance arrangements are in place and are corporately reviewed on a quarterly basis. The Council also has important internal partnerships for Information Communication Technology and Internal Audit.

4.7 There are clear priorities and expectations for partnerships and actions are taken to improve performance when required. A case study of this is:

Case Study

Community Safety Partnership – Separate reviews by the Community Safety Partnership and the Council's Scrutiny Commission have streamlined governance of the partnership and reduced overall crime for the first three months of this year by 22%.

The Scrutiny Commission has agreed to review key partnerships within its work programme and a review of the Local Strategic Partnership has just been completed.

Is robust action taken to deliver the strategy?

4.8 Actions and improvements are implemented through 4 types of action plans, based on SMART principles, within the Corporate Planning Framework. Actions are:

- 1) Identified through the development of the Hinckley & Bosworth Community Plan;
- 2) Specific partnership requirements e.g. Hinckley & Bosworth Community Safety Partnership and Neighbourhood Action Plans for the Local Strategic Partnership;
- 3) Corporate Plan actions; or
- 4) Where a service needs to improve performance.

These actions will appear in service business delivery plans. The annual planning cycle aligns the business planning and financial planning processes together. This is further enhanced by financial implications being incorporated into the Business Delivery Planning. The Corporate Performance Plan and Business Delivery Plans are finalised and reported to Council following the approval of the budget each year. The Council is clear about its priorities and operates in accordance with these. This practice is reflected in the budget setting process, cross party member workshops and the allocation of resources to improve performance.

Capacity

Is there clear accountability and decision making to support service delivery and continuous improvement?

- 5.1 The Council operates the cabinet style decision-making structure in an open and transparent manner. There is a clear scheme of delegation for officers and members within the Council's constitution and ethical framework. In broad terms officers develop and implement policy and councillors set direction and agree policy. There is a culture of openness and respect within the organisation and with partners and this is encapsulated in our internal values (Paragraph 3.14) and the actions of senior officers and councillors. Debate between councillors and between councillors and officers is open, honest and respectful.
- 5.2 To ensure openness in decision-making press briefings are held prior to each Full Council meeting. Press releases on decisions are issued in advance of public meetings. Committee meetings are held in the evening to allow members of the public who work to attend. Committee meeting agendas, papers, forward plan and minutes are published on the Council's website. The key decisions that are to be made in the forthcoming months are promoted in the Borough Bulletin (Council Newspaper). SLB meet in January of each year to forward plan the key decisions that need to be taken during the next municipal year. The timing of decisions is reflected into the setting of decision-making dates. The Council's Forward Plan includes all planned decisions (rather than just key decisions) for the forthcoming months and this is reviewed between each publication cycle by both the Strategic Leadership Board and the Scrutiny Commission to ensure transparency and engagement.
- 5.3 Relationships within the council are good. This is cemented by the organisations culture to operate as one organisation for the good of the local community. Transparency was a key principle in the Council organisation restructure in 2005. Both services and performance have improved further since May 2007 by effective working between senior officers and the new administration. A further senior officer restructure took place from November 2007 with a new 'Head of Service' layer forming a Corporate Operations Board. The Corporate Operations Board has taken the

responsibility to review 'on-going' and operational matters from the Strategic Leadership Board as well as developing a work programme to address corporate issues. This has facilitated greater accountability and resilience within the organisation and allows the Strategic Leadership Board (Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, Director of Community and Planning and Director of Finance) to focus on strategic and policy development matters. All Directors and Heads of Service have corporate responsibility within job descriptions and this is the ethos operated at the Strategic Leadership and Corporate Operations Boards.

- 5.4 A notable contribution to the decision-making structure of the Council is overview and scrutiny. Scrutiny is effective and has a valuable role in helping to drive improvement and ensure integrity in the decision-making process. There is officer support attached to the function and a research budget has been allocated. The research budget is utilised to undertake specific scrutiny projects and reviews. Particular examples of success from scrutiny include the review of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) that led to a number of action plans being produced that has reduced crime and a streamlined partnership board. The Scrutiny Commission has also produced recommendations to address income poverty within the borough (following the review an application was entered into the Centre for Public Scrutiny Awards).
- 5.5 The Council has an independent chairman of the Standards Committee to maintain high ethical standards. The role of the Standards Committee has developed significantly. It takes a key role in facilitating and promoting the 'Ethical Framework' and in maintaining high standards of conduct within the Authority. The Committee has been expanded to include an additional Independent Member, to provide greater independence and to assist the move to the local assessment of standards complaints. Following the 2007 Act the role has been enhanced from an advisory and guiding role to a role of actively considering complaints regarding potential breaches of the Code of Conduct. The powers of the Committee extend to being able to direct the Monitoring Officer to take "other action" with regard to dealing with complaints which means that issues can be resolved proactively and appropriately. Councillor training is provided with regular training sessions on ethical governance prior to meetings of the Council. This has shown significant improvement in the last 12 months, demonstrated by the reduction of complaints about elected Borough Councillors to the Standards Board for England (from 13 in 2006/07 to 4 – none upheld - in 2007/08). The Monitoring Officer produces a public report each year and this is presented to Full Council.
- 5.6 Risk management is strong within the council. A robust strategy has been embedded within the organisation. Risk Registers are in place at strategic, service, project, committee reports and partnership level. Risk management is a part of the Performance Management Framework and the Strategic Risk Register is reviewed corporately every quarter by the joint SLB / COB performance meeting and the Executive. Progress on risk management has been considerable over the last three years with it moving from a '0' rating in 2004/05 to a strong '3' (bordering on a level 4) rating in the latest Use of Resources judgement.
- 5.7 Decision-making is operated in a timely and effective manner to assist the operation of the organisation. The Council considers risks as part of the decision-making process, which operates flexibly to meet the needs of the organisation with special meetings or cross party working groups held to discuss matters of urgency. Member Development is a key priority and members have attended the LRIP – member development programme, which offers the opportunity to develop soft and practical skills. The programmes are aimed specifically at particular skills gaps as well as focussing on the outcome of improving decision making of the Council and delivery to the community.

Does the Council, with its partners, develop its capacity effectively to achieve change and deliver its ambitions and priorities?

- 5.8 The council operates within the context of a historically low council tax. As such, it is a lean organisation and needs to operate efficiently and effectively being focussed on priorities. One of the building blocks for the senior management review in May 2005 was the 'encouragement and management of corporate working across and between team boundaries', as one means of improving the Council's performance and achievements. The 2005 restructure reduced the number of management layers in the organisation and shifted resource to the frontline to increase capacity. By increasing team size, focusing on priority areas and initiatives and clarifying responsibilities, the initial restructure laid the foundation for improved performance. Strategic partnerships have also been formed to providing capacity, skills and expertise. E.g. ICT contract with Steria.
- 5.9 The Workforce Strategy, adopted by the Council in early 2008, is designed to demonstrate the Council's commitment to enabling our workforce to achieve their full potential. The Strategy is inclusive of staff, senior managers and members alike. It is closely linked with the Corporate Plan, and helps us achieve our targets. The Strategy focuses on having the right people with the right skills, which reflect the diversity of the Borough and benefits our staff and our customers. The strategy identifies our programme for improvement and our goals under the broad headings of Leadership, Skill Development, organisation Structure, Recruitment and retention and Pay and Rewards.
- 5.10 The Council has a value for money strategy and benchmarks its costs with other Councils in Leicestershire. The progress with value for money is considered as part of quarterly Performance meetings. The Council provides excellent value for money on local priority services. Particularly strong examples of this are:
- The net cost of the recycling service, funded by the Council tax payer, is 10p per week (the cheapest in Leicestershire)
 - The net cost of refuse service funded from the Council tax payer is 15p per week (the cheapest in Leicestershire)
- 5.11 The MTFS plans the Council's resources that are required to achieve its Corporate Plan priorities. Budgets for each year are linked to the MTFS and high level budgetary needs are forecast for future years. Risk assessments are carried out on material items (such as Council tax benefit) and lessons learned from previous years are used to revise and re-shape the MTFS and the budgets for each year. Cross party Member workshops are held in the second and third quarters annually to discuss both revenue and capital budgets and review priorities for future spending, taking public responses into account. Sustained Growth is planned for priority services whilst maintaining adequate reserves.
- 5.12 Workforce planning is integrated in the annual planning cycle. The Council's approach to people management is embodied in its workforce development strategy. This strategy has aligned the corporate training programme with the training needs of the organisation following a review of Performance and Development Appraisals. All managers and supervisors are being developed through the Leicestershire and Rutland Improvement Partnership – Management Development Strand achieving the Institute of Leadership and Management qualification. This is complemented by the Business Delivery Planning process that identifies the HR implications for services.

5.13 The Council has strengthened its internal ICT support by procuring a new ICT contract with Steria Ltd. The ICT strategy identifies the improvements that are planned to sustain a 'fit for purpose' ICT Infrastructure and service through the delivery of a long term action plan. The E-Government Scrutiny Panel regularly reviews progress with implementation. The Council also has a robust IT Programme that is actively managed. Completed projects that are already realising benefits include:

- Electronic Document Management, being rolled out corporately;
- Planning On-line (the Council's performance is currently in the top 10 authorities in the country);
- Council Tax payments and statements on-line; and
- Flexible Working

The IT projects have been managed using the corporate project management methodology. Capital projects are also conducted using this approach. The approach to project management was commissioned by the LRIP – Performance Management Strand and is utilised throughout Leicestershire. Additional resources required for particular projects are capitalised to assure capacity for project delivery without affecting the revenue budget. Improving partnership working can be demonstrated by:

Case Study

The performance of the Council's Housing Repairs and Maintenance partnership with Inspace was identified as an area for significant improvement following an overspend of £912,000 during 2007/08. Immediate action was initiated to limit its affects to 2007-2009 ensuring no detrimental affects on the services to tenants whilst identifying long term trends. The issue was addressed openly and transparently, with minimum harm to the corporate reputation, and the lessons embodied in immediate and longer term actions.

5.14 The Council has adopted a 3 year procurement strategy and is implementing the associated action plan. The strategy has already achieved success including:

- Identification of ESPO as the Council's preferred supplier / medium for contract commission
- Procured a new Partnership with Inspace to deliver the responsive housing repairs contract
- Standard specifications agreed for ICT
- Agreed preferred suppliers for Agency Staff

Examples of other joint working include the implementation of Leicestershire Municipal Waste Strategy - Action Plan which secured £100K funding for consultancy assistance to introduce the trial for kitchen waste collection. The Council also operates a partnership with Ivanhoe limited to provide sustainable support to Local Businesses.

5.15 The Council works closely with the voluntary sector and has a recently-refreshed and extended Compact in place. Some examples of joint working in this area include:

- Delivery of care and repair for older people;
- Contribution of circa £43,000 to the Citizens Advice Bureau
- Joint funding to the Neighbourhood / Stronger Communities Manager
- Pilot Community Transport Initiative

- 5.16 The Council recognised that it needed to improve its management of attendance with sickness absence performing in the bottom quartile for 2005/06 and 2006/07. A robust attendance management policy was implemented fully in 2007/08 and this contributed to a significant reduction in sickness absence from 12.47 days (2006/07) to 8.83 days in 2007/08. The Council's workforce is representative of its community and there is a long term target to continue this profile, managed by the Corporate Equalities Steering Group. A Performance Improvement Fund to address areas of undercapacity / underperformance is managed by the Strategic Leadership Board.
- 5.17 The Council realises that flexible working is a strategic tool that will address the transformation and efficiency agenda. The Council has made significant progress around flexible working, based on its incorporation within the Single Status agreement implemented in 2007, both in terms of the policies that have been agreed and the IT solutions that have been rolled out. A number of pilots have been set up to trial home-working and mobile solutions and we currently have seven permanent home workers set up, 8 mobile workers and 85 occasional home workers with access to systems. A Flexible Working Project Board has been set up instated to implement flexible working across the Authority which will contribute to the "Green Travel Plan", "The Accommodation Strategy" and a better work/life balance for staff.
- 5.18 The Council utilises peer reviews to assist with learning and continuous improvement. This has included being a pilot Authority for the new Comprehensive Performance Assessment for District Councils and Peer Reviews of the Council, its Cultural Service (Towards an Excellent Service) and the Local Strategic Partnership.
- 5.19 The Council is also part of a South Leicestershire Partnership that focused on developing shared solutions/efficiencies for refuse collection, recycling, street cleansing and grounds maintenance. Early focus centred on tendering for Harborough District Council's Street Scene Service Contract. But wider opportunities have been identified. A grounds maintenance review was commissioned to identify whether the current contract was providing value for money. This resulted from declining satisfaction figures (although Council maintained open spaces attract higher satisfaction than parished areas):

| CATEGORY | SATISFIED WITH SERVICE | |
|--|------------------------|----------------------|
| | 2007/08 ^a | 2006/07 ^b |
| Parks and open spaces supported by the Council | 64% | 71% |

^a Source: Citizens' panel, Winter 2007; ^b Source: User satisfaction Survey 2006/07

The review identified a capacity shortfall because a historically under funded contract and the Council has included £125,000 in its Medium Term Financial Strategy from 2009/10 onwards, with funding for start up in 2008/09 available from a specific reserve. The performance of Hinckley based parks has improved during the last 18 months.

Performance Management

Is there a consistent, rigorous and open approach to performance management?

- 6.1 The Council operates a transparent, robust and systematic Performance Management Framework (PMF) which is embedded in the organisation. Performance is reviewed on a daily, monthly, quarterly and annual basis. Reporting arrangements on performance are on a monthly basis within

services and quarterly through the corporate and decision-making process to ensure delivery of Strategic Aims, Outcomes and Targets. A formal corporate review of the Council's performance takes place every quarter. Areas of underperformance (against target or quartile) are identified and managed through SMART Action Plans. Evidence of the PMF's effectiveness is the excellent improvement in performance that has been achieved.

- 6.2 The council manages its key partnerships. It reviews the progress and effectiveness of its key partnerships as part of the quarterly corporate performance review. It also contributes to the performance management arrangements of its key partnerships. Examples of this approach include the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and the Community Safety Partnership where independent reviews have taken place. An IDeA Peer review of the LSP in January 2008 identified that:

Performance management is developing within the LSP and the baselines and framework are in place through the annual monitoring report. There has clearly been progress on this issue within the borough council and partners are becoming more committed to the need to manage and report on the performance of the partnership.

The Council's Scrutiny Commission has also concluded reviews of the LSP and CSP. The Scrutiny Commission's review of the CSP was the catalyst for a change of focus that has contributed to the reduction of crime.

- 6.3 Corporate performance information is reported through the decision-making process on a quarterly cycle. The reporting pathway for information is a dedicated joint SLB/COB performance meetings followed by reporting to Select Committees and finally to the Executive. The performance information reported is:

- Performance against performance indicators and data quality – reported to Council Services Select Committee;
- Quarterly budget and six monthly risk management reports – reported to Finance and Audit Select Committee
- Progress towards implementing the Corporate Performance Plan & governance and effectiveness of partnerships - reported to Scrutiny Commission;

All of the information above is reported to the Executive. Politically, Executive Members are accountable (individually and collectively) for the performance of services and a member champion for Performance Management has been assigned. In addition to corporate performance reports the Council Services Select Committee holds dedicated meetings to review each of the Council's frontline services through its work programme throughout the year.

- 6.4 Key Performance Indicators (that reflect the Council's priority services) have been identified. Overall performance has improved from 162nd to 14th nationally in the last three years to 2006/07 with a high number of services now achieve and sustain best quartile (see paragraph 7.2). The Council's PMF requires the Council to learn from best practice and to challenge its own systems and processes in pursuit of continuous improvement comparing itself to the best of all other district Councils. Quarterly budgetary outturn reports are reviewed by SLB/COB alongside corporate performance reports. A Performance Improvement Fund (funded from in year efficiencies) is utilised to improve underperformance or to progress further the performance of priority services. The annual planning framework aligns the corporate and financial planning process and the MTFS and budget is reported to Council alongside the Corporate Plan.

- 6.5 The Council has a widely publicised complaints procedure for both staff and members of the public to raise complaints/concerns. The Ombudsman has congratulated the council (for the second year running) on its best quartile performance when dealing with complaints. In addition the Council operates a "Whistle Blowing" policy. The new local assessment of standards complaints about members is also widely publicised. The Council is open to external evaluation and challenge and makes effective use of opportunities to learn. A staff suggestion scheme and complaints process is published and accessible on the Intranet. Guidance is available from the HR service and where access to ICT is not available information is publicised on Notice Boards etc.
- 6.6 In 2007 the Council agreed a Customer Service Strategy with a vision to deliver excellence by putting our customers, teams and people at the heart of everything we do. The Strategy outlined the requirement to "consult with our customers to find out what they want", to "build it once and use many times" and to "ensure accessibility for all". The Customer First Project adopted a phased approach beginning in April 2007 and is on course for completion in April 2009. "Working with our communities to deliver ... Customer focussed services" is an internal value. Customer messages are displayed throughout council buildings to remind staff of their responsibility to the customer. The Council receives a number of positive messages about the quality of its staff and the services that it provides. These messages are regularly communicated throughout the organisation using posters, chief executive briefings and team briefings. There is also a staff suggestion scheme in place for corporate and service improvements, which offers a reward where service improvements are identified.
- 6.7 There is a performance culture within the organisation and information is widely accessible and reported both internally and externally via the performance management system on the Intranet, Internet Website, through the Borough Bulletin and displayed in public reception areas of the Council Offices. The Council reports information in a transparent, coherent and accessible way exceeding statutory requirements. The community and the Council's partners have a good understanding of the Council's performance against its ambitions and priorities.

Do the Council and partner organisations use their knowledge about performance to drive continuous improvement in outcomes?

- 6.8 Performance targets which demonstrate continuous improvement or sustained best quartile performance are set as part of the annual planning cycle. Target setting is based on current performance levels, available resources and the areas relative quartile of performance. Targets are set and included in Business Delivery Plans (BDPs), which articulate how each service plans to achieve its part of the Corporate Plan. BDPs are presented to Council for agreement following agreement of the MTFs, budget and Corporate Plan. The Council recognises that it cannot be excellent at everything and has identified areas where because of circumstances, resources or priorities best quartile performance will not be achieved e.g. homes built on previously developed land. The use of performance improvement monies has improved performance in a number of areas including Environmental Health, Rent Collection and Housing Benefits:

Case Study

Benefits Service – In the past two years the benefits Service has dramatically improved demonstrating high levels of performance underpinned by increasingly effective administration procedures and customer focussed Service Delivery. Processing times have improved by over

60% and high levels of satisfaction are achieved through a “While you Wait” service and the use of modern technology.

Service areas that are underperforming produce resourced action plans to identify how improvements will be achieved. This robust approach to performance management has resulted in the Council achieving a significant rate of sustained improvement with over 50% of Audit Commission KPIs being in the best quartile.

- 6.9 Corporate working is strong. Services work effectively together from the top down. An illustration of this is the joint working between SLB and COB to manage and improve performance at quarterly performance management meetings. Working groups operate for specific corporate purposes such as customer services, communications and community engagement, delivering the capital programme and managing equalities.
- 6.10 Performance information is accessible to all through the TEN performance management system and is utilised throughout the organisation and with partners. Corporate reporting on performance, budgets and value for money are accessible and form the basis of the Chief Executive’s briefing to all staff every quarter. The meetings are arranged specifically to follow the joint SLB/COB corporate performance meetings. A good example of this is the improved performance of the CSP. Crime has reduced significantly over the last three years, particularly during 2007/08. Operational meetings are held to exchange information on an area basis (through the WIST group). Strategically the CSP agreed targeted action plans to priority neighbourhoods to reduce crime. Performance meetings also take place with the dry recycling sub-contractor to review performance on an area basis and participation activities take place with specific communities when required to improve participation.
- 6.11 In addition to performance management information quarterly customer surveys and an annual satisfaction survey is undertaken. The Council uses geographical analysis of consultation information to help plan and develop service delivery. The analysis identifies ward areas and how satisfied they are with particular service delivery. This information has been used to develop Business Delivery Plans and select areas for the piloting of services e.g. food waste trials and enhancing services such as Street Cleansing in Rural Areas.
- 6.12 Because of available resources external challenge is utilised to help contribute to improved performance. Particular examples of external challenge that the Council has volunteered for include:
- IDeA Peer reviews of the planning service, corporate assessment and LSP;
 - Towards an Excellent Service (TAES) review of cultural services; and
 - Pilot District Comprehensive Performance Assessment.

Achievement & Improvement

What level of quality has the Council with its partners achieved (and/or not achieved) in relation to its services, priority areas and impact on local quality of life?

7.1 The Council has continued to achieve high quality service delivery whilst maintaining the 14th Lowest Council Tax in the country:

- 50% of the 'basket improvement' performance indicators achieved top quartile performance (the level achieved by "Excellent" authorities) for 2006/07
- 75% of performance indicators improved in the last 12 months (2007/08)
- 75% of performance indicators achieved or exceeded targets (2007/08)
- Delivered 93% of those actions included in the corporate plan to timescale

7.2 Particular areas that have achieved best quartile in 2007/08 are:

- Combined recycling rate (This level of performance has been achieved without the benefit of external funding and the service is the lowest cost in Leicestershire).
- Cost of household waste
- Amount of litter
- Removal of fly posting
- Abandoned vehicle removal
- Decent homes
- Preventing homelessness
- SAP energy rating for Council properties
- Processing of all planning applications
- Council Tax collection
- Speed of processing housing benefit claims
- Accuracy of processing housing benefit claims
- Recovery of over payment from housing benefit claims
- Racial incidents have further action taken

Other high performing areas that have achieved targeted performance include:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ▪ Accuracy of waste collection exceeded target | ▪ 97% of Council house repairs have been completed to target |
| ▪ Reduction in household waste collected | ▪ Quality of planning services |
| ▪ Access to recycling services | ▪ Non-domestic rates collection |
| ▪ Removal of graffiti | ▪ Awarded the highest level of 'Range 4' for Housing Benefits |
| ▪ Reduction in domestic burglary | ▪ Licenses issued |
| ▪ Reduction in violent crime | ▪ Balance of positive press articles |
| ▪ Reduction in vehicle crime | ▪ Reduction in sickness that exceeded target |
| ▪ Actions against domestic violence | ▪ Equality Standard |
| ▪ Information on contaminated land | ▪ Promotion of race equality |
| ▪ Pollution control improvements | ▪ Homes developed on developed land |
| ▪ Abandoned vehicles investigated | |
| ▪ Grounds maintenance standard | |

7.3 The Council identifies specific actions for improvement within its Corporate Plan. Within the last three years the Council in conjunction with its partners has delivered a number of improvements:

- Overall crime has reduced
- Beacon Council Award for Reducing Re-offending
- Implemented a Contact Centre for dealing with customer enquiries
- Council Website was ranked highly for up to date content from a SOCITM survey
- 85% of customers who visit the Benefit enquiry counter within 15 minutes of arrival
- Piloted the use of Voice Risk Analysis Software in Benefits and Revenues to detect "high risk" cases for further investigation and early detection of over-payments
- Acquired and demolished the Atkins Building for regeneration
- Completion of lighting and paving improvements to Hinckley town centre jetties
- Introduced Neighbourhood Action Teams into Priority Neighbourhoods
- Completion of a major restoration scheme within the Druid Quarter
- Enhancement of Argents Mead facility as a community park and facility
- Successful (and high profile) Fixed Penalty Notice prosecutions for Dog Fouling
- Supported the 25th Disability Games that were held at the Hinckley Leisure Centre – over 500 young disabled athletes participated.
- Provided over 40 free Leisure Passes for the Leisure Centre for children in care
- Introduction of 5 new play areas
- Council awarded Gold Award from National Clean Air Awards
- Additional CCTV has contributed to the reduction of violent crime in the Town Centre
- National local government Employee of the Year 2007
- Congratulated by trade unions for effective and efficient introduction of Single Status
- Independently awarded a 'good' rating by the IDeA for Cultural Services
- Appointed a jointly funded Neighbourhood Manager with Voluntary Action Hinckley and Bosworth
- Congratulatory letter from the Ombudsman on dealing with complaints
- 55% of council services are e-enabled
- 54% of planning applications are submitted (regional average 26%)
- A Neighbourhood Warden Scheme, which has already been acknowledged as Best Practice, by being awarded a Green Apple Environmental Award
- Operated a community bus service for rural areas to improve access to services
- Completion of the restoration of Gopsall Temple
- Completion of lighting and paving improvements to Hinckley town centre jitties
- 85% of customers who visit the Benefit enquiry counter within 15 minutes of arrival
- Restoration improvements to Market Bosworth market place
- Completion of a major restoration scheme within the Druid Quarter
- Enhancement of Argents Mead facility as a community park and facility
- Successful and high profile Fixed Penalty Notice prosecutions for Dog Fouling
- Introduction of a domestic violence refuge and move on accommodation
- Supported the 25th Disability Games that were held at the Hinckley Leisure Centre – over 500 young disabled athletes participated.
- Launch a Heart Smart Scheme with 600 customers
- Adoption and implementation of Green Space Strategy which has been awarded a Green Apple Award.
- Council awarded Gold Award from National Clean Air Awards
- Smoke Free borough campaign in advance of the smoking legislation
- National local government Employee of the Year 2007
- Congratulated by trade unions for effective and efficient introduction of Single Status

Additional notable achievements following 2007/08 are

- Investors in People accreditation
- A Green Flag Award for Burbage Common
- Climate Change Action Plan to achieve EMAS Status

Joint work has been undertaken with the County Council and other partners to progress the neighbourhood agenda in priority neighbourhoods. This has been facilitated by the Local Strategic Partnership under the 'umbrella' of Neighbourhood Action Teams (NATs). Each of the NATs is chaired by a senior person in each of the partner organisations and action plans have been developed in conjunction with the local communities. The LSP has allocated partnership funding to contribute project budgets for each of the NATs and a neighbourhood manager is currently employed by the Council and Voluntary Action Hinckley and Bosworth.

7.4 The Council carries out annual satisfaction surveys with its Citizens Panel. In 2007/08 satisfaction with the Council and the services it provides is high, particularly in the areas of priority services:

- 84% are satisfied with the service provided by the Council (target of 55% by 2010)
- 73% Household collection of waste
- 70% Waste recycling facilities (local)
- 70% Cleanliness standard in your area

The 2006/07 Tenant Satisfaction rating was second highest in the country and the highest of all Council's that have retained their Council housing stock. The satisfaction results remain consistent across different communities.

7.5 In addition to annual satisfaction surveys, the Council undertakes regular feedback with customers who contact the Council. In 2007/08 customers recognise the quality of the services provided and this is reflected in the satisfaction of service users:

- 92% satisfied with the refuse and recycling service (target 85%)
- 94% satisfied with housing repairs service
- 87% satisfied with housing benefit service (target 85%)
- 94% satisfied with the council tax service
- 85% rated the housing benefits counter service as very good
- 95% overall satisfaction with the cashiers service
- 93% satisfaction with 'face to face' services (target 85%)

The Council achieves consistent satisfaction messages across different communities. Specific analysis of particular communities ensures that issues are recognised and actioned.

How much progress has the Council made?

7.6 The Council has continued to improve service delivery including:

- Improving overall performance from 162nd to 14th nationally in the last three years to 2006/07.
- 75% of performance indicators improved in the last 12 months (2007/08)
- Improved satisfaction levels for services provided to 2007/08

- Sustaining the delivery of over 80% of corporate plans for the last 2 years
- This high level of improvement has been achieved whilst sustaining Council tax levels that have remained within the 15th Lowest in the country

7.7 The Council in conjunction with its partners has achieved continuous improvement in a number of key service areas from 2004/05 to 2007/08:

- Improved the borough's recycling rate from 34.5% to 46% from local households (without the benefit of external funding) an LAA target
- Lowered the cost of waste from £42.21 to £39.27 per household
- Reduced the amount of litter on the street from 36.3% to 6%
- Reduced domestic burglaries from 11 per 1,000 to 9.4 per 1,000
- Reduced vehicle crime from 10.2 per 1,000 to 7.4 per 1,000
- Environmental Health Standards have improved from 51.6% to 100%
- Sustained 100% of council homes achieving decent homes standard
- Prevented homelessness has improved from 4 cases (2005/06) to 9 cases and the number of rough sleepers has reduced from 2 to 1
- Improved SAP energy rating for Council properties from 71 to 75
- Substantial improvements on speed in dealing with planning applications:
 - Major applications determined in 13 weeks from 63% to 100%
 - Minor applications determined in 8 weeks from 59% to 94.8%
 - Other applications determined from 81% to 96.5%
- Council Tax Collection from 98.3% to 98.75%
- Non-domestic rates collection from 99% to 99.41%
- Housing Benefits performance has improved from:
 - Speed of processing new claims from 36 days to 21.3 days
 - Speed of processing change of circumstances from 18.3 days to 5.3 days
 - Accuracy of processing claims from 97% (2004/05) to 100%
- Sustained the number of racial incidents that have further action taken at 100%

7.8 Corporate Plan achievements during the last three years have been:

- After 20 years the council has adopted a Town Centre Regeneration Scheme and commenced implementation through purchase and demolition of the Atkins Factory and appointing a development partner for the regeneration of the Bus Station
- Independently awarded a 'good' rating by the IDeA for Cultural Services (demonstrating an improvement from the Best Value Inspection of 'Fair' in 2003)

7.9 Satisfaction with Council services:

| Area ↓ | Satisfaction → | 2007/08 | 2006/07 |
|------------------------------------|----------------|---------|---------|
| Service provided by the Council | | 84% | 49% |
| Cleanliness standard in your area | | 70% | 69% |
| Household collection of waste | | 73% | 64% |
| Waste recycling facilities (local) | | 70% | 64% |

7.10 Quality of life within the borough is generally good with:

- High life expectancy has been sustained

- average wage rates have been sustained
- unemployment have been sustained at a low level

Joint work has been undertaken with the County Council and other partners to progress the neighbourhood agenda in priority neighbourhoods. This has been facilitated by the Local Strategic Partnership under the 'umbrella' of Neighbourhood Action Teams (NATs). Each of the NATs is chaired by a senior person in each of the partner organisations and action plans have been developed in conjunction with the local communities. The LSP has allocated partnership funding to contribute project budgets for each of the NATs and a neighbourhood manager is currently employed by the Council and Voluntary Action Hinckley and Bosworth.

7.11 The overall conclusion from the 2004 CPA Assessment was that dedicated staff delivered good quality services but internal governance and management needed significant improvement. Building blocks to sustain continued improvement are embedded including:

- Clear vision, refocused Community Plan and Local Development Framework informed by joint consultation.
- Service priorities amended following borough-wide public consultations and cross-party agreement.
- Extensive and effective Performance and Risk Management Framework that has driven improvement at a faster rate than almost all other authorities.
- Comprehensive Medium Term Financial Strategy that reflects Council priorities and delivers national efficiency targets (supported by an embedded Procurement Strategy) whilst maintaining prudent reserves.
- Improved corporate governance and leadership arrangements (recognised by independent review).
- A Workforce Development Strategy plans the overall approach to HR management that has facilitated high satisfaction levels for staff.
- A corporate approach to project management using PRINCE2 methodology control and structure resources

By volunteering to pilot the new District CPA arrangements in December 2005 confirmation was given that good progress was being made against the previous corporate assessment and that building blocks were in place.

Areas for further improvement

7.12 The Council's continuing challenge is to maintain the improvements in performance and provision of high quality services, which meet the needs of all communities, within its historically low tax base. In addition to balancing the financial constraints and challenging the effective allocation and use of resources for the Authority, the Council needs to:

- Drive the neighbourhood agenda to deliver 'on the ground' outcomes;
- Deliver the challenging targets within the current Local Area Agreement;
- Address perception issues on the balance of service delivery between rural and urban areas; and
- Drive regeneration to the town centre.

COUNCIL - 8 JULY 2008

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AND PLANNING SERVICES

RE: PLAY AND OPEN SPACE SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT ADOPTION

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To seek Members endorsement to adopt the Play & Open Space Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and Sustainability Appraisal as part of the Hinckley & Bosworth Local Development Framework (See Appendix 1 & 2).

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

That Members endorse the adoption of The Play & Open Space Supplementary Planning Document and accompanying Sustainability Appraisal as part of the Hinckley & Bosworth Local Development Framework (see Appendix 1 & 2).

3. **BACKGROUND**

The Borough Council currently has a range of Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) documents, which supplement current Local Plan policies. These are intended to expand upon or provide further details to policies but do not carry the same weight in determining planning applications as the policies in the Local Plan.

As part of the Local Development Framework Process, these SPGs are being replaced by Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD's) which function in the same way as SPG but have been developed to form part of the LDF and its portfolio of documents.

Play & Open Space Supplementary Planning Document

This SPD sets out the Borough Council's proposed approach when considering planning applications for new residential development likely to generate demand for open space and play facilities. The SPD is intended to help support the planning of existing and new opportunities by providing guidance to developers on both the direct provision of open space and play facilities; and, contributions in lieu of such provision as appropriate. In doing this, the SPD also clarifies the policy approach set out in the Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan, with specific reference to policies IMP1, REC2 and REC3. These policies and proposals will then provide a framework for the determination of planning applications and the requirement for related contributions.

As a designated 'growth-point' area the Hinckley & Bosworth urban areas will be a focus for major development over the next 20 years. The Hinckley urban core area is itself identified as a Sub Regional Centre, and the Borough can therefore anticipate a requirement to accommodate significant levels of new development by 2026. Such growth will result in additional pressures being placed on local open space and play facilities resulting in a timely need to review the Council's requirements.

The SPD works towards the fulfilment of a range of strategic plans including the LDF, Green Space Strategy and Corporate Plan 2008-2013 and joint working has been key to the formation of the policy set out in this final document. In addition, the information set out in the document is supported by Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open Space Sport and Recreation.

This Supplementary Planning Document, once adopted, will supersede the existing Play and Open Space SPG, adopted in October 2002, with the primary aim of re-evaluating the level of developer contributions which the planning department currently require with regard to play and open space provision, to ensure they reflect the current financial market. The following information sets out the key information set out in the document.

Monitoring Fee

The introduction of a localised monitoring fee equal to 2% of the Section 106 monies is to be applied to cover the costs of monitoring obligations which are undertaken by the Borough Council to ensure that the correct information is gathered and assembled on the part of both the Council and developer. This fee is a new approach for the Council, but conducted in other authorities including Leicestershire County Council. Further details can be found in Chapter 3 of the SPD.

Scrutiny Commission

Following the presentation of this document at the Scrutiny meeting on June 12th 2008, concerns were raised by members of the committee regarding the inclusion of the monitoring fee, and was suggested that such costs should be included within the Planning Fee. Further guidance has since been sought on this matter from Finance and Green Spaces Officers who have confirmed that the introduction of a monitoring fee is justifiable and covers costs which are not currently recouped by the authority by any other means. It has therefore been retained within the document.

Unit Costs

Following partnership work between Green Spaces and Finance the 'cost per dwelling' amount required from developers has been revised from £1900 to £2761. The unit costs include both maintenance and establishment costs of the play/green spaces including drainage.

It should be noted that the increase in contribution has been caused by a variety of aspects including the introduction of measures not previously accounted for in the costing breakdown.

Thresholds & Qualifying Housing

The required levels of contributions will be dependant on the type of development.

The criteria set for qualifying developments is outlined below. This is consistent with the policies of the current Local Plan and the guidance found in Planning Obligations Circular 05/2005.

| Facility | Houses/flats (inc. affordable housing and conversions) | | Other accommodation |
|---|--|--------------------|---------------------|
| | 1 bedroom | 2 bedrooms or more | |
| REC 2: Formal Open Space (for outdoor sport) | 75% | Full | 75% |
| REC3: Play space: 1) Equipped-covering both pre-teen and teenage provision) 2) Other informal open space (primarily for play, but with wider use) | 75% | Full | |

Maintenance Periods

In addition to other logistical and financial amendments to the document, and in liaison with the steering group, the SPD has reviewed its approach to maintenance periods and will now consider alternative periods for maintenance in accordance with the type and nature of provision. These are as follows:

- Play areas used primarily by residents of a relevant development:
- **20 years.**
- Play areas also used by the wider community: **10 years.**
- Small open space areas (used primarily by residents of a relevant development): **20 years.**
- Larger open spaces (such as for outdoor sport that may also be used by the wider community): **10 years.**

Furthermore, where new or improved provision resulting from development will be used solely by occupants of the new development, contributions may be required in perpetuity. These matters will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis and in discussion with the applicant.

Pooled Contributions & 'Community Chest'

The SPD provides the opportunity to pool contributions or compile funds in a 'community chest' where the combined impact of a number of developments creates the need for infrastructure.

Where a development is too small to generate the need for new provision; taken in conjunction with other housing proposed elsewhere, the cumulative additional demand may be sufficient to require new and/or improved provision. In these instances, the SPD enables the Borough Council to store funds in a 'Community Chest' to implement relevant play and open space projects within easy reach of the residents which may be identified through strategies, studies, and investment programmes.

Typologies

In addition to the financial criteria set out in the document, specific consideration is given to the types of provision i.e. for young people, and with regard to outdoor sport, amenity green space, natural green space, allotments, churchyards and cemeteries.

4. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (IB)**

The contributions will help to ensure that the commuted income received is a more realistic assessment based on costs to be incurred. The commuted sums will be updated annually in line with the Retail Price Index.

Where available, commuted income calculations have been based on current contractual rates. Where this information was not available the actual costs incurred on similar developments have been used.

These contributions will not generate net additional income for the authority but will help to fund the additional expenditure that will be incurred as a result of future housing developments.

New expenditure will still have to be approved through the Council's approval process as set out in the Councils Financial Procedure Rules

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (AB)**

Contained in the body of the report

6. **CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

The adoption of the Play & Open Space SPD is in line with and supportive of the following Corporate Plan, 2008-2013, aims:

- Aim 1 – Cleaner & Greener
- Aim 3 – Safer & Healthier Borough
- Aim 4 – Strong & Distinctive Communities

7. **CONSULTATION**

The draft SPD underwent the statutory 6-week public consultation from 31st October 2007 – 12th December 2007. This final document has been revised with regard to the comments received from this period, including input from internal departments including Finance, Development Control and Green Spaces teams. An additional consultation period from Thursday 8 May 2009 until Thursday 12 June 2008 has also taken place. A full report covering the responses of these consultation periods and how officers have responded to comments will follow.

The SPD was circulated to LDF Members Working Group on 28th April 2008 and was seen by the Scrutiny Commission at the meeting on 12th June 2008.

8. **RISK IMPLICATIONS**

It is the Council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision/project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

| Management of Significant (Net Red) Risks | | |
|---|---|----------------|
| Risk Description | Mitigating actions | Owner |
| HIGH – Failure to adopt the document would result in HBBC not meeting the target set out in the LDS. HIGH – Failure to adopt could result in a missed opportunity to obtain quality green/play spaces for new development. HIGH – Failure to adopt document could result in loss of monies from developer contributions which are suitable to the market and up to date. | All consultation and preparation has taken place in a timely manner. | Richard Palmer |
| | All consultation and preparation has taken place in a timely manner. | Richard Palmer |
| | All consultation and preparation has taken place in a timely manner. In addition, close working with the Council's financial team in the assessment of suitable figures has been conducted. | Richard Palmer |

9. **RURAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Supplementary Planning Document addresses both urban and rural areas equally. The SPD seeks to improve Play and Open Space provision across the Borough.

10. **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community Safety Implications – None identified.
- Environmental Implications – None identified.
- ICT Implications – None identified.
- Asset Management Implications – None identified.
- Human Resources Implications – None identified.

Background Papers: *Copies of these documents are available in the Members room, on the Council website and can be requested from the Planning Policy team.*

Appendix 1: Play & Open Space SPD – Adoption Draft July 2008

Appendix 2: Play & Open Space SPD - Sustainability Appraisal

Contact Officer: Marie Wykes – Planning Policy Officer

Executive Member: Councillor S. Bray

(36C8July08)
MW/jw 30.06.08

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council

Play and Open Space

Supplementary Planning Document

July 2008



**Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council**

A Borough to be proud of

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1. Introduction

1.1 General

This document provides additional planning guidance to advise and inform those involved in planning new development in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough. It demonstrates how relevant Borough Council policies and standards will be applied to the provision of new and improved play and open space opportunities.

The provision of play and open space is integral to community welfare and improving the quality of the built environment.

The Draft East Midland Regional Plan produced by the East Midlands Regional Assembly will provide a broad development strategy for the East Midlands up to 2026. Hinckley and Bosworth Borough is located within the Three Cities Sub Area (covering Leicester, Derby and Nottingham and surrounding areas). The Sub Area has recently secured 'Growth Point' status from the Government. An implication of this is that the Leicester urban area will be a focus for major development within the Plan's timeframe. Hinckley is identified as a Sub Regional Centre, and the Borough can therefore anticipate a requirement to accommodate significant levels of new development by 2026. Such growth will result in additional pressures being placed on the local stock of open space and play facilities.

Policy 13 of the Draft Regional Plan (Development in the Three Cities Sub-area) seeks protection, development and enhancement of green infrastructure to, amongst other things, contribute to the development of sustainable communities a matter key to the considerations of the local planning authority of which this document plays a significant role.

1.2 Purpose of the SPD

This SPD sets out the Borough's approach when considering planning applications for development likely to generate demand for open space and play facilities.

The SPD is intended to help support the planning of existing and new opportunities by providing guidance to developers on both the direct provision of open space and play facilities; and, contributions in lieu of such provision as appropriate. In doing this, the SPD provides further guidance to policies REC2, REC3 and IMP1 of the adopted Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan.

1.3 Government policy on SPD

The Government's Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development

Frameworks (PPS12) explains the role of Supplementary Planning Documents (previously Supplementary Planning Guidance).

PPS12 states that SPD's may cover a range of issues, both thematic and site specific, which may expand policy or provide further detail to policies in a 'development plan document' (in this case the Local Plan).

The following principles apply to an SPD:

- it must be consistent with national and regional planning policies as well as the policies set out in the development plan documents contained in the local development framework;
- it must be clearly cross-referenced to the relevant development plan document policy which it supplements (or, before a relevant development plan document has been adopted, a 'saved' policy);
- it must be reviewed on a regular basis alongside reviews of the development plan document policies to which it relates; and,
- the process by which it has been prepared must be made clear and a statement of conformity with the statement of community involvement must be published with it.

SPD's may contain policies which expand or supplement the policies in development plan documents. However, policies which should be included in a development plan document and subjected to proper independent scrutiny in accordance with the statutory procedures should not be set out in SPD's.

1.4 Consultation on this SPD

In line with Government requirements, this SPD has been subject to public consultation:

- A draft SPD was available for consultation between 31st of October until the 12th December 2007.
- Additional consultation was undertaken between 8th May 2008 until the 12th June 2008.
- Comments received have been given due consideration by the Borough Council.
- A justified response to each comment received has been provided by the Borough Council and is available at www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk. The draft SPD has been amended as appropriate.

1.5 Sustainability Appraisal

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires that SPD's are subject to a Sustainability Appraisal. This process is intended to improve plan

making through the better integration of sustainability objectives into plan preparation.

A full account of how the SPD has been assessed for sustainability is set out in the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal (see **Appendix 1**).

The Sustainability Appraisal recommends that success of the SPD is monitored by the Council each year using recommended indicators reflecting provision when measured against appropriate standards; incorporation of security measures; and, improvements in access to play provision for children and young people generally. The Borough Council will therefore adopt appropriate indicators to monitor the SPD.

1.6 Monitoring and Review

The effects of this SPD will be monitored through the Annual Monitoring Report, produced by the Council each year. The monitoring indicators for this SPD are:

1. Percentage of new green space provided, achieving a quality score of at least 65% using the Borough Council's Green Space Audit scoring system.
2. Percentage of new equipped play space provision meeting accessibility standards outlined in the Green Space Strategy.
3. Percentage of new formal recreation provision meeting accessibility standards outlined in the Green Space Strategy

1.7 Definition of Publicly Available Open Space and Recreation Facilities covered

For the purpose of this SPD the terms 'play' and 'open space' deal with facilities and opportunities covered by Local Plan policies REC2 and REC3, as explained in Chapter 2. The SPD relates to work undertaken by the Council with regard to its Green Space Strategy. It also adheres to relevant central government planning policy, as explained in the document.

This SPD will be reviewed in the event of any subsequent change of relevant policy contained within future Development Plan Documents. The Borough Council's Green Space Strategy itself recommends the introduction of new standards which, if adopted, would have a significant impact upon future requirements for open space and play provision provided through new development. Until such time as the Green Space Strategy (or other) standards are adopted through the statutory planning process the content of this SPD must apply as clarification only for existing statutorily adopted policies REC2 and REC3, as supported by policy IMP1.

2. Relevant Policies

2.1 Existing Local Plan

The current Local Plan was adopted in 2001 and covers the period 1991-2006, Policies within the Plan have been 'saved' until 2010. Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council are currently working towards adopting a Local Development Framework in line with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, which, once adopted, will replace the existing Local Plan. A Local Development Scheme has also been published, which sets out the timetable for Local Development Document preparation including a Core Strategy which will set the overall development strategy for the Borough and a Site Allocations document which will allocate specific sites, including those for housing, employment, and recreation.

In the interim, the policies of the existing Borough Local Plan are 'saved', and remain central to the regeneration and development of Hinckley & Bosworth.

2.2 Provision of related open space and play opportunities

The Borough Council will seek contributions from developers towards the provision of play and open space opportunities that are relevant and reasonably related to a development and which are required to enable development to proceed. In such circumstances it will seek to impose conditions on a planning permission or enter into Planning Obligations with a developer to achieve an appropriate contribution towards the provision of infrastructure or facilities.

Government guidance identifying circumstances in which financial contributions towards facilities may be sought is set out in 'Circular 05/2005, Planning Obligations.' Planning Obligations and their use are explained in more detail in Chapter 3. See also **Appendix 2** for more information on Circular 05/2005.

This SPD seeks to provide important clarification on the interpretation and application of three of the Local Plan policies:

- **IMP1:** dealing with developer contributions towards the provision of infrastructure and facilities considered necessary to achieve sustainable new development.
- **REC2:** dealing with the provision of open space in relation to new development.
- **REC3:** dealing with the provision of play facilities in relation to new development.

These are reproduced in full below.

2.3 Developer contributions towards open space and play

POLICY IMP1 - CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS THE PROVISION OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES

PLANNING PERMISSION WILL BE GRANTED FOR NEW RESIDENTIAL, EMPLOYMENT AND OTHER DEVELOPMENT WHERE THE DEVELOPER HAS MADE OR WILL MAKE, A CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE PROVISION OF THE NECESSARY ON-SITE AND OFF-SITE INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES TO SERVE THE DEVELOPMENT COMMENSURATE WITH THE SCALE AND NATURE OF THE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED. THE GRANTING OF PLANNING PERMISSION WILL BE SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS OR TO A DEVELOPER ENTERING INTO PLANNING OBLIGATIONS TO ENSURE THE PROVISION OF APPROPRIATE CONTRIBUTIONS.

2.4 New Residential Development - Outdoor Open Space

POLICY REC2 - NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT - OUTDOOR OPEN SPACE PROVISION FOR FORMAL RECREATION.

IN CONSIDERING PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT, THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY WILL SEEK TO NEGOTIATE WITH DEVELOPERS TO PROVIDE 0.4 HECTARES (1.0 ACRE) OF WELL DRAINED, PUBLIC OPEN SPACE, SUITABLE FOR FORMAL RECREATIONAL PURPOSES FOR EACH 100 DWELLINGS. THIS OPEN SPACE SHALL BE OF A SATISFACTORY SIZE AND FORM TO ACCOMMODATE A RANGE OF FORMAL RECREATIONAL USES. FOR DEVELOPMENTS OF BETWEEN 20 AND 100 DWELLINGS, PRO RATA PROVISION OF OPEN SPACE WILL BE SOUGHT. HOWEVER IT MAY BE THAT THE AREA OF LAND WHICH COULD BE PROVIDED IN RELATION TO SUCH DEVELOPMENT WOULD NOT BE OF PRACTICAL VALUE AS PUBLIC OPEN SPACE FOR FORMAL RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES. IN SUCH INSTANCES THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY MAY ALTERNATIVELY SEEK TO NEGOTIATE A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE PROVISION OF NEW RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WITHIN THE VICINITY OF THE SITE OR TOWARDS THE IMPROVEMENT OF EXISTING FACILITIES IN THE AREA.

2.5 New Residential Development - Outdoor Playing Space for Children

POLICY REC3 - NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT - OUTDOOR PLAY SPACE FOR CHILDREN

IN CONSIDERING PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT, THE BOROUGH COUNCIL WILL SEEK TO NEGOTIATE WITH DEVELOPERS TO PROVIDE 0.1 ACRES (0.04 HECTARES) OF INFORMAL CHILDREN'S PLAY SPACE PER 20 DWELLINGS. FOR DEVELOPMENTS OF BETWEEN 1 - 20 DWELLINGS THE LEVEL OF PROVISION TO BE MADE WILL BE DETERMINED ACCORDING TO

INDIVIDUAL CIRCUMSTANCES. THE CHILDREN'S PLAY SPACE PROVIDED SHOULD SATISFY THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

a INFORMAL PLAYSPACE WILL BE PROVIDED THAT ALLOWS FOR PLAY OPPORTUNITIES FOR A RANGE OF AGE GROUPS;

b PLAY AREAS SHOULD BE LINKED AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, WITH OTHER OPEN SPACES AND FOOTPATH SYSTEMS. AMENITY PLANTING AREAS AND OTHER DEVICES SHOULD BE USED TO PROVIDE THE MAXIMUM SEPARATION FROM NEARBY RESIDENTS IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE LIKELIHOOD OF DISTURBANCE, NOISE AND OTHER NUISANCES;

c PLAY AREAS SHOULD BE LOCATED SO THEY ARE SAFELY ACCESSIBLE BY CHILDREN, WITH FOOTPATH LINKS WHICH DO NOT REQUIRE THE CROSSING OF BUSY ROADS OR OTHER MAJOR HAZARDS;

d PLAY AREAS ARE LOCATED SO THEY ARE OVERLOOKED BY HOUSES OR WELL USED PEDESTRIAN ROUTES IN ORDER TO PROVIDE SOME VISUAL SUPERVISION; AND

e PLAY AREAS SHOULD BE SITED ON LAND SUITABLE FOR THE TYPE OF PLAY OPPORTUNITY INTENDED AND SHOULD BE APPROPRIATELY LANDSCAPED.

2.6 Interpretation of policies REC2 and REC3

REC 2 and REC 3 of the adopted Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan set out the requirements for outdoor open space provision for formal recreation and outdoor play space for children for new residential development.

In practice, space for formal outdoor recreation and for children's play can take a variety of forms and host a huge range of activities. The Borough Council will interpret and apply policies in a way that best meets local needs.

REC2 and REC3 will be applied to provide or raise financial contributions towards the following types of open space which the Borough Council considers to fall within the scope of policies REC2 and REC3, as well as IMP1:

Outdoor Play Space for Children and Young People

- Informal Children's Play Space: Equipped play space for children and young people.
- Informal other space types for play:
 - Amenity green space.
 - Natural and semi natural green space (including green corridors, and country parks).
 - Urban parks and gardens

- Churchyards and cemeteries.

Outdoor Open Space Provision for Formal Recreation

- Outdoor sport.
- Allotments (including community gardens and urban farms).

These various categories of open space accord with guidance provided in government Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation,[▼] and offer opportunities for play and/or formal recreation. Further clarification and justification is provided in Appendix 3.

3. The Provision of Open Space and Play Opportunities in relation to New Development.

3.1 Context

New development often creates a need for additional or improved open space and play facilities without which there could be a detrimental effect on local amenity and the quality of the environment. Sometimes this need can be met through direct provision by the developer. However, direct provision may not be appropriate in many cases due to the size or characteristics of the development.

3.2 Planning Obligations- an explanation

A Planning Obligation is a legally binding agreement entered into between a Local Authority and a developer. It requires the developer to carry out certain works, or to provide, or contribute towards the provision of, measures to mitigate the negative impacts of their development and to ensure that it makes a positive contribution to the communities within which it is situated.

Planning Obligations must satisfy five criteria set by national policy (See Appendix 2). These are:

- Necessary.
- Relevant to planning.
- Directly related to the proposed development.
- Fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the proposed development.
- Reasonable in all other respects.

Planning Obligations will be negotiated with the aim of reducing the negative impacts of development on local communities, achieving sustainable development and enabling improvements to open space and play opportunities.

[▼] Paragraph 2 of the Annex

In this context, Planning Obligations should be seen not only as a means of mitigating the impact of a development, but also as a mechanism for achieving positive planning by ensuring that development complements and enhances the social, environmental and economic requirements of its neighbouring communities.

3.3 Thresholds for contributions towards open space and play opportunities

Policy IMP1 states that a developer contribution towards the necessary on-site and off-site infrastructure and facilities to service development commensurate to the scale and nature of development proposed is necessary to the granting of planning consent.

In terms of open space and play Policies REC2 and REC3 of the Local Plan suggest that direct or indirect (financial) contributions will be expected according to the following development thresholds:

- 20 dwellings or more for open space for formal recreation (REC2); and,
- 1 dwelling or more for play facilities (REC3).

For large developments contributions are more likely to be in the form of direct, on-site provision. However, in other circumstances financial contributions in lieu of direct provision will be sought. Examples of this may be where:

- The development site is too small in relation to the above thresholds;
- In high density urban areas where on-site provision would not optimise use of the site, or meet sustainability objectives;
- Topography or other natural site constraints would not allow for on-site provision; or,
- It can be shown that there are alternative off-site facilities within convenient reach that subject to improvement, or to being provided, could meet the needs of new residents at least as well as on-site provision.

In principle much new residential development leading to a net increase in dwellings within a locality will be required to provide new open space and play provision in accordance with the Local Plan policies; or else, offer developer contributions in lieu of provision. The following indicates those types of accommodation which the Borough Council expects to contribute towards the provision of open space and play provision. The approach is considered to be consistent with both Circular 05/2005 and Policy IMP1 as it seeks to ensure that contributions are fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the proposed development.

Figure 3.1: Qualifying housing

| Facility | Houses/flats (inc. affordable housing and conversions) | | Other Accommodation (Including – Student housing, sheltered housing etc) |
|--|--|-----------------------|--|
| | 1 bedroom | 2 bedrooms or more | |
| REC 2: Formal Open Space (for outdoor sport) | 75% | Full | 75% |
| REC 3: Play space: 1) Equipped - covering both pre-teen and teen age provision) 2) Other informal open space (primarily for play, but with wider use) | 75% | Full | |

'Full': full contribution required
'75%': 75% contribution required

3.4 On Site Provision/Contributions in Lieu

Developments will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Where several developments are proposed in close proximity to each other and the cumulative effect will result in the requirement for new infrastructure, the Council may pool contributions from each of the developments, in order to fund the necessary open space and play provision in an equitable way. (See paragraph 3.8).

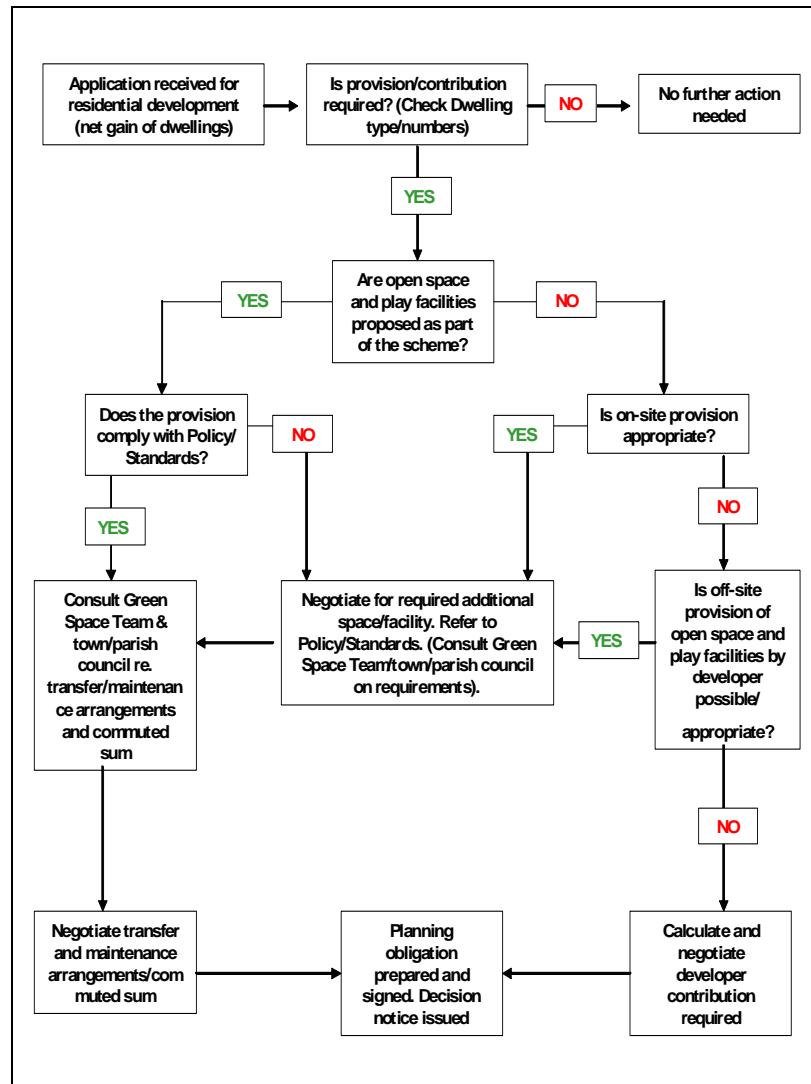
Where it is neither practicable nor appropriate to seek on-site provision the Council will require financial contributions towards providing new or improved opportunities elsewhere so long as this alternative provision is within easy reach of the relevant development and its residents (see Figure 3.3). In general, there will be three options to consider:

- The developer constructs and maintains open space (perhaps through proxy companies);
- The developer constructs and hands over open space to the Borough Council to manage; and,
- The developer hands over appropriate monies to allow the Borough Council to both build and maintain open space.

The level of direct provision or else contributions in lieu will be calculated on a per dwelling basis, consistent with Policies REC2 and REC3 but subject to the additional guidance provided in Figure 3.1.

The following diagram summarises the general procedural approach the Council will follow in determining the principle, nature and amount of contribution required.

Figure 3.2: The process of determining forms of developer contribution towards new or improved open space and recreation facilities



3.5 Financial Contributions

Where indirect (financial) contributions are to be sought through a Planning Obligation (Agreement). This will be drafted by the Borough Council's Legal Services Team, or by solicitors acting on the Borough Council's behalf. Developers will be required to pay the Council's costs in drafting the agreement unless it can be demonstrated that the developer will incur all significant costs in this respect.

The Council's Legal Services Team has standard wording to cover Financial Contributions.

Some example scenarios on the Local Plan standards can be interpreted and applied in relation to different forms of open space and recreation provision. These are provided in **Appendix 4**.

All financial contributions contained in planning agreements will be index linked (using the Retail Prices Index – all items) to the date of the Committee, or delegated authority approval. Financial contributions will normally be expected to be paid upon commencement of development (as defined in Section 56 of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act). In exceptional circumstances (such as with large-scale development schemes) the payment can be made at various stages during the development process, for example, upon first occupation. Trigger dates for the payment of financial contributions will be included in the Planning Agreement, as will any time periods by which the contribution is to be spent.

Following receipt by the Borough Council, financial contributions will be held in interest bearing accounts and will be individually identifiable due to each contribution being allocated a unique finance code. Contributions remaining unspent at the end of a time period specified in the Planning Agreement will be returned to the payee along with any interest accrued.

Examples of how financial contributions are to be calculated are provided in **Appendix 4**. The unit costs on which contributions are to be calculated are also provided in Appendix 4. These costs are derived from the Borough Council's maintained record of costs of both providing and maintaining equipped and non-equipped open space and play facilities.

3.6 Monitoring of Obligations

Monitoring of obligations will be undertaken by the Borough Council to ensure all obligations entered into are complied with on the part of both the developer and the Council.

A Monitoring Fee of 2% of the financial contributions obtained through the relevant planning obligation will be required to cover the Council's costs and will be in addition to the agreed level of contribution. Monitoring fees are an established practice within many planning authorities and has been introduced by the Borough Council to cover administrative matters, maintenance and monitoring of databases, attendance at necessary and relevant S106 meetings, income collection and for additional requirements placed upon green space officers who often provide on-site advice and guidance during the S106 process.

For relevant planning consents the Borough Council will produce a monitoring report at an appropriate time reviewing the implementation of the obligation and the related use of financial contributions.

3.7 Maintenance contributions

The Borough Council may also require appropriate contributions from developers to cover the maintenance of open space and play facilities. The size and longevity of these contributions will be determined by the nature of the provision in question, and whether it is used solely by residents of the development; or, also by members of the wider community. Where new or improved provision resulting from development will be used solely by occupants of the new development, contributions may be required in perpetuity*. In other circumstances the following guidance will be applied:

- Play areas used primarily by residents of a relevant development: **20 years.**
- Play areas also used by the wider community: **10 years.**
- Small open space areas (used primarily by residents of a relevant development): **20 years.**
- Larger open spaces (such as for outdoor sport that may also be used by the wider community): **10 years.**

These contribution periods have been derived from a review of periods of time that have been both established and accepted by various local authorities.

Where maintenance contributions cover long periods the impact of inflation will need to be factored in. If it is agreed that a developer will provide all of the contribution for the entire term as a one-off commuted sum, the compound impact of inflation (at an agreed rate) will be calculated as part of the overall sum. This will be based on the average inflation rate per annum.

Examples of how maintenance contributions are to be calculated are provided in **Appendix 4**. The unit costs on which contributions are to be calculated are also provided in Appendix 4. These costs are derived from the Borough Council's maintained record of costs of both providing and maintaining equipped and non-equipped open space and play facilities.

3.8 Pooled contributions and 'community chests'

Government guidance* suggests that where the combined impact of a number of developments creates the need for infrastructure, it may be reasonable for the

* This statement is consistent with Circular 05/2005 Planning Obligations (July 2005). Paragraph B18

* Circular 05/2005 Planning Obligations (July 2005). Paragraph B21

associated developers' contributions to be pooled, in order to allow infrastructure to be secured in a fair and equitable way. The same guidance* suggests that where individual developments will have some impact but not sufficient to justify the need for a discrete piece of infrastructure, the local authority may wish to consider whether it is appropriate to seek contributions to specific future provision.

Although a small development proposal may not by itself generate the need for new provision, taken in conjunction with other housing proposed elsewhere the cumulative additional demand will be sufficient to require new and/or improved provision. This principle is as applicable to a small play area as to a large outdoor sports venue. As appropriate, the Borough Council may invest developer contributions into a wider "community chest". The community chest will be used to help implement relevant play and open space projects identified through strategies, studies, and investment programmes. These may include the recommendations of the Borough Council's Green Space Strategy[^]. In doing this the Borough Council must demonstrate that where contributions are used in this way identified projects will be:

- relevant to the subject matter of Policies REC2 and REC3;
- likely to be realised within an appropriate timeframe; and,
- within easy reach of the residents of developments on which contributions are being levied.

3.9 Ease of access and quality in design

Whether contributions towards open space and play opportunities are through direct provision, or else indirectly through financial contributions to off-site provision, it is essential that new or improved opportunities are:

- easy to reach by residents from the developments for which contributions are being required; and,
- of high quality in respect of their planning, situation and design.

The Borough Council's adopted Green Space Strategy offers guidance on how policies REC2 and REC3 can be interpreted and applied with respect to quality of and access to provision. It sets out a hierarchy of open space and corresponding accessibility standards. Lower hierarchy facilities are greater in number and closer in proximity to houses and have a smaller catchment area with fewer facilities. Those at the top of the hierarchy will be larger, have a greater catchment area and offer a wider range of facilities. Strategically, the Borough Council will pursue this hierarchy of provision, which the Green Space Strategy (and underpinning research) supports. That is, play and open space

* Paragraph B22 of the above Circular.

[^] The Green Space Strategy provides information in relation to the quality, quantity, and accessibility of provision.

requirements will generally be sought for lower hierarchy facilities. However, where development places additional pressures on upper hierarchy facilities, a contribution towards these may be required. The open space hierarchy, incorporating accessibility standards is summarised in Figure 3.3.

Figure 3.3: Hierarchy of provision

| |
|--|
| <p>Regional Parks and Public Gardens Typically, at least 100 hectares in size and within 30 minutes travel time by car/public transport</p> |
| <p>District Parks (Includes sports complexes, smaller country parks) Typically, between 10 and 100 hectares in size and within a 5km catchment areas</p> |
| <p>Neighbourhood Parks and Open Spaces (Includes allotments and sports facilities) Typically, between 1 and 10 hectares in size and within a 15 minute travel distance by foot (around 600 metres straight line distance)</p> |
| <p>Local Open Spaces Typically, between 0.2 and 1 hectares in size and within 5 and 10 minutes by foot (around 400 metres straight line distance)</p> |
| <p>Incidental Green Space Typically less than 0.2 hectares and within 5 minutes by foot (around 300 metres straight line distance)</p> |

Outdoor Sport Design

The Borough Council will expect all contributions towards such provision to be based out on appropriately laid out, drained and serviced open space.

The quality of playing surface and drainage is critical to the successful use of playing pitches in particular. The approach to achieving good installation in this regard will depend on local circumstances and it will be for the developer to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Borough Council that either:

- An appropriate drainage specification will be adopted and implemented where the developer (or proxy company) assumes responsibility for installation; or,
- The developer will provide a financial contribution through a planning obligation sufficient to achieve installation to a drainage specification acceptable to the Borough Council.

The Borough Council will apply guidance provided by Sport England (www.sportengland.org) and the relevant governing bodies of sport in this regard.

Equipped Play Space for Children and Young People

Equipped play space generally accounts for only small amounts of open space, but makes an important contribution to local play opportunities. The Borough Council will be guided by the following:

Figure 3.4: Equipped play space provision.

| Equipped Provision type | Age group | Straight line distance (Catchment) | Minimum size of activity area | Nearest dwelling | Characteristics |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Local Equipped Area | Pre-teens | 400 m | 400 m ² (0.04 ha) | A minimum of 20 metres from activity area | 5 types of play equipment, small games area, seating |
| Neighbourhood Equipped Areas | Older pre-teens and teens | 600 m | 1000 m ² (0.1 ha) | A minimum of 30 metres from activity area | 8 types of play equipment, opportunities for ball games or wheeled activities, seating |

The distances shown to the nearest dwelling are the minimum as in some cases a larger distance may be required depending on the activities involved. The Borough Council's Environmental Service will be consulted on open space development where children and young people's provision is envisaged.

General

The Borough Council will expect that all new green space provided achieves a quality score of at least 65% using the Borough Council's Green Space Audit scoring system. This will include provision of sports pavilions and parking space, as appropriate.

In practice, the location and design of open space can also facilitate the management of flood risk and the Borough Council can provide further guidance to developers on ways to achieve this aim. If the recreation open space is proposed in the functional floodplain developers should seek opportunities to reduce the overall levels of flood risk through layout and form of development.

3.16 Provision Required

In terms of provision for open space for children and young people Policy REC3 seeks a contribution of 0.04 hectares per 20 dwellings. This is equal to 20 m² per dwelling, comprising of 5m² of equipped play space and 15m² of informal open space. These requirements have been selected to ensure a dedicated provision for children and young people and to ensure that other amenity and natural green spaces are provided to serve a complimentary role.

For the remainder of the provision covered by REC3, the Green Space Strategy demonstrates that children and young people will make use of and enjoy a wide range of open space. The Borough Council will therefore seek to utilise the remainder of the contribution under REC3 towards a balanced provision of informal space types (as outlined in paragraph 2.6), consistent with the overall strategy outlined in Figure 3.3.

With regard to the provision of open space for formal outdoor recreation, Policy RE2 requires a contribution of 0.4 hectares per 100 dwellings with a minimum threshold of 20 dwellings. This converts to a figure of 0.004 hectares per dwelling for developments of 20 dwellings or more. This level of provision would provide in the order of 1.6 hectares of such space for every 400 dwellings.

Formal outdoor recreation covers a wide range of physical activity. However, in practice the main requirement for such space will come from the needs of pitch sports such as football and cricket. The Borough's Green Space Strategy suggests that the equivalent 1.2 hectares per 400 dwellings of such space be devoted to providing for pitch sports; and, 0.4 hectares per 400 dwellings towards other formal recreation activity. This works out at:

- 0.003 hectares per dwelling for pitch sports; and,
- 0.001 hectares per dwelling for other formal recreation,

Subject to a minimum threshold of developments of 20 dwellings or more.

Figure 3.3 offers guidance in terms of how far local people might reasonably be expected to travel to such provision. It will be important for provision to be located to take into account the capabilities of different age groups to travel independently.

Appendix 1: Summary of relevant elements of the Sustainability Appraisal

Statement of Sustainability Issues

This statement has been published in order to comply with Regulation 16 of the Environment Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, the guidance given in paragraph 10.1 of 'Creating Local Development Frameworks: A Companion Guide to PPS12' (ODPM, 2004) and paragraph 4.5.5 of 'Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents (ODPM, 2005).

The Sustainability Appraisal Report is published alongside the adopted Play and Open Space (SPD).

How Sustainability Issues have been integrated into the SPD

Sustainability issues are a key part of the Play and Open Space SPD. It is the intention that through the implementation of the SPD residents of the Borough will have reasonable access to high quality play facilities, formal recreation and open space. This is not only important for physical health, mental health and social well being but is also of enormous benefit to the Borough's biodiversity and natural environment. A Sustainability Appraisal was undertaken on the SPD to ensure the potential economic, social and environmental effects of applying the SPD have been taken into account.

How the Sustainability Appraisal and consultation has been taken into account

The Sustainability Appraisal compares the social, economic, and environmental effects of the following options:

- Implementation of Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan Policies IMP1, REC2 and REC3 on their own; and
- Implementation of Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan Policies IMP1, REC2 and REC3 with the Play and Open Space SPD.

The findings of the Sustainability Appraisal found that implementation of the SPD policies is likely to have a number of social, environmental and economic effects. It was found that the SPD is more likely to ensure the provision of appropriate play facilities and open space within residential developments than the saved policies alone. Omitting the SPD would provide much less certainty in terms of the financial contributions required and the size or type of play facility or open space that should be provided. The SPD should have a beneficial impact on a number of Sustainability Objectives, including SA Objective 4 "To improve access

to and participation in cultural and leisure facilities”. In addition, well-designed and enhanced open space can enhance the character of a neighbourhood, contribute to visual amenity and create a sense of place thus contributing to SA Objectives 8 and 19.

Potential beneficial and adverse effects have been identified in relation to SA Objective 5 “To improve community safety, reduce the fear of crime and reduce anti-social behaviour”. In addition, potential beneficial and adverse effects have been identified in relation to the natural environment. Generally the provision of play facilities and open space was seen to be positive economically, however some developers may be discouraged from pursuing development or decide to develop below the thresholds mentioned in the saved Local Plan policies. Due to the limited remit of the SPD, there were a number of Sustainability Objectives that the SPD would have no impact on. However, overall the SPD was found to be beneficial.

The Sustainability Appraisal suggested a number of measures that could be taken to maximise the beneficial effects associated with the Play and Open Space SPD and mitigate any adverse effects. Some of these measures are already addressed by the SPD (for example, managing flood risk and referring to sources of best practice design and standards). Others are outside the specific remit of this SPD, but will be addressed in other LDF documents. The remaining measures will be incorporated into the Play and Open Space SPD.

The Sustainability Appraisal also suggested a number of indicators that could be used to measure the effectiveness and impact of the SPD in Appendix F. Four of these indicators have been incorporated into the monitoring framework for the SPD. The others were not directly relevant to the specific remit of the Play and Open Space SPD.

Monitoring arrangements

The effects of this SPD will be monitored through the Annual Monitoring Report, produced by the Council each year. The monitoring indicators for this SPD are:

- 1 Percentage of new green space provided, achieving a quality score of at least 65% using the Borough Council’s Green Space Audit scoring system.
- 2 Percentage of new equipped play space provision meeting accessibility standards outlined in the Green Space Strategy.
- 3 Percentage of new formal recreation provision meeting accessibility standards outlined in the Green Space Strategy

If required, a review of the SPD will be timetabled into the Councils Local Development Scheme. The SPD will need to be further revised on adoption of the Council's Core Strategy, Generic Development Control Policies and Site

Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD), which will contain the Council's new detailed policies.

Appendix 2: Relevant national policy and guidance

The primary purpose of the planning system is to promote sustainable development. This encompasses social, economic and environmental components as well as prudent use of natural resources. Proposals for development should contribute to the achievement of this purpose with any negative impacts minimised. Planning Obligations are one mechanism that can be used to help deliver sustainable development. It must however be recognised that if the fundamental concept of the scheme is not in line with sustainable development principles, particularly those set out in the Development Plan, then even a comprehensive planning obligation will not remedy this.

Planning Obligations are legal agreements negotiated under the provisions of Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. These may be negotiated between the applicant and the planning authority, involve third parties or be offered unilaterally by the applicant. Unilateral undertakings are usually drawn up in the context of Planning Appeals but may be appropriately offered by applicants in other specific circumstances. An example would be where all the requirements set out in Local Development Framework are met and no other party is involved in meeting the Obligation.

Planning Obligations can be used to offset the impacts of new development where these cannot be satisfactorily addressed by conditions attached to the planning consent. This may include the need for specific mitigation, or to provide additional infrastructure required by the development. Obligations may take a number of forms. These include “in-kind” contributions, such as where a developer builds or provides a facility, financial payments or long-term management of a site. Many local planning authorities and the Courts have taken a wide view of what topics may be included within Planning Obligations.

In July 2005 The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) published updated guidance on Planning Obligations in Circular 05/2005. Circular 05/2005 states that Planning Obligations should be:

- Necessary
- Relevant to planning
- Directly related to the proposed development
- Fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the proposed development
- Reasonable in all other respects

Circular 05/2005 identifies the importance of setting a planning policy framework for Planning Obligations as justification for the range of requests made. The Circular is also significant in giving support to the use of formulae and methodologies and the use of good practice to speed up the negotiation process. This reflects approaches pioneered by a number of authorities nationally.

Planning Obligations should not be used where conditions can be applied to achieve the same outcome. The fundamental reason for this is that a developer can appeal against a planning condition to the Secretary of State but does not have the same recourse on Planning Obligations. Some planning authorities have been able to manage off-site impacts by the use of so-called “Grampian conditions”. The Planning Officers Society produced a “Best Practice Note” on this topic in March 2005, identifying where this approach may be an appropriate alternative to Planning Obligations. Planning Authorities and developers are encouraged to refer to this for advice.

National Planning Obligation policy is in a state of flux. The Government is currently pursuing through the Planning Bill a proposed a new Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) on developments to finance infrastructure. The idea of this would be to raise money from developers to pay for facilities needed as a consequence of new developments.

For those authorities that choose not to introduce a CIL to fund local infrastructure, planning obligations will continue to provide a means of securing developer contributions (see also section on transitional arrangements, below).

Where a CIL is implemented, planning obligations under section 106 will complement CIL. But the Government proposes, subject to consultation, that they should focus on three areas. Firstly, planning obligations may be the only suitable tool to cover certain non-financial, technical or operational matters.

Secondly, the Government proposes that developers should continue to negotiate directly with the local planning authority to deal with the site-specific impacts that their development will have on the immediate area and without the mitigation of which the development ought not to be given planning permission. This might include, for example, an access road to the development, on-site archaeology or the protection of endangered species found on the site.

Thirdly, to ensure that there is sufficient affordable housing to achieve genuinely mixed communities, the Government believes that affordable housing should wherever possible be provided on-site. Accordingly, it proposes that affordable housing should continue to be provided through negotiated planning obligations, as is currently the case.

The Government will seek views on whether a statutory boundary should be drawn between what is covered by CIL and what is covered by negotiation, and if so, where that boundary might be drawn. For example, developers could be protected from burdensome obligations by prohibiting authorities from seeking

contributions towards the same infrastructure project through both planning obligations and CIL. A further option might be not to prescribe a boundary at a national level, but instead to allow charging authorities to decide and articulate this for themselves.

Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks (PPS12)

PPS12 replaces Planning Policy Guidance Note 12: Development Plans (PPG12), except that PPG12 will remain in operation for development plans still being prepared under the 1999 Development Plan Regulations.

This PPS sets out the Government's policy on the preparation of local development documents which will comprise the local development framework.¹

The PPS explains the role of Supplementary Planning Documents (previously Supplementary Planning Guidance) through which relevant local planning policies (and standards) can be interpreted and applied with respect to developer contributions.

Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space Sport and Recreation (PPG17)

This states that to ensure effective planning for open space, sport and recreation it is essential that the needs of local communities be known. Local authorities should undertake robust assessments of the existing and future needs of their communities for open space, sports and recreational facilities. Local authorities should also undertake audits of existing open space, sports and recreational facilities, the use made of existing facilities, access in terms of location and costs (such as charges) and opportunities for new open space and facilities.

These assessments can help to identify existing and future deficiencies, and inform the content of more detailed action plans and programmes for the provision and/or improvement of sports and recreation opportunities. They form an important part of the evidence base for emerging Local development Frameworks.

Local Standards of Provision

The Government therefore expects all local authorities to carry out the above assessments of needs and audits of open space and sports and recreational facilities. PPG17 states that local authorities should use the information gained from their assessments of needs and opportunities to set locally derived standards for the provision of open space, sports and recreational facilities in their areas. PPG17 also states that local standards should include:

- i. quantitative elements (how much new provision may be needed);
- ii. a qualitative component (against which to measure the need for enhancement of existing facilities); and,
- iii. accessibility (including distance thresholds and consideration of the cost of using a facility).

The Borough Council is actively reviewing their adopted standards of provision in compliance with PPG17. It is likely that this review will result in new standards reflecting a diverse range of sports and recreation opportunities.

Appendix 3: Explanation of different types of open space falling within the scope of REC2 & REC3 of the adopted Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan

REC2: Outdoor Open Space Provision for Formal Recreation

Outdoor Sport

These include seasonal and fixed sports spaces that are openly accessible to the public. Facilities include sports pitches, including cricket, football and rugby. They also include fixed sports spaces such as tennis courts, artificial turf pitches and bowling greens. Very often these facilities are located within Parks or Recreation Grounds, and as such, many of the facilities, especially sports pitches are multi-functional. That is they can be used for sport one day, and for the rest of the week function as a space to walk and play.

Allotments

Allotment gardening/community gardening is a kind of formal outdoor recreation requiring dedicated, specialist facilities. This is a characteristic such activity shares with most outdoor sports.

Allotments provide areas for people to grow their own produce and plants. It is important to be clear about what is meant by the term 'Allotment'. The Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 obliged local authorities to provide sufficient allotments and to let them to persons living in their areas where they considered there was a demand for allotments.

The Allotment Act of 1922 defines the term 'allotment garden' as: "an allotment not exceeding 40 poles in extent which is wholly or mainly cultivated by the occupier for the production of vegetable or fruit crops for consumption by himself or his family" (n.b. 40 Poles equals 1,210 square yards or 1,012 square metres. A Pole can also be known as a Rod or Perch.)

The Allotments Act of 1925 gives protection to land acquired specifically for use as allotments, so called Statutory Allotment Sites, by the requirement for the need for the approval of Secretary of State in event of sale or disposal. Some allotment sites may not specifically have been acquired for this purpose. Such allotment sites are known as "temporary" (even if they have been in use for decades) and are not protected by the 1925 legislation.

In this country an Allotment Garden is generally distinct from a 'Community Garden'. A Community Garden in the UK tends to be situated in a built-up area and is typically run by an independent non-profit organisation. It is also likely to perform a dual function as an open space or play area: while it may offer plots to

individual cultivators the organisation that administers the garden will normally have a great deal of the responsibility for its planting, landscaping and upkeep.

REC3: Outdoor Play Space for Children

Children and young people will play/'hang out' in almost all publicly accessible "space" ranging from the street, town centres and squares, parks, playing fields, "amenity" grassed areas etc as well as the more recognisable play and youth facility areas such as equipped playgrounds, youth shelters, BMX and skateboard parks, Multi-use Games Areas etc. Clearly many of the other types of open space covered by REC2 & REC3 will therefore provide informal play opportunities.

To a child, the whole world is a potential playground: where an adult sees a low wall, a railing, curb or street bench, a child might see a mini adventure playground or a challenging skateboard obstacle. Play should not be restricted to designated 'reservations' and planning and urban design principles should reflect these considerations.

Informal Children's Play Space: Equipped Play Space for Children and Young People

The Green Space Strategy identifies the following types of equipped provision that contributions should be directed at:

- Equipped children's space (for pre-teens)
- Provision for teenagers.

The former comprises equipped areas of play that cater for the needs of children up to and around 12 years. The latter comprises informal recreation opportunities for, broadly, the 13 to 16/17 age group, and which might include facilities like skateboard parks, basketball courts and 'free access' Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs). In practice, there will always be some blurring around the edges in terms of younger children using equipment aimed for older persons and vice versa.

Other Informal space types for play

Amenity Green Space

The category is considered to include those spaces open to free and spontaneous use by the public, but neither laid out nor managed for a specific function such as a park, public playing field or recreation ground; nor managed

as a natural or semi-natural habitat. These areas of open space will be of varied size, but are likely to share the following characteristics:

- Unlikely to be physically demarcated by walls or fences.
- Predominantly laid down to (mown) grass.
- Unlikely to have identifiable entrance points (unlike parks).
- Unlikely to have planted flowerbeds or other formal planted layouts, although they may have shrub and tree planting.
- Generally no other recreational facilities and fixtures (such as play equipment or ball courts), although there may be items such as litterbins and benches.

Examples might include both small and larger informal grassed areas in housing estates and general recreation spaces such as existing village greens. They can serve a variety of functions dependent on their size, shape, location and topography. Some may be used for informal recreation activities, whilst others by themselves, or else collectively, contribute to the overall visual amenity of an area.

Natural Green Space

For the purpose of this SPD (Accessible) Natural Green Space covers a variety of spaces including meadows, river floodplain, woodland and copse all of which share a trait of having natural characteristics and wildlife value, but which are also open to public use and enjoyment. Research elsewhere and (more importantly) the local consultation for this study has identified the value attached to such space for recreation and emotional well-being. A sense of 'closeness to nature' with its attendant benefits for people is something that is all too easily lost in urban areas. (Accessible) Natural Green Spaces should be viewed as important a component of community infrastructure in planning for new development as other forms of open space or 'built' recreation facilities.

(Accessible) Natural Green Spaces can make important contributions towards local Biodiversity Action Plan targets and can also raise awareness of biodiversity values and issues.

Some sites will have statutory rights or permissive codes allowing the public to wander in these sites. Others may have defined Rights of Way or permissive routes running through them. For the remainder of sites there may be some access on a managed basis. Although many natural spaces may not be 'accessible' in the sense that they cannot be entered and used by the general community, they can be appreciated from a distance, and contribute to visual amenity.

Urban Parks and Gardens

In the most built up areas of areas, and where there are higher numbers of population it can often be difficult to gain access to green open spaces which are multi-purpose and of a relative size which serve all ages of the population, this is something which urban parks and urban gardens are intended to remedy.

Urban parks and gardens often provide the space and environment for recreational exercise; dog walking and can provide a place for relaxation whilst observing a safe and attractive natural environment which exhibits quality landscaping and seasonal flora and fauna.

The Borough Council note the merit of these environments and their contribution to creating an attractive and distinctive environment, whilst having the potential to encourage healthy lifestyles. Contributions may be sought towards the enhancement and/or creation of such environments which may also assist in the successful delivery of the Green Space Strategy improvements plan.

Churchyards and cemeteries

In some parts of the Borough local churchyards and cemeteries serve an important role for quiet informal recreation, and are especially important in settlements where there are no other public green spaces. In these circumstances it may be appropriate for the Borough Council to seek to use developer contributions towards the enhancement of such spaces.

Appendix 4: Unit costs, assumptions and examples

Maintenance contributions

The following general approach will be adopted in terms of a requirement for fixed term maintenance contributions:

- Play areas used primarily by residents of a relevant development: **20 years**.
- Play areas also used by the wider community: **10 years**.
- Small open space areas (used primarily by residents of a relevant development): **20 years**.
- Larger open spaces (such as for outdoor sport that may also be used by the wider community): **10 years**.

Unit costs

The following tables indicate how the costs of provision have been established and are based upon the Borough Council's own information in relation to providing and maintaining relevant types of open space. They will be updated on a regular basis in accordance with the Retail Prices Index. The following details the 6 categories which have been allocated to ensure the complete comprehension of costs necessary to the achievement of quality open spaces. (All figures are in £'s unless otherwise stated).

A – Establishment/Provision of Formal Open Space

B – Establishment/Provision of equipped children's play area (LEAP/NEAP)

C – Establishment/Provision of informal Unequipped Play Space

D – Maintenance of Formal Open Space

E – Maintenance of equipped play space

F – Maintenance of Informal unequipped Play Space

A. Establishment/Provision of Formal Open Space (Including Land Drainage Measures)

Creation and Land Drainage of football pitch on existing land (7500 sq.m)

| | |
|---|--------|
| Cultivation & seeding with some minor grading | 3,529 |
| Associated Land Drainage measures | 56,881 |

Supply & Installation of 1 no. Kick about/basketball area

| | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Supply & Install | 50,862 |
| H & S Lighting & CCTV | 15,570 |

| | |
|---|-------|
| Supply & Installation 1 no. Teenage shelter | 4,000 |
|---|-------|

Grass Surround (2500 sq.m)

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| Cultivation | 684 |
| Supply & lay | <u>6,046</u> |

Total per Hectare **137,572**

Per metre square **13.76**

Please note that should land drainage measures be deemed unnecessary the per metre squared figure would be reduced by £5.69 to £8.07. (Please note that this figure is correct at the time of adoption and any increase should be factored in line with RPI inflation).

B. Establishment/Provision of equipped children’s play area (LEAP/NEAP)

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Supply & Installation of Safety surface (400sq.m) | 26,988 |
| Supply & Installation of Equipment (minimum of 5 items) | 22,330 |
| Supply & Installation of dog proof fencing (77LM) plus 2 sets of gates | 6,392 |
| Supply & Installation of litter bins x 2 | 664 |
| Supply & Installation of benches x 2 | 1,108 |
| Post installation inspection | <u>550</u> |
| Total for the required 400sq.m area | 58,032 |
| Per metre squared per 400m | 145.08 |

C. Establishment/Provision of informal Unequipped Play Space

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Installation of hard surfaces/pathways (900sq.m) | 46,710 |
| <i>Establishment of grass (9000sq.m)</i> | |
| Cultivation | 2,462 |
| Seed | 148 |
| <i>Supply & Planting of Trees (20 no. Heavy standards)</i> | |
| Supply | 1,500 |
| Labour | 277 |
| 100 whips | 171 |
| Supply & Planting of shrubs (100 sq.m) | |
| Supply (x300) | 825 |
| Cultivation | 27 |
| Planting | 358 |
| Supply & Planting of Bulbs | 547 |
| Supply & Installation of Benches x 10 | 5,335 |
| Supply & Installation of Litter/Dog bins x 10 | <u>3,200</u> |
| Total per hectare | 61,560 |
| Per metre square | 6.16 |

D. Maintenance of Formal Open Space

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Grass Cutting of pitch | 351 |
| Additional Maintenance Incl marking, roll & chain harrow) | 1434 |
| Basketball/Kick about area (Incl inspections, sweeping, repairs) | 3105 |
| Teenage Shelter (Incl Inspection & maintenance) | 373 |
| Grass Surround (Incl litter collection & cutting) | <u>1313</u> |
| <i>Total per annum per hectare</i> | 6575 |
| Per metre square, per annum | 0.66 |

E. – Maintenance of equipped play space

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Annual Risk Assessment | 88.14 |
| Weekly Risk Assessment | 769 |
| Equipment maintenance | 1093 |
| <i>Fence & Bench Maintenance</i> | |
| Fence (per 20 linear metre's) | 255 |
| Bench x2 | 53 |
| Bins Emptying (per 2 bins) | 31 |
| Litter picking | <u>539</u> |
| <i>Total per annum for 400sq.m</i> | 2828 |
| Per metre square, per annum | 7.07 |

F. Maintenance of informal play space

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Hard Surface Cleaning (Incl sweeping & application of herbicide) | 1726 |
| Grass Cutting | |
| Gang (7500sq.m) | 360 |
| Pedestrian (2500) | 1203 |
| Leaf Clearance @ 5000sq.m | 39 |
| Litter Clearance @ 2000sq.m | 769 |
| Edge Maintenance – 2000 linear metres | 280 |
| Shrub Bed Maintenance | 330 |
| Hedge Cutting | 526 |
| Furniture Maintenance | <u>106</u> |
| <i>Total per annum per hectare</i> | 5338 |
| Per metre square, per annum | 0.53 |

Calculation of Financial Contributions in lieu of on site provision

The following equation indicates how financial contributions in lieu of open space are calculated. If an element of open space is provided on site this is discounted from the overall sum.

The following assumptions apply which are derived from the requirements of policies REC2 and REC3. (See Chapter 2 & 3 of the main document):

- Each dwelling requires the equivalent provision of 40 m² of formal open space.
- Each dwelling requires the equivalent provision of 20 m² of informal (children's) play space.
- Of the 20 m² of informal (children's) play space 5 m² will be assumed to be an equipped play area.

Financial Contributions

The categories of financial contribution listed below (A-F) correspond with those indicated in the tables above.

A. No. of proposed dwellings x 40 (total square metre area of formal open space required per dwelling) x area cost per square metre = Total formal open space contribution. (Excluding Land Drainage Costs).

B. No. of proposed dwellings x 5 (total square metre area of children's equipped play space per dwelling) x area cost per square metre = Total children's equipped play space contribution.

C. No. of proposed dwellings x 15 (total square metre area of informal children's play space per dwelling) x area cost per square metre = Total informal children's play space contribution.

D. No. of proposed dwellings x 40 (total square metre area of formal open space per dwelling) x maintenance cost per square metre x maintenance period[♦] = Total maintenance contributions for formal open space.

E. No. of proposed dwellings x 5 (total square metre area of children's equipped play space per dwelling) x maintenance cost per square metre x maintenance period = Total maintenance contributions for children's equipped play space.

[♦] As appropriate.

F. No. of proposed dwellings x 15 (total square metre area of informal children's play space per dwelling) x maintenance cost per square metre x maintenance period = Total maintenance contributions for informal children's play space.

In all of the above cases the following must also be taken into account:

- For formal (sporting) open space, as stated in the Outdoor Sport design section of Chapter 3, of the main document these calculations must in addition also reflect the cost of installing and maintaining a drainage system to an appropriate standard.
- Where a discount on the full developer contribution is applicable (see Chapter 3), this must be factored into the calculations. (See the following worked examples).

Worked Examples

Example 1

Where 40 large (family) dwellings are proposed with no on-site provision of formal or informal open space and no intention to subsequently maintain open space following completion of the development the following contribution including a 10-year maintenance will be as follows:

Instalment

A (£22,016) + B (£29,016) + C (£3,696) = £54,728.

This cost is inclusive of appropriate drainage infrastructure. (See the Outdoor Sport Design section in Chapter 3 of the main document).

Maintenance (assuming a 10 year period as provision will be off site and used by non residents.)

D (£10,560) + E (£14,140) + F (£3,180) = £27,880

Please Note: With regard to maintenance contributions, the impact of inflation will need to be factored in for the respective maintenance periods. If it is agreed that a developer will provide all of the contribution for the entire term as a one-off commuted sum, the compound impact of inflation (at an agreed rate) will be calculated as part of the overall sum. This will be based on the average inflation rate per annum, further detail can be found in the Financial Contributions Section in Chapter 3.

Example 2

The above scenario except that the dwellings proposed are small, single bedroom housing.

The same basic calculations are undertaken as for Example 1, but with a discount applied to the final figures reflecting the fact that such housing will be expected to yield 75% of the full contribution. (See the Qualifying Housing section in Chapter 3 of the main document).

Instalment

$$£54,728 \times 0.75 = £41,046$$

Maintenance

$$£27,880 \times 0.75 = £20,910$$

Other comments made under Example 1 are also applicable here.

Example 3

Where 220 family houses are proposed with 100% provision of informal space and 50% provision of formal open space and where no maintenance would be carried out by the developer following completion of the scheme.

Instalment

$$A (£121,088 \times 0.5) = £60,544 + B (£159,588) + C (£20,328) = £240,460$$

This cost is inclusive of appropriate drainage infrastructure. (See the Outdoor Sport Design section in Chapter 3 of the main document).

Maintenance (assuming a 20 year maintenance period for informal and equipped children's play, and a 10 year period for formal open space).

$$D (£58,080) + E (£155,540) + F (£34,980) = £489,060$$

Where maintenance contributions cover long periods the impact of inflation will need to be factored in. If it is agreed that a developer will provide all of the contribution for the entire term as a one-off commuted sum, the compound impact of

inflation (at an agreed rate) will be calculated as part of the overall sum. This will be based on the average inflation rate per annum.

Appendix 5 – Glossary

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| AAP | Area Action Plan | These site-specific plans will provide the planning policy framework for key areas of opportunity, change and/or conservation. |
| AMR | Annual Monitoring Report | This is a document to be produced each year to assess the implementation of the Local Development Scheme and effectiveness of Local Development Documents. |
| Chain of Conformity | Chain of Conformity | This term describes the relationship between documents, plans and policies and how closely they must correspond with one another and reflect other planning strategies and policies. 'Conformity' can take number of forms ranging from 'having regard to' to 'must conform to'. |
| Community Plan | Community Strategy | Local Authorities are required by the Local Government Act 2000 to prepare Community Strategies, with the aim of improving the social, environmental and economic well being of their areas. Through the Community Plan, authorities are expected to co-ordinate the actions of the local public, private, voluntary and community sectors through the establishment of a Local Strategic Partnership. |
| DPD | Development Plan Document | Any part of the LDF that forms part of the statutory development plan e.g. the Core Strategy, site-specific allocations of land, area action plans and the proposals map. |
| Early Stakeholder and Community Engagement | Early Stakeholder and Community Engagement | Raising awareness of the LDF process and establishing relationships with stakeholders in order to engage them in the preparation of LDD's. The LPA |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| | | will seek the views of stakeholders on the key issues, which should be considered during the LDF preparation. |
| Examination | Independent Public Examination | An examination chaired by an independent Planning Inspector into the soundness of the Development Plan Documents and Statement of Community Involvement. |
| GOEM | Government Office for the East Midlands | Regional Government office (based in Nottingham) responsible for implementing national policy in the region and ensuring LPA policies and plans accord with national guidance. |
| Issues and Options Consultation /Stage | Issues and Options | Before a draft DPD is prepared the Borough Council will consult stakeholders on the issues that need to be considered and the possible options available for inclusion in the DPD. This process will be informed by the evidence base studies undertaken by the LPA, the strategic planning framework and the need to ensure the resultant DPD is sound in terms of sustainable development. |
| LDD | Local Development Document | The individual documents that set out planning policies and guidance for the Borough for specific topics or for geographical areas, includes DPD's, SPD's and SCI. |
| LDF | Local Development Framework | The collective name given to all those policies and documents forming the planning framework for the Borough including DPD's, SPD's, The Proposals Map, SCI, LDS and AMR. |
| LDS | Local Development Scheme | The project management document setting out the programme for preparing the LDD's and proposals for monitoring and review (this document). |

| | | |
|--|------------------------------------|--|
| LP | Local Plan | The existing adopted statutory plan for the Borough, Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan 1991-2006, which sets out the policies for development and its control and proposals for particular areas/sites. As DPD's are adopted they will replace parts of this Plan. |
| LPA | Local Planning Authority | The name given to the Council that has responsibility for local planning matters. In Hinckley and Bosworth this is the Borough Council. |
| LSP | Local Strategic Partnership | A cross sector partnership including service providers, voluntary organisations, community groups, and residents. The aim of the partnership is to plan and deliver a joint programme for improving quality of life. In Hinckley and Bosworth this programme is called the Community Plan, but there is also a Leicestershire Community Strategy prepared by a Countywide LSP, Leicestershire Together. |
| PPG/PPS | Planning Policy Guidance/Statement | These are subject specific Government advice and policies on national land-use in England. PPS's are being phased in to supersede PPG's. These can be viewed online: www.communities.gov.uk |
| Preferred Options Report/ Consultation Stage | Preferred Options Report | A report and Initial Sustainability Appraisal will be prepared by the Borough Council outlining the 'Preferred Options' of the Council on the particular topic/geographical area covered by the Development Plan Document being prepared. It can only be prepared once the LPA has undertaken detailed consultation on the 'Issues and Options' available. It will be published for consultation for six weeks before a submission document is prepared taking account |

of the representations made.

| | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| RPB | Regional Planning Body | The regional body responsible for preparing the Regional Spatial Strategy, which forms part of the statutory development plan. For Hinckley and Bosworth this is the East Midlands Regional Assembly. |
| RSS | Regional Spatial Strategy/ Regional Plan | Overarching strategy document produced by the Regional Planning Body. The RSS provides a spatial framework to inform the preparation of the LDF and will form part of the statutory development plan. |
| SA | Sustainability Appraisal | An assessment of the social, economic and environmental impacts of the policies and proposals of each DPD and SPD. |
| SCI | Statement of Community Involvement | A document that sets out the standards to which the LPA will engage and consult the public and other stakeholders during the production of the LDF and when dealing with planning applications. |
| SEA | Strategic Environmental Assessment | An assessment of the potential impacts of policies and proposals on the environment to include proposals for the mitigation of impacts. |
| Soundness | Soundness | All Local Development Documents will have to be tested for 'soundness' as part of the examination process. For LDD's to be 'sound' they must meet minimum standards of community involvement as laid down in the Statement of Community Involvement, have been properly appraised for sustainability and conform with national planning policy and the Regional Spatial Strategy. They must also be coherent and consistent with the core strategy and effective, so they |

are able to deliver results.

| | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|
| SPD | Supplementary Planning Document | SPD's are intended to elaborate upon the policies and proposals contained in DPD's but do not have their statutory status. SPD is subject to a Sustainability Appraisal. |
| SPG | Supplementary Planning Guidance | SPG's are the predecessor to SPD and performed the same function under the old system. SPG produced to supplement adopted Local Plan policies cannot be saved but will remain a material consideration in making planning decisions until the relevant Local Plan policy is replaced by a DPD. |
| Stakeholders | Stakeholders | Stakeholders are any organisations, bodies or individuals affected or interested in the LDF preparation. This will involve members of the public, developers, landowners, interest groups and organisations such as the Environment Agency. |
| Structure Plan | Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Structure Plan 1996-2016 | The strategic planning document under the previous planning system, which provided the housing and employment provisions for the Borough and strategic policy framework for the Local Plan production. The current Structure Plan 1996-2016 was adopted in March 2005. |
| Submission Document/Stage | Submission Document | Submission of a Local Development Document and Final Sustainability Appraisal to the Secretary of State for examination by an Independent Inspector. This will follow consultation on a 'Preferred Options Report' by the Borough Council and consideration of the representations received. Once prepared a submitted document will be published for further consultation for |

six weeks and the Inspector will consider the representations made.

Sustainable
Development

Sustainability

Environmentally responsible development, commonly defined as "development which meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".

Sustainability Report

Sustainability Appraisal of the
Hinckley and Bosworth Play and Open Space
Developer Contributions Supplementary
Planning Document

for
Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council



October 2007

Sustainability Report

Sustainability Appraisal of the
Hinckley and Bosworth Play and Open Space
Developers Contributions Supplementary
Planning Document

for
Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council

October 2007

| Reference: Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council – Play and Open Space Developer Contributions Sustainability Report – October 2007 | | | |
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| V3 | - | | |
| V4 | - | FRASER MCDERMOTT | PAUL BURGESS |
| V5 | - | Sustainability Consultant | Senior Environmental Consultant |
| <p><i>N:\Projects\E6501-E7000\E006915-49\reports\Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD\Hinckley and Bosworth Play and Open Space SPD Sustainability Report - FINAL.doc</i></p> <p>White Young Green Environmental Limited, Arndale Court, Headingley, Leeds. LS6 2UJ. Telephone: 0113 278 7111 Facsimile: 0113 275 0623 E-Mail: enviro.leeds@wyg.com</p> | | | |

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL**SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL OF THE HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH
PLAY AND OPEN SPACE DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS
SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT****SUSTAINABILITY REPORT****OCTOBER 2007****CONTENTS**

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ABBREVIATIONS

BAP - Biodiversity Action Plan
BHM - Balanced Housing Markets
BNAM - Basic Needs Assessment Model
BVPI - Best Value Performance Indicator
CABE - Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment
DPD - Development Plan Document
EAR - Economic Activity Rate
FIT - Fields In Trust
HER - Historic Environment Record
HQI - Housing Quality Indicator
KS - Key Stage

| | | |
|-------------|---|--|
| LDF | - | Local Development Framework |
| LDS | - | Local Development Scheme |
| LNR | - | Local Nature Reserve |
| NAHP | - | National Affordable Housing Programme |
| NPFA | - | National Playing Fields Association |
| NVQ | - | National Vocation Qualification |
| ODPM | - | Office of the Deputy Prime Minister |
| PPS | - | Planning Policy Statement |
| RSL | - | Registered Social Landlord |
| RSS | - | Regional Spatial Strategy |
| SA | - | Sustainability Appraisal |
| SAC | - | Special Area of Conservation |
| SEA | - | Strategic Environmental Assessment |
| SPA | - | Special Protection Area |
| SPD | - | Supplementary Planning Document |
| SSSI | - | Site of Special Scientific Interest |
| SuDS | - | Sustainable Drainage Systems |
| WYGE | - | White Young Green Environmental |

1.0 NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

1.1 Introduction

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (as the Local Planning Authority for Hinckley and Bosworth) is developing a Play and Open Space Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to supplement existing policies on play and open space in the Borough. In due course the SPD will be incorporated into the Local Development Framework (LDF) being developed by the Council to replace the existing Local Plan (Adopted 2001). The SPD will be a material consideration in determining planning applications in the area.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a process by which plans under preparation can be assessed for sustainability. Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 Local Planning Authorities must subject their LDFs to SA, thus promoting sustainable development by enabling communities to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising future generations. Similarly, under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, where planning documents setting a framework for future development consent are likely to have significant environmental effects it is a requirement that Local Planning Authorities subject them to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

White Young Green Environmental (WYGE) has been commissioned by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council to undertake a combined SA and SEA of the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD.

1.2 Development of the Sustainability Appraisal Framework

In 2005 WYGE undertook Stage A (scoping) of the SA of the Hinckley and Bosworth LDF. This resulted in the production of a SA Scoping Report, including development of a SA framework for use in appraising LDF documents.

The SA Scoping Report details the outcomes of the following activities:

- Review of other plans and programmes of relevance to the Hinckley and Bosworth LDF;
- Collation of social, economic and environmental baseline data;
- Identification of the social, economic and environmental situation in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough;
- Identification of key sustainability issues;
- Development of SA objectives; and
- Consultation on the scope of the SA.

To ensure that the SA framework for the Hinckley and Bosworth LDF was up-to-date and relevant to the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD, WYGE also undertook the following activities:

- Review of plans and programmes of particular relevance to the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD, or that have been published since the SA Scoping Report was produced;
- Collation of recent social, economic and environmental baseline data for the Borough;
- Identification of the current social, economic and environmental situation in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough; and
- Review of key sustainability issues.

A Scoping Consultation Document was sent to statutory and non-statutory consultees in May 2007 to allow for comments on the proposed approach to the SA.

1.3 **Sustainability Appraisal of the Hinckley and Bosworth Play and Open Space Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document**

The SA framework developed in Stage A was used to appraise the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD and related options.

The SPD is designed to supplement the existing Local Plan Policies IMP1, REC2 and REC3. These policies have not been subject to SA as the Local Plan was produced before the statutory requirement for SA was introduced. Therefore, the SA considered three options for the SPD; 'do nothing', implementation of Local Plan Policies IMP1, REC2 and REC3 on their own, and implementation of Local Plan Policies IMP1, REC2 and REC3 with the SPD.

The SA identified a number of likely social, environmental and economic effects associated with implementation of the SPD. Effects were identified as being of a beneficial, adverse or unknown nature.

The SPD provides further guidance on the requirements for the provision of play and open space. As such it is more likely to ensure the provision of appropriate facilities within residential development than the existing policies alone. Omitting the SPD would provide much less certainty in terms of the financial contributions required and the type and size of play and open space that should be provided.

Potential beneficial effects of the SPD include:

- The requirement for the provision of high quality accessible play and open space in accordance with best practice guidance provided by the National Playing Fields Association, whilst also taking into account local circumstances to ensure that local needs are met.
- Indirect benefits upon peoples physical and mental health and well being; through the provision of space for formal sport / informal play and for relaxation / socialising.
- Positive contributions towards the visual amenity / character of neighbourhoods. This in turn can help to increase property values, encourage business investment and therefore help to improve local economies.
- The requirement for contributions towards the maintenance of play and open space, which should help to ensure their longevity.
- Benefits upon the natural environment; open spaces can support a range of habitats and species and provide wildlife corridors for species to travel / migrate to other suitable habitats. Open spaces also help to reduce surface water run-off and flood risk and help to counteract the effects of air pollution by absorbing / offsetting pollutants.

Potential adverse effects of the SPD include:

- The potential for play and open spaces to become the focus for crime and anti-social behaviour. However, the provision of good quality play and open space can engage children and young people, and thereby help to reduce the potential for youth crime / anti-social behaviour. The requirement for contributions for the maintenance of open space may also have a positive effect (e.g. visible staff presence).
- The potential for noise / disturbance issues associated with open space areas and sports and recreation facilities, which could affect neighbouring residents. However, the situation of equipped play space a suitable distance from residential dwellings should help to minimise disturbance from these facilities.

The requirement for the provision of play and open space may discourage developers. However, given the social, economic and environmental value of play and open space this is not considered to be a key sustainability issue. The economic effects associated with the provision of play and open space are therefore considered to be positive.

A number of additional aspects are recommended for inclusion within the SPD, which should help to ensure the provision of quality play and open space whilst also meeting sustainability objectives.

It is recommended that recognition be given to the value of play and open space within the SPD. A short summary which identifies the major issues concerning play provision and the opportunities associated with play and open is also advised.

In addition, it is advised that reference to ease of access and quality in design within the SPD could be expanded upon to provide further clarity on best practice design and standards. Additional best practice design standards and guidance is recommended.

A series of mitigation measures have been developed to maximise beneficial effects and to minimise adverse effects of the SPD. Targets and indicators have also been produced, which should be used to monitor the performance of the SPD against the SA objectives.

2.0 **INTRODUCTION**

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (as the Local Planning Authority for Hinckley and Bosworth) is developing a Play and Open Space Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to supplement existing policies on play and open space in the Borough. In due course the SPD will be incorporated into the Local Development Framework (LDF) being developed by the Council to replace the existing Local Plan (Adopted 2001). The SPD will be a material consideration in determining planning applications in the area.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a process by which plans under preparation can be assessed for sustainability. Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 Local Planning Authorities must subject their LDFs to SA, thus promoting sustainable development by enabling communities to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising future generations. Similarly, under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, where planning documents setting a framework for future development consent are likely to have significant environmental effects it is a requirement that Local Planning Authorities subject them to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). Such documents include those under an LDF.

White Young Green Environmental (WYGE) has been commissioned by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council to undertake a combined SA and SEA of the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD. This combined approach is simply referred to as SA throughout this Sustainability Report.

The SA process undertaken has resulted in the production of this Sustainability Report. The purpose of this Sustainability Report is to present the findings of the SA process in a manner that can be used for stakeholder and public consultation. This report has the following format:

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Chapter 1 | Non Technical Summary Offers a non technical overview of the SA process and its findings. |
| Chapter 2 | Introduction |
| Chapter 3 | Sustainability Appraisal Process Provides an overview of the SA process undertaken including details of the SA objectives used to appraise the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD. |
| Chapter 4 | Background Details the background to the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD. |
| Chapter 5 | Baseline and Key Issues Describes baseline conditions in relation to a series of social, economic and environmental parameters and outlines key sustainability issues that have been considered during the SA process. |
| Chapter 6 | Significant Effects of the Supplementary Planning Document Predicts the likely social, economic and environmental effects of the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD and details mitigation to reduce adverse effects and maximise beneficial effects. |
| Chapter 7 | Implementation and Monitoring Provides details on how the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD will be implemented and proposals for monitoring its implementation. |

Report conditions are set out in Appendix A.

3.0 SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL PROCESS

3.1 Requirement for Sustainability Appraisal

Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 local planning authorities are required to undertake SA for all DPDs and SPDs that go to make up a LDF.

Article 1 of the EU Directive 2001/42 on the Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment determines its objective as being “...to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans ... with a view to promoting sustainable development...”.

Directive 2001/42 is implemented in the UK through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. Under these Regulations local planning authorities are required to undertake SEA for any planning documents setting a framework for future development consent where they are likely to have significant environmental effects. Such planning documents include DPDs and SPDs.

Although the statutory requirements for carrying out SA and SEA are distinct it is possible to satisfy both through a single but integrated SA process. Such a joint approach is advocated in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM)¹ guidance. For ease the combined SEA and SA process is simply referred to as SA throughout this Sustainability Report.

3.2 Sustainability Appraisal Regulations and Guidance

The SA process undertaken by WYGE has been developed in accordance with the following regional, national and European regulations and guidance:

- Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
- Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.
- ODPM (2005i) A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive: Practical Guidance on applying European Directive 2001/42/EC on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment.
- ODPM (2005ii) Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks: Guidance for Regional Planning Bodies and Local Planning Authorities.
- English Nature, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Countryside Agency and Environment Agency (2004) Strategic Environmental Assessment and Biodiversity: Guidance for Practitioners.
- European Commission (2001) Strategic Environmental Assessment and Integration of the Environment into Strategic Decision Making.
- Environment Agency (2004) Strategic Environmental Assessment of External Plans and Programmes.

3.3 Sustainability Appraisal Process

SEA is a means of evaluating the environmental acceptability of a plan in a formalised and systematic manner by identifying key environmental issues associated with the study area and how adoption of the plan will influence them. SEA occupies a central position in the hierarchy of land use planning sitting between high level government planning policy and environmental assessment at project level. The SEA process considers similar issues to project level environmental assessment but differs in that the existing environment is examined in broad terms and strategic options are evaluated against environmental objectives. This is because the site specific information needed to complete a project level environmental assessment and quantify environmental effects is not available at the strategic stage.

SA differs from SEA in that it expands the focus of the assessment process to encompass social and economic issues. SA is described by the ODPM (2005ii) guidance as:

¹ The ODPM is now the Department for the Communities and Local Government

“...An iterative process that identifies and reports on the likely significant effects of the plan and the extent to which implementation of the plan will achieve the social, environmental and economic objectives by which sustainable development can be defined....”

The combined SA process will identify key social, economic and environmental issues associated with Hinckley and Bosworth Borough and how adoption of the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD will influence them. It will help to ensure that significant adverse effects arising from the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD are either avoided or mitigated. The process will also identify requirements (or indicators) for monitoring the implementation of the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD following its adoption. Monitoring will identify any unforeseen impacts and inform the next revision or replacement.

3.4 Objectives of Sustainability Appraisal

Undertaking SA allows for the social, economic and environmental acceptability of the development options to be determined and thus taken into account in the decision making process. However it should be noted that whilst SA will inform the decision making process, the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD may not always reflect the option that is considered most sustainable.

3.5 Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive Compliance

This Sustainability Report incorporates the requirements for an Environmental Report as set out in the SEA Directive (Annex I). Table 3.1 summarises the requirements of the SEA Directive, identifies how the requirements have been met and where these are located in the Sustainability Report.

Table 3.1 - SEA Directive Compliance

| Requirement of SEA Directive | Where covered in the SA of the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD |
|--|--|
| a) An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan... ...and its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes | Section 4.3 of the Sustainability Report. Section 3.7.3 and Appendix B of the Sustainability Report. Plans and programmes reviewed during development of the SA framework for Hinckley and Bosworth LDF are provided in the SA Scoping Report for the SA of the Hinckley and Bosworth LDF. |
| b) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan | Section 5.0 of the Sustainability Report. |
| c) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected | Section 5.0 of the Sustainability Report. |
| d) The environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance | Section 5.0 and Section 5.4 of the Sustainability Report. |

| Requirement of SEA Directive | Where covered in the SA of the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD |
|---|---|
| <p>e) Any existing environmental protection objectives which are relevant to the plan...</p> <p>...and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation</p> | <p>Section 3.7.3 and Appendix B of the Sustainability Report.</p> <p>Environmental objectives of relevance to the Hinckley and Bosworth LDF are also provided in the SA Scoping Report for the SA of the Hinckley and Bosworth LDF.</p> |
| <p>f) The likely significant effects on the environment including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors</p> | <p>Section 6.4 and Appendix E of the Sustainability Report.</p> |
| <p>g) The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme</p> | <p>Section 6.4, Section 6.5 and Appendix E of the Sustainability Report.</p> |
| <p>h) An outline for the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with...</p> <p>...and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties encountered in compiling the required information.</p> | <p>Section 6.3 of the Sustainability Report.</p> <p>Section 6.2 of the Sustainability Report.</p> |
| <p>i) A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10 of the SEA Directive</p> | <p>Section 7.3 and Appendix F of the Sustainability Report.</p> |
| <p>j) A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings</p> | <p>Section 1.0 of the Sustainability Report.</p> |

3.6 Sustainability Appraisal Stages

The SA process adopted by WYGE for the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD has been developed following current guidance produced by the ODPM (2005ii). It involves the following steps:

STAGE A Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope

- Identifying other plans and programmes of relevance to the SPD.
- Collating baseline data and identifying gaps in the current baseline.
- Identifying baseline conditions and key sustainability issues on the basis of the baseline data collated.
- Developing SA objectives.
- Consulting on the scope of the SA.

STAGE B Developing and refining options and assessing effects

- Testing the SPD objectives against the SA objectives².
- Developing the SPD options.
- Predicting and assessing the significant effects of implementing Local Plan Policies IMP1, REC2 and REC3 on their own.
- Predicting and assessing the significant effects of implementing Local Plan Policies IMP1, REC2 and REC3 with the SPD.
- Developing mitigation for any adverse effects and to maximise beneficial effects.
- Developing recommendations for future monitoring requirements or indicators.

STAGE C Preparing the Sustainability Report

Subsequent to the publication of this Sustainability Report the following stages of the SA process will need to be undertaken by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council:

STAGE D Consulting on the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD and the Sustainability Report

- Public participation on the SPD and the Sustainability Report.
- Appraising any significant changes to the SPD.
- Providing information on how the SA and consultation responses were taken into account in preparing the SPD.

STAGE E Monitoring implementation of the plan

- Monitoring significant effects of the SPD once adopted.
- Responding to any adverse effects arising from the SPD following adoption.

3.7 Stage A – Scoping**3.7.1 Links with Sustainability Appraisal Scoping**

Stage A (scoping) of the SA has already been undertaken for the overall Hinckley and Bosworth LDF process and a SA Scoping Report produced. The SA Scoping Report details the outcomes of Stage A, including the SA framework to be used in appraising LDF documents. The SA framework has been adapted specifically for the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD as detailed in this Sustainability Report.

3.7.2 Consultation

A Scoping Consultation Document was sent to the following statutory and non-statutory consultees in May 2007 to allow for comments on the proposed approach to the SA:

- Natural England
- Environment Agency
- English Heritage
- East Midlands Development Agency
- Government Office for the East Midlands
- East Midlands Regional Assembly
- Leicestershire County and Rutland Primary Care Trust
- Leicestershire Constabulary
- Leicestershire Chamber of Commerce and Industry

² WYGE is unable to undertake a compatibility test as the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD does not propose any specific aims or objectives for the provision of play and open space.

- Leicestershire Economic Partnership
- British Waterways
- Sport England
- Transport 2000
- DEFRA Rural Development Service
- Forestry Commission
- Highways Agency
- Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust
- East Midlands Community Renewables Initiative
- Severn Trent Water
- National Farmers Union
- Leicestershire County Council
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- National Playing Fields Association
- Arriva Midlands
- Network Rail
- Leicestershire Development Agency
- First Buses

The purpose of the consultation was to:

- Identify plans and programmes of relevance to the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD that need to be reviewed as part of the SA process;
- Identify social, environmental and economic issues of specific relevance to the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD that need to be considered as part of the SA process;
- To determine whether the list of key sustainability issues presented in the SA Scoping Report for LDF are comprehensive; and
- To determine whether any of the key sustainability issues presented in the SA Scoping Report are of greater significance when considered in the context of the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD.

This consultation also provided an opportunity to gain feedback and suggestions from consultees on the suitability of the SA objectives to be used in appraising the SPD.

Consultee comments on the scope of the SA framework are provided in full in Appendix D.

3.7.3 Links to Relevant Plans and Programmes

It is a requirement of the SEA Directive that an analysis of the plan's "...*relationship with other relevant plans and programmes...*" (Annex 1a of the SEA Directive) and of "...*the environmental protection objectives...which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation...*" (Annex 1e of the SEA Directive) is undertaken.

A review of plans and programmes of relevance to Hinckley and Bosworth was undertaken as part of the SA of the Hinckley and Bosworth LDF in 2005.

To ensure that the SA framework developed for the Hinckley and Bosworth LDF was up-to-date and relevant to the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD the following plans and programmes were reviewed:

- Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation;
- The Leicestershire Local Area Agreement;
- Hinckley and Bosworth Community Plan;
- Hinckley and Bosworth Green Space Strategy; and
- Hinckley and Bosworth Cultural Strategy.

Key aims and objectives (including sustainability objectives) of each plan were identified and then the implications for the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD were determined. In addition to identifying links with the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD the review process provided baseline information, helped to identify key sustainability issues and informed the development of the SA objectives.

The review of plans and programmes is provided in Appendix B. Key points arising from this review are that the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD should:

Play and Open Space

- Ensure the provision of high quality, well managed / maintained open space and associated community infrastructure within new development.
- Ensure that developers effectively plan for open space to make sure the needs of local communities are met. An assessment of the existing and future needs of communities for open space, sports and recreation facilities should be undertaken.
- Ensure the protection and enhancement of existing areas of open space / green infrastructure, particularly areas which are of value to communities. The quality and accessibility of existing open space sites should not be compromised.
- Ensure that provision is made for local sports and recreational facilities and play space within open space that meets local needs (either through an increase in the number of facilities or through improvements to existing facilities). Sports facilities provision should cater for all age ranges.
- Ensure open space is provided in accordance with best practice, in particular English Nature's Space for Nature Guidelines and the National Playing Fields Association³ (NPFA) Six Acre Standard.
- Ensure the provision of safe, clean and interesting play areas within open space that are within reasonable distance of every child's home (no more than 600m or a 15 minute walk).
- Ensure the provision of a variety of outdoor leisure facilities and activity areas that address the needs of young people, particularly teenagers.
- Ensure the provision of high quality sports pitches and ancillary facilities that encourage participation in sports and physical recreation.
- Ensure the implementation of open space management plans that ensure the long term future of open space areas where necessary.

Community, Culture and Education

- Encourage development of areas within open space that can be used as a focal point for community / cultural activities and events (e.g. local fairs and entertainment shows).
- Ensure that consideration is given to the potential for open space to serve as an education resource (e.g. the potential for life long learning programmes and education nature trails within open space). Any opportunities for the inclusion of educational interpretation boards within open space should be encouraged.
- Ensure that consideration is given to the potential for links between local culture and open space sites.
- Ensure the provision of accessible cultural facilities within open space where appropriate.

Natural and Historic Environment

- Ensure that nature conservation and enhancement is a key consideration when planning open space provision. Habitats and species should be protected during the development of open space as necessary. Developers should provide for the retention or re-establishment of existing biodiversity.
- Ensure that any opportunities for habitat creation and / or enhancement as part of open space provision are sought wherever possible.

³ Please note that the NPFA is now known as Fields In Trust (FIT)

- Ensure the protection and enhancement of any historic assets and their settings associated with open space sites.

Transport and Accessibility

- Ensure that developers promote accessibility by walking and cycling through the provision of appropriate pedestrian / cycle infrastructure and facilities within and around open space areas.
- Ensure that more heavily used or intensive sports / recreation facilities are planned for locations well served by public transport.
- Ensure that open space areas are accessible to everyone, including the elderly, young, the disabled, the rural population and those without a car.

Crime and Anti-social Behaviour

- Ensure consideration is given to security and personal safety during the design of open space, especially for children. Open space should incorporate measures to help reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime (e.g. overlooked, well lit footpaths and play space). Developers should consult with local community safety partnerships to reduce the potential for crime, anti-social behaviour and vandalism within open space.
- Ensure the provision of waste disposal facilities and dog waste bins within open space to reduce the potential for littering and dog fouling.
- Ensure where necessary that open space areas have a visible staff or security presence to reduce the potential for crime and the fear of crime.

Consultation

- Ensure that local communities and other interested parties are given adequate opportunity to participate in, and contribute towards, the decision making process.

3.7.4 Baseline and Key Issues

During Stage A baseline data was collated and reviewed in order to establish the baseline conditions and to help identify key sustainability issues. The baseline conditions provide the basis against which significant effects of the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD can be predicted. Section 5.0 of this Sustainability Report summarises the baseline and key sustainability issues for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough.

3.7.5 Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

At the end of Stage A of the SA of the Hinckley and Bosworth LDF SA objectives were developed. These objectives provide a basis against which to appraise Hinckley and Bosworth LDF documents.

The SA framework for Hinckley and Bosworth LDF sets out 25 objectives covering social, environmental and economic issues. The LDF SA objectives were used as a starting point for the development of SA objectives for the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD. The review of social, environmental and economic situation undertaken during Stage A and consultation on the suitability of the LDF SA framework in May 2007 informed the development of objectives for the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD.

The objectives used to appraise the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD are listed in Table 3.2. The LDF SA objectives have been slightly amended following consultation. Feedback from consultees on the suitability of the LDF SA framework is provided in full in Appendix D.

The Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD should aim to fulfil the SA objectives as this will allow it to be consistent with environmental regulations and high level sustainable development policies. However there may be some objectives on which the Play and Open

Space Developer Contributions SPD will have limited impact or which are in conflict with one another.

Table 3.2 - Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD SA Objectives

| Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD SA Objectives | Economic | Social | Environmental |
|--|-----------------|---------------|----------------------|
| 1. To ensure the provision of decent and affordable housing that meets local needs and links into the provision of services. | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 2. To improve health and reduce health inequalities by promoting healthy lifestyles, protecting health and providing access to health services. | | ✓ | |
| 3. To provide better opportunities for local people and tourists to access and understand local heritage. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 4. To improve access to and participation in cultural and leisure activities. | | ✓ | ✓ |
| 5. To improve community safety, reduce the fear of crime and reduce anti-social behaviour, particularly in Hinckley Town Centre. | | ✓ | |
| 6. To promote and support the empowerment of local communities in creating and implementing solutions that meet their needs focusing particularly on young, elderly and deprived people. | | ✓ | |
| 7. To protect and enhance the natural environment (species and habitats) whilst contributing to the achievement of Biodiversity Action Plan targets. | | | ✓ |
| 8. To conserve and enhance the character, diversity and local distinctiveness of towns and villages in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough. | | | ✓ |
| 9. To preserve and enhance the character, appearance and setting of archaeological sites, historic buildings, conservation sites, historic parks and other cultural assets. | | | ✓ |
| 10. To conserve and enhance the character, diversity and local distinctiveness of the rural landscape in the Borough. | | | ✓ |
| 11. To conserve and enhance woodland cover in the Borough, particularly in the National Forest area. | | | ✓ |
| 12. To manage prudently water resources, improve water quality and protect the floodplain. | | | ✓ |

| Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD SA Objectives | Economic | Social | Environmental |
|---|-----------------|---------------|----------------------|
| 13. To improve air quality particularly through reducing transport related pollutants. | | ✓ | ✓ |
| 14. To manage prudently mineral resources and avoid / reduce pollution of land. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 15. To minimise energy use and develop renewable energy resources. | | | ✓ |
| 16. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the rate of climate change. | | | ✓ |
| 17. To involve people, through changes to lifestyle and at work, in preventing and minimising adverse local, regional and global environmental impacts. | | | ✓ |
| 18. To improve access to education and training for children, young people and adult learners. | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 19. To develop a strong culture of enterprise and innovation whilst providing access to appropriate employment opportunities for the local population, particularly in rural areas. | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 20. To help farmers diversify their agricultural activities or venture into new rural businesses. To help other rural businesses diversify their activities. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 21. To optimise the use of previously developed land, buildings and existing infrastructure. | ✓ | | ✓ |
| 22. To promote and ensure high standards of sustainable design and construction. | ✓ | | ✓ |
| 23. To minimise waste and to increase the re-use and recycling of waste materials. | ✓ | | ✓ |
| 24. To improve access to services, particularly for the rural population, those without a car and for disabled, elderly and deprived people. | | ✓ | ✓ |
| 25. To encourage and develop the use of public transport, cycling and walking as alternatives to the private car. | | ✓ | ✓ |

3.8 Stages B & C

This Sustainability Report details the findings of Stages B and C of the SA process for the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD. Further details of the appraisal methodology adopted are provided in Section 6.0.

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 Study Area

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough is located in west Leicestershire. It is situated between the western fringe of Leicester to the east and Warwickshire to the west. The M1 motorway runs partially along the north-eastern edge of the Borough while the M69 motorway runs partially along the south-eastern edge. Figure 1 shows the location of the Borough in relation to adjacent council administrations.

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough covers an area of 29,700 hectares and has a population of approximately 101,500 people. Rural and agricultural land use accounts for approximately 92% of the Borough. The remaining 8% comprises villages and urban areas. The main settlements are the towns of Hinckley, Earl Shilton, Burbage and Barwell. The western half of the Borough has socio-economic links with the cities of Coventry and Birmingham.

4.2 Hinckley and Bosworth Local Development Framework

Fundamental changes to the planning system have been introduced through the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004). This requires Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council to adopt a LDF in place of their existing Local Plan. The LDF will set out guidelines for the development of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough. In the transitional period the Local Plan will retain development plan status until the policies within it are superseded by those within the LDF documents.

Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 12 sets out the new LDF process. It requires Local Planning Authorities to adopt a spatial planning approach. The LDF will not be restricted solely to land use issues, such as identifying where new houses, employment, retail and leisure facilities should be located, but it will go beyond traditional land use planning by integrating policies for development with policies that influence the nature of places and how they function.

The East Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) produced by the Government Office of the East Midlands in 1994 and reviewed in 2005 will also form part of the statutory development plan for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough. A new Regional Plan for the East Midlands that will fully satisfy the requirements of recent government legislation is currently under review and once finalised this will replace the current RSS.

The Hinckley and Bosworth LDF will comprise a number of Development Plan Documents (DPD) which will have statutory status. The proposals and policies set out in these will guide planning decisions. It will also comprise a number of SPDs which are non-statutory documents prepared to support the delivery of major development sites or complex policy areas. SPDs will be taken into account as a material consideration in determining planning applications.

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council has produced a Local Development Scheme (LDS) for their LDF process. This establishes a programme for delivering the LDF up to 2010. A Statement of Community Involvement has also been prepared, which sets out how the public will participate in the preparation of LDF documents.

LDF documents to be adopted by 2007 / 2008 include the Core Strategy DPD and Shopping and Shop Fronts SPD. The Core Strategy is a principle DPD for the Borough and sets out the general spatial vision and objectives for the delivery of the Hinckley and Bosworth LDF. The Core Strategy Preferred Options were issued for consultation in September 2007.

The Generic Development Control Policies DPD, Site Allocations DPD, Hinckley Town Centre Area Action Plan, Affordable Housing SPD and Sustainable Design SPD are also currently being prepared and are anticipated to be adopted between 2008 and 2010.

4.3 **Hinckley and Bosworth Play and Open Space Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document**

4.3.1 Background

The Hinckley and Bosworth Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD has been produced to supplement existing policies on play and open space provision in the Borough, specifically policies IMP1, REC2 and REC3 of the adopted Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan (see Sections 4.3.2 below).

The SPD sets out Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council's approach when considering planning applications for new residential development likely to generate demand for open space and play facilities.

The SPD is intended to help provide guidance to developers on both the direct provision of open space and play facilities and contributions in lieu of such provision as appropriate.

In due course the SPD will be incorporated into the LDF currently being prepared. The SPD will be a material consideration in determining planning applications in the area.

For the purpose of the SPD the terms 'play' and 'open space' deal with facilities and opportunities covered by policies REC2 and REC3. A list of the different types of open space, as defined within the SPD, is provided in Table 4.1 below.

Table 4.1 – Definitions of the Types of Open Space Covered within the SPD

| Type of Open Space | Definition |
|---|---|
| Equipped children's space (for pre-teens) | Equipped areas of play that cater for the needs of children up to and around 12 years. |
| Provision for teenagers | Informal recreation opportunities for, broadly, the 13 to 16 / 17 age group, which might include facilities like skateboard parks, basketball courts and 'free access' Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs). |
| Outdoor Sport | Seasonal and fixed sports spaces that are openly accessible to the public. Facilities include sports pitches, including cricket, football and rugby. They also include fixed sports spaces such as tennis courts, artificial turf pitches and bowling greens. |
| Amenity Green Space | Spaces open to free and spontaneous use by the public, but neither laid out nor managed for a specific function as a park, public playing field or recreation ground; nor managed as natural or semi-natural habitat. |
| Natural Green Space | Covers a variety of green spaces such as meadows, river floodplain, woodland and copse, all of which share a trait of having natural characteristics and wildlife value, but which are also open to public use and enjoyment. |
| Allotments | As defined in the Allotment Act of 1922: "An allotment not exceeding 1,012sq/m in extent which is wholly or mainly cultivated by the occupier for the production of vegetable or fruit crops for consumption by himself or his family". |

4.3.2 Related Policies in the Local Plan

Local Plan Policy IMP1: Contributions Towards the Provision of Infrastructure and Facilities

Planning permission will be granted for new residential, employment and other development where the developer will make a contribution towards the provision of necessary on site and off site infrastructure and facilities to serve the development commensurate with the scale and

nature of the development proposed. The granting of planning permission will be subject to conditions or to a developer entering into planning obligations to ensure the provision of appropriate contributions.

Local Plan Policy REC2: New Residential Development – Outdoor Open Space Provision for Formal Recreation

In considering planning applications for new residential development, the local authority will seek to negotiate with developers to provide 0.4 hectares (1.0 acre) of well drained, public open space, suitable for formal recreational purposes for each 100 dwellings. This open space shall be of a satisfactory size and form to accommodate a range of formal recreational uses. For developments of between 20 and 100 dwellings, pro rata provision of open space will be sought. However, it may be that the area of land which could be provided in relation to such development would not be practical value as public open space for formal recreational activities. In such instances the local planning authority may alternatively seek to negotiate a financial contribution towards the provision of recreational facilities within the vicinity of the site or towards the improvement of existing facilities in the area.

This requirement for outdoor open space for formal recreation includes the provision of active sports facilities (such as football pitches, tennis courts and athletic tracks) in addition to the provision of informal children's play space. Policy REC2 applies to developments of 20 dwellings and over.

In assessing the need for outdoor open space provision, consideration will be given to the nature and type of housing development proposed as well as its location in relation to existing open space. Within the National Forest area the local planning authority will seek to negotiate an appropriate balance between planting and open space in relation to a particular scheme depending on individual site circumstances.

Local Plan Policy REC3: New Residential Development – Outdoor Playing Space for Children

In considering planning applications for new residential development, the Borough Council will seek to negotiate with developers to provide 0.1 acres (0.04 hectares) of informal children's play space per 20 dwellings. For developments of between 1 - 20 dwellings the level of provision to be made will be determined according to individual circumstances. The children's play space provided should satisfy the following criteria:

- a) Informal play space will be provided that allows for play opportunities for a range of age groups;
- b) Play areas should be linked as far as possible, with other open spaces and footpath systems. Amenity planting areas and other devices should be used to provide the maximum separation from nearby residents in order to reduce the likelihood of disturbance, noise and other nuisances;
- c) Play areas should be located so they are safely accessible by children, with footpath links which do not require the crossing of busy roads or other major hazards;
- d) Play areas are located so they are overlooked by houses or well used pedestrian routes in order to provide some visual supervision; and
- e) Play areas should be sited on land suitable for the type of play opportunity intended and should be appropriately landscaped.

An area of 0.04ha, (0.1 acres) is considered to be the minimum practical size for unequipped children's play area. In the case of large-scale residential development (over 400 houses) an equipped play area of 0.3ha, (0.74 acres) in size, which has a range of play opportunities, should be provided.

In assessing the need for outdoor play space for children, consideration will be given to the nature and type of housing development proposed as well as its location in relation to existing open space and the size of gardens provided within the development.

Within established housing areas there are often shortfalls in the provision of play space. The local planning authority will refer to the NPFA⁴ standards in deciding upon the appropriate size and location of any new facilities to be provided in such areas. Action will also be undertaken or encouraged to augment play area provision in established housing areas, where the present provision and/or distribution of play areas is inadequate.

⁴ Please note that the NPFA is now known as Fields In Trust (FIT)

5.0 **BASELINE AND KEY ISSUES**

5.1 **Introduction**

The SEA Directive requires the “...current state of the environment...” (Annex 1b of the SEA Directive) and the “environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected...” (Annex 1c of the SEA Directive) to be identified.

This chapter provides a broad overview of the social, economic and environmental features of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough and parts of adjacent authorities which have environmental and socio-economic links with the Borough. Figure 1 shows the location of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough in relation to other administrative areas.

The following social, economic and environmental parameters have been considered:

Socio-Economic

- Local Economy and Employment;
- Population;
- Deprivation;
- Crime;
- Health;
- Education;
- Housing;
- Traffic and Transport; and
- Tourism, Leisure and Recreation.

Environmental

- Water Environment;
- Biodiversity and Nature Conservation;
- Landscape and Visual Amenity;
- Geology and Soils;
- Waste Management;
- Cultural Heritage and Archaeology;
- Noise;
- Air Quality; and
- Climate Change.

Baseline data for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough is also provided in the SA Scoping Report for the SA of the Hinckley and Bosworth LDF produced by WYGE in 2005. Baseline data presented in this Sustainability Report has been revised to reflect the current situation.

5.2 **Socio-Economic Baseline**

This section sets out the existing situation in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough with regards to economy, employment, population, deprivation, crime, health, education, housing, traffic and transport, walking and cycling, leisure and recreation and access to services. The socio-economic baseline has been established with reference to:

- National Statistics website (www.statistics.gov.uk).
- NOMIS - Official Labour Statistics (www.nomisweb.co.uk).
- Government Office for the East Midlands (www.goem.gov.uk).
- The Sustainable Development Unit (www.sustainable-development.gov.uk).
- The Department for Communities and Local Government (www.bvpi.gov.uk).

- The Hinckley and Bosworth Corporate Performance Plan 2006 – 2011.
- The Land Registry (www.landregistry.gov.uk).
- The National Land Use Database (www.nlud.org.uk).
- DEFRA (www.defra.gov.uk).
- Leicestershire County Council (www.leics.gov.uk).
- Hinckley Town Centre Renaissance Masterplan – Baseline Report (Jan 2005).
- Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (April 2007).
- Hinckley and Bosworth Housing Strategy 2005-2008.
- Hinckley and Bosworth Housing Needs Study (2004).
- Leicestershire Economic Partnership (2006) Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Profile – Leicestershire Economic Baseline Study.
- Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Economic Study (2002).
- Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Economic Development Strategy.
- Hinckley and Bosworth Crime, Disorder and Drug Strategy 2005-2008.
- Department of Health Community Health Profiles (www.communityhealthprofiles.info/).
- Hinckley and Bosworth Community Plan 2007-2012.
- Leicestershire Community Strategy.
- Leicestershire Rural Strategy (Draft) 2007-2014.
- Fields In Trust (www.fieldsintrust.org).
- Hinckley and Bosworth Green Space Strategy (2005).
- Hinckley and Bosworth Cultural Strategy 2007-2010.
- Hinckley and Bosworth Gypsies' and Travellers' Accommodation Needs Assessment (2007).

5.2.1 Local Economy and Employment

In the past the main industry in Hinckley and Bosworth has predominantly been manufacturing with textile clothing, footwear and mechanical engineering sectors.

In 2004 the largest employment sectors in Hinckley and Bosworth were manufacturing (26.1%), distribution, hotels and restaurants (26.1%) and financial and business services (15.0%). In May 2006, the largest employer in the Borough was Tesco Stores Limited, which has a distribution site employing over 1,000 people. Transco, MIRA and Triumph Motorcycles are also major employers in the Borough.

Geographically, the urban area in the south accounts for much of the manufacturing but also distribution. The east has limited employment and there is significant commuting into Leicester, the west is rural and based mainly upon agriculture and a limited amount of manufacturing. While the north is the former coal mining area, which has declined economically since the early 1980's.

The proportion of people working in the manufacturing sector in Hinckley and Bosworth is considerably higher than the county (19.0%) and national averages (11.9%) with significant numbers of manufacturing jobs still found in the traditional textile, hosiery, clothing, footwear and mechanical engineering sectors.

Employment percentages by industry sector reinforce the image of Hinckley and Bosworth's reliance on manufacturing as compared to the wider region. The Borough remains underrepresented in growth sectors such as public administration, education and health and financial and business services relative to the county, regional and national averages. Similarly, the development of knowledge sectors in the Borough has not been as strong as the county and considerably weaker than the national picture. Such sectors employ high proportions of graduate labour and are capable of sustaining local competitive advantage. Hinckley and Bosworth is therefore considered to be at a disadvantage compared to other areas of the county. In 2004, only 1.0% of employees were employed in high technology manufacturing in the Borough, compared to 2.0% in Leicestershire and 1.9% in Great Britain.

In 2004, the business registration rate in Hinckley and Bosworth was 51.5 (number of business start ups per 1,000 people working age population) compared to 48.6 in Leicestershire, 43.4 in

the East Midlands and 46.3 in Great Britain. Between 2000 and 2004 the number of businesses grew by 6.1% in the Borough, which is above the proportionate change for Leicestershire, the East Midlands and Great Britain. However, the proportion of business start ups in the financial and business service sector in Hinckley and Bosworth was slightly below the county and national averages, which is reflected in the employment sectors statistics for the Borough.

During the period 2004-2005, the employment rate for Hinckley and Bosworth was 79.7% respectively, compared to 76.1% in the East Midlands and 75.1% in England as a whole. However, long term unemployment is higher than most other Districts / Boroughs. According to the Leicestershire Economic Baseline Study (2006), since 2000 employment in Hinckley and Bosworth has decreased by 3.7% (1,500 jobs). This was compared to an 8.8% increase in the county and a 3.2% increase nationally.

In 2004-2005 the Economic Activity Rate (EAR) (% of working age population) for Hinckley and Bosworth in 2004-2005 was 83.4%. The EAR for the Borough saw a reduction of 1.7% from the previous year (2003-2004), but compares favourably with the EAR for the East Midlands (79.5%) and England as a whole (78.8%).

The average gross weekly pay for full time workers in the Borough is below both county and national averages. During 2004-2005 the average gross weekly pay for full time workers in the Borough was £506.30, compared to £528.4 in Leicestershire and £548 in England respectively. Similarly, the average gross weekly pay for part time workers is lower than that of Leicestershire, with the average gross weekly pay being £174.20 in the Borough in 2004-2005, compared to £176.40 in Leicestershire. The average gross weekly pay for part time workers in the Borough is, however, higher than the national average of £172.50 for the same period respectively.

5.2.2 Population

According to the 2005 mid-year population estimates, the population of Hinckley and Bosworth was 102,200 people. This represents an estimated 4.4% increase since 1994, compared to an increase of 6.4% in Leicestershire. Providing that current population trends continue, the Leicestershire Economic Baseline Study (2006) estimates that the number of people living in the Borough will increase by 11.5% over the next 30 years, compared to a forecast increase of 15.2% in the county.

The population density (persons per km²) of Hinckley and Bosworth was 3.37 in 2001, compared to 2.93 in Leicestershire, 2.67 in the East Midlands and 3.77 in England.

Compared to the county, region and national averages, Hinckley and Bosworth has a higher proportion of the population aged above retirement age and a lower proportion of people aged less than 15 years. In 2005 there were a lower proportion of people aged 0-4 years (5.4%), 5-14 years (11.6%) and 15-19 years (6.1%) in Hinckley and Bosworth, and higher proportions of people aged 45-64 years (28.1%) and 65 years and over (16.7%). Hinckley and Bosworth's demographic profile is predicted to alter in line with national forecasts, with strong growth in the retired population.

The ethnic diversity of the Borough is limited, with the vast majority of the population being classed as 'White British'. In 2001, 97.93% of the population of the Borough were 'White British', compared to 94.71% in Leicestershire, 93.49% in the East Midlands and 86.99% in England as a whole. The next most dominant ethnic group in the Borough, as measured in the 2001 Census, were the 'Asian or Asian British'.

5.2.3 Deprivation

The ODPM produce the Indices of Deprivation to identify areas of social and economic deprivation in England. The Index of Multiple Deprivation incorporates various measures of deprivation including income, employment, health, education, barriers to housing, living environment and crime. The Indices are produced at local authority, ward and Super Output Area levels. The lower the rank/percentile the more deprived the area is.

Hinckley and Bosworth is ranked 278 out of 374 Local Authorities nationally (74th percentile) in the Index of Multiple Deprivation (Rank of Average Score). This indicates that the Borough as a whole is significantly less deprived in comparison to the majority of other Districts / Boroughs in England. Within Leicestershire, Hinckley and Bosworth is the third most deprived District / Borough.

At a ward level, wards within Hinckley and Bosworth rank very favourably in terms of deprivation. Groby ward and Burbage ward in particular were ranked favourably in the Indices of Multiple Deprivation in 2004 (97th and 95th Percentile respectively). Cadeby, Carlton and Market Bosworth wards were also ranked in the 89th Percentile. A few pockets of relative deprivation do, however, exist in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough. Bagworth ward, for example, features amongst the 2000 most deprived wards in England. Trinity and Earl Shilton wards are also ranked poorly in the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (30th Percentile). Table 5.1 details the Indices of Deprivation for the wards within the Borough.

Table 5.1 – Indices of Multiple Deprivation (2000) – Hinckley and Bosworth Wards

| Ward | Rank of Average Score* | Rank within Local Authority |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Bagworth | 1947 | 1 |
| Trinity | 3435 | 2 |
| Earl Shilton | 3514 | 3 |
| Clarendon | 3875 | 4 |
| Barwell | 4263 | 5 |
| Castle | 4333 | 6 |
| Markfield | 4458 | 7 |
| Barlestone, Nailstone and Osbaston | 4989 | 8 |
| Desford and Peckleton | 5688 | 9 |
| Twycross and Shackerstone | 5918 | 10 |
| Newbold Verdon | 6020 | 11 |
| Ratby | 6043 | 12 |
| Sheepy and Witherley | 6104 | 13 |
| Ambien | 7055 | 14 |
| De Montfort | 7140 | 15 |
| Cadeby, Carlton and Market Bosworth | 7508 | 16 |
| Burbage | 8002 | 17 |
| Groby | 8156 | 18 |

*1 being the most deprived and 8414 being the least deprived

5.2.4 Crime

Crime in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough is significantly below the national average. The overall crime rate (British Crime Survey Comparator) in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough was 43.5 in 2005, compared to 63.3 in the East Midlands and 62.7 in England as a whole. The overall crime rate was, however, higher than that for Leicestershire (42.7) in 2005.

In 2005 the burglary rate (offences per 1,000 households) in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough was 11.4, which was below the regional and national rates of 14.8 and 13.8. However, the burglary

rate for the Borough was slightly above the county rate (10.8) and has increased by 0.2 since the previous year.

Robbery rates (offences per 1,000 people) for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough were significantly below the regional and national rates for the period 2003-2005. In 2005 the robbery rate in the Borough was 0.4, compared to 1.3 in the East Midlands and 1.9 in England as a whole respectively.

Data for 'Violence against the Person' and 'Theft of a Motor Vehicle' (offences per 1,000 population) for the period 2000-2001 in the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough were both below the national rates; although it is important to note that the 'Theft of a Motor Vehicle' rate in 2000-2001 was higher in the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough than over the East Midlands region.

A Crime Disorder and Drugs Audit was undertaken by Leicestershire County Council in 2005. According to the findings of the audit, domestic violence, racist incidents and criminal damage account for the highest volume of crime in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough (39% of all crime in the Borough). Vehicle crime has also increased over the last 3 years but remains lower than it was in the late 1990's. Youth nuisance, burglary and drug abuse were also identified as being of concern.

5.2.5 Health

Health in Hinckley and Bosworth is good when compared with the East Midlands region and England as a whole. In the 2001 Census, 69.41% of the population described their health as good, compared to 67.58% in the East Midlands and 68.76% in England as a whole. Similarly, the life expectancy for both males and females in 2002 and 2003 were above both the regional and national averages. There is, however, a 5 year gap between female life expectancy in the fifth most and least deprived areas within Hinckley and Bosworth.

In 2004 the mortality rate due to circulatory diseases (per 100,000 population of those under 75) in the Borough was 75.4, which is significantly lower than mortality rates in Leicestershire (76.0), the East Midlands (91.4) and England as a whole (90.5). The mortality rate due to circulatory diseases has also decreased by 8.8 since 2002, which is in line with the reduction seen over the same period at the county, regional and national scales.

Similarly, the mortality rate due to cancer (per 1,000 population of those under 75) for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough is below the county, regional and national rates. However, whilst the cancer mortality rate for the Borough is lower than the national average, the mortality rate has increased from 96.9 in 2002 to 107.2 in 2004.

According to the 2007 Health Profile for Hinckley and Bosworth death rates from smoking and early death rates from heart disease and strokes are lower than the national average. Teenage pregnancy rates are also low compared to the national average. However, it is estimated that 1 in 4 adults are obese in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough, which is above the national average. Tobacco control, physical activity, food and health, accidents, sexual health, mental health and well being have been identified as priorities for the Borough.

5.2.6 Education

Leicestershire County Council is the Local Education Authority for Hinckley and Bosworth. Generally education and academic achievement for children in the Borough is good when compared to regional and national averages. Throughout the period 2003-2005, 100% of pupils achieved 5 or more GCSEs at grades A* to C (or equivalent). Similarly, a high percentage of 11 year olds achieved Level 4 or above in Key Stage (KS) 2 Maths and English and a high percentage of 14 year olds achieved Level 5 or above in KS 3 Maths and English in the Borough. There are, however, significant disparities in learning levels at ward level, with wards such as Bagworth and Earl Shilton ranked amongst the top 20% of wards in the country in terms of educational disadvantage.

In terms of adult education, in 2003-2004, the percentage of the working age population educated to at least National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) Level 3 in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough was 16.3%. This figure is slightly below that of Leicestershire (17.6%) and the East Midlands (16.4%), but greater than that for England as a whole (15.2%). The percentage of the working age population educated to at least NVQ Level 1 and NVQ level 2 were both above the county, regional and national averages. Hinckley College is the Borough's one centre for further education, providing valuable training in emerging industries such as creative design and logistics.

Fewer people in Hinckley and Bosworth have trade apprenticeships, in comparison to Leicestershire, the East Midlands and England as a whole. In 2003-2004 only 9.5% of the working age population of the Borough had trade apprenticeships, compared to 10.5% in Leicestershire, 12.2% in the East Midlands and 10.5 in England as a whole. The percentage of the working age population with trade apprenticeships has also fallen from 12.7% in 2002-2003, to 9.5% in 2003-2004. Leicestershire, the East Midlands and England as a whole however, have an experienced an increase over this period.

In 2003-2004 10.1% of the working age population of Hinckley and Bosworth had no qualifications respectively, compared to 10.5% in Leicestershire, 12.2% in the East Midlands and 10.5% in England as a whole. The percentage of the working age population with no qualifications in the Borough has decreased by 6.4% since 2001-2002.

5.2.7 Housing

The main settlements in Hinckley and Bosworth are the towns of Hinckley, Earl Shilton, Burbage and Barwell in the south west of the Borough. Over 60% of the population of the Borough lives in these urban areas. A further 19% live in the north eastern parishes close to the City of Leicester (Groby, Markfield, Ratby and Desford). The remaining 20% live in 17 rural parishes, only one of which has a population of more than 3,000.

In 2004 the dwelling stock in Hinckley and Bosworth was 43, 623 properties. Of these, 76.5% are houses, 16% are bungalows, 7% are flats or maisonettes and 0.5% are mobile homes. The proportion of flats is lower than for the East Midlands (10%) and well below the 19% of flats nationally. In terms of property size there is a very low proportion of one bedroom properties, just 6%, with a quarter having 2 bedrooms, almost half (47%) having 3 bedrooms and the remaining 22% having 4 or more.

The tenure pattern in Hinckley and Bosworth also differs significantly from the national and regional picture. In 2001, 82% of housing in the Borough was owner occupied (owned outright or with a mortgage / loan), compared to 80% in Leicestershire, 71.6% in the East Midlands and 68% in England as a whole.

Conversely, the percentage of households renting from the council / housing association in Hinckley and Bosworth in 2001 was 10.6%, which is lower than the county (11%), regional (17.5%) and national averages (19.3%).

Generally, the condition of the housing stock in the Borough is good in comparison to the regional and national averages. In 2005, the percentage of the total dwelling stock that was classified as being unfit in Hinckley and Bosworth was 2.1%, compared to 3.7% in the East Midlands and 4.4% in England. In 2005 0% of local authority dwellings in the Borough were classified as unfit, compared to 1.7% in the East Midlands and 3.8% in England. The percentage of total owner occupied and private rented dwellings in the Borough classified as unfit in 2005 was 2.3%, compared to 4.8% in the East Midlands and 4.9% in England as a whole.

On a scale of 1 to 120 private housing stock in Hinckley and Bosworth achieved an average of 50 for energy efficiency in 2004. This is better than the national average (35) but still leaves notable of room for improvement. There are an estimated 7,100 households who could be experiencing, or at risk from, fuel poverty.

In 2006 the average house price in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough was £171,367. This was above the average house price in the East Midlands (£163,225), but below the average house price in Leicestershire (£186,669) and England as a whole (£207,573) in the same year. However, house prices in the Borough have more than doubled since 1999, rising faster than regional and national averages, and consequently are now out of the reach of most first time buyers.

Local variations within the Borough are typified by five housing sub-markets: Central Hinckley; Outer Hinckley; Barwell / Earl Shilton; Rural North East; and Rural West. Rural West and Outer Hinckley are the most expensive areas and Barwell / Earl Shilton is the cheapest. Housing is more expensive in the rural areas, with a high demand for all types, sizes, locations and prices of property.

The Hinckley and Bosworth Housing Needs Study (2004) estimated the need for affordable housing in the Borough based on the Basic Needs Assessment Model (BNAM), in accordance with Government guidance. The results of this study concluded that there was a shortfall of around 254 affordable homes per annum, smaller properties with 1 or 2 bedrooms being needed most. There will also be a shortfall in the amount of housing for owner occupation. Shortfalls are more pronounced in Barwell, Earl Shilton, Hinckley and Burbage.

In addition, as part of the Housing Needs Study, a Balancing Housing Markets (BHM) analysis was undertaken to examine the extent to which housing supply and demand are 'balanced' across tenure and property size. The BHM analysis suggested a shortfall in affordable housing of 178 homes per annum, in accordance with the conclusions of the BNAM.

According to the Hinckley and Bosworth Housing Strategy 2005-2008 11% of households in the Borough included someone with a specific need, many of which are accommodated in unsuitable housing. Physical disability is the biggest specific need in the Borough, followed by the elderly, people with mental problems and people with learning disabilities. According to the Hinckley and Bosworth Housing Strategy 23.6% of households in the Borough contain older persons only. 49.7% of all Council accommodation is occupied by older persons only.

Homelessness has been identified as being a growing problem in the Borough. According to the Hinckley and Bosworth Housing Strategy 2005-2008 homelessness has more than doubled in 4 years and is an increasing problem among young single people.

In April 2007 local authorities across Leicestershire commissioned an assessment of the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers. There is no source of information regarding the Gypsies and Traveller population size in Leicestershire; the assessment estimates that the population stands at 1,815 and is unevenly distributed across the county. However, the majority of larger sites tend to be concentrated in the west of the county in Blaby, North West Leicestershire and Hinckley and Bosworth.

Within the Hinckley and Bosworth there are three authorised sites, three temporary permission sites and one unauthorised site. In addition, there is a further authorised site and two unauthorised sites along the Borough's border with Warwickshire. The needs assessment determined that between 2006 and 2011 a further 26 residential pitches will be required across the Borough, along with accommodation for two 'Showpeople' families and capacity for up to ten transit caravans. Between 2011 and 2016 it is predicted that 16 residential pitches will be required with accommodation for one further family of Showpeople.

5.2.8 Traffic and Transport

Road Network

In strategic terms Hinckley Borough has reasonable links to core national and regional networks. The M69 skirts the south eastern edge of the Borough, the M1 runs through the north east of the Borough and the M42 runs parallel to the Borough's western boundary.

The local highway network within the Borough is dominated by the A447, A47 and A444 which provide the main north south linkages, with the M69 part of the national highway network, providing a link to Leicester in the north east and Coventry and Nuneaton to the south west. The A5 runs along the southern boundary of the Borough, and is also an important link in the national trunk road network. Accessibility to the strategic road network is good from many areas although access is limited from some isolated rural areas.

Private Car Use

Car ownership in Hinckley and Bosworth is high. In 2001 83.26% of households in the Borough owned at least one car or van; a significantly higher rate than Leicestershire (83.19%), The East Midlands (83.19%) and England as a whole (73.16%).

The rural nature of Hinckley and Bosworth, and the relatively good access to major road routes, means that more people tend to use cars than other forms of transport. In 2001, 66% of working residents drove a car or van to work in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough, compared to 64.6% in Leicestershire, 60.4% in the East Midlands and 54.9% in England as a whole.

Data for Hinckley and Bosworth indicates that road safety in the Borough is good. In 2005, the road accident casualty rate (people killed or seriously injured per 1,000 population) was 0.5. This figure was the same as that seen in Leicestershire as a whole, and was below the figures seen at the regional (0.6) and national (0.6) scales. This rate remained approximately stable over the period 2003-2005, in line with the figures for the same period seen at the county, regional and national scales.

Similarly, in 2005 the road accident casualty rate (children killed or seriously injured per 1,000 population) for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough was 0.2, this being the same as that for the county of Leicestershire, and below that for the East Midlands (0.4) and England (0.3).

However, despite road safety being good in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough, certain parts of the Borough suffer from problems of congestion. There are often high levels of traffic congestion during peak times on the motorways, intensified by the larger number of Heavy Goods Vehicles. Congestion problem areas include the A5 corridor and the A47. A number of road accident hotspots also exist in the Borough, in particular along the A47 in Earl Shilton.

The Leicestershire Local Transport Plan 2006-2011 proposes one major transport scheme for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough; the Earl Shilton bypass. It is hoped that the bypass will address the significant road safety and congestion problems currently experienced on the A47 through Earl Shilton. All statutory procedures for the bypass are complete and the project is now awaiting government funding.

Public Transport

Public transport use in Hinckley and Bosworth is significantly below the rates for the county, region and country, which reflects the high levels of private car use in the Borough. In 2001, the percentage of working residents using public transport to get to work was 4.39%, compared to 6.05% for Leicestershire, 8.44% for the East Midlands and 15.43% for England.

Similarly, fewer people in Hinckley and Bosworth cycle or walk to work. In 2001 12.2% of working residents in the Borough walked or cycled to work, compared to 12.2% in Leicestershire, 13.8% in the East Midlands and 12.8% in England.

The main form of public transport in the Borough is bus. A network of bus services operate in the Borough which link the main settlements of Hinckley, Earl Shilton, Burbage and Barwell. There is also a Park and Ride facility located on the A47 near Braunstone crossroads, and there are proposals for a Park and Ride into Leicester near junction 21 of the M1.

The frequency of public transport services is, however, a problem, especially in rural villages. In addition, there are few linkages between smaller villages and Hinckley Town Centre, and to

Coalville outside of the Borough. Many people rely on facilities outside their own village and the cost and low frequency of public transport can contribute to rural isolation, especially for those without access to a car.

Train services in Hinckley and Bosworth are limited. Hinckley is served by trains from Birmingham New Street, Coventry, Nuneaton and Leicester. Local rail services from Hinckley allow connections to main line services. The West Coast Main Line can be accessed at Nuneaton, and the Midland Main Line at Leicester. Rail services are provided by Central Trains.

Walking and Cycling

Hinckley and Bosworth has a network of Public Rights of Way and cycle routes which provide informal recreation opportunities and allow access to open space. Popular routes include the Ashby Canal from Snarestone to Marston Junction on the Coventry Canal and the 'Leicestershire Round', a 100 mile circular route which extends around the county of Leicestershire. A number of cycle routes within the Borough form part of the Sustrans National Cycleway.

The Hinckley and Bosworth Community Plan identifies a need to increase safe cycling routes and a need for improved safety for pedestrians including providing more pavements. Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council has prepared a cycle network plan for the Hinckley urban area and plans to extend this to the rural part of the Borough.

5.2.9 Tourism, Leisure and Recreation

Tourism provides a significant contribution to the economy of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough. The Borough offers a number of visitor attractions, including Bosworth Battlefield Visitor Centre, Market Bosworth Country Park, Twycross Zoo, Shackerstone Light Railway and Mallory Park Race Track.

Hinckley and Bosworth also has a range of recreational and cultural facilities. This includes parks, open spaces, countryside sites such as Newbold Vernon Country Park, museums, libraries, sport, community facilities, youth centres and play provision.

The Ashby Canal runs from the north to the south of Hinckley and Bosworth and is a significant recreational / ecological resource. The canal towpath forms part of the proposed Midlands Long Distance Footpath. The National Forest, situated in the north east of the Borough has significant potential for enhancing tourism and recreation in the area. The plans for the National Forest include the development of visitor centres, woodland trails, cycle ways, woodland / field based sports and visitor car parking.

Open space and playing fields provide informal and formal recreation for all ages. The NPFA⁵ published the Six Acre Standard in 2002. This is a planning guide to ensure that sufficient land is set aside in appropriate locations to enable people of all ages, especially the young, to participate in outdoor play, games, sports and other physical recreation. The NPFA suggests a minimum standard of outdoor playing space of 2.4 hectares for 1,000 people, comprising 1.6 hectares for outdoor sport and 0.8 hectares for children's play.

In addition, English Nature has developed an Accessible Natural Green Space Standard to guide the creation of green space which recommends:

- An Accessible Natural Greenspace less than 300 metres (in a straight line) from home;
- Statutory Local Nature Reserve (LNR) provided at a minimum level of one hectare per 1,000 population;
- At least one accessible 20 hectare site within 2 kilometres of home;
- At least one accessible 100 hectare site within 5 kilometres of home; and
- At least one accessible 500 hectare site within 10 kilometres of home.

⁵ Please note: the National Playing Fields Association is now known as 'Fields In Trust'

The Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Green Space Strategy highlights that the majority of local people in the Borough are satisfied with the amount of parks and open spaces provided where they lived (63%). According to the UK Government's Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI) in 2004-2005 71% of people in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough were very / fairly satisfied with the parks and open spaces available within the Borough. However, satisfaction in local parks and open spaces has decreased since previous years and many of the existing green spaces within the Borough are below recognised standards.

A number of deficiencies in open space and play provision have recently been highlighted as a result of consultation undertaken by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council. The Council identified that there are significant deficiencies in the amount of provision for children and young people across the Borough, particularly for teenagers. Over half of people responding to household and citizens panel surveys thought there were not enough children's play areas near to where they lived.

Consultation indicates that the quality of green spaces is also affecting its ability to meet the needs of local people. Whilst the amount of provision may be sufficient the poor quality of some facilities is reducing their capacity to meet local demand. This is particularly true for outdoor sports provision and children's play facilities. Over 20% of people responding to the household survey and 24% of the Citizens Panel thought that the quality of children's plays facilities are poor or very poor.

Tackling anti-social behaviour in parks and open spaces was identified as an important issue in all the surveys carried out by the Council. The majority (89%) of Parish Councils considered this as one of the main barriers to providing good quality open space. Users and non-users of green spaces also viewed it as a major factor in deterring them from using facilities. When asked how parks and open spaces could be improved many comments highlighted the need to deal with anti-social behaviour, particularly by young people.

According to the Hinckley and Bosworth Green Space Strategy the most significant issues affecting the quality of green space across the Borough are:

- Lack of good quality facilities for young people;
- Anti-social behaviour;
- Dog fouling;
- Litter;
- Lack of provision for the disabled;
- Poor seating provision;
- Poor signage; and
- Poor toilet facilities.

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council undertook an audit of open space quantity, quality and accessibility in 1995.

The results of the audit showed that there are significant deficiencies in the amount of play provision for children and young people across the Borough. When compared with the NPFA Six Acre Standard there is a shortfall of 4.62 hectares, which is equivalent to approximately 46 equipped children's play areas throughout the Borough. The biggest quantitative shortfalls in the provision of equipped play space are considered to be in Hinckley (1.2 ha), Burbage (1.11 ha), Earl Shilton (0.60 ha) and Groby (0.59 ha). Within these settlements it is recommended that as well as new provision existing equipped areas are improved and expanded to include a range of facilities.

The Borough also has a surplus of 29.32 hectares of casual / informal children's play space when compared to the NPFA's minimum recommended standard. This is an area equivalent to approximately 39 football pitches. This does not, however, mean that the Borough has too much casual / informal children's play space. This type of green space may include valuable natural / semi-natural green space or land used for natural drainage and the prevention of flooding. Casual / informal children's play space is often multi-functional and all of its uses / purposes must be

considered before it is judged as surplus to requirements. Some casual/informal play space could be equipped to address current deficiencies in children's play provision.

The audit also showed that:

- Green space across the Borough is of a generally poor condition with an overall average score for all sites of only 40.5%. The quality of provision for children and young people was particularly unsatisfactory;
- The basic infrastructure (i.e. seating, bins, paths, and fencing) at many open space sites is unsatisfactory with a general lack of facilities and poor maintenance;
- There is a lack of diversity in planting within most green spaces;
- Equipped play areas does not cater well for a diversity of physical abilities;
- Graffiti and vandalism is problematic at a number of sites;
- There are currently not enough allotment gardens to meet demand in Hinckley, Groby and Burbage; and
- New burial land is expected to be required in Hinckley and Barwell in the near future.

5.2.10 Key Sustainability Issues

The key sustainability issues relating to the socio-economic situation in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough are:

- **The need to diversify the economic base to reduce reliance upon traditional manufacturing industries;**
- **Poor growth in emerging key service / knowledge sectors;**
- **High long term unemployment rate in comparison to other Boroughs / Districts;**
- **The need to maintain the Economic Activity Rate of the Borough;**
- **Below average gross weekly pay rates in the Borough in comparison to county and national averages;**
- **Rising population of the Borough;**
- **Ageing population of the Borough;**
- **Pockets of local deprivation within the Borough;**
- **The need to reduce crime, the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour;**
- **The need to tackle health issues in the Borough, in particular obesity, smoking and cancer;**
- **The need to improve education and skills attainment levels, in particular for adults;**
- **The need to improve the energy efficiency of housing;**
- **Rising house prices in the Borough, in particular in rural areas;**
- **Shortfall in affordable housing provision in the Borough;**
- **Shortfall in amount of housing for owner occupation in the Borough;**
- **The need to address specific housing needs, including housing for the disabled, the elderly, those with mental problems and those with learning disabilities;**
- **High levels of homelessness in the Borough;**
- **Road traffic congestion and road safety issues;**
- **High levels of private car use;**
- **The need to improve public transport service provision in both urban and rural areas, in particular the frequency and reliability of public transport services;**
- **The need to encourage walking, cycling and the use of public transport as viable alternatives to the private car; and**
- **The need to improve the quality and standard of existing parks and open spaces within the Borough, including associated facilities and basic infrastructure (e.g. seating, signage, bins, pathways); and**
- **The need to address deficiencies in, and increase provision of good quality open space and equipped play space, particularly for children, young people and rural communities.**

5.3 **Environmental Baseline**

5.3.1 Introduction

This section sets out the existing environment in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough with regards water, biodiversity, landscape, waste management, cultural heritage, noise, air quality and climate change. The environmental baseline has been established with reference to:

- Environment Agency website (www.environment-agency.gov.uk).
- The Sustainable Development Unit [UK Govt.] (www.sustainable-development.gov.uk).
- The Department for Communities and Local Government (www.bvpi.gov.uk).
- The Land Registry (www.landregistry.gov.uk).
- The National Land Use Database (www.nlud.org.uk).
- The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (www.defra.gov.uk).
- Leicestershire County Council (www.leics.gov.uk).
- The Renewable Energy Statistics database for the UK (www.restats.org.uk).
- The UK Air Quality Archive (www.airquality.co.uk).
- The Environment Agency (www.environment-agency.gov.uk).
- Natural England (www.naturalengland.org.uk).
- The Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside database (www.magic.gov.uk).
- English Heritage (www.english-heritage.org.uk).
- The UK Database of Historic Parks and Gardens.
- Hinckley Town Centre Renaissance Masterplan – Baseline Report (2005).
- Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan (2002).
- National Forest Biodiversity Action Plan (2004).
- Leicestershire Municipal Waste Management Strategy.
- Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Contaminated Land Strategy (2004).
- Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Air Quality Updating and Screening Assessment (2003).
- Hinckley and Bosworth Air Quality Review and Assessment Report (2004).
- Hinckley and Bosworth Air Quality Review and Assessment Report (2005).
- Climate Change Strategy for Leicestershire (2005).
- Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change (2000).
- Hinckley and Bosworth Landscape Character Assessment (2006).

5.3.2 Water Environment

Surface Water

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough lies within the River Tame, Anker and Mease catchment area. This catchment area covers approximately 1800km² which includes not only the Rivers Tame, Anker and Mease, but also the Rivers Sence, Cole and Blythe. It also includes part of the River Trent from its confluence with the Tame to that with the Dove.

The main river in Hinckley and Bosworth is the River Sence. This flows across the west of the Borough from Atherstone in the south to Ibstock in the north. A number of other watercourses also exist in the Borough. These include the River Anker, which runs along a section of the western boundary of the Borough and the Ashby Canal, which flows through the centre of the Borough from Hinckley in the south, through Bosworth Field, to the north eastern corner of the Borough.

The Environment Agency has a number of water quality monitoring points within the Borough, which are situated on stretches of the River Anker and Sketchley Brook. Both the River Anker and Sketchley Brook are currently meeting their river water quality targets.

Groundwater

In terms of groundwater, the Environment Agency Groundwater Vulnerability Map Sheet Number 23 (Leicestershire) shows that the majority of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough is underlain by a

Non Aquifer with soils of negligible permeability. Non Aquifers are generally regarded as containing insignificant quantities of groundwater.

However, a number of Minor Aquifers with soils of high, intermediate and low leaching potential are located within the Borough. Hinckley Town and Earl Shilton are partially underlain by Minor Aquifers. Although Minor Aquifers seldom produce large quantities of water for abstraction, they are important both for local supplies and in supplying base flow to rivers. Major Aquifers may occur beneath Minor Aquifers. Formations of high permeability are highly vulnerable to contaminants, and have the potential to transmit a wide variety of pollutants.

No groundwater source protection zones have been designated in the Borough.

Flood Risk

The Environment Agency online flood mapping service provides an indication of the likelihood of flooding in an area. Floodplain maps for the Hinckley and Bosworth indicate that a number of areas within the Borough have been designated as floodplain. These areas are primarily associated with the watercourses in the Borough, in particular the River Sence. The chance of flooding in these areas is generally considered to be 0.5% (equivalent to 1 in 200 years) or less.

According to the Environment Agency the urban areas of Hinckley, Earl Shilton, Burbage and Barwell fall outside of areas at risk from flooding by rivers. The chance of flooding in these areas each year is therefore 0.1% (equivalent to 1 in 1000) or less.

It should be noted that the flooding can occur at any time and in any place from sources such as rising groundwater levels, burst water mains, road drains, run-off, sewer overflows etc, which should be taken into consideration.

Water Resources and Foul Drainage

Severn Trent Water plc provides water supplies in Hinckley and Bosworth. The Water Resources Strategy for the East Midlands produced by the Environment Agency indicates that there is additional water available for extraction in the Borough. However, the Environment Agency emphasises the increasing scarcity of water in the region. The Water Resources Strategy identifies the East Midlands as one of the driest regions in England and Wales with an average rainfall of less than 600mm in some places, compared to the national average of 1080mm (average from 1961-1990). Future developments in the East Midlands will therefore need to recognise the limited availability of water as an influence on location, and should seek to incorporate water efficiency measures and sustainable drainage systems at the feasibility or planning stage.

Severn Trent Water plc is the sewerage undertaker for the area. In 2006 the Environment Agency assessed whether existing sewage treatment works (over 10,000 population equivalent) in the East Midlands Region were close to the limits of their current consents. The assessment concluded that Leicester City and the surrounding area are at risk of having insufficient sewage treatment capacity to accommodate new housing development.

5.3.3 Biodiversity and Nature Conservation

Statutory Sites

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are sites designated under the EU Directive 92/43/EC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora (more commonly known as the EC Habitats Directive) to protect internationally important natural habitats and species.

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are sites designated under the EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) to protect internationally important bird species.

Together, SACs and SPAs form the Natura 2000 network. Under the EC Habitats Directive Local

Authorities are required to undertake an Appropriate Assessment of any plan or project which is likely have a *significant adverse effect* upon Natura 2000 sites. The EC Habitats Directive is implemented in the UK via the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994.

A search undertaken by WYGE has identified that there are no Natura 2000 sites located within Hinckley and Bosworth. The nearest SAC is Ensor's Pool, located approximately 8km south west of Hinckley and Bosworth near Bermuda. There are no SPAs within the county of Leicestershire.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are the finest sites for wildlife and natural features in England supporting many characteristic rare and endangered species, habitats and natural features. They are protected under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended.

There are seven SSSIs within Hinckley and Bosworth Borough, which comprise of 27 SSSI units⁶ in total:

- Burbage Woods and Aston Firs;
- Kendalls Meadow;
- Sheepy Fields;
- Ashby Canal;
- Botcheston Bog;
- Cliffe Hill Quarry; and
- Groby Pool Woods.

Natural England assesses the condition of each SSSI in England every year. There are six reportable condition categories: favourable, unfavourable recovering, unfavourable no change, unfavourable declining, and part destroyed / destroyed. Favourable condition means that the SSSI land is being adequately conserved and is meeting its 'conservation objectives'; however, there is scope for the enhancement of these sites. Unfavourable means that the special interest of the SSSI unit is not being conserved and will not reach favourable condition unless there are changes to site management or external pressures.

In 2007 only 33.3% of the SSSI units in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough were classed as being in favourable condition. Similarly, 48.1% of the SSSI units in the Borough were classed as unfavourable, and 11.1% were classed as unfavourable and declining. The condition of the SSSIs in Hinckley and Bosworth is therefore considered to be poor.

Non Statutory Sites

Wildlife Sites represent some of the most important land for wildlife outside the statutory SSSI system and are given some protection in the policies of District / Borough council development plans.

There are a number of Wildlife Sites in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough which are significant to Leicestershire in terms of flora or fauna.

LNRs are non-statutory habitats of local significance designated by Local Authorities where protection and public understanding of nature conservation is encouraged.

There are two LNRs within Hinckley and Bosworth:

- Burbage Common and Woods LNR (also designated a SSSI); and
- Billa Barra Hill LNR.

⁶ SSSI units are divisions of SSSIs used to record management and condition details. Units are the smallest areas for which Natural England gives a condition assessment.

Habitats and Species

The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) (2002) identifies local and national priority habitats and species present within the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland area. It also sets targets for their conservation and outlines mechanisms for achieving these.

The BAP identifies the following species which may be present in the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough area:

Mammals:

- Bat species
- Dormouse
- Otter
- Water vole

Birds:

- Barn owl
- Nightingale
- Redstart
- Sand martin

Invertebrates:

- Black hairstreak butterfly
- Dingy skipper
- Grizzled skipper
- White clawed crayfish

Plants:

- Purple small reed
- Black poplar
- Violet helleborine
- Wood vetch

In addition, a BAP for the National Forest has been produced, which outlines the work required to achieve the necessary protection and conservation of habitats and species at a local level within the National Forest. The National Forest covers 200 square miles of the Midlands, spanning across areas of Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Staffordshire, including the Charnwood and Needwood Forests. This area is important for wildlife, comprising of a range of protected and priority species and habitats including water vole, bats, otter, adder, barn owl and redstart. The National Forest contains 1143ha of ancient woodland accounting for 2.3% of the land area. Part of the National Forest is situated in the north east of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough.

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council are currently in the process of undertaking a Biodiversity Audit of the Borough. This will identify the habitats listed under the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland BAP that are of most relevance to the Borough.

5.3.4 Landscape and Visual Amenity

Hinckley and Bosworth falls within the Countryside Agency Landscape Character Area 94: Leicestershire Vales. The key characteristics of this area are given in Table 5.2.

Table 5.2 – Leicestershire Vales Landscape Character Area Characteristics

| Key Landscape Characteristics of the Leicestershire Vales |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gentle clay ridges and valleys with little woodland and strong patterns of Tudor and parliamentary enclosure. • Distinctive river valleys with flat floodplain and gravel terraces. • Large town of Leicester dominating much of the landscape. • Frequent small towns and villages, often characterised by red brick buildings. • Prominent parks and country houses. • Frequent imposing, spired churches. • Attractive stone buildings in older village centres and eastern towns and villages. • Great diversity of landscape and settlement pattern with many sub units. |

In 2006 Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council undertook a Landscape Character Assessment of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough. The Landscape Character Assessment identifies ten Landscape Character Areas within the Borough, which are as follows:

- A) Charnwood Fringe Character Area
- B) Forest Hills Character Area
- C) Market Bosworth Parkland Character Area
- D) Desford Vales Character Area
- E) Stoke Golding Vales Character Area
- F) Hinckley, Barwell and Burbage Fringe Character
- G) Fen Lanes Character Area
- H) Upper Mease Character Area
- I) Gospall Parkland Character Area
- J) Upper Sence Character Area

Table 5.3 - Hinckley and Bosworth Landscape Character Areas

| Landscape Character Area | Key Characteristics |
|------------------------------------|--|
| A) Charnwood Fringe Character Area | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prominent landform, which includes the highest land in the Borough. Localised steep slopes around rocky outcrops and quarries. • Diverse land uses which relate to the varied geology. Dominated by pasture and woodland with quarries, pools and outcrops. • Woodland cover of varying age from mature ancient to new National Forest plantations. • Medium to small sized field pattern interspersed with large areas of woodland cover. • Large clustered villages with strong suburban influences. • Distinctive local assets such as Groby Pool and Billa Barra Hill • Good network of public footpaths. • Distant wide views to the urban edges of Leicester and surrounding Charnwood Forest. • Diverse range of habitats due to variable land use types. • Strong, long established aesthetic appeal. |

| Landscape Character Area | Key Characteristics |
|--|---|
| B) Forest Hills Character Area | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gently undulating landform with small plateaus on higher ground. Highest point centred around Bagworth. • Predominantly rural landscape with arable and rough set-aside, influenced by industrial / urban features such as masts, poles and pylons. • Fields enclosed by hedgerows with scattered trees. • Industrial heritage of quarrying and mining resulting in areas of restored land and new woodland within the National Forest. • Generally large scale field pattern with groups of smaller fields surrounding settlements. • Linear settlements of former mining villages with sparsely scattered farms on slopes in between. • Good public access and footpath network throughout, especially within National Forest area. • Visually open due to immature plantations. • Wide ranging views from higher ground. • Thornton reservoir is an attractive focal point. |
| C) Market Bosworth Parkland Character Area | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rolling landform with gentle slopes which rise and fall reaching a high point around the town of Market Bosworth. • Land use dominated by parkland, pasture and scattered trees. • Increased tree cover associated with settlements. • Field boundaries are predominantly hawthorn hedges with some post and rail or estate fencing. • Scattered agricultural buildings are visible in wider views. Market Bosworth is mostly hidden by vegetation. • Occasional narrow gated lanes with avenue trees. • Open access within the parkland and country park supported by a good network of public footpaths. • Area is semi-enclosed by trees and hedgerows which therefore limit views. • Significant historic features typical of country estates including estate fencing, avenue trees, grazed pasture and lanes. • Bosworth Battlefield has strong heritage associations. • Market Bosworth provides an important focus within the area. |
| D) Desford Dales Character Area | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gently rolling landform. • Although predominately arable, clustered areas of industry and recreational facilities are locally prominent. • Tree cover is limited with scattered trees and small linear woodland copses. • Large to medium sized field pattern is defined by single species hawthorn hedges. Where hedgerows have been removed, open views across the landscape are possible. • Clustered villages of varying size centre around crossroads. Desford is the largest settlement in the area. • Good network of footpaths link settlements. Few major roads. • Open views give an impression of a large scale landscape. Masts, poles, and pylons are often prominent. |
| E) Stoke Golding Vales Character Area | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predominately flat with only gentle undulations. • Mix of arable and pasture with frequent individual trees. • Medium scale rectilinear field pattern bounded by mixed hedgerows with scattered hedgerow trees and small copses. • Settlement usually associated with local high points. • Area criss-crossed by network of small lanes and public footpaths. The Ashby Canal features numerous attractive canal bridges. • Stoke Golding is an attractive settlement clustered around its prominent church, close to the Ashby Canal. • Area is open and expansive with views occasionally limited by vegetation. • This is generally a tranquil, rural character area despite the proximity of Hinckley and the A5. |

| Landscape Character Area | Key Characteristics |
|--|---|
| F) Hinckley, Barwell and Burbage Fringe Character Area | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gently rolling landform with some areas of flat land such as Burbage Common. • Medium sized rectilinear field pattern bounded by mixed hedgerows and few hedgerow trees. Agricultural land provides open areas of separating landscape between Barwell, Earl Shilton and Hinckley. • Landscape heavily influenced by established settlements, often situated on higher ground, with masts and poles prominent. • Mix of arable and pasture with isolated areas of woodland. Increasing industrial use around urban areas. • Significant transport infrastructure subdivides area. • Distinctive landscape features such as Burbage Common and Wood have local and national importance as ecological and recreational resources. • Localised containment provided by woodland, but urban areas frequently visible on ridgelines. |
| G) Fen Lanes Character Area | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predominantly flat valley landscape with areas of gentle undulations. • Predominantly arable with some occasional pasture. • Small woodland clumps and willow trees associated with watercourses. • Mixed field pattern of large to medium size with broken hedgerows. Hedgerow trees are either scattered or in clumps along roads and near watercourses. • Small dispersed settlements clustered around cross-roads, with isolated farmsteads. • A444 forms main route through area with small lanes leading off and many public footpaths. • Open aspect but views are occasionally curtailed by copses, hedgerow vegetation and limited vantage points. • Frequent streams and ditches. |
| H) Upper Mease Character Area | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple open landform of elevated rolling hills. • Predominantly arable land use. • Dispersed farm buildings visible within wide panoramic views. • Mature trees largely associated with small clustered villages. • Large fields bordered by mixed species hedgerows with scattered hedgerow trees. • Ditches define field boundaries where hedgerows have been lost. • A444 traverses an area of otherwise minor roads. • Good network of public footpaths leading towards Twycross. • Occasional woodland within surrounding landscape. • Expansive and at times dramatic long ranging panoramic views are a notable characteristic feature, especially from the A444. • Twycross Zoo is an important visitor attraction of international importance. |
| I) Gopsall Parkland Character Area | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinctive parkland landscape with many mature specimen trees. • Historic associations with Handel the composer adds to the sense of place. • Medium field pattern bordered by a mix of hedgerows, barbed wire fencing and small sections of estate fencing. • Large farms relating to former estate buildings i.e. Gopsall Hall Farm and Gopsall House Farm. • Tranquil and remote pasture. • Good network of public footpaths leading towards Twycross. • Some woodland within surrounding landscape. • Generally expansive open aspect. • Relic follies add interest. |

| Landscape Character Area | Key Characteristics |
|-------------------------------|---|
| J) Upper Sence Character Area | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gentle undulating landform which rises generally to the east. • Mix of arable and pasture with small copses and scattered trees within mixed hedgerows. • Well treed appearance despite lack of actual woodland. • Regular pattern of medium sized fields become smaller around settlements. • Settlements predominantly small villages. • Long distance footpaths pass through area. • Some long distance views but mostly limited by trees. |

The landscape of Hinckley and Bosworth is gently rolling and predominantly rural in nature. It consists of enclosed farmlands, large cropped fields, intact hedgerow patterns and scattered woodland and hedgerow trees. Several villages and hamlets, of mixed building styles, are scattered throughout the Borough. In the east lies the urban fringe of Leicester City Centre.

Industrial and residential developments, new roads and changing farming practises have contributed to the erosion of landscape character and diversity. Increasing pressure on the countryside from new housing and other developments around Burbage and Hinckley (and also smaller villages) was highlighted as an issue in the Hinckley and Bosworth Community Plan.

The presence of the National Forest, in the north west of the Borough has, however, had a significant impact upon the rural landscape and will continue to do so. In particular, restoration of derelict land in the Coalfield area has created more attractive forest uses.

An assessment of the urban character / townscape of the urban areas of Hinckley, Burbage, Earl Shilton, Barwell, Market Bosworth, Desford and Newbold Verdon has also been undertaken as part of the Hinckley and Bosworth Landscape Character Assessment. Details of this are available on the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council website (www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk).

Landscape Designations

The Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan identifies Areas of Particularly Attractive Countryside which “...in a countywide and Borough-wide context have very high intrinsic landscape quality.” These areas, however, are not designated in the Leicestershire Structure Plan and so are unlikely to be designated by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council in the future.

The Local Plan also designates green wedges in the Borough. These are “...structurally important areas of open land around the edge of Leicester and Hinckley, which maintain the physical separation between communities and helps protect their individual identities”. The green wedges are located as follows:

- Area between Groby, Martinshaw Wood, Ratby and the Borough boundary;
- Area between Hinckley/Burbage and Barwell/Earl Shilton;
- Area between Ratby and Kirby Muxloe; and
- Area between Groby and Anstey.

5.3.5 Geology

The solid geology of Hinckley and Bosworth is predominantly sedimentary impermeable clays and marls from the Triassic period. The Triassic Mercia Mudstones (previously known as Keuper Marl) extend across the whole Borough punctured by a number of igneous intrusions in the north and extreme southeastern corner. These Diorite intrusions provide the granite extracted at Groby, Bradgate, Markfield, Mill Lane (Earl Shilton) and Stanton under Bardon.

The drift geology is predominantly superficial sand and gravel deposits and alluvial deposits across the middle of the Borough following former river paths and flood plains. This has provided sand and gravel extraction at Cadeby. Glacial deposits are highly variable in both thickness and distribution. Saturated sands are common across areas of Hinckley.

Designated Sites

Cliffe Hill Quarry has been designated a SSSI both for its nature conservation value and geological value. The quarry provides exposures of the contact between the southern-type diorite (markfieldite) and the volcanic and sedimentary rocks of the Precambrian Charnian Maplewell Series.

Contaminated Land

Contaminated Land is defined in Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 as:

“Any land which appears to the Local Authority in whose area it is situated to be in such a condition by reason of substances in, on or under the land, that (a) significant harm is being caused or there is significant possibility of such harm being caused (b) pollution of controlled waters is being or is likely to be caused”.

For a site to meet the definition of contaminated land a pollutant linkage must be established. A pollutant linkage consists of three parts:

- A source of contamination in, on or under the ground
- A pathway by which the contaminant is causing significant harm or which presents a significant possibility of such harm being caused
- A receptor of a type specified in the regulations including humans, ecological systems, properties and controlled waters.

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council is the principle regulator with respect to contaminated land. The Borough Council produced a Contaminated Land Strategy in 2004, which sets out the approach that they take in inspecting land for contamination.

As highlighted previously Hinckley and Bosworth Borough has a traditional connection with manufacturing industries, in particular the textile clothing, footwear and mechanical engineering sectors. Consequently, there are some areas of contaminated land within the Borough which have arisen as a result of industrial use or waste disposal. The extractive industries in particular have left a legacy of excavations, many of which have been filled with a wide range of waste materials. Some, such as Bradgate Landfill, have been filled under Waste Management Licences and others uncontrolled prior to 1974.

Potentially contaminative land uses in the Borough include:

- Industrial areas (historical and current);
- ‘Part A’ processes (the production of fuel and power, smelting processes etc)
- ‘Part B’ processes (petrol stations, coating processes etc)
- COMAH sites (sites with dangerous substances present)
- Landfill and waste processing sites
- Closed landfill sites
- Sewage works and land used for the disposal of sludge
- Mines and mineral extraction sites
- Waste or derelict land
- Previously developed sites

5.3.6 Waste Management

During the period 2005-2006 the average amount of household waste collected per head in Hinckley and Bosworth was 416.9kg, compared to 545.1kg in Leicestershire during the same

period. However, despite waste production being lower in the Borough, the average amount of household waste collected per head has risen significantly, from 382kg in 2001-2002 to 405.6kg in 2004-2005.

However, according to BVPI statistics for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough household waste recycling and composting rates are rising. In the period 2005-2006, 17.6% of household waste in the Borough was recycled. This figure had increased from 8.6% in 2001-2002, and 15.7% in 2004-2005. Similarly, in 2005-2006 22.7% of household waste from the Borough was composted, compared to 1.9% in 2001-2002 and 18.8% in 2004-2005.

In 2005-2006, 99.8% of the residents of Hinckley and Bosworth were served by a kerbside recycling scheme for two recyclables.

During the period 2004-2005, 80% of the residents of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough were satisfied with household waste collection services. In addition, during the same period 70% of residents were satisfied with the waste recycling facilities available to them in the Borough.

The Leicestershire Waste Management Strategy provides a framework under which new waste collection, treatment and disposal infrastructure can be developed. Future aims include new and enhanced kerbside collections for recyclable materials including the collection of green waste, increased separation of waste particularly green waste for composting, new treatment and processing capacity for waste collected and an education and awareness campaign.

5.3.7 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology

Cultural heritage and archaeology encompasses archaeological features, historic buildings, historic landscape features and geological attributes. Cultural heritage features comprise of upstanding structures and remains as well as earthworks, buried remains, artefact scatters or elements of soft heritage features that have appeared in arts or literature.

Listed Buildings

Listed Buildings are buildings of special architectural or historic interest recognised by the Government as being worthy of protection under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. Listed Buildings are classified as Grade I, II* or II. Buildings listed as Grade I or II* are considered to be of outstanding interest.

According to records held by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council there are 296 Listed Buildings in the Borough, many of which are situated within designated Conservation Areas. Of these, 7 buildings are Grade I, 35 are Grade II* and 254 are Grade II.

English Heritage keeps a Buildings at Risk register which brings together information on all Grade I and II* Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments known to English Heritage to be 'at risk'. Two Listed Buildings in the Borough are currently registered on the Buildings at Risk Register: the stables and kennels to Bradgate House on Bradgate Hill and The Old Hall on Markfield Road, both in Groby. The stables and kennels are considered to be in very bad condition. The Old Hall is in fair condition.

Scheduled Monuments

Scheduled Monuments are protected archaeological sites or historic buildings considered to be of national importance.

According to records held by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council there are 22 Scheduled Monuments within the Borough. These are located in the parishes of Bagworth, Groby, Higham on the Hill, Hinckley, Market Bosworth, Newbold Verdon, Peckleton, Ratby, Shackerstone, Sheepy, Stoke Golding, Sutton Cheney, Twycross and Witherley.

Scheduled Monuments in the Borough include Motte and Bailey Castle and Manorial Complex at Groby, Hinckley Castle, the remains of the Chapel in Lindley Park at Higham on Hill and Ratby Camp.

Conservation Areas

Conservation Areas are designated areas of special architectural or historic interest, the characters of which are important to preserve.

There are 26 Conservation Areas within Hinckley and Bosworth Borough, many of which are situated within urban areas. Conservation Areas exist within the main towns of Hinckley, Burbage, Earl Shilton and Barwell. Ashby Canal is also designated a Conservation Area.

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council considers Conservation Areas to have special architectural or historic interest which it is desirable to preserve and enhance. Under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, Conservation Area Consent is generally required before a building or other structure can be demolished. Development will not be permitted in, or where it would impact on, the Conservation Area unless:

- The external design and appearance of new buildings and extensions to existing structures will be of a high standard and will preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the area;
- Its location on the site relates well to its surroundings;
- The materials are sympathetic in colour and texture to those of nearby buildings and second hand materials are used where appropriate; and
- Existing landscape and built features of value are retained and original materials and elements reused wherever possible.

Archaeological Sites

There are a number of archaeological sites of interest in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough which form an important part of its heritage.

Leicestershire County Council holds the Historic Environment Record⁷ (HER) for Leicestershire. This database contains all known archaeological sites in Leicestershire and Rutland as well as other historic features such as Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings and Battlefields.

In 2005 there were 1022 records held on the HER for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough. Sites of archaeological interest in the Borough range from Roman Camps at Ratby and Witherley to Castle Mottes at Groby and Hinckley.

The Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan (Policy BE13) requires that any application for planning permission for a site of 0.4 hectares or more in area, where development would affect a site registered in the Leicestershire and Rutland HER, or the setting of such a site, should be accompanied by an initial assessment of whether the site is known or likely to contain archaeological records.

It should be noted that there is potential within Hinckley and Bosworth for archaeological sites to exist that are currently unknown and so are not specifically designated.

Registered Battlefields

English Heritage keeps a register of Historic Battlefields which are of historic importance. Its purpose is to offer them protection and promote a better understanding of their significance.

⁷ The Historic Environment Record for Leicestershire was previously called the Sites and Monuments Record. The new title is necessary since the record now contains a much wider range of information, rather than just archaeological sites.

One of the 26 Historic Battlefields in England is located within Hinckley and Bosworth Borough; Bosworth Battlefield on Ambion Hill. The Battle of Bosworth took place in 1485 with the death of Richard III marking the end of the medieval period.

Bosworth Battlefield is also included on English Heritage's Register of Historic Parks and Gardens.

5.3.8 Noise

There is no baseline data currently available relating to noise within Hinckley and Bosworth Borough. The major sources of noise within the Borough are considered to be principally associated with the busy road corridors such as the A5 and the A47. Noise issues may be associated with Mallory Park Racetrack and Bagworth Gun Club.

There are also noise issues associated with aircraft movements to and from the East Midlands Airport, particularly noise impacts associated with night time flights. East Midlands Airport has designated Airport Exclusion Zones in the Borough, which restrict development in the vicinity of flight paths to reduce the potential for noise issues associated with aircraft. The Airport is located in the north west of Leicestershire near to Castle Donington.

5.3.9 Air Quality

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council is responsible for the review and assessment of air quality in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough. In 2000 the Council published the findings of their initial assessment for air quality in the Borough. The results showed that the annual mean objectives for nitrogen dioxide would not be met in two locations. Consequently two Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) were declared in 2001:

- Trinity Lane AQMA in Hinckley; and
- Groby Road AQMA in Ratby.

In 2004, monitoring was undertaken on these two AQMAs. The results of this assessment indicated that, in the case of both AQMAs, the objectives for nitrogen dioxide will be met in 2005 without any further work by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council. As a result, both AQMAs were revoked.

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council produced an Air Quality Review and Assessment Progress Report in 2005. Given the conclusions of the 2003 and 2004 studies, and the fact that the previous year had seen no developments which would have affected levels of the objective pollutants, no monitoring or modelling was carried out other than for nitrogen dioxide and PM₁₀. The results of this study concluded that no further work was required at the time.

5.3.10 Climate Change

Climate change is one of the greatest global environmental threats. It is likely that it will have a significant impact on Hinckley and Bosworth, particularly through increased rainfall intensity in winter resulting in an increase in the number and severity of flooding events. In addition, climate change may result in warmer summers, increased water demands and will place stress on public water supply, industry and agriculture.

In 2000, the East Midlands Sustainable Development Round Table published a report entitled 'The Potential Impacts of Climate Change in the East Midlands'. This report states that more work needs to be done in the areas of energy efficiency and renewable energy and that tough targets should be set for reducing emissions of gases that cause climate change.

Environmental Action for a Better Leicestershire produced a Climate Change Strategy for Leicestershire in 2005. The Strategy presents a summary of the evidence for climate change and discusses the potential impacts in Leicestershire.

According to the Climate Change Strategy climate change in Leicestershire could include the following adverse effects:

- A risk of less water being available for domestic, industrial and agricultural purposes;
- A risk of more extensive and frequent flooding;
- A risk of increased temperatures, with a greater number of 'hot periods';
- A decrease in summer soil moisture content;
- An increase in overall weather variability between years;
- A decrease in cloud cover of up to 15% in summer;
- A reduction in summer relative humidity;
- An increase of up to 10% in winter daily wind speed; and
- A 60-90% decrease in snowfall.

Estimates of emissions in Leicestershire that are contributing to climate change are presented: 43% are from road transport, 35% from commercial and domestic combustion processes and 18% from industrial combustion processes.

In 2000 Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council signed the Nottingham Declaration. This is a voluntary pledge for local authorities, which shows their public commitment to tackling climate change.

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council has set a series of targets to meet its commitment to the Nottingham Declaration, which are:

- To reduce emissions of carbon dioxide by 10% below 2000 levels by 2010; and
- To reduce emissions of carbon dioxide by 25% below 2000 levels by 2025.

5.3.11 Key Sustainability Issues

The key sustainability issues relating to the environment are:

- **The need to protect surface waters and groundwater;**
- **The need to prevent increases in surface water run-off and flood risk;**
- **Scarcity of water resources in the East Midlands region;**
- **The need to protect and improve nature conservation sites, in particular SSSI, within the Borough;**
- **The need to protect and enhance habitats and species, in particular those listed within the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland BAP;**
- **The potential for protected species in the Borough including otter, water vole, barn owl and bats;**
- **The need to protect and enhance the National Forest, in particular the Ancient Woodland;**
- **The need to protect the natural and historic landscape character of the Borough;**
- **The presence of contaminated land within the Borough;**
- **The need to reduce waste produced and increase the proportion of waste recycled and composted;**
- **The need to protect historic, cultural and archaeological sites and their settings;**
- **Noise pollution associated with the road corridors in the Borough;**
- **The need to maintain and improve air quality in the Borough; and**
- **The need to manage the impacts of climate change particularly through reducing greenhouse gas emissions.**

5.4 Summary of Key Sustainability Issues

The SEA Directive requires an analysis of "...any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan..." (Annex 1d of the SEA Directive). Key sustainability issues that affect Hinckley and Bosworth Borough were identified through an analysis of the baseline conditions and through the review of plans and programmes. These key issues are summarised in Table 5.4 below.

Table 5.4 shows whether the issue is social, economic, environmental or cross cutting (covers more than one category). It identifies the implications for the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD and the potential degree of influence that the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD will have on the issue.

Table 5.4 - Key Sustainability Issues

| Issue | Eco | Soc | Env | Implications for the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD | Potential Influence of the SPD |
|--|-----|-----|-----|--|--------------------------------|
| The need to diversify the economic base to reduce reliance upon traditional manufacturing industries | ✓ | ✓ | | N/A | N/A |
| Poor growth in emerging key service / knowledge sectors | ✓ | ✓ | | N/A | N/A |
| High long term unemployment rate in comparison to other Borough's / District's | ✓ | ✓ | | N/A | N/A |
| The need to maintain the Economic Activity Rate of the Borough | ✓ | | | N/A | N/A |
| Below average gross weekly pay rates in the Borough in comparison to county and national averages | ✓ | ✓ | | N/A | N/A |
| Rising population of the Borough | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | N/A | N/A |
| Ageing population of the Borough | ✓ | ✓ | | N/A | N/A |
| Pockets of local deprivation within the Borough | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Ensure the restoration and enhancement of existing open spaces in the Borough, which contributes towards the regeneration of the area. Ensure open space incorporates measures to help reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime (e.g. overlooked, well lit footpaths). | Minor |

| Issue | Eco | Soc | Env | Implications for the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD | Potential Influence of the SPD |
|--|-----|-----|-----|--|--------------------------------|
| The need to reduce crime, the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour | | ✓ | | Ensure open space incorporates measures to help reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime (e.g. overlooked, well lit footpaths). Ensure consultation is undertaken with the local Police Architectural Liaison Officer / crime prevention officer. This should help to determine how best to integrate crime prevention into open space. | Minor |
| The need to tackle health issues in the Borough, in particular obesity, smoking and cancer | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Ensure the provision of open space in accordance with the English Nature Space for Nature Guidelines and the minimum standards of the NPFA Six Acre Standard. This should include the provision of a range of sports / recreation facilities and play areas for all ages that meet local needs. Ensure the inclusion of pedestrian / cycle friendly infrastructure and facilities (e.g. dedicated cycle storage) within open space. | Minor |
| The need to improve education and skills attainment levels, in particular for adults | ✓ | ✓ | | Ensure that the potential role of open space as an education resource is taken into consideration when planning open space provision (e.g. the use of the open space as an outdoor teaching resource, the development of educational nature trails etc). | Minor |
| The need to improve the energy efficiency of housing | | ✓ | ✓ | N/A | N/A |
| Rising house prices in the Borough, in particular in rural areas | ✓ | ✓ | | N/A | N/A |
| Shortfall in affordable housing provision in the Borough | ✓ | ✓ | | N/A | N/A |
| Shortfall in amount of housing for owner occupation in the Borough | ✓ | ✓ | | N/A | N/A |
| The need to address specific housing needs, including housing for the disabled, the elderly, those with mental problems and those with learning disabilities | ✓ | ✓ | | N/A | N/A |

| Issue | Eco | Soc | Env | Implications for the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD | Potential Influence of the SPD |
|--|-----|-----|-----|--|--------------------------------|
| High levels of homelessness in the Borough | | ✓ | | N/A | N/A |
| Road traffic congestion and road safety issues | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Ensure that open space can be safely accessed by everyone, in particular children. Safe crossing points to and from open space sites should be provided where necessary. Play areas should have footpath links which do not require the crossing of busy roads. Ensure the inclusion of pedestrian / cycle friendly infrastructure and facilities within open space, including the provision of dedicated cycle storage. | Minor |
| High levels of private car use | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Open spaces often link residential areas to places of work. The provision of adequate pedestrian / cycle routes within open space may therefore help to encourage people to walk / cycle. The SPD should ensure the inclusion of pedestrian / cycle friendly infrastructure and facilities within open space, including the provision of dedicated cycle storage. | Minor |
| The need to improve public transport service provision in both urban and rural areas, in particular the frequency and reliability of public transport services | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | N/A | N/A |
| The need to encouraging walking, cycling and the use of public transport as viable alternatives to the private car | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Open spaces often link residential areas to places of work. The provision of adequate pedestrian / cycle routes within open space may therefore help to encourage people to walk / cycle. The SPD should ensure the inclusion of pedestrian / cycle friendly infrastructure and facilities within open space, including the provision of dedicated cycle storage. | Minor |

| Issue | Eco | Soc | Env | Implications for the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD | Potential Influence of the SPD |
|---|-----|-----|-----|---|--------------------------------|
| The need to improve the quality and standard of existing parks and open spaces within the Borough, including associated facilities and basic infrastructure (e.g. seating, signage, bins, pathways) | | ✓ | ✓ | Ensure the restoration and enhancement of existing open spaces in the Borough as part of development where relevant (e.g. landscaping and basic infrastructure improvements, the provision of sports / recreation facilities and the installation of suitable lighting). | Minor to Moderate |
| The need to address deficiencies in, and increase provision of good quality open space and equipped play space, particularly for children, young people and rural communities | | ✓ | ✓ | Ensure the provision of open space in accordance with the English Nature Space for Nature Guidelines and the minimum standards of the NPFA Six Acre Standard. This should include the provision of a range of sports / recreation facilities and play areas for all ages that meet local needs. | Major |
| The need to protect surface waters and groundwater | | | ✓ | N/A | N/A |
| The need to prevent increases in surface water run-off and flood risk | | | ✓ | Ensure that the potential role of open space in reducing flood risk is taken into consideration when planning open space provision (e.g. the use of open space to reduce surface water run-off rates). | Minor |
| Scarcity of water resources in the East Midlands region | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | N/A | N/A |

| Issue | Eco | Soc | Env | Implications for the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD | Potential Influence of the SPD |
|---|-----|-----|-----|--|--------------------------------|
| The need to protect and improve nature conservation sites, in particular SSSI, within the Borough | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | <p>Ensure that nature conservation and enhancement is a key consideration when planning open space provision. Habitats and species should be protected during the development of open space as necessary. Developers should provide for the retention or re-establishment of existing biodiversity.</p> <p>Opportunities for habitat enhancement and / or creation should be sought wherever possible.</p> <p>Consultation should be undertaken with a suitably qualified ecologist to determine how best to protect and enhance biodiversity.</p> | Minor |
| The need to protect and enhance habitats and species, in particular those listed within the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland BAP | | | ✓ | <p>Ensure that nature conservation and enhancement is a key consideration when planning open space provision. Habitats and species should be protected during the development of open space as necessary. Developers should provide for the retention or re-establishment of existing biodiversity.</p> <p>Opportunities for habitat enhancement and / or creation should be sought wherever possible.</p> <p>Consultation should be undertaken with a suitably qualified ecologist to determine how best to protect and enhance biodiversity.</p> | Minor |
| The potential for protected species in the Borough including otter, water vole, barn owl and bats | | | ✓ | <p>Ensure that protected species are protected during the development of open space as necessary. Consultation should be undertaken with a suitably qualified ecologist to determine how best to protect such species. Ensure the appropriate ecological surveys are undertaken as necessary.</p> <p>Opportunities for habitat enhancement and / or creation should be sought wherever possible.</p> | Minor |

| Issue | Eco | Soc | Env | Implications for the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD | Potential Influence of the SPD |
|---|-----|-----|-----|--|--------------------------------|
| The need to protect and enhance the National Forest, in particular the Ancient Woodland | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Ensure the retention of woodland within open space sites where necessary. Opportunities for woodland enhancement and / or creation should be sought wherever possible. | Minor |
| The need to protect the natural and historic landscape character of the Borough | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Ensure the landscape design of open space is sensitive to the surrounding natural and historic landscape character, in particular those areas considered to be of high landscape importance (e.g. the National Forest, Bosworth Battlefield). | Minor |
| The presence of contaminated land within the Borough | | | ✓ | Where applicable, ensure the remediation of contaminated land in accordance with best practice guidelines - PPS 23: Planning and Pollution Control, the Environment Agency Model Procedures for the Management of Land Contamination (CLR11) and the relevant Environment Agency Pollution Prevention Guidelines. | Minor |
| The need to reduce waste produced and increase the proportion of waste recycled | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | N/A | N/A |
| The need to protect historical, cultural and archaeological sites and their settings | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Ensure consultation is undertaken with the relevant historic environment bodies to determine the potential effects of the development of open space upon cultural, historical and archaeological assets and their settings. Open space may help to protect the setting of cultural, historic and archaeological assets through careful design. | Minor |
| Noise pollution associated with the road corridors in the Borough | | ✓ | ✓ | Ensure that the potential for noise pollution is taken into consideration in the design of open space to reduce the likelihood of disturbance (e.g. screening). Potential noise issues associated with open space (e.g. sports and recreation activities) should also be taken into consideration. | Minor |

| Issue | Eco | Soc | Env | Implications for the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD | Potential Influence of the SPD |
|---|-----|-----|-----|---|--------------------------------|
| The need to maintain and improve air quality in the Borough | | ✓ | ✓ | <p>Ensure open space is situated within suitable walking distance from residential homes.</p> <p>Ensure the inclusion of pedestrian / cycle friendly infrastructure and facilities, including the provision of dedicated cycle storage to promote accessibility to open space by walking and cycling.</p> <p>Open space should be situated within walking distance of a frequent and reliable public transport network.</p> | Minor |
| The need to manage the impacts of climate change particularly through reducing greenhouse gas emissions | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | <p>Ensure open space is situated within suitable walking distance from residential homes.</p> <p>Ensure the inclusion of pedestrian / cycle friendly infrastructure and facilities, including the provision of dedicated cycle storage to promote accessibility to open space by walking and cycling.</p> <p>Open space should be situated within walking distance of a frequent and reliable public transport network.</p> | Minor |

6.0 SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL OF THE HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH PLAY AND OPEN SPACE DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

6.1 Introduction

It is a requirement of the SEA Directive that an analysis of the *“likely significant effects of the environment, including issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors...”* (Annex 1F of the SEA Directive) is undertaken.

The SEA Directive also requires *“...measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment...”* (Annex 1G of the SEA Directive) to be considered.

The SA of the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD has been undertaken in relation to the SA framework developed during Stage A of the SA process. The social, economic and environmental effects of the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD have been predicted taking into account the baseline situation and the key sustainability issues identified during Stage A. The predicted effects of the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD are detailed in the Appraisal Matrices in Appendix E.

6.2 Appraisal Methodology

The social, economic and environmental effects of the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD have been predicted in relation to each of the SA objectives developed at Stage A. Each effect has been quantified in terms of the following:

- Nature and duration;
- Magnitude; and
- Sensitivity.

These aspects have been used to determine the significance of each effect.

6.2.1 Nature and Duration of Effects

The effects have been quantified in terms of their nature and duration of effects.

Effects may be of the following nature:

- Adverse or beneficial
- Direct or indirect

Effects may be of the following duration:

- Temporary or permanent
- Short or long term

6.2.2 Magnitude of Effects

The magnitude of effects has been determined based upon the changes to the baseline conditions which are predicted to arise from the implementation of the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD taking into account the likelihood and scale of change. Table 6.1 details the methodology used for determining the magnitude of effects.

Table 6.1 - Methodology for Determining Magnitude of Effects

| Magnitude of Effect | Description |
|---------------------|---|
| Major | Effect resulting in a considerable change in baseline conditions with undesirable/desirable consequences on the receiving environment |
| Minor | Effect resulting in a discernible change in baseline conditions with undesirable/desirable consequences that can be tolerated |
| No effect | No discernible change in baseline conditions |

6.2.3 Sensitivity

The sensitivity (or importance) of receptors has been determined in terms of geographical extent and/or the importance of a receptor based on statutory designations. For example if a river is designated a Special Area of Conservation at a European level then it is considered to be more sensitive than if it was an ordinary watercourse, as shown in Table 6.2. Receptors such as individual persons or properties are generally considered to be of local importance.

Table 6.2 - Methodology for Determining Sensitivity

| Sensitivity | Examples of Receptors |
|---------------|---|
| International | Special Area of Conservation |
| National | Site of Special Scientific Interest Scheduled Ancient Monument Major Aquifer used for potable water supply |
| Regional | Sites of Nature Conservation Interest Minor Aquifer used for general water supply purposes Sites and Monuments Record Regional transport network |
| Local | Single property or group of properties Ordinary watercourse |

6.2.4 Assessment of Effects

Following the prediction of effects, as detailed above, an assessment of the significance of these effects has been undertaken. The magnitude and sensitivity of the receptor have been considered in order to determine the significance of the effect. Table 6.3 gives an indication as to how magnitude and sensitivity are combined in order to determine significance.

Table 6.3 Methodology for Determining Significance

| Magnitude | Sensitivity | Significant? |
|-----------|---------------|--------------|
| Major | International | ✓ |
| | National | ✓ |
| | Regional | ✓ |
| | Local | ✓ |

| Magnitude | Sensitivity | Significant? |
|-----------|---------------|--------------|
| Minor | International | ✓ |
| | National | ✓ |
| | Regional | ✓ |
| | Local | ✗ |

In certain cases an impact of minor significance could be considered to be of great importance by local residents and deserves further consideration. The appraisal matrices show how significant adverse effects represent a move away from a SA objective and significant beneficial effects represent a move towards a SA objective. Effects which are unknown should be considered to be significant until further assessment can clarify their nature.

6.2.5 Level of Certainty

Given that predictions can only be as accurate as the data they are based on it is important to attribute a level of certainty to which the significance of effects has been assessed. Table 6.4 defines the level of certainty referred to in the SA of the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD.

Table 6.4 - Impact Prediction Certainty

| Level of Certainty | Description |
|--------------------|---|
| High | The significance of an effect is an informed judgement or quantitative assessment based on reliable data. Further information would not result in any change to assessment of significance. |
| Low | The significance of an effect is a subjective judgement or qualitative assessment based on reference to similar situations. Further information would be needed to confirm assessment of significance. However, given the strategic nature of the plan, the robustness of the Sustainability Appraisal is not compromised by the lack of this information much of which would only be available at project stage. |

6.3 Sustainability Appraisal of the Hinckley and Bosworth Play and Open Space Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document Options

6.3.1 Alternative Approaches Not Under Consideration

Do Nothing

Under the 'do nothing' option for the purposes of the SA it is assumed that Policies IMP1, REC2 and REC3 of the Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan would not be implemented. This approach is inconsistent with IMP1, REC2 and REC3, which ensure the provision of infrastructure / facilities / outdoor playing space in the Borough. Therefore the 'do nothing' option has not been considered a 'reasonable' option. However, the 'do nothing' scenario has been considered through establishing the baseline conditions against which the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD has been appraised.

6.3.2 Options Subject to Sustainability Appraisal

The Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD is designed to supplement the existing Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan Policies IMP1, REC2 and REC3 as outlined in Section 4.3. These policies have not been subject to SA as the Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan was produced before the statutory requirement for SA was introduced. It has therefore been

necessary to consider the significant effects of implementing these policies on their own, prior to appraising the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD.

The SA compares the social, economic and environmental effects of the following options:

- Implementation of Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan Policies IMP1, REC2 and REC3 on their own; and
- Implementation of Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan Policies IMP1, REC2 and REC3 with the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD.

It should be noted that policies IMP1, REC2 and REC3 have been appraised in isolation to other Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan policies. The existence of other Local Plan policies may mitigate some of the effects identified.

The social, economic and environmental effects of the two options in relation to each SA objective are detailed in matrices presented in Appendix E.

6.4 Significant Effects of the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document

This section gives an overview of the beneficial and adverse effects associated with the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD. Full details of the effects are given in the Appraisal Matrices in Appendix E. Implementation of the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD is likely to have a number of social, environmental and economic effects.

The Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD provides further guidance on the implementation of Policies IMP1, REC2 and REC3. As such the SPD is more likely to ensure the provision of appropriate play and open space within residential development than the existing policies alone. Omitting the SPD would provide much less certainty in terms of the financial contributions required and the type and size of play and open space that should be provided.

The SPD ensures the provision of play and open space in accordance with the NPFA Six Acre Standard, whilst also taking into account the needs / aspirations of local residents and existing shortfalls / surpluses in the quantity, quality and accessibility of open space. The SPD should therefore have a significant beneficial effect upon SA objective 4 "To improve access to and participation in cultural and leisure activities".

Similarly, the provision of play and open space is likely to have a significant beneficial effect upon people's physical and mental health and well being. Open spaces provide opportunities for both children and adults to exercise, either through formal sport or informal play. Open spaces also provide space for relaxation and socialising, which can help to lower stress levels and improve quality of life.

The SPD states that play and open space should be of high quality in respect of its planning, situation and design. Good quality open space can enhance the character of a neighbourhood, contribute to visual amenity and create a sense of place. In turn, open spaces can help to increase property values, encourage business investment and therefore help to improve local economies. The provision of open space should therefore have a beneficial effect upon SA objective 8 "To conserve and enhance the character, diversity and local distinctiveness of towns and villages..." and SA objective 19 "To develop a strong culture of enterprise and innovation..."

The SPD also highlights the importance of ensuring that play and open space is within easy reach of the associated development. The need to take account of the capabilities of different age groups to enable users to travel independently is also emphasised. This should help to ensure that play and open space is accessible to everyone and should also help to promote accessibility by walking and cycling.

Both beneficial and adverse effects have been identified in relation to SA objective 5 "To improve community safety, reduce the fear of crime and reduce anti-social behaviour..." Poorly designed

and / or maintained play and open space can become the focus of crime and anti-social behaviour (e.g. robbery, vandalism and under age drinking). There may also be a fear of crime associated with open space (e.g. overhanging vegetation on pathways, limited lighting and isolated corners). There is therefore the potential for the provision of open space to have an adverse effect upon SA objective 5.

However, the provision of good quality play and open space can engage children and young people, and thereby help to reduce the potential for youth crime and anti-social behaviour.

The requirement for contributions for the maintenance of open space may also have a positive effect. Well maintained play and open space can help to foster a sense of place / ownership thus discouraging vandalism. In addition, maintenance activities may deter vandals through staff presence.

There is the potential for noise / disturbance issues associated with open space areas and sports and recreation facilities (e.g. associated with sports activities and socialising), which could effect neighbouring residents. However, the situation of equipped play space a suitable distance from residential dwellings should help to minimise disturbance from these facilities.

Open spaces can support a range of habitats and species and provide wildlife corridors for species to travel / migrate to other suitable habitats. The provision of open space should therefore have a positive effect upon biodiversity. The provision of natural greenspace and allotment gardens in particular is likely to have a beneficial effect, as these types of open space can comprise a diverse range of natural habitats. Open spaces also help to reduce surface water run-off and flood risk and help to counteract the effects of air pollution by absorbing / offsetting pollutants.

There is, however, also the potential for the provision of play and open space to have adverse effects upon the natural environment. The development of open space could affect existing habitats and species associated with open space sites (e.g. direct disturbance, loss of habitat). Activities associated with the use of play and open space could also have an effect.

It has been identified that the requirement for the provision of play and open space may discourage developers from pursuing development. Developers may also decide to develop below the threshold to avoid the cost associated with the provision of play and open space. However, given the social, economic and environmental value of play and open space this is not considered to be a key sustainability issue. The economic effects associated with the provision of play and open space are therefore considered to be positive.

Table 6.5 provides a summary of the overall effect of the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD in relation to economic, social and environmental factors. The percentage figure in the summary table indicates the proportion of adverse / beneficial / unknown effects the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD is likely to have based upon the Appraisal Matrices presented in Appendix E. Table 3.2 identifies whether the SA objectives addressed social and / or economic and / or environmental considerations. The relationships identified in Table 3.2 have been used as the basis for determining the social, economic and environmental effects of the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD with some objectives contributing more than once.

Table 6.5 – Significant Effects of the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD

| Overall Effects of the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD | | | | |
|---|-------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| | Beneficial | Unknown | Adverse | No Effect |
| Environmental | 54.6% | 3.0% | 18.2% | 24.2% |
| Social | 68.0% | 4.0% | 4.0% | 24.0% |
| Economic | 9.1% | 0.0% | 9.1% | 81.8% |

6.5 **Mitigation Measures**

Several alterations to the SPD have been recommended and a series of mitigation measures have been developed, as detailed in Section 6.5.1 and 6.5.2 below.

6.5.1 Alterations to the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD

There are a number of sustainability objectives upon which the SPD is unlikely to have an effect. The appraisal also identified a number of opportunities associated with the provision of play and open space that could be encouraged within the SPD.

Open spaces can, for example, serve as a local education and learning resource (e.g. the use of open spaces for school field trips / outdoor learning), providing opportunities for people to enjoy, understand and have access to the natural environment.

Similarly, open spaces can be used for a range of community and social events (e.g. festivals, exhibitions and fairs), which can help boost social inclusion and encourage community interaction. The positive use of open space for community activities can also help to create a sense of place / ownership.

There are also opportunities for the use of best practice sustainable design and construction techniques. This could include the use of open spaces for managing flood risk and urban drainage (e.g. the incorporation of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) with open space), the installation of energy efficient lighting or waste recycling associated with play and open space (e.g. composting of grass cuttings).

A number of additional aspects are therefore recommended for inclusion within the SPD, which should help to ensure the provision of quality play and open space whilst also meeting sustainability objectives.

It is recommended that recognition be given to the value of play and open space within the SPD. A short summary which identifies the major issues concerning play provision and the opportunities associated with play and open is also advised. Best practice case studies could be referenced as an aid for developers.

Section 3.9 of the SPD (Ease of Access and Quality in Design), could be expanded upon to provide further clarity on best practice design and standards. The SPD makes reference to the Hinckley and Bosworth Adopted Greenspace Strategy, which provides useful guidance with respect to quality of and access to provision. In addition to the above, it is advised that reference is made to the following documents⁸ that offer additional best practice design standards and guidance:

- The NPFA Six Acre Standard.
- English Nature A Space for Nature (1996).
- The DCLG How to Create Quality Parks and Open Spaces (2007).
- Sport England Design and Technical Guidelines: (www.sportengland.org).
- The NPFA Can Play Will Play - Disabled Children and Access to Outdoor Playgrounds (2004).
- CABE Green Space Strategies: A Good Practice Guide.
- Sport England Active Design: Promoting Opportunities for Sport and Activity through Good Design.

⁸ Please note this is not a definitive list and not all aspects of the above documents will be applicable. These documents should not be seen as the only source of guidance

- PPG 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation.
- Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) Involving Young People in the Design and Care of Urban Spaces (2004).
- CABE Make Space.
- CABE Policy Note: Preventing Anti-social Behaviour in Green Spaces (2004).
- The NPFA Playground Safety and Management (2001).
- Secured by Design Guides and Publications (<http://www.securedbydesign.com>).

Within the SPD particular regard should be given to accessibility, in particular for children. Every effort should be made to ensure that play and open space is within easy reach of the whole community, whatever their means of travel and level of mobility. Emphasis should be placed on the need to ensure that play and open space takes account of the needs of everyone, including the physically and mentally disabled. The NPFA Can Play Will Play - Disabled Children and Access to Playgrounds (2004) provides guidance on meeting the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

The potential for crime and anti-social behaviour, and the fear of crime is also a major deterrent to the use of open space. There is therefore a need to ensure this is acknowledged. It is recommended that the SPD includes a specific requirement to incorporate the Secured by Design Principles set out in the 'Secured by Design Guide for Play Areas' to reduce the potential for crime / anti-social behaviour and to help reduce the fear of crime (e.g. the provision of lighting as appropriate to facilitate natural surveillance at night). The overarching Secured by Design Principles should also be acknowledged to ensure that open space is positively integrated within housing developments.

It is important to note that high quality open space design alone will not reduce crime and fear of crime: the management and maintenance of open spaces will be critical in sustaining reduced levels of crime and fear of crime.

6.5.2 Mitigation Measures

In order to maximise beneficial effects and minimise adverse effects of any impacts, a series of mitigation measures have been developed. These should be implemented by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council as part of the SPD. It should be noted that these are suggested mitigation measures only and that Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council will determine their implementation.

The following hierarchy is used when determining mitigation measures for adverse impacts:

- **Prevent impacts** as far as possible by designing out or using preventative measures during the construction process.
- **Reduce impacts** as far as possible by using preventative measures to minimise effects.
- **Offset impacts** to compensate for unavoidable effects that cannot be further reduced.

Mitigation measures can be incorporated at three stages of the development:

- During preparation of the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD in order to design out or reduce adverse impacts, and to maximise beneficial impacts.
- During construction in order to minimise adverse impacts / maximise beneficial impacts arising during the construction process.
- Following development in order to minimise impacts / maximise beneficial impacts arising during the post implementation phase.

Suggested mitigation measures (not an exhaustive list) are given below. Detailed mitigation measures are presented in Appendix F in relation to each of the SA objectives.

Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD Mitigation Measures

- Ensure play and open space provision meets the minimum requirements of the NPFA Six Acre Standard⁹ or higher as specified by future best practice.
- Ensure play and open space is provided in accordance with best practice design standards.
- Ensure play and open space provision takes account of the needs of everyone, including the physically and mentally disabled.
- Ensure play and open space is user friendly and accessible to everyone, including the disabled. The NPFA Can Play Will Play - Disabled Children and Access to Playgrounds (2004) provides guidance on meeting the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.
- Promote the use of open spaces as venues for community and social events (e.g. festivals, fairs, exhibitions).
- Ensure crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime is a key consideration in the design of play and open space.
- Ensure play and open space incorporates Secured by Design Principles, including those set out in the 'Secured by Design Guide for Play Areas' to reduce the potential for crime / anti-social behaviour and to help reduce the fear of crime (e.g. the provision of lighting as appropriate to facilitate natural surveillance at night).
- Ensure local communities, including children are given adequate opportunity to participate in the decision making process.
- Encourage community involvement in the design and planning of play and open space to ensure that provision meets local needs.
- Ensure the provision of accessible natural greenspace in accordance with English Nature's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard; natural greenspace should be provided within less than 300 metres (in a straight line) from a home. The ecological potential of open space should be highlighted and opportunities for habitat creation and / or enhancement should be encouraged.
- Ensure developers undertake consultation with a suitably qualified ecologist to determine how best to protect and enhance biodiversity.
- Ensure play and open space creates, or enhances, a distinctive character that relates well to the surroundings and supports a sense of local pride and civic identity. The potential effects of play and open space upon its surroundings should be acknowledged and opportunities for the protection and enhancement of the surrounding landscape / townscape encouraged.
- Recommend consultation with a suitable qualified landscape architect at the start of the design process.
- Recommend consultation with the relevant historic environment bodies to determine the potential impact of play and open space upon cultural, historic and archaeological assets and their settings, and ensure the implementation of appropriate mitigation where necessary. The potential effects of open space upon cultural, historic and archaeological assets should be acknowledged and opportunities for the protection and enhancement of these assets should be encouraged.
- Promote accessibility by walking, cycling and public transport.
- Ensure the inclusion of pedestrian / cycle friendly infrastructure and facilities within open space, including the provision of dedicated cycle storage within open space and safe crossing points to and from open space areas where practicable.
- Ensure larger open spaces and intensive sports and recreation facilities are planned for locations well served by public transport.
- Ensure consideration is given to the location of entrances and external factors such as busy roads.
- Ensure the use of best practice sustainable design and construction techniques (e.g. the installation of energy efficient lighting systems and use of sustainable materials from recognised sources).

⁹ It should be noted that FIT are currently in the process of re-drafting the Six Acre Standard.

- Promote the development of open space areas that can be used as a local education and learning resource (e.g. the use of open space for school field trips / outdoor learning). This potential should be highlighted within the SPD and such opportunities encouraged where possible.

7.0 **IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING**

7.1 **Next Steps**

The Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD will be consulted on for a period of 6 weeks. Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council will then consider the responses to the public participation and produce their final SPD. Any significant changes made during this stage will need to be subject to further SA prior to adoption.

The next steps of the SA and associated steps of the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD are detailed in Table 7.1.

Table 7.1 - Next Steps in the SA

| ODPM Stage | | SA Steps | Links to the SPD Process |
|---|---------|--|---|
| Stage D Consulting on the SPD and the Sustainability Report | D1 | Consultation on the Sustainability Report. | Undertaken at the same time as consultation on the SPD. |
| | D2 | Appraise any significant changes to the SPD following consultation. | Undertaken in conjunction with finalisation of the SPD prior to adoption. |
| | D3 | Produce a consultation statement to accompany the adopted SPD to show how responses to consultation have been taken into account. This must state how the SPD was changed as a result of the SA process and responses to consultation. | Undertaken in conjunction with finalisation of the SPD prior to adoption. |
| Stage E Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the SPD | E1 & E2 | Undertake monitoring of significant effects arising from the SPD and respond to adverse effects. | Undertaken after the SPD has been adopted. |

7.2 **Links to the Planning Process**

Once adopted, the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD will be taken into account as a material consideration in determining planning applications in the Borough. In due course the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD will be incorporated into the LDF being developed by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council.

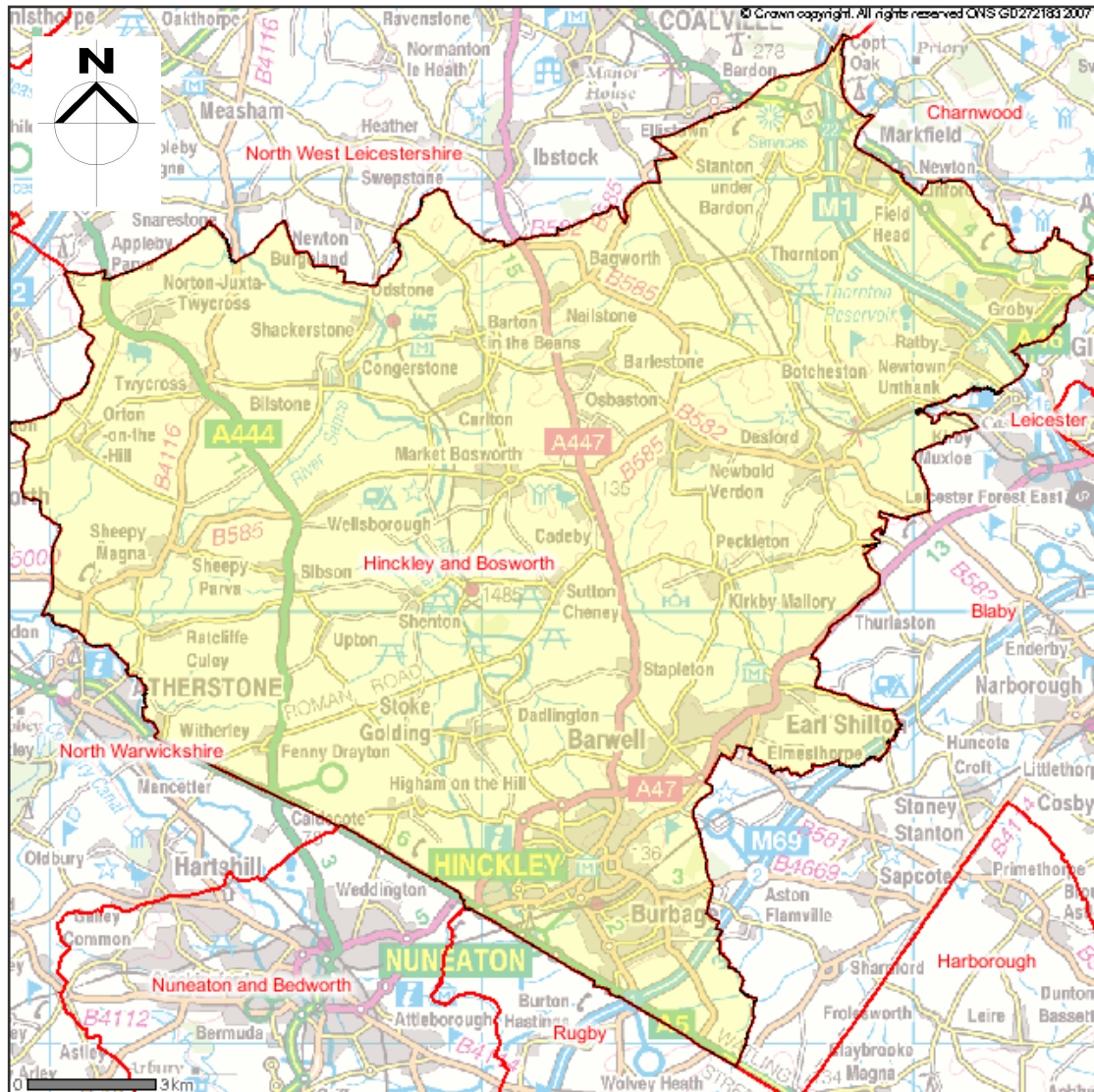
7.3 **Proposals for Monitoring**

Monitoring is an important part of SA because it ensures that the process is ongoing and does not simply end once the SPD has been adopted. Monitoring will enable Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council to determine whether the implementation of the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD is working towards achievement of the SA objectives.

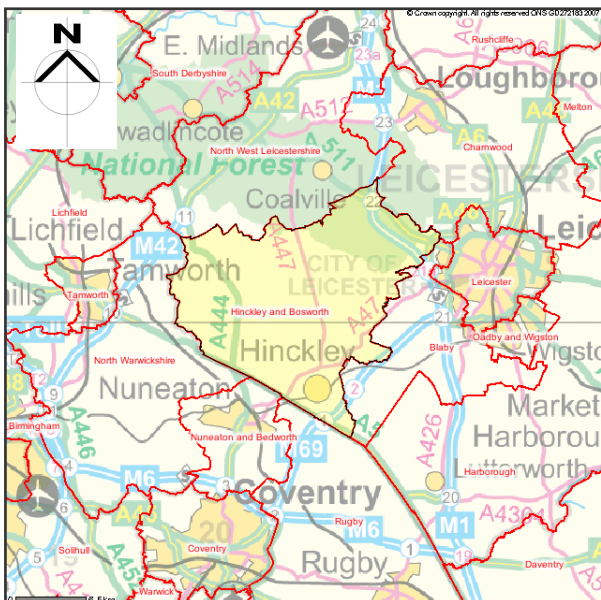
A set of targets and indicators have been developed which could potentially be used for monitoring purposes. These were determined using the SA objectives, the key issues identified and the review of plans and programmes.

A list of the targets and indicators is presented in Appendix F. It should be noted that these are suggested targets and indicators only and that Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council will determine the exact nature of monitoring for the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD.

FIGURES



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White
Young
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CLIENT: Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council

PROJECT: Sustainability Appraisal of the Hinckley and Bosworth Play and Open Space Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document

TITLE: Hinckley and Bosworth Borough

DATE: October 2007

PROJECT No:
E6915-49

DRAWN: AS

CHECKED:
FMD

APPROVED:
PFB

FIG No:
1

APPENDIX A
REPORT CONDITIONS

WHITE YOUNG GREEN ENVIRONMENTAL LTD

REPORT CONDITIONS

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL OF THE HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH PLAY AND OPEN SPACE DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

This report is produced solely for the benefit of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and no liability is accepted for any reliance placed on it by any other party unless specifically agreed in writing otherwise.

This report is prepared for the proposed uses stated in the report and should not be used in a different context without reference to WYGE. In time improved practices, fresh information or amended legislation may necessitate a re-assessment. Opinions and information provided in this report are on the basis of WYGE using due skill and care in the preparation of the report.

This report refers, within the limitations stated, to the environment of the site in the context of the surrounding area at the time of the inspections. Environmental conditions can vary and no warranty is given as to the possibility of changes in the environment of the site and surrounding area at differing times.

This report is limited to those aspects reported on, within the scope and limits agreed with the client under our appointment. It is necessarily restricted and no liability is accepted for any other aspect. It is based on the information sources indicated in the report. Some of the opinions are based on unconfirmed data and information and are presented as the best obtained within the scope for this report.

Reliance has been placed on the documents and information supplied to WYGE by others but no independent verification of these has been made and no warranty is given on them. No liability is accepted or warranty given in relation to the performance, reliability, standing etc of any products, services, organisations or companies referred to in this report.

Whilst skill and care have been used, no investigative method can eliminate the possibility of obtaining partially imprecise, incomplete or not fully representative information. Any monitoring or survey work undertaken as part of the commission will have been subject to limitations, including for example timescale, seasonal and weather related conditions.

Although care is taken to select monitoring and survey periods that are typical of the environmental conditions being measured, within the overall reporting programme constraints, measured conditions may not be fully representative of the actual conditions. Any predictive or modelling work, undertaken as part of the commission will be subject to limitations including the representativeness of data used by the model and the assumptions inherent within the approach used. Actual environmental conditions are typically more complex and variable than the investigative, predictive and modelling approaches indicate in practice, and the output of such approaches cannot be relied upon as a comprehensive or accurate indicator of future conditions.

The potential influence of our assessment and report on other aspects of any development or future planning requires evaluation by other involved parties.

The performance of environmental protection measures and of buildings and other structures in relation to acoustics, vibration, noise mitigation and other environmental issues is influenced to a large extent by the degree to which the relevant environmental considerations are incorporated into the final design and specifications and the quality of workmanship and compliance with the specifications on site during construction. WYGE accept no liability for issues with performance arising from such factors

February 2007

APPENDIX B
PLANS AND PROGRAMMES REVIEW

**Sustainability Appraisal of the Hinckley and Bosworth Play and Open Space Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document
Appendix B – Plans and Programmes Review**

| Plan or Programme of Relevance | Main Aims and Objectives | Implications for the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD | Implications for the Sustainability Appraisal |
|---|---|--|--|
| Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation Internet Link: http://www.leicestershiretogether.org/leicestershire_laa_march_2006_.pdf | | | |
| Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) 17 sets out the Government's policies on planning for open space, sport and recreation within development. | Planning objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting an urban renaissance - local networks of high quality and well managed and maintained open spaces, sports and recreational facilities help create urban environments that are attractive, clean and safe. Green spaces in urban areas perform vital functions as areas for nature conservation and biodiversity and by acting as 'green lungs' can assist in meeting objectives to improve air quality. Supporting a rural renewal - the countryside can provide opportunities for recreation and visitors can play an important role in the regeneration of the economies of rural areas. Open spaces within rural settlements and accessibility to local sports and recreational facilities contribute to the quality of life and well being of people who live in rural areas. Promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion - well planned and maintained open spaces and good quality sports and recreational facilities can play a major part in improving people's sense of well being in the place they live. As a focal point for community activities, they can bring together members of deprived communities and provide opportunities for people for social interaction. Health and well being - open spaces, sports and recreational facilities have a vital role to play in promoting healthy living and preventing illness, and in the social development of children of all ages through play, sporting activities and interaction with others. Promoting more sustainable development - by ensuring that open space, sports and recreational facilities (particularly in urban areas) are easily accessible by walking and cycling and that more heavily used or intensive sports and recreational facilities are planned for locations well served by public transport. | Relationships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunities for the provision of high quality and well managed and maintained open space. Opportunities for habitat creation and / or enhancement as part of open space provision. Opportunities for the regeneration of existing areas of open space. Opportunities to ensure that open space is accessible to everyone, including the elderly, young, disabled, the rural population and those without a car. Opportunities for the provision of areas within open space that can be used as a focal point for community activities and events (e.g. local fairs and entertainment shows). Good quality open space can contribute to social inclusion and community development. Opportunities for the provision of accessible sports and recreation facilities (e.g. tennis courts, bowling greens) within open space. Opportunities to promote accessibility by walking and cycling through the provision of appropriate pedestrian / cycle infrastructure and facilities within and around open space areas. Opportunities to ensure that more heavily used or intensive sports / recreation facilities are planned for locations well served by public transport. Opportunities to effectively plan for open space to ensure that the needs of local communities are met. Opportunities to protect and enhance existing areas of open space. Open spaces and sports / recreation facilities that are of high quality or of particular value to a community should be protected. Opportunities to give consideration to security and personal safety during the design of open space, especially for children. Opportunities to utilise brownfield in preference to greenfield land. Opportunities to ensure that provision is made for local sports and recreational facilities (either through an increase in the number of facilities or through improvements to existing facilities) for new development. Conflicts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential challenge to ensure that open space areas do not become the focus of crime and anti-social behaviour (e.g. youth gathering places). How could the aims be addressed in the SPD? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the provision of high quality and well managed and maintained open space within development. | The SA should include objectives which address the planning objectives of PPG17. |

**Sustainability Appraisal of the Hinckley and Bosworth Play and Open Space Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document
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| Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) 17 sets out the Government's policies on planning for open space, sport and recreation within development. | <i>See previous page.</i> | How could the aims be addressed in the SPD (<i>continued</i>)? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that any opportunities for habitat creation and / or enhancement as part of open space provision are sought wherever possible. • Ensure that open space is accessible to everyone, including the elderly, young, disabled, the rural population and those without a car. • Encourage development of areas within open space that can be used as a focal point for community activities and events (e.g. local fairs and entertainment shows). • Ensure that developers promote accessibility by walking and cycling through the provision of appropriate pedestrian / cycle infrastructure and facilities within and around open space areas. • Ensure that more heavily used or intensive sports / recreation facilities are planned for locations well served by public transport. • Ensure that developers effectively plan for open space to make sure the needs of local communities are met. An assessment of the existing and future needs of communities for open space, sports and recreation facilities should be undertaken. • Ensure the protection and enhancement of existing areas of open space. Open spaces and sports / recreation facilities that are of high quality or of particular value to a community should be protected. • Ensure consideration is given to security and personal safety during the design of open space, especially for children. • Ensure the use of brownfield land for open space areas in preference to greenfield land. • Ensure that provision is made for local sports and recreational facilities and play space within open space (either through an increase in the number of facilities or through improvements to existing facilities). | The SA should include objectives which address the planning objectives of PPG17. |
| Leicestershire Local Area Agreement (2006) Internet Link: http://www.leicestershiretogether.org/leicestershire_laa_march_2006_.pdf | | | |
| Sets out a number of key priorities for improvement in Leicestershire in relation to health, older people, children and young people, safety, the environment and economic development. | Older People: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved quality of life, independence and well being of older people. • Improving the quality of support for older people living at home. | Relationships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities to make open space accessible to everyone, including the elderly, disabled and young people. • Opportunities through location, layout and design of open space to reduce crime, the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour. | The SA should include objectives which address the objectives and targets of the Local Area Agreement. |

**Sustainability Appraisal of the Hinckley and Bosworth Play and Open Space Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document
Appendix B – Plans and Programmes Review**

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|---|--|---|---|
| Leicestershire Local Area Agreement (2006) Internet Link: http://www.leicestershiretogether.org/leicestershire_laa_march_2006_.pdf | | | |
| <p>Sets out a number of key priorities for improvement in Leicestershire in relation to health, older people, children and young people, safety, the environment and economic development.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing a wide range of housing options and increasing safety at home. • Maximising income and improving use of income for older people. • To reduce smoking prevalence amongst adults and children. <p>Healthier Communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To achieve an improvement in people's health. • To increase participation in sport and active recreation. • To improve mental health and well-being. • To improve access to health services, including sexual health. <p>Children and Young People:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved life chances and better opportunities for vulnerable young people. • Improve educational progress and outcomes for all children. • Improve physical and mental health of young people. <p>Safer Communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce overall crime particularly violent crime, domestic violence and hate crime. • To reduce the level of offending by prolific offenders. • To build respect in communities and reduce the level of anti-social behaviour. • To reduce vulnerability and assist people to feel safe within priority neighbourhoods. <p>Stronger Communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building community cohesion and inclusion and increasing local participation in governance. <p>Cleaner and Greener Communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving waste management in Leicestershire: increasing levels of diversion from landfill, including recycling and composting. • Improved cleanliness and attractiveness of towns and cities. • Increased quality and uses of green spaces. • To increase cycling, walking and the level of outdoor activity. • To increase awareness of and responses to climate change. • Improve biodiversity and nature habitats. | <p>Relationships (<i>continued</i>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for the provision of leisure / recreation facilities and play areas within open space that benefit people's health and encourage greater participation in sports and active recreation. • Opportunities to protect and enhance existing green infrastructure. • Opportunities for the provision of pedestrian and cycle infrastructure and facilities within open space, to encourage walking and cycling. • Opportunities for the provision of areas within open space that can be used as a focal point for community activities and events (e.g. local fairs and entertainment shows). • Opportunities for the provision of high quality open space through good design and landscaping. • Opportunities to improve and enhance existing open space facilities and for the provision of a range of new facilities. • Opportunities for community involvement in the SPD and SA decision making process. • Opportunities for habitat creation and / or enhancement as part of open space provision. <p>Conflicts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential challenge to ensure that open space areas do not become the focus of crime and anti-social behaviour (e.g. youth gathering places). <p>How could the aims be addressed in the SPD?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure open space is accessible to everyone, including the elderly, disabled and young people. <p>Ensure open space incorporates measures to help reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime (e.g. overlooked, well lit footpaths).</p> <p>How could the aims be addressed in the SPD? (<i>continued</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the provision of appropriate leisure / recreation facilities and play areas within open space that meet local needs. • Ensure the protection and enhancement of existing green infrastructure. • Ensure the provision of pedestrian and cycle infrastructure and facilities within and around open space areas to encourage walking and cycling. | <p>The SA should include objectives which address the objectives and targets of the Local Area Agreement.</p> |

**Sustainability Appraisal of the Hinckley and Bosworth Play and Open Space Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document
Appendix B – Plans and Programmes Review**

| Plan or Programme of Relevance | Main Aims and Objectives | Implications for the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD | Implications for the Sustainability Appraisal |
|---|--|--|---|
| Leicestershire Local Area Agreement (2006) Internet Link: http://www.leicestershiretogether.org/leicestershire_laa_march_2006_.pdf | | | |
| Sets out a number of key priorities for improvement in Leicestershire in relation to health, older people, children and young people, safety, the environment and economic development. | Economic Development and Enterprise: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of businesses starting up within the County of Leicestershire. • To increase the vitality and viability of town centres. • Increasing skills and the number of people in employment. • Working towards improving the provision of employment land and premises across the county. • Increasing the number of businesses starting up and expanding in the county. • Increase the contribution of tourism to the economy. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the development of focal points / areas within open space that can be used for community activities and events (e.g. local fairs and entertainment shows). • Ensure high quality design and landscaping of open space. • Ensure the improvement and enhancement of existing open space facilities and the provision of new facilities where necessary / appropriate. • Ensure local communities are given adequate opportunity to participate in the decision making process. • Ensure that nature conservation and enhancement is a key consideration when planning open space provision. Habitats and species should be protected during the development of open space as necessary. Developers should provide for the retention or re-establishment of existing biodiversity. • Ensure that developers pursue any opportunities for habitat enhancement and / or creation wherever possible. | The SA should include objectives which address the objectives and targets of the Local Area Agreement. |
| Hinckley and Bosworth Community Plan 2007-2012 Internet Link: http://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/ppimageupload/Image50012.PDF | | | |
| Details the issues and concerns facing communities within Hinckley and Bosworth and sets out priorities and actions plans to improve the quality of life of people in the Borough. | Priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening communities – through support for community activity, volunteering and learning. • Increasing the positive role of and opportunities for, young people and older people in their communities. • Improving the provision and use of community and cultural facilities. • Reducing crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime and improving confidence in the Police and criminal justice system. • Revitalising town and village centres. • Developing the role of selected 'growth sectors' through tailored programmes of support. • Improving physical access to services and reducing congestion. • Improving electronic access to services. • Preventing ill health by increasing participation in healthier lifestyles and through support for individuals – targeting communities with poorest health. • Improving sexual health and reducing teenage pregnancy. | Relationships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities through location, layout and design of open space to reduce crime, the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour. • Opportunities for the provision of leisure / recreation facilities and play areas within open space for young people. • Opportunities to contribute towards the regeneration of towns and villages through the enhancement of existing areas of open space. • Opportunities to ensure the provision of high quality open space as part of new development, which can be used for social / recreation purposes. • Opportunities for habitat creation and / or enhancement as part of open space provision. • Opportunities for the provision of pedestrian and cycle infrastructure and facilities within open space, to encourage walking and cycling. • Opportunities make open space areas accessible to everyone. Conflicts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential challenge to ensure that open space areas do not become the focus of crime and anti-social behaviour (e.g. youth gathering places). | The SA should include objectives and requirements which address the key priorities and issues identified in the Community Plan. |

**Sustainability Appraisal of the Hinckley and Bosworth Play and Open Space Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document
Appendix B – Plans and Programmes Review**

| Plan or Programme of Relevance | Main Aims and Objectives | Implications for the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD | Implications for the Sustainability Appraisal |
|--|--|---|---|
| Hinckley and Bosworth Community Plan 2007-2012 Internet Link: http://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/ppimageupload/Image50012.PDF | | | |
| Details the issues and concerns facing communities within Hinckley and Bosworth and sets out priorities and actions plans to improve the quality of life of people in the Borough. | Priorities (<i>continued</i>): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieving a cleaner Borough, targeting: litter, dog fouling, fly tipping and graffiti. • Protecting and enhancing wildlife, heritage and rural and urban character. • Reducing emissions of greenhouse gases. • Reducing waste going to landfill. • Secure decent, well-managed and affordable housing across the Borough – increasing its availability to meet expected needs. | How could the aims be addressed in the SPD? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the provision of high quality open space as part of new development, which can be used for social / recreation purposes. • Ensure open space incorporates measures to help reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime (e.g. overlooked, well lit footpaths). • Ensure the provision of leisure / recreation facilities and play areas within open space for young people. • Ensure the enhancement of existing areas of open space within towns / villages where applicable. • Ensure that any opportunities for habitat creation and / or enhancement as part of open space provision are sought wherever possible. • Ensure the provision of pedestrian and cycle infrastructure and facilities within open space, to encourage walking and cycling. • Ensure that open space areas are accessible to everyone. | The SA should include objectives and requirements which address the key priorities and issues identified in the Community Plan. |
| Hinckley and Bosworth Green Space Strategy (2005) Internet Link: http://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/ppimageupload/Image37015.PDF | | | |
| This strategy sets out Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council's vision for green space provision and identifies priorities and targets for improving the Parks and Countryside Service for at least the next five years. | Aims: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop and maintain high quality and accessible parks and open spaces throughout the Borough, providing varied leisure opportunities for all age groups in high quality landscapes. • Provide safe, clean and interesting play areas within reasonable distance of every child's home (no more than 600m or a 15 minute walk). • Address the needs of young people by developing a variety of outdoor leisure facilities and crime diversion activities specifically for teenagers. • Encourage active healthy lifestyles, increasing participation in sport and physical recreation by ensuring the availability of high quality sports pitches and ancillary facilities. • Create opportunities for people to enjoy and take part in the arts and entertainment through a programme of outdoor events and activities across the Borough. • Manage and maintain green space to ensure the sustainability and diversity of wildlife habitats. | Relationships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities to make sure open space provision meets the needs of current and future local communities. • Opportunities to address any existing shortfall in open space provision by ensuring the provision of adequate open space as part of new development. • Opportunities for the provision of safe, clean and interesting play areas within reasonable distance of every child's home. • Opportunities to address the needs of young people by developing a variety of outdoor leisure facilities and crime diversion activities specifically for teenagers. • Opportunities for the provision of high quality sports pitches and ancillary facilities that encourage participation in sports and physical recreation. • Opportunities to enhance the quality of existing open space and to ensure the provision of high quality new open space, particularly in rural areas and those areas with a need. • Opportunities to make open space accessible to everyone, including the young, the elderly and the disabled. | The SA should include objectives and requirements which address the aims and objectives of the Green Space Strategy. |

**Sustainability Appraisal of the Hinckley and Bosworth Play and Open Space Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document
Appendix B – Plans and Programmes Review**

| Plan or Programme of Relevance | Main Aims and Objectives | Implications for the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD | Implications for the Sustainability Appraisal |
|--|---|---|---|
| Hinckley and Bosworth Green Space Strategy (2005) Internet Link: http://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/ppimageupload/Image37015.PDF | | | |
| <p>This strategy sets out Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council's vision for green space provision and identifies priorities and targets for improving the Parks and Countryside Service for at least the next five years.</p> | <p>Aims (<i>continued</i>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage positive use of green space, tackling anti-social behaviour and reducing levels of littering and dog-fouling. • Improve and maintain green space to support regeneration and encourage tourism, making the Borough a more attractive place to live, work and visit. • Raise awareness of environmental issues through educational and life-long learning programmes at green space sites. • Provide a high quality cemetery and bereavement service which is responsive and sympathetic to the needs of its customers. | <p>Relationships (<i>continued</i>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities to maintain and manage green space to ensure the sustainability and diversity of wildlife habitats. • Opportunities for habitat creation and / or enhancement as part of open space provision. • Opportunities to encourage community involvement in the care and maintenance of open space, which can help to improve community cohesion and interaction. • Opportunities to develop open space as an education resource (e.g. the development of life long learning programmes and educational nature trails within open space sites). • Opportunities for the provision of areas within open space that can be used as a focal point for community activities and events (e.g. local fairs and entertainment shows). • Opportunities to provide waste disposal facilities and dog waste bins within open space to reduce the potential for littering and dog fouling. • Opportunities to make sure open space areas have a visible staff or security presence to reduce the potential for crime and the fear of crime. • Opportunities to provide suitable sites for cemeteries that are sympathetic to the needs of its customers. • Opportunities to reduce the potential for anti-social behaviour within open space (e.g. through careful design – consideration of the potential for facilities within open space to become youth gathering places). <p>Conflicts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential challenge to ensure that open space areas do not become the focus of crime and anti-social behaviour (e.g. youth gathering places). <p>How could the aims be addressed in the SPD?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the provision of safe, clean and interesting play areas within open space that are within reasonable distance of every child's home. • Ensure the provision of a variety of outdoor leisure facilities and crime diversion activities which address the needs of young people, particularly teenagers. • Ensure the provision of high quality sports pitches and ancillary facilities that encourage participation in sports and physical recreation. | <p>The SA should include objectives and requirements which address the aims and objectives of the Green Space Strategy.</p> |

**Sustainability Appraisal of the Hinckley and Bosworth Play and Open Space Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document
Appendix B – Plans and Programmes Review**

| Plan or Programme of Relevance | Main Aims and Objectives | Implications for the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD | Implications for the Sustainability Appraisal |
|--|---|---|--|
| Hinckley and Bosworth Green Space Strategy (2005) Internet Link: http://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/ppimageupload/Image37015.PDF | | | |
| This strategy sets out Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council's vision for green space provision and identifies priorities and targets for improving the Parks and Countryside Service for at least the next five years. | See previous page. | How could the aims be addressed in the SPD (<i>continued</i>): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the protection and enhancement of existing open space where relevant. • Ensure open space is accessible to everyone, including the young, the elderly and the disabled. • Ensure the proper maintenance and management of green space to ensure the sustainability and diversity of wildlife habitats. • Ensure that any opportunities for habitat creation and / or enhancement as part of open space provision are pursued. • Ensure that consideration is given to the potential for open space to serve as an education resource (e.g. the potential for life long learning programmes and education nature trails within open space). • Ensure that consideration is given to the provision of areas within open space that can be used as a focal point for community activities and events (e.g. local fairs and entertainment shows). • Ensure the provision of waste disposal facilities and dog waste bins within open space to reduce the potential for littering and dog fouling. • Ensure where necessary that open space areas have a visible staff or security presence to reduce the potential for crime and the fear of crime. Ensure the potential for crime and anti-social behaviour within open space is a key consideration during development design (e.g. the potential for facilities within open space to become youth gathering places). • Ensure the provision of suitable sites for cemeteries that are sympathetic to the needs of its customers. | The SA should include objectives and requirements which address the aims and objectives of the Green Space Strategy. |
| Hinckley and Bosworth Cultural Strategy 2007-2010 Internet Link: http://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/ppimageupload/Image41331.PDF | | | |
| The Cultural Strategy sets out Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council's vision for culture over the next five years. | Key themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and support thriving communities. • Increase participation and access to Cultural Services. • Prevent ill health by increasing participation in healthier lifestyles. • Improve methods of engagement and consultation across Cultural Services. • Develop and maintain high quality environments. • Build a vibrant cultural and creative economy. • Raise the cultural profile of the Borough. | Relationships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities to create links between local culture and open space sites. • Opportunities for the provision of areas within open space that can be used as a focal point for cultural activities and events (e.g. arts fairs and entertainment shows). • Opportunities for the provision of accessible cultural facilities within open space that may encourage more people to participate in culture. | The SA should include objectives and requirements which address the aims and objectives of the Green Space Strategy. |

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Appendix B – Plans and Programmes Review**

| Plan or Programme of Relevance | Main Aims and Objectives | Implications for the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD | Implications for the Sustainability Appraisal |
|--|--------------------------|---|--|
| Hinckley and Bosworth Cultural Strategy 2007-2010 Internet Link: http://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/ppimageupload/Image41331.PDF | | | |
| The Cultural Strategy sets out Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council's vision for culture over the next five years. | See previous page. | <p>Relationships (<i>continued</i>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for the provision of sports facilities that cater for all age ranges. • Opportunities for the provision of social and leisure amenities within open space that occupy both younger and older people. • Opportunities to improve provision of equipped play areas within the Borough, increasing opportunities for children, young people and teenagers. • Opportunities to protect and enhance the historic built environment and its settings. • Opportunities to develop high quality community open space areas. • Opportunities to protect and improve existing parks, open space and countryside sites. • Opportunities for the implementation of parks and open space management plans that ensure the long term future of the space. • Opportunities for the inclusion of education, information and interpretation boards within open space, which promote the responsible use of the natural environment. • Opportunities for the provision of facilities for teenagers, such as Multi Use Games Areas, which can help to increase participation in group sports / activities. • Opportunities to protect existing outdoor sports facilities and improve the quality and accessibility of existing provision, including improving the quality of pitches, greens and courts. • Opportunities to work with local community safety partnerships to reduce the potential for vandalism within open space. <p>Conflicts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential challenge to ensure that open space areas do not become the focus of crime and anti-social behaviour (e.g. youth gathering places). <p>How could the aims be addressed in the SPD?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure new development includes appropriate open space and associated community infrastructure provision, and addresses the needs of those areas that are currently suffering from limited provision. • Ensure that consideration is given to the potential for links between local culture and open space sites. • Ensure the provision of areas within open space that can be used as a focal point for cultural activities and events (e.g. arts fairs and entertainment shows) where appropriate. | The SA should include objectives and requirements which address the aims and objectives of the Green Space Strategy. |




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Appendix B – Plans and Programmes Review**

| Plan or Programme of Relevance | Main Aims and Objectives | Implications for the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD | Implications for the Sustainability Appraisal |
|--|---------------------------|---|--|
| Hinckley and Bosworth Cultural Strategy 2007-2010 Internet Link: http://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/ppimageupload/Image41331.PDF | | | |
| The Cultural Strategy sets out Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council's vision for culture over the next five years. | <i>See previous page.</i> | How could the aims be addressed in the SPD (<i>continued</i>)? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the provision of accessible cultural facilities within open space that may encourage more people to participate in culture. • Ensure the provision of sports facilities that cater for all age ranges. • Ensure consideration is given to the potential for links between education and open space spaces. Any opportunities for the inclusion of education, information and interpretation boards within open space should be encouraged. • Ensure the provision of facilities for teenagers, such as Multi Use Games Areas, which can help to increase participation in group sports / activities. • Ensure the protection and enhancement of any historic assets and their settings associated with open space sites. • Ensure that the quality and accessibility of existing sports facilities, including pitches, greens and courts, is not compromised. • Ensure the provision of equipped play areas within the Borough, increasing opportunities for children, young people and teenagers. • Ensure the protection and improvements of existing parks, open space and countryside sites. • Ensure the implementation of parks and open space management plans that ensure the long term future of the space where necessary. • Ensure developers consult with local community safety partnerships to reduce the potential for vandalism within open space. | The SA should include objectives and requirements which address the aims and objectives of the Green Space Strategy. |

APPENDIX C
BASELINE DATA

Sustainability Appraisal of the Hinckley and Bosworth Play and Open Space Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document
Appendix C - Baseline Data

KEY TO BASELINE DATA SPREADSHEETS

| | |
|--|---|
| / | Not applicable |
| ? | Data not currently available / data trend unknown / no target set |
|  | Indicator is significantly below (or above) national average and / or previous Borough figures: not a key sustainability issue |
|  | Indicator is slightly above/below national average and / or previous Borough figures: potential sustainability issue |
|  | Indicator is significantly above (or below) national average and / or previous Borough figures: key sustainability issue |

**Sustainability Appraisal of the Hinckley and Bosworth Play and Open Space Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document
Appendix C - Baseline Data**

| Indicator | Date | Hinckley and Bosworth Borough | Leicestershire | East Midlands | England | Target | Local Trends | Data Sources | Relationship | | |
|--|--------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------|----------|---|---|--------------|-----|-----|
| | | | | | | | | | Eco | Soc | Env |
| ECONOMICS | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gross Value Added | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gross Value Added per head (£) | 2003 | ? | ? | 14,505 | 16,339 | Increase | ? | www.sustainable-development.gov.uk Regional Sustainable Development Indicators | x | | |
| | 2002 | ? | ? | 14,034 | 15,646 | | | | | | |
| | 2001 | ? | ? | 13,226 | 14,887 | | | | | | |
| Economic Activity | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Economic Activity Rate (working age population) | Jun 2004-May 2005 | 83.4 | 84.0 | 79.5 | 78.8 | Increase | Overall increase since 2002. The EAR has, however, decreased since 2004 | www.nomisweb.co.uk Local Quartely Labour Force Survey | x | | |
| | June 2003-May 2004 | 85.1 | 84.4 | 79.7 | 78.9 | | | | | | |
| | Jun 2002-May 2003 | 82.7 | 84.9 | 79.9 | 79 | | | | | | |
| Economic Inactivity Rate (EIR) (working age population) | Jun 2004-May 2005 | 16 | 16 | 20.5 | 21.2 | Decrease | Overall decrease since 2002. The EIR has, however, increased since 2004 | www.nomisweb.co.uk Local Quartely Labour Force Survey | x | | |
| | June 2003-May 2004 | 14.9 | 15.6 | 20.3 | 21.1 | | | | | | |
| | Jun 2002-May 2003 | 17.3 | 15.1 | 20.1 | 21 | | | | | | |
| Survival of Businesses | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Businesses surviving 12 months (%) | 2001 | ? | 92.3 | 92.1 | 92.2 | Increase | ? | www.goem.gov.uk | x | | |
| VAT Registration Rate | 2004 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | Increase | Decrease | www.goem.gov.uk | x | | |
| | 2003 | 11 | 10 | 10 | 11 | | | | | | |
| VAT De-registration Rate | 2004 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 10 | Decrease | No change | www.goem.gov.uk | x | | |
| | 2003 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 10 | | | | | | |
| Business Stock at end of 12 month period | 2005 | 3545 | 20865 | 125170 | 1819870 | Increase | Decrease | www.goem.gov.uk | x | | |
| | 2003 | 3600 | 20600 | 124000 | 1810500 | | | | | | |

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| Indicator | Date | Hinckley and Bosworth Borough | Leicestershire | East Midlands | England | Target | Local Trends | Data Sources | Relationship | | |
|--|--------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------|----------|-----------------------------|---|--------------|-----|-----|
| | | | | | | | | | Eco | Soc | Env |
| EMPLOYMENT | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Employment | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Employment Rate <i>(working age population)</i> | Jun 2004-May 2005 | 79.7 | 81.1 | 76.1 | 75.1 | Increase | Overall decrease since 2002 | www.nomisweb.co.uk Local Quartely Labour Force Survey | x | x | |
| | June 2003-May 2004 | 82.7 | 81.5 | 76.1 | 75 | | | | | | |
| | Jun 2002-May 2003 | 81.2 | 82.3 | 76.2 | 75 | | | | | | |
| Unemployment Rate <i>(working age population)</i> | Jun 2004-May 2005 | ? | 3.5 | 4.3 | 4.7 | Decrease | ? | www.nomisweb.co.uk Local Quartely Labour Force Survey | x | x | |
| | June 2003-May 2004 | ? | 3.3 | 4.6 | 4.9 | | | | | | |
| | Jun 2002-May 2003 | ? | 3 | 4.6 | 5.1 | | | | | | |
| Job Seekers Allowance Claimants <i>(proportion of working age population)</i> | 2007 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 2.4 | 2.5 | Decrease | Increase | www.nomisweb.co.uk Claimant Count with Rates and Proportions | x | x | |
| | 2006 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 2.4 | 2.6 | | | | | | |
| | 2005 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 2.1 | 2.3 | | | | | | |
| Employment Status | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Full Time Workers as % of all in employment aged 16+ | Jun 2004-May 2005 | 72.9 | 74.8 | 73.7 | 74.0 | / | Increase | www.nomisweb.co.uk Local Quartely Labour Force Survey | x | x | |
| | June 2003-May 2004 | 71.6 | 71.6 | 73.2 | 73.8 | | | | | | |
| | Jun 2002-May 2003 | 71.3 | 73.9 | 73.3 | 74.0 | | | | | | |
| Part Time Workers as % of all in employment aged 16+ | Jun 2004-May 2005 | 27.1 | 25.2 | 26.3 | 25.9 | / | Decrease | www.nomisweb.co.uk Local Quartely Labour Force Survey | x | x | |
| | June 2003-May 2004 | 28.4 | 28.4 | 26.8 | 26.2 | | | | | | |
| | Jun 2002-May 2003 | 28.7 | 26.1 | 26.6 | 25.9 | | | | | | |
| Self Employed as % of all in employment aged 16+ | Jun 2004-May 2005 | 10.5 | 11.4 | 12.3 | 12.9 | / | Decrease | www.nomisweb.co.uk Local Quartely Labour Force Survey | x | x | |
| | June 2003-May 2004 | 11.4 | 12 | 11.7 | 13.0 | | | | | | |
| | Jun 2002-May 2003 | 12.5 | 12.3 | 11.1 | 12.3 | | | | | | |

Sustainability Appraisal of the Hinckley and Bosworth Play and Open Space Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document
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| Indicator | Date | Hinckley and Bosworth Borough | Leicestershire | East Midlands | England | Target | Local Trends | Data Sources | Relationship | | |
|---|--------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------|----------|-----------------------------|--|--------------|-----|-----|
| | | | | | | | | | Eco | Soc | Env |
| EMPLOYMENT | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Income | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Average Gross Weekly Pay (mean) (£) - Full Time Workers | Jun 2004-May 2005 | 506.3 | 528.4 | 505.4 | 548 | Increase | Overall increase since 2002 | www.nomisweb.co.uk Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings | x | x | |
| | June 2003-May 2004 | 506.8 | 504.2 | 482.9 | 527.4 | | | | | | |
| | Jun 2002-May 2003 | 489.2 | 488.5 | 458 | 509.6 | | | | | | |
| Average Gross Weekly Pay (mean) (£) - Part Time Workers | Jun 2004-May 2005 | 174.2 | 176.4 | 167.4 | 172.5 | Increase | Overall increase since 2002 | www.nomisweb.co.uk Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings | x | x | |
| | June 2003-May 2004 | 161.7 | 155.2 | 159.8 | 169.1 | | | | | | |
| | Jun 2002-May 2003 | 162.9 | 154.2 | 151.9 | 162.9 | | | | | | |
| Industry of Employment - Leicestershire Economic Baseline Study (2006) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| % people employed in agriculture and fishing | 2004 | ? | 0.6 | 1.2 | 0.9* | / | ? | Leicestershire Economic Baseline Study (2006) | x | x | |
| % people employed in energy and water | 2004 | ? | 1.0 | 0.8 | 0.6* | / | ? | Leicestershire Economic Baseline Study (2006) | x | x | |
| % people employed in manufacturing | 2004 | 26.1 | 19.0 | 17.4 | 11.9* | / | ? | Leicestershire Economic Baseline Study (2006) | x | x | |
| % people employed in Construction | 2004 | 3.5 | 4.6 | 4.8 | 4.5* | / | ? | Leicestershire Economic Baseline Study (2006) | x | x | |
| % people employed in distribution, hotels and restaurants | 2004 | 26.1 | 28.6 | 25.1 | 24.7* | / | ? | Leicestershire Economic Baseline Study (2006) | x | x | |
| % people employed in transport and communications | 2004 | 5.9 | 8.1 | 5.7 | 5.9* | / | ? | Leicestershire Economic Baseline Study (2006) | x | x | |
| % people employed in financial and business services | 2004 | 15.0 | 15.8 | 15.2 | 20* | / | ? | Leicestershire Economic Baseline Study (2006) | x | x | |
| % people employed in public administration, education and health | 2004 | 14.0 | 18.2 | 25.5 | 26.4* | / | ? | Leicestershire Economic Baseline Study (2006) | x | x | |
| % of people employed in other services | 2004 | 6.7 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 5.1* | / | ? | Leicestershire Economic Baseline Study (2006) | x | x | |

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| Indicator | Date | Hinckley and Bosworth Borough | Leicestershire | East Midlands | England | Target | Local Trends | Data Sources | Relationship | | |
|---|------|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------|--------|--------------|--|--------------|-----|-----|
| | | | | | | | | | Eco | Soc | Env |
| EMPLOYMENT | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Knowledge Economy Employment - Leicestershire Economic Baseline Study (2006) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| % of people employed in consumer services | 2004 | 22.6 | 21.7 | 20.3 | 21.3* | / | ? | Leicestershire Economic Baseline Study (2006) | x | x | |
| % people employed in high technology manufacturing | 2004 | 1.0 | 2.0 | 1.7 | 1.9* | / | ? | Leicestershire Economic Baseline Study (2006) | x | x | |
| % people employed in knowledge based services | 2004 | 13.0 | 13.8 | 13.4 | 17.9* | / | ? | Leicestershire Economic Baseline Study (2006) | x | x | |
| Industry of Employment - 2001 Census Data | | | | | | | | | | | |
| % People employed in Agriculture, Hunting and Forestry | 2001 | 1.49 | 1.59 | 1.88 | 1.45* | / | ? | www.statistics.gov.uk | x | x | |
| % People employed in Fishing | 2001 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.02* | / | ? | www.statistics.gov.uk | x | x | |
| % People employed in Mining & Quarrying | 2001 | 0.39 | 0.45 | 0.42 | 0.25* | / | ? | www.statistics.gov.uk | x | x | |
| % People employed in Manufacture | 2001 | 23.60 | 21.17 | 19.91 | 14.83 | / | ? | www.statistics.gov.uk | x | x | |
| % People employed in Electricity, Gas and Water Supply | 2001 | 1.54 | 0.96 | 0.83 | 0.71 | / | ? | www.statistics.gov.uk | x | x | |
| % People employed in Construction | 2001 | 6.33 | 6.70 | 6.86 | 6.76 | / | ? | www.statistics.gov.uk | x | x | |
| % People employed in Wholesale and Retail trade, Repair of Motor Vehicles | 2001 | 18.80 | 18.14 | 18.21 | 16.85 | / | ? | www.statistics.gov.uk | x | x | |
| % People employed in Hotels and Restaurants | 2001 | 3.93 | 4.06 | 4.51 | 4.73 | / | ? | www.statistics.gov.uk | x | x | |
| % People employed in Transport, Storage and Communication | 2001 | 6.87 | 6.41 | 6.25 | 7.09 | / | ? | www.statistics.gov.uk | x | x | |
| % People employed in Financial Intermediation | 2001 | 3.46 | 3.54 | 3.07 | 4.80 | / | ? | www.statistics.gov.uk | x | x | |
| % People employed in Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities | 2001 | 10.13 | 10.65 | 10.41 | 13.21 | / | ? | www.statistics.gov.uk | x | x | |
| % People employed in Public Administration & Defence and Social Security | 2001 | 3.82 | 4.40 | 4.95 | 5.66 | / | ? | www.statistics.gov.uk | x | x | |
| % People employed in Education | 2001 | 6.95 | 8.59 | 7.80 | 7.74 | / | ? | www.statistics.gov.uk | x | x | |
| % People employed in Health and Social Work | 2001 | 8.66 | 9.22 | 10.60 | 10.70 | / | ? | www.statistics.gov.uk | x | x | |

* Data for Great Britain

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| Indicator | Date | Hinckley and Bosworth Borough | Leicestershire | East Midlands | England | Target | Local Trends | Data Sources | Relationship | | |
|---------------------------------|------|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|------------|--------|------------------------------------|---|--------------|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | Eco | Soc | Env |
| POPULATION | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Population | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Population | 2005 | 102,800 | 627,800 | 4,306,300 | 50,431,700 | / | Increase of 1300 since 2003 | www.nomisweb.co.uk Mid year population estimates | | x | |
| | 2004 | 102,200 | 623,900 | 4,279,700 | 50,093,800 | | | | | | |
| | 2003 | 101,500 | 619,200 | 4,252,300 | 49,855,700 | | | | | | |
| | 2001 | 100,141 | 609,578 | 4,172,174 | 49,138,831 | | | | | www.statistics.gov.uk | |
| Population Density | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Density (persons per sq km) | 2001 | 3.37 | 2.93 | 2.67 | 3.77 | / | ? | www.statistics.gov.uk (UV02) | | x | |
| Ethnic Group | | | | | | | | | | | |
| % White British | 2001 | 97.93 | 94.71 | 93.49 | 86.99 | / | ? | www.statistics.gov.uk (KS06) | | | |
| % Mixed | 2001 | 0.59 | 0.74 | 1.03 | 1.31 | / | ? | | | | |
| % Asian or Asian British | 2001 | 1.06 | 3.69 | 4.05 | 4.57 | / | ? | | | x | |
| % Black or Black British | 2001 | 0.11 | 0.32 | 0.95 | 2.3 | / | ? | | | | |
| % Chinese or Other Ethnic Group | 2001 | 0.31 | 0.53 | 0.49 | 0.89 | / | ? | | | | |
| Age | | | | | | | | | | | |
| % People aged 0-4 | 2005 | 5.4 | 5.3 | 5.5 | 5.7 | / | No change | www.nomisweb.co.uk Mid year population estimates | | x | |
| | 2004 | 5.4 | 5.3 | 5.5 | 5.4 | | | | | | |
| | 2003 | 5.4 | 5.4 | 5.5 | 6 | | | | | | |
| | 2001 | 5.53 | 5.62 | 5.73 | 5.96 | | | | / | / | www.statistics.gov.uk |
| % People aged 5-14 | 2005 | 11.6 | 12.2 | 12.3 | 12.2 | / | Decrease of 0.3 since 2003 | www.nomisweb.co.uk Mid year population estimates | | | x |
| | 2004 | 11.8 | 12.4 | 12.5 | 12.5 | | | | | | |
| | 2003 | 11.9 | 12.5 | 12.7 | 12.9 | | | | | | |
| | 2001 | 12.32 | 12.72 | 13.05 | 12.92 | | | | / | / | www.statistics.gov.uk |
| % People aged 15-19 | 2005 | 6.1 | 6.7 | 6.7 | 6.6 | / | Overall increase of 0.1 since 2003 | www.nomisweb.co.uk Mid year population estimates | | | x |
| | 2004 | 6.1 | 6.6 | 6.6 | 6.5 | | | | | | |
| | 2003 | 6 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 6.2 | | | | | | |
| | 2001 | 5.83 | 6.36 | 6.23 | 6.18 | | | | / | / | www.statistics.gov.uk |
| % People aged 20-44 | 2005 | 32.3 | 33.1 | 33.9 | 35.2 | / | Decrease of 0.3 since 2003 | www.nomisweb.co.uk Mid year population estimates | | | x |
| | 2004 | 32.6 | 33.3 | 34 | 35.2 | | | | | | |
| | 2003 | 32.6 | 33.5 | 34 | 35.3 | | | | | | |
| | 2001 | 33.17 | 33.92 | 34.32 | 35.31 | | | | / | / | www.statistics.gov.uk |

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|---------------------------|------|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------|--------|----------------------------|---|--------------|-----|-----|
| | | | | | | | | | Eco | Soc | Env |
| POPULATION | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Age | | | | | | | | | | | |
| % People aged 45-64 | 2005 | 28.1 | 26.4 | 25.4 | 24.3 | / | Increase of 2.5 since 2003 | www.nomisweb.co.uk Mid year population estimates | | x | |
| | 2004 | 27.8 | 26.2 | 25 | 24.2 | | | | | | |
| | 2003 | 25.6 | 26 | 24.9 | 23.7 | | | | | | |
| | 2001 | 27.13 | 25.74 | 24.59 | 23.75 | / | / | www.statistics.gov.uk | | x | |
| % People aged 65 and over | 2005 | 16.7 | 16.3 | 16.3 | 16 | / | Increase of 0.2 since 2003 | www.nomisweb.co.uk Mid year population estimates | | x | |
| | 2004 | 16.6 | 16.2 | 16.3 | 16 | | | | | | |
| | 2003 | 16.5 | 16 | 16 | 15.9 | | | | | | |
| | 2001 | 16.02 | 15.67 | 16.07 | 15.89 | / | / | www.statistics.gov.uk | | x | |

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|--|---------------|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------|---------------|--------------|---|--------------|-----|-----|
| | | | | | | | | | Eco | Soc | Env |
| QUALITY OF LIFE | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Social Poverty | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Indices of Deprivation- Rank of Average Score (Overall) <i>1 is the most deprived LA in England and 354 is the least deprived</i> | 2004 | 278 out of 374 | / | / | / | Increase rank | ? | http://www.statistics.gov.uk | | x | x |
| Indices of Deprivation- Rank of Income <i>1 is the most deprived LA in England and 354 is the least deprived</i> | 2004 | 261 out of 374 | / | / | / | Increase rank | ? | http://www.statistics.gov.uk | | x | x |
| Indices of Deprivation- Rank of Employment <i>1 is the most deprived LA in England and 354 is the least deprived</i> | 2004 | 238 out of 374 | / | / | / | Increase rank | ? | http://www.statistics.gov.uk | | x | x |
| % Households that experienced fuel poverty | 2003 | ? | ? | 6.4 | 7.2 | Decrease | ? | www.sustainable-development.gov.uk Regional Sustainable Development Indicators | | x | x |
| | 2001 | ? | ? | 11.3 | 11.5 | | | | | | |
| % Children in low income households- before housing costs | 2001/2-2003/4 | ? | ? | 22 | 20 | Decrease | ? | www.sustainable-development.gov.uk Regional Sustainable Development Indicators | | x | x |
| | 1995/6-1997/8 | ? | ? | 23 | 23 | | | | | | |
| % Children in low income households- after housing costs | 2001/2-2003/4 | ? | ? | 27 | 29 | Decrease | ? | www.sustainable-development.gov.uk Regional Sustainable Development Indicators | | x | x |
| | 1995/6-1997/8 | ? | ? | 29 | 32 | | | | | | |
| % of Adult Population on Income Support | 2003 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 10 | Decrease | ? | www.goem.gov.uk | | x | x |

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|---|-----------|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------|----------|--|--|--------------|-----|-----|
| | | | | | | | | | Eco | Soc | Env |
| CRIME | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Overall crime rate <i>(Recorded crime BCS comparator)</i> | 2005 | 43.5 | 42.7 | 63.3 | 62.7 | Decrease | Decrease of 1.0 since 2003 | www.fti.neighbourhood.gov.uk | | x | x |
| | 2004 | 44.4 | 44.2 | 65.9 | 64 | | | | | | |
| | 2003 | 44.5 | 45.4 | 72.5 | 69.3 | | | | | | |
| Burglary rate <i>(offences per 1,000 households)</i> | 2005 | 11.4 | 10.8 | 14.8 | 13.8 | Decrease | Overall decrease of 0.3 since 2003. Increase of 0.2 since 2004 | www.fti.neighbourhood.gov.uk | | x | x |
| | 2004 | 11.2 | 11.2 | 17 | 17.7 | | | | | | |
| | 2003 | 11.7 | 13 | 22.2 | 18.6 | | | | | | |
| Vehicle crime <i>(offences per 1,000 population)</i> | 2005 | 11.4 | 8.7 | 13.4 | 17 | Decrease | Overall decrease of 0.3 since 2003. Increase of 0.2 since 2004 | www.fti.neighbourhood.gov.uk | | x | x |
| | 2004 | 11.2 | 9.5 | 14.3 | 14 | | | | | | |
| | 2003 | 11.7 | 11.7 | 18 | 13.5 | | | | | | |
| Robbery <i>(offences per 1,000 population)</i> | 2005 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 1.3 | 1.9 | Decrease | Increase of 0.1 since 2004. No change since 2003 | www.fti.neighbourhood.gov.uk | | x | x |
| | 2004 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 1.2 | 1.8 | | | | | | |
| | 2003 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 1.6 | 2 | | | | | | |
| Violence Against the Person <i>(offences per 1,000 population)</i> | 2000-2001 | 7.2 | ? | 10.3 | 11.3 | Decrease | ? | www.bvpi.gov.uk | | x | x |
| Theft of a Motor Vehicle <i>(offences per 1,000 population)</i> | 2000-2001 | 6.1 | ? | 5.1 | 6.4 | Decrease | ? | www.bvpi.gov.uk | | x | x |
| Racial Incidents <i>(offences per 1,000 population)</i> | 2000-2001 | 6.9 | ? | ? | ? | Decrease | ? | www.bvpi.gov.uk | | x | x |

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|---|------|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------|----------|----------------------------------|--|--------------|-----|-----|
| | | | | | | | | | Eco | Soc | Env |
| HEALTH | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Life Expectancy | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Life Expectancy Males | 2003 | 78.1 | ? | 76.5 | 76.55 | Increase | Increase of 0.2 years since 2002 | www.statistics.gov.uk | x | x | |
| | 2002 | 77.9 | ? | 76.3 | 76.24 | | | | | | |
| Life Expectancy Females | 2003 | 81.5 | ? | 80.7 | 80.91 | Increase | No change | www.statistics.gov.uk | x | x | |
| | 2002 | 81.5 | ? | 80.5 | 80.72 | | | | | | |
| Mortality | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mortality due to circulatory diseases (per 100000 population of those under 75) | 2004 | 75.4 | 76 | 91.4 | 90.5 | Decrease | Decrease of 8.8 since 2002 | www.fti.neighbourhood.gov.uk | x | x | |
| | 2003 | 82.7 | 84.1 | 99.2 | 96.7 | | | | | | |
| | 2002 | 84.2 | 87.8 | 104.4 | 102.8 | | | | | | |
| Mortality due to cancer (per 100000 population of those under 75) | 2004 | 107.2 | 109.2 | 117.6 | 119 | Decrease | Increase of 10.3 since 2002 | www.fti.neighbourhood.gov.uk | x | x | |
| | 2003 | 106.8 | 107.2 | 119.7 | 121.6 | | | | | | |
| | 2002 | 96.9 | 101.3 | 121.2 | 124 | | | | | | |
| General Health | | | | | | | | | | | |
| % People who describe their health as Good | 2001 | 69.41 | 70.44 | 67.58 | 68.76 | Increase | ? | www.statistics.gov.uk (KS08) | x | x | |
| % People who describe their health as Fairly Good | 2001 | 22.73 | 22.21 | 23.27 | 22.21 | / | ? | www.statistics.gov.uk (KS08) | x | x | |
| % People who describe their health as Not Good | 2001 | 7.85 | 7.36 | 9.14 | 9.03 | Decrease | ? | www.statistics.gov.uk (KS08) | x | x | |
| % people with a long term limiting illness | 2001 | 16.3 | 15.4 | 18.4 | 17.9 | Decrease | ? | www.statistics.gov.uk (UV22) | x | x | |

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|--|-----------|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------|----------|---|--|--------------|-----|-----|
| | | | | | | | | | Eco | Soc | Env |
| EDUCATION | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Education - Adult | | | | | | | | | | | |
| % of working age population educated to at least NVQ Level 3 | 2003-2004 | 16.3 | 17.6 | 16.4 | 15.2 | Increase | Increase of 2.4 since 2001-2002 | www.nomisweb.co.uk Local Quartely Labour Force Survey | | x | |
| | 2002-2003 | 13.4 | 16.2 | 15.5 | 14.9 | | | | | | |
| | 2001-2002 | 13.9 | 14.9 | 15 | 14.2 | | | | | | |
| % of working age population educated to at least NVQ Level 2 | 2003-2004 | 18.1 | 16.6 | 15.4 | 15.6 | Increase | Increase of 4.1 since 2001-2002 | www.nomisweb.co.uk Local Quartely Labour Force Survey | | x | |
| | 2002-2003 | 15 | 15 | 15.8 | 15.7 | | | | | | |
| | 2001-2002 | 14 | 15.1 | 15.6 | 15.4 | | | | | | |
| % of working age population educated to at least NVQ Level 1 | 2003-2004 | 17.2 | 15.5 | 16.4 | 15.0 | Increase | Overall decrease since 2001-2002 | www.nomisweb.co.uk Local Quartely Labour Force Survey | | x | |
| | 2002-2003 | 20 | 17.3 | 16.5 | 15.2 | | | | | | |
| | 2001-2002 | 18.2 | 17.1 | 16.6 | 15.7 | | | | | | |
| % of working age population with trade apprenticeships | 2003-2004 | 9.5 | 10.5 | 12.2 | 10.5 | Increase | Decrease of 3.2 since 2002-2003 | www.nomisweb.co.uk Local Quartely Labour Force Survey | | x | |
| | 2002-2003 | 12.7 | 8.5 | 8.2 | 7.2 | | | | | | |
| | 2001-2002 | ? | 8 | 8 | 7.5 | | | | | | |
| % of working age population with no qualifications | 2003-2004 | 10.1 | 10.5 | 12.2 | 10.5 | Decrease | Decrease of 6.4 since 2001-2002 | www.nomisweb.co.uk Local Quartely Labour Force Survey | | x | |
| | 2002-2003 | 13.6 | 11.6 | 13 | 11.0 | | | | | | |
| | 2001-2002 | 16.5 | 12.2 | 14.1 | 11.8 | | | | | | |
| Education - Children | | | | | | | | | | | |
| % of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent | 2005 | 100 | 100 | 85.9 | 92.6 | Increase | No change - 100% achievement since 2003 | www.fti.neighbourhood.gov.uk | x | x | |
| | 2004 | 100 | 100 | 84.7 | 88.9 | | | | | | |
| | 2003 | 100 | 100 | 83.4 | 86.8 | | | | | | |
| % of 11 year olds achieving Level 4 or above in KS2 Maths | 2005 | 92 | 85.9 | 79.8 | 79.3 | Increase | Increase of 7.4 since 2003 | www.fti.neighbourhood.gov.uk | x | x | |
| | 2004 | 88.5 | 85.9 | 78.9 | 77 | | | | | | |
| | 2003 | 84.6 | 86.3 | 74 | 73.7 | | | | | | |
| % of 11 year olds achieving Level 4 or above in KS2 English | 2005 | 92 | 91.4 | 85.3 | 86.2 | Increase | Overall increase of 3.5 since 2003 | www.fti.neighbourhood.gov.uk | x | x | |
| | 2004 | 92.3 | 91.4 | 83.8 | 83.4 | | | | | | |
| | 2003 | 88.5 | 89.3 | 79.8 | 79 | | | | | | |
| % of 14 yr olds achieving Level 5 or above in KS3 Maths | 2005 | 100 | 100 | 94.7 | 94.2 | Increase | No change - 100% achievement since 2003 | www.fti.neighbourhood.gov.uk | x | x | |
| | 2004 | 100 | 100 | 94.7 | 94.2 | | | | | | |
| | 2003 | 100 | 100 | 89.8 | 91.3 | | | | | | |

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|---|------|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------|----------|---|--|--------------|-----|-----|
| | | | | | | | | | Eco | Soc | Env |
| EDUCATION | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Education - Children | | | | | | | | | | | |
| % of 14 yr olds achieving Level 5 or above in KS3 English | 2005 | 100 | 100 | 92 | 93.3 | Increase | No change - 100% achievement since 2003 | www.fti.neighbourhood.gov.uk | x | x | |
| | 2004 | 100 | 100 | 89 | 89.2 | | | | | | |
| | 2003 | 100 | 100 | 81.1 | 85.9 | | | | | | |

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|---|-----------|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---|--------------|-----|-----|
| | | | | | | | | | Eco | Soc | Env |
| HOUSING | | | | | | | | | | | |
| % households owner occupied (<i>owns outright</i>) | 2001 | 34.3 | 33.8 | 30.8 | 29.2 | / | ? | www.statistics.gov.uk (KS18) | | x | |
| % households owner occupied (<i>owns with a mortgage or loan</i>) | 2001 | 82.29 | 80.65 | 71.63 | 68.07 | / | ? | www.statistics.gov.uk (KS18) | | x | |
| % households renting from council/housing association/registered social landlord | 2001 | 10.6 | 11 | 17.5 | 19.3 | / | | www.statistics.gov.uk (KS18) | | x | |
| % households renting from private landlord/letting agency | 2001 | 4.7 | 5.5 | 7.3 | 8.8 | / | | www.statistics.gov.uk (KS18) | | x | |
| % of housing identified in the development plan which is classified as affordable housing | 2005-2006 | 20 | / | / | / | Increase to 40 by 2008-2009 | No change | Hinckley and Bosworth Corporate Performance Plan 2006-2011 (LIB078) | | x | |
| | 2004-2005 | 20 | / | / | / | | | | | | |
| % Total dwelling stock classified as unfit | 2005 | 2.1 | ? | 3.7 | 4.4 | Decrease | Decrease of 0.1 since 2003 | www.statistics.gov.uk | | x | |
| | 2004 | 2.2 | ? | 3.7 | 4.8 | | | | | | |
| | 2003 | 2.2 | ? | 4.9 | 5.6 | | | | | | |
| % Total Local Authority dwellings classified as unfit | 2005 | 0 | ? | 1.7 | 3.8 | Maintain at 0% to 2008-2009 | No change - 100% achievement | www.statistics.gov.uk | | x | |
| | 2004 | 0 | ? | 1.5 | 4.2 | | | | | | |
| | 2003 | 0 | ? | 1.8 | 4.7 | | | | | | |
| % Total Owner Occupied and Private Rented dwellings classified as unfit | 2005 | 2.3 | ? | 4.8 | 4.9 | Decrease | Decrease of 0.2 since 2003 | www.statistics.gov.uk | | x | |
| | 2004 | 2.4 | ? | 5.3 | 5.3 | | | | | | |
| | 2003 | 2.5 | ? | 5.7 | 6 | | | | | | |
| Average house price (£) (<i>Land Registry October to December period</i>) * Data for England and Wales | 2006 | 171,367 | 186,669 | 163,225 | 207,573 | / | Increase of 1390 since 2004 | www.landregistry.gov.uk | | x | |
| | 2005 | 170,195 | 178,210 | 155,547 | 191,327 | | | | | | |
| | 2004 | 169,977 | 176,767 | 152,269 | 182,920 | | | | | | |

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| | | | | | | | | | Eco | Soc | Env |
| TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Traffic | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Road Accident Casualty Rate: People killed or seriously injured (per 1,000 population) | 2005 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.6 | Reduce | Decrease of 0.1 since 2004. No change overall | www.fti.neighbourhood.gov.uk | x | x | x |
| | 2004 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 0.6 | | | | | | |
| | 2003 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 0.6 | | | | | | |
| Road Accident Casualty Rate: Children killed or seriously injured (per 1,000 population) | 2005 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.3 | Reduce | No change since 2003 | www.fti.neighbourhood.gov.uk | x | x | x |
| | 2004 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.4 | 0.3 | | | | | | |
| | 2003 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.4 | | | | | | |
| Private Car | | | | | | | | | | | |
| % Households with at least one car or van | 2001 | 83.26 | 83.19 | 75.75 | 73.16 | / | ? | www.statistics.gov.uk (KS17) | x | x | x |
| % working residents using public transport to get to work* | 2001 | 4.39 | 6.05 | 8.44 | 15.42 | Increase | ? | www.statistics.gov.uk (KS15) | x | x | x |
| % working residents cycling or walking to work | 2001 | 12.2 | 12.2 | 13.8 | 12.8 | Increase | ? | www.statistics.gov.uk (KS15) | x | x | x |
| % working residents driving a car or van to work | 2001 | 66 | 64.6 | 60.4 | 54.9 | Decrease | ? | www.statistics.gov.uk (KS15) | x | x | x |
| Public transport users in households with a car or van | 2001 | 83.9 | 81.9 | 70.6 | 69 | / | ? | www.statistics.gov.uk | x | x | x |
| Public Transport | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number of bus passenger journeys per annum | 2005-2006 | ? | 15,036,000 | ? | ? | Increase | ? | www.bvpi.gov.uk (102) | x | x | x |
| Length of Cycle Network (km) | 2002 | ? | 21 | ? | ? | Increase | ? | www.leics.gov.uk | x | x | x |

* This figure includes people using underground, metro, light rail, tram, bus, minibus, coach, train or taxi/minicab.

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| | | | | | | | | | Eco | Soc | Env |
| TOURSIM AND RECREATION | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Usage of Facilities | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number of visits to libraries <i>(per 1,000 population)</i> | 2001-2002 | ? | 4420 | ? | 6431 | Increase | ? | www.bvpi.gov.uk (117) | | x | |
| Number of visits to/usage of museums <i>(per 1,000 population)</i> | 2005-2006 | ? | 647 | ? | ? | Increase | ? | www.bvpi.gov.uk (170a) | | x | |
| | 2001-2002 | ? | 591 | ? | ? | | | | | | |
| Number of school pupil visits to museums and galleries | 2005-2006 | ? | 16746 | ? | ? | Increase | ? | www.bvpi.gov.uk (170c) | | x | |
| Satisfaction with Cultural and Recreation Services | | | | | | | | | | | |
| % of people very/fairly satisfied with sports and leisure facilities | 2006-2007 | ? | 53 | ? | 55.1 | Increase | ? | www.bvpi.gov.uk (119a) | | x | |
| | 2004-2005 | 47 | ? | ? | ? | | | | | | |
| % of people very/fairly satisfied with museums and galleries | 2006-2007 | ? | 71 | ? | 71.6 | Increase | ? | www.bvpi.gov.uk (119b) | | x | |
| % of people very/fairly satisfied with theatres and concert halls | 2006-2007 | ? | 35 | ? | 43 | Increase | ? | www.bvpi.gov.uk (119c) | | x | |
| % of people very/fairly satisfied with libraries | 2006-2007 | ? | 36 | ? | 44.7 | Increase | ? | www.bvpi.gov.uk (119d) | | x | |
| | 2004-2005 | 37 | ? | ? | ? | | | | | | |
| % of people very/fairly satisfied with parks and open spaces | 2006-2007 | ? | 70 | ? | 72.3 | Increase | ? | www.bvpi.gov.uk (119e) | | x | |
| | 2004-2005 | 71 | ? | ? | ? | | | | | | |
| Footpaths | | | | | | | | | | | |
| % total length of footpaths and other rights of way which are easy to use | 2005-2006 | ? | 77 | ? | 66.4 | Increase | ? | www.bvpi.gov.uk (178) | | x | |
| | 2001-2002 | ? | 79.4 | ? | ? | | | | | | |

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|---|------|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------|----------|--------------|---|--------------|-----|-----|
| | | | | | | | | | Eco | Soc | Env |
| WATER | | | | | | | | | | | |
| River Water Quality | | | | | | | | | | | |
| % Rivers graded as Good - Chemical GQA | 2004 | ? | ? | 55 | 62 | Increase | ? | www.sustainable-development.gov.uk Regional Sustainable Development Indicators | | | x |
| | 2003 | ? | ? | 54 | 62 | | | | | | |
| | 2002 | ? | ? | 59 | 65 | | | | | | |
| % Rivers graded as Good / Fair - Chemical GQA | 2003 | ? | ? | 97 | 94 | / | ? | www.sustainable-development.gov.uk Regional Sustainable Development Indicators | | | x |
| | 2001 | ? | 98.4 | ? | ? | | | | | | |
| % Rivers graded as Good - Biological GQA | 2004 | ? | ? | 61 | 70 | Increase | ? | www.sustainable-development.gov.uk Regional Sustainable Development Indicators | | | x |
| | 2003 | ? | ? | 59 | 69 | | | | | | |
| | 2002 | ? | ? | 57 | 68 | | | | | | |
| % Rivers graded as Good / Fair - Biological GQA | 2003 | ? | ? | 96 | 95.4 | / | ? | www.sustainable-development.gov.uk Regional Sustainable Development Indicators | | | x |
| | 2001 | ? | 98.3 | ? | ? | | | | | | |
| Pollution | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number of Substantiated Pollution Incidents (Water) | 2003 | ? | ? | 5037 | 29,626 | Decrease | ? | www.environment-agency.gov.uk | | | x |

**Sustainability Appraisal of the Hinckley and Bosworth Play and Open Space Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document
Appendix C - Baseline Data**

| Indicator | Date | Hinckley and Bosworth Borough | Leicestershire | East Midlands | England | Target | Local Trends | Data Sources | Relationship | | | |
|---|-----------|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------|--|----------------------------|---|--------------|-----|-----|---|
| | | | | | | | | | Eco | Soc | Env | |
| BIODIVERSITY | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number of SSSI | 2007 | 7 | 91 | 330 | 4000+ | 95% of SSSI land to be in favourable or recovering condition by 2010 | ? | www.naturalengland.org.uk www.magic.gov.uk | | | | |
| Number of SSSI units | 2007 | 27 | 398 | 1,765 | 22,000 | | ? | | | | | |
| % of SSSI in Favourable Condition | 2007 | 33.3* | 22.1 | 44.4 | 44.8 | | ? | | | | | x |
| % of SSSI in Unfavourable but Recovering Condition | 2007 | 7.4 | 48.5 | 25.6 | 30.7 | | ? | | | | | |
| % of SSSI in Unfavourable Condition - No Change | 2007 | 48.1* | 21.6 | 10.6 | 15.9 | | ? | | | | | |
| % of SSSI in Unfavourable and Declining Condition | 2007 | 11.1* | 7 | 19 | 8.5 | | ? | | | | | |
| % of SSSI Destroyed / Part Destroyed | 2007 | 0 | 0.2 | 0.01 | 0.07 | | ? | | | | | |
| * It should be noted that the SSSI condition data for the Borough refers to the condition of the <u>SSSI units</u> not the overall SSSI condition. This data is therefore not comparable with the data for the county, region and England as a whole. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Special Areas of Conservation | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number of Special Areas of Conservation | 2007 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 237 | Increase | ? | www.magic.gov.uk | | | x | |
| Special Protection Areas | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number of Special Protection Areas | 2007 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 83 | Increase | ? | www.magic.gov.uk | | | x | |
| Local Nature Reserves | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number of Local Nature Reserves | 2007 | 2 | ? | ? | ? | Increase | ? | www.natureonthemap.org.uk | | | x | |
| Regional Farmland Bird Species Indices | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number of species | 2003 | ? | ? | 91 | ? | Increase | Decrease of 1.0 since 2002 | www.sustainable-development.gov.uk Regional Sustainable Development Indicators | | | | |
| | 2002 | ? | ? | 92 | ? | | | | | | | |
| | 2001 | ? | ? | 91 | ? | | | | | | | |
| Number of species with populations increasing | 1994-2002 | ? | ? | ? | 8/19 | ? | ? | | | | x | |
| Number of species with populations showing little change | 1994-2002 | ? | ? | ? | 4/19 | ? | ? | | | | | |
| Number of species with populations declining | 1994-2002 | ? | ? | ? | 7/19 | ? | ? | | | | | |

**Sustainability Appraisal of the Hinckley and Bosworth Play and Open Space Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document
Appendix C - Baseline Data**

| Indicator | Date | Hinckley and Bosworth Borough | Leicestershire | East Midlands | England | Target | Local Trends | Data Sources | Relationship | | |
|--|-----------|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------|----------|----------------------------|---|--------------|-----|-----|
| | | | | | | | | | Eco | Soc | Env |
| BIODIVERSITY | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Regional Woodland Bird Species Indices | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number of species | 2003 | ? | ? | 114 | ? | Increase | Decrease of 1.0 since 2002 | www.sustainable-development.gov.uk Regional Sustainable Development Indicators | | | x |
| | 2002 | ? | ? | 111 | ? | | | | | | |
| | 2001 | ? | ? | 114 | ? | | | | | | |
| Number of species with populations increasing | 1994-2002 | ? | ? | ? | 15/33 | ? | ? | | | | |
| Number of species with populations showing little change | 1994-2002 | ? | ? | ? | 7/33 | ? | ? | | | | |
| Number of species with populations declining | 1994-2002 | ? | ? | ? | 11/33 | ? | ? | | | | |

Sustainability Appraisal of the Hinckley and Bosworth Play and Open Space Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document
Appendix C - Baseline Data

| Indicator | Date | Hinckley and Bosworth Borough | Leicestershire | East Midlands | England | Target | Local Trends | Data Sources | Relationship | | |
|--|-----------|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--------------|-----|-----|
| | | | | | | | | | Eco | Soc | Env |
| WASTE | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Waste disposal and recycling | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Average household waste collected per head (kg) | 2005-2006 | 416.9 | 545.1 | ? | ? | Decrease | Increase | www.bvpi.gov.uk (84a) | x | x | x |
| | 2004-2005 | 405.6 | ? | ? | 444.5 | | | | | | |
| | 2001-2002 | 382 | 530 | ? | ? | | | | | | |
| % household waste recycled | 2005-2006 | 17.6 | ? | ? | ? | Increase to 19% by 2008-2009 | Increase of 8.8 since 2001-2002 | www.bvpi.gov.uk (82a) | x | x | x |
| | 2004-2005 | 15.7 | ? | ? | 15.2 | | | | | | |
| | 2001-2002 | 8.8 | 11.8 | ? | ? | | | | | | |
| % household waste composted | 2005-2006 | 22.7 | ? | ? | ? | Increase to 27% by 2008-2009 | Increase of 20.8 since 2001-2002 | www.bvpi.gov.uk (82b) | x | x | x |
| | 2004-2005 | 18.8 | ? | ? | 6.5 | | | | | | |
| | 2001-2002 | 1.9 | 9.4 | ? | ? | | | | | | |
| % household waste landfilled | 2001-2002 | ? | 78.8 | ? | ? | Decrease | ? | www.bvpi.gov.uk (82d) | x | x | x |
| % residents served by kerbside recycling (one recyclable) | 2005-2006 | 99.8 | ? | ? | ? | Increase to 100% by 2008-2009 | Increase of 4.8 since 2004-2005 | www.bvpi.gov.uk (91a) | x | x | x |
| | 2004-2005 | 95 | ? | ? | 91.1 | | | | | | |
| % residents served by kerbside recycling (two recyclables) | 2005-2006 | 99.8 | ? | ? | ? | Increase to 100% by 2008-2009 | ? | www.bvpi.gov.uk (91b) | x | x | x |
| % of residents satisfied with waste recycling facilities | 2004-2005 | 70 | ? | ? | ? | Increase | ? | www.bvpi.gov.uk (90b) | x | x | x |
| % of residents satisfied with household waste collection | 2004-2005 | 80 | ? | ? | ? | Increase | ? | www.bvpi.gov.uk (90a) | x | x | x |

**Sustainability Appraisal of the Hinckley and Bosworth Play and Open Space Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document
Appendix C - Baseline Data**

| Indicator | Date | Hinckley and Bosworth Borough | Leicestershire | East Midlands | England | Target | Local Trends | Data Sources | Relationship | | |
|---|------|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------|----------|--------------|--|--------------|-----|-----|
| | | | | | | | | | Eco | Soc | Env |
| Listed Buildings | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number of Listed Buildings | 2007 | 296 | ? | 30,000* | ? | / | ? | www.english-heritage.org.uk | x | x | x |
| | 2005 | 320* | ? | ? | ? | | | | | | |
| Number of Grade I Listed Buildings | 2006 | | | | ? | / | ? | www.english-heritage.org.uk | x | x | x |
| Number of Grade II Listed Buildings | 2006 | | | | ? | / | ? | www.english-heritage.org.uk | x | x | x |
| Buildings at Risk | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total number of Buildings at Risk | 2006 | 2 | 16 | 134 | 1,786 | Decrease | ? | www.english-heritage.org.uk | x | x | x |
| Number of Buildings at Risk- Very Bad condition | 2006 | 0 | 1 | 23 | 422 | Decrease | ? | www.english-heritage.org.uk | x | x | x |
| Number of Buildings at Risk- Poor condition | 2006 | 0 | 3 | 53 | 927 | Decrease | ? | www.english-heritage.org.uk | x | x | x |
| Number of Buildings at Risk- Fair condition | 2006 | 2 | 11 | 56 | 411 | Increase | ? | www.english-heritage.org.uk | x | x | x |
| Number of Buildings at Risk- Good condition | 2006 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 26 | Increase | ? | www.english-heritage.org.uk | x | x | x |
| Historic Parks and Gardens | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number of Historic Parks and Gardens | 2006 | 1 | ? | 132 | ? | / | ? | UK Database of Historic Parks and Gardens | x | x | x |
| Historic Battlefields | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number of Registered Historic Battlefields | 2006 | 1 | ? | 5 | ? | / | ? | www.english-heritage.org.uk | x | x | x |
| Scheduled Monuments | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number of Scheduled Monuments | 2007 | 22 | ? | 1,521 | ? | / | ? | www.english-heritage.org.uk www.magic.gov.uk | x | x | x |
| | 2005 | 20 | ? | ? | ? | | | | | | |
| Conservation Areas | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number of Conservation Areas | 2007 | 26 | ? | 1,006 | 9,374 | / | ? | www.english-heritage.org.uk | x | x | x |
| | 2005 | 21 | ? | ? | ? | | | | | | |

* Approximate figures

**Sustainability Appraisal of the Hinckley and Bosworth Play and Open Space Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document
Appendix C - Baseline Data**

| Indicator | Date | Hinckley and Bosworth Borough | Leicestershire | East Midlands | England | Target | Local Trends | Data Sources | Relationship | | |
|---|-----------|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--------------|-----|-----|
| | | | | | | | | | Eco | Soc | Env |
| AIR AND CLIMATE | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Carbon Dioxide Emissions | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total carbon dioxide emissions (Carbon equivalent, tonnes) | 2003 | ? | ? | 11 | 123.4 | Decrease | ? | www.sustainable-development.gov.uk Regional Sustainable Development Indicators | x | x | x |
| Total carbon dioxide emissions per head (carbon equivalent) | 2003 | ? | ? | 2,660 | 2,470 | Decrease | ? | www.sustainable-development.gov.uk Regional Sustainable Development Indicators | x | x | x |
| Energy Efficiency | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Installed capacity of sites generating electricity from renewable energy resources (MW) | 2005 | ? | ? | 90* | 3,225* | Increase | ? | http://www.restats.org.uk/ | x | | x |
| Generation of electricity from renewable sources (GWh) | 2005 | ? | ? | 650* | 8900* | Increase | ? | http://www.restats.org.uk/ | x | | x |
| Energy efficiency of housing stock (average SAP rating) | 2005-2006 | 72.2 | ? | ? | ? | Increase to 75% by 2008-2009 | Increase of 14.2 since 2001-2002 | www.bvpi.gov.uk (63) | | x | x |
| | 2004-2005 | 71 | ? | ? | ? | | | | | | |
| | 2003-2004 | 68 | ? | ? | 59.9 | | | | | | |
| | 2001-2002 | 58 | ? | ? | ? | | | | | | |
| Air Quality | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number of Air Quality Management Areas | 2006 | 0 | ? | ? | ? | Decrease | ? | www.airquality.co.uk | x | x | x |

* Approximate values

APPENDIX D
SCOPING CONSULTATION RESPONSES

**Sustainability Appraisal of the Hinckley and Bosworth Play and Open Space Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document
Appendix D - Scoping Stage Consultation Responses**

| Organisation/Name | Date Received | Comments | Response |
|---|---|--|--|
| <p align="center">National Farmers Union Mr Paul Tame</p> | <p align="center">22nd May 2007</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Farmers Union (NFU) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the scope of the proposed SA framework. The NFU like the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) objectives that have been highlighted for the Hinckley and Bosworth LDF, especially objectives 10, 11, 12, 15, 18, 19, 20 and 24. Of these, SA objectives 15 and 20 are crucial to NFU members in the Borough Council area. | <p align="center">Comment noted.</p> |
| <p align="center">Environment Agency Ms Penny Thorpe (Team Leader, Planning Liaison)</p> | <p align="center">15th June 2007</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SA objectives appear to cover all the issues of interest for the Environment Agency. The Environment Agency is particularly pleased to see the increased emphasis on sustainable development, management of resources and a reduction in waste. The examination of flood risk should include the risk from other sources such as drainage systems and surface water run-off including projected run-off from proposed development. Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) and water harvesting on site should be integral to any proposed development. | <p align="center">Comment noted.</p> <p align="center">Comment noted.</p> <p>The potential risk of flooding from other sources has been acknowledged in Section 5.3.2 of the Sustainability Report. This has been taken into consideration during the SA of the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD.</p> |
| <p align="center">Highways Agency Geoff Wise (Planning Manager)</p> | <p align="center">22nd June 2007</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Q1: Plans and Programmes – A key document not identified in the 2005 Scoping Report is Planning Policy Guidance Note 13: Transport, published in 2001. A further document published more recently is the Highways Agency's Regional Network Reports dated November 2006. This document sets out current and future pressures on the Strategic Road Network, including the A5, M69 and M42 affecting Hinckley and Bosworth District. These documents are available at http://highways.gov.uk/business/14462.aspx. An update and revision of this document is expected in March 2008, which will be sent direct to each Local Authority. Q3: Key Sustainability Issues – The concept of reducing the need to travel, especially by car, was set out in PPG13 in 2001. This is a key sustainability issue for all local authorities, especially in areas with high levels of private car use such as Hinckley and Bosworth. The SA Scoping Report omits this document from Section 4.1, and consequently does not adequately address the aim or concept of reducing the need to travel. This issue is of particular significance in preparing the Site Allocations DPD. Q4: Suitability of the SA Framework – Similarly to question 3 above, an additional objective <i>“To reduce the need to travel, especially by car”</i> should be included, since the existing objectives 24 and 25 do not adequately address this key aim, set out in PPG13. | <p align="center">Comment noted.</p> <p>A review of PPG13 was not considered necessary in relation to the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD; however the main aims and objectives of PPG13 have been taken into consideration during the SA of the SPD. PPG13 has been reviewed in relation to other documents under Hinckley and Bosworth LDF.</p> <p align="center">Comment noted.</p> <p>The need to reduce the need to travel, in particular by private car has been taken into consideration in the SA, as highlighted in Section 5.4 and Appendix E of the Sustainability Report.</p> <p align="center">Comment noted.</p> <p>SA objective 24 has been amended to read “To encourage and develop the use of public transport, walking and cycling as alternatives to the private car”.</p> |

**Sustainability Appraisal of the Hinckley and Bosworth Play and Open Space Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document
Appendix D - Scoping Stage Consultation Responses**

| Organisation/Name | Date Received | Comments | Response |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <p>Highways Agency Geoff Wise (Planning Manager)</p> | <p>22nd June 2007</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Highways Agency welcome their continued inclusion in the LDF consultation process, and look forward to working proactively with Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council in the production of its LDF. | <p>Comment noted.</p> |
| <p>Natural England Ms Anna Collins (Planning and Biodiversity Officer)</p> | <p>25th June 2007</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unfortunately due to staff shortages Natural England is unable to provide a detailed response to this consultation. However, Natural England has commented on other Scoping Reports undertaken by WYGE on behalf of other districts in Leicestershire. Natural England has therefore provided comments sent in response to a similar consultation concerning the Oadby and Wigston Allocations Development Plan Document for consideration. Those comments which are considered to be of relevance have been included below. | <p>/</p> |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ideally baseline information presented in the Sustainability Report will identify the area of the Borough covered by National, County and locally designated sites and map them. Statements regarding Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitats should include sufficient detail to ensure that a proper assessment of the impacts can be made. For example, it will be important to know the area and location of the BAP habitats. It would also be helpful to know if there are any trends with regards to the biodiversity of Hinckley and Bosworth. | <p>Comment noted. Section 5.3 of the Sustainability Report summarises national, county and locally designated sites within the Borough. These designations have been taken into consideration in the SA of the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD.</p> |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It would be helpful if the written information about the baseline was supported by a land use map which identified areas of open space, BAP habitats and designated sites. | <p>Comment noted. Land use maps were not considered relevant for the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD; however they have been produced in relation to other LDF documents.</p> |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The key sustainability issue which makes reference to BAP habitats needs to be taken further to ensure not only the protection of existing habitats and species but the creation of new areas. This is in line with national policy and guidance and RSS8, which makes clear that local authorities should be seeking net gain in BAP habitats and species. | <p>Comment noted. The key sustainability issue has been amended to read 'to protect and enhance habitats and species, in particular those listed in the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland BAP'. Table 5.3 and Appendix E of the Sustainability Report recommend that opportunities for habitat enhancement and / or creation are sought wherever possible.</p> |

**Sustainability Appraisal of the Hinckley and Bosworth Play and Open Space Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document
Appendix D - Scoping Stage Consultation Responses**

| Organisation/Name | Date Received | Comments | Response |
|---|---|---|---|
| <p align="center">Natural England Ms Anna Collins (Planning and Biodiversity Officer)</p> | <p align="center">25th June 2007</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural England feels that the need for open space which meets the Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGst) is a key sustainability issue. Linked to this is a further sustainability issue which is the need for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough to have high quality green infrastructure. The existing natural spaces must be retained and enhanced and green links between them created. A good green infrastructure will not only contribute to creating an improved environment for the Borough but will also have health, social and economic benefits making Hinckley and Bosworth a more pleasant place to live and work. This again would contribute to bringing the plan in line with national guidance and RSS8. | <p align="center">Comment noted.</p> <p>The importance of open space has been acknowledged as a key sustainability issue, as highlighted in Table 5.3 and Appendix E of the Sustainability Report. Section 6.5 recommends that the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD ensures the provision of greenspace / open space in accordance with the English Nature Space for Nature Guidelines and the National Playing Fields Associations Six Acre Standard.</p> |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Q4: Suitability of the SA Framework: When assessing against SA objective 9 there should be an assessment of the impact on access to open and greenspace as access to pleasant green open spaces is known to have a positive benefit on the health of individuals. The assessment of this SA objective should include assessment using the ANGst targets. When assessing against SA objective 7 a definition of 'natural environment' should be taken in the broadest terms, whilst still remaining relevant to the plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If relevant an assessment of the impact of the plan on a landscape scale should be made. Will the plan create barriers to or opportunities for improving dispersal and connectivity of natural habitats? Will the plan have implications for water resources for habitats and species? Will it result in the loss of BAP habitats? Will the plan threaten rare species? An assessment against SA objective 17 should include the impacts on natural and green open spaces, green corridors, water resources, waste production and climate change. An assessment against SA objective 21 should acknowledge the biodiversity value that some brownfield sites have. An assessment of SA objective 22 should consider the 2004 Countryside Agency document 'Towards' and 'Vernacular'. | <p align="center">Comment noted.</p> <p>These comments have been used to assist the SA of the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD under the relevant objectives.</p> |

**Sustainability Appraisal of the Hinckley and Bosworth Play and Open Space Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document
Appendix D - Scoping Stage Consultation Responses**

| Organisation/Name | Date Received | Comments | Response |
|--|---------------------------|--|--|
| Leicestershire County Council | 5 th July 2007 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q1: Plans and Programmes – Leicestershire County Council would like the following documents adding to the plans and programmes section: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-Regional: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-Regional Housing Market Assessment currently being tendered for led by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council. The Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Gypsies and Travellers Accommodation Needs Assessment. • Local: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leicestershire Local Area Agreement • Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council's Housing Strategy • Hinckley and Bosworth Community Plan (recently reviewed) • Please note that the new Sustainable Community Strategy for Leicestershire is currently being prepared, it will replace the current Leicestershire Community Strategy. | <p align="center">Comment noted.</p> <p>A review of the Leicestershire Local Area Agreement and the Hinckley and Bosworth Community Plan has been undertaken and the outcomes of the review have been taken into account during the SA of the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD. A summary of the review is provided in Section 3.7 and Appendix B of the Sustainability Report.</p> <p>A review of the Hinckley and Bosworth Housing Strategy was not considered necessary in relation to the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD; however the main aims and objectives of the Strategy have been taken into consideration during the SA of the SPD.</p> <p>The Housing Strategy and the Gypsies and Travellers Accommodation Needs Assessment has been considered in establishing the baseline as detailed in Section 5.2.7 of the Sustainability Report. The Sub-Regional Housing Market Assessment has not yet been written and therefore has not been included in the review.</p> |
| English Heritage | | No comments were given at this stage. | |
| East Midlands Development Agency | | No comments were given at this stage. | |
| Government Office for the East Midlands | | No comments were given at this stage. | |
| East Midlands Regional Assembly | | No comments were given at this stage. | |
| Leicestershire County and Rutland Primary Care Trust | | No comments were given at this stage. | |
| Leicestershire Constabulary | | No comments were given at this stage. | |

**Sustainability Appraisal of the Hinckley and Bosworth Play and Open Space Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document
Appendix D - Scoping Stage Consultation Responses**











| Organisation/Name | Date Received | Comments | Response |
|--|----------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Leicestershire Chamber of Commerce and Industry | | No comments were given at this stage. | |
| Leicestershire Economic Partnership | | No comments were given at this stage. | |
| British Waterways | | No comments were given at this stage. | |
| Sport England | | No comments were given at this stage. | |
| Transport 2000 | | No comments were given at this stage. | |
| DEFRA Rural Development Service | | No comments were given at this stage. | |
| Forestry Commission | | No comments were given at this stage. | |
| Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust | | No comments were given at this stage. | |
| East Midlands Community Renewables Initiative | | No comments were given at this stage. | |
| Severn Trent Water | | No comments were given at this stage. | |
| Royal Society for the Protection of Birds | | No comments were given at this stage. | |
| National Playing Fields Association | | No comments were given at this stage. | |

**Sustainability Appraisal of the Hinckley and Bosworth Play and Open Space Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document
Appendix D - Scoping Stage Consultation Responses**

| Organisation/Name | Date Received | Comments | Response |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Arriva Midlands | | No comments were given at this stage. | |
| Network Rail | | No comments were given at this stage. | |
| Leicestershire Development Agency | | No comments were given at this stage. | |
| First Buses | | No comments were given at this stage. | |

APPENDIX E
APPRAISAL MATRICES

**Sustainability Appraisal of the Hinckley and Bosworth Play and Open Space Developer Contributions
Supplementary Planning Document
Appendix E - Sustainability Appraisal Matrices**

| APPRAISAL MATRICES KEY | | | |
|---|------------------|---|------------------|
| Magnitude of Effects | | | |
| Direct Impacts | | Indirect Impacts | |
|  | Major beneficial |  | Major beneficial |
|  | Minor beneficial |  | Minor beneficial |
|  | Minor adverse |  | Minor adverse |
|  | Major adverse |  | Major adverse |
|  Unknown | |  No effect | |

Sustainability Appraisal of the Hinckley and Bosworth Play and Open Space Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document
Appendix E - Sustainability Appraisal Matrices

| Sustainability Appraisal Objectives | Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan Policies IMP1*, REC2 and REC3 | | | | |
|--|--|---------------------|-------------|-----------|---|
| | Magnitude | Duration | Sensitivity | Certainty | Description |
| 1. To ensure the provision of decent and affordable housing that meets local needs and links into the provision of services. | ↔ | / | / | / | No significant effects are anticipated. |
| 2. To improve health and reduce health inequalities by promoting healthy lifestyles, protecting health and providing access to health services. | ⇒⇒ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | Policy IMP1 ensures the provision of reasonable amounts of open space and sports / recreation facilities for new residential, employment and other development commensurate with its scale and nature. Open space provides formal and informal leisure, recreation and play space for local communities, which can have a beneficial effect upon people's physical and mental health and well being. The provision of sports / recreation facilities will also provide opportunities for people to exercise / participate in activities. |
| | ⇒⇒ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | Policy REC2 ensures the provision of public open space suitable for formal recreational purposes in accordance with the minimum standards within the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) Six Acre Standard. Open space must be of a satisfactory size and form to accommodate a range of formal recreation uses, including facilities for active sports (e.g. football pitches, tennis courts and athletic tracks), and informal play space. Pro rata provision of open space will also be sought for developments between 20 and 100 dwellings. Open space provides formal and informal leisure, recreation and play space for local communities, which can have a beneficial effect upon people's physical and mental health and well being. The provision of sports / recreation facilities will also provide opportunities for people to exercise / participate in activities. |
| | ⇒⇒ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | Policy REC3 ensures the provision of 0.04 hectares of informal children's play space per 20 dwellings. Under Policy REC3 action will also be undertaken or encouraged to augment play area provision in established housing areas, where the present provision and / or distribution of play areas is inadequate. Such space will provide informal recreation opportunities for children, which would benefit children's physical and mental health and well being. |
| | ⇅ | / | Local | Low | There is the potential for noise / disturbance issues associated with open space areas and sports / recreation facilities (e.g. associated with sports activities and socialising), which could effect neighbouring residents. |
| | ↑ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | Policy REC3 states that amenity planting areas and other devices should be used to provide the maximum separation from nearby residents in order to reduce the likelihood of disturbance, noise and other nuisances. |
| 3. To provide better opportunities for local people and tourists to access and understand local heritage. | ↔ | / | / | / | No significant effects are anticipated. |
| 4. To improve access to and participation in cultural and leisure activities. | ↑↑ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | Policy IMP1 ensures the provision of reasonable amounts of open space and sports / recreation facilities for new residential, employment and other development commensurate with its scale and nature. Open space provides formal and informal leisure, recreation and play space for local communities. Open space can also be used as a focal point for community / cultural activities and events. The provision of sports / recreation facilities will provide opportunities for people to exercise / participate in activities. |
| | ↑↑ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | Policy REC2 ensures the provision of public open space suitable for formal recreational purposes in accordance with the minimum standards within the NPFA Six Acre Standard. Open space must be of a satisfactory size and form to accommodate a range of formal recreation uses, including facilities for active sports (e.g. football pitches, tennis courts and athletic tracks), and informal play space. Pro rata provision of open space will also be sought for developments between 20 and 100 dwellings. Open space provides formal and informal leisure, recreation and play space for local communities, which can have a beneficial effect upon people's physical and mental health and well being. The provision of sports / recreation facilities will also provide opportunities for people to exercise / participate in activities. |
| | ↑↑ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | Policy REC3 ensures the provision of 0.04 hectares of informal children's play space per 20 dwellings. Under Policy REC3 action will also be undertaken or encouraged to augment play area provision in established housing areas, where the present provision and / or distribution of play areas is inadequate. |
| 5. To improve community safety, reduce the fear of crime and reduce anti-social behaviour, particularly in Hinckley town centre. | ⇒ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | Policies IMP1 and REC2 ensure the provision of open space as part of new development. Such space provides formal and informal leisure, recreation and play space for young people, which may help to reduce the potential for youth crime and anti-social behaviour. |
| | ⇒ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | Policies IMP1 and REC2 ensure the provision of sports / recreation facilities for new development. Such facilities may engage children and young people and thereby help to reduce the potential for youth crime and anti-social behaviour. |
| | ↑ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | Policy REC3 states that play areas should be located so they are overlooked by houses of well used pedestrian routes in order to provide some visual supervision. This should help to reduce the potential for crime. |
| | ↑ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | Policy REC3 states that play areas should be safely accessible by children, with footpath links which do not require the crossing of busy roads or other major hazards. This should help to reduce the potential risk of road accidents. |
| | ⇅ | / | Local | Low | Poorly maintained open space can become the focus of crime and anti-social behaviour (e.g. robbery, vandalism and under age drinking). There may also be a fear of crime associated with open space (e.g. overhanging vegetation on pathways and poor lighting). |
| 6. To promote and support the empowerment of local communities in creating and implementing solutions that meet their needs focusing particularly on young, elderly and deprived people. | ↔ | / | / | / | No significant effects are anticipated. |
| 7. To protect and enhance the natural environment (species and habitats) whilst contributing to the achievement of Biodiversity Action Plan targets. | ↑ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | Open spaces can potentially support a range of habitats and species, and thereby help to maintain / enhance the biodiversity of an area. Open spaces also often provide wildlife corridors for species to travel / migrate to other suitable habitats. |
| | ↓ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | There is the potential for the development of open space and sports / recreation facilities as required by Policy IMP1 to have an effect upon habitats and species within or surrounding the proposed development area (e.g. direct disturbance, loss of habitat). |
| 8. To conserve and enhance the character, diversity and local distinctiveness of towns and villages in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough. | ↑ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | Policies IMP1 and REC2 ensure the provision of open space within new development. Good quality open space can enhance the character of a neighbourhood and create a sense of place. |
| | ↑ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | Policy REC3 states that play areas should be sited on land suitable for the type of play opportunity intended and should be appropriately landscaped. This should help to ensure that play areas do not have an adverse effect upon the character of the associated area. |
| | ↓ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | Poorly maintained open space can detract from the townscape of an area and contribute towards the decline of an area. |
| 9. To preserve and enhance the character, appearance and setting of archaeological sites, historic buildings, conservation sites, historic parks and other cultural assets. | ⇅ | / | / | Low | The provision of open space in accordance with these policies may provide opportunities for the protection and enhancement of any historic assets and their settings associated with proposed open space sites. |
| 10. To conserve and enhance the character, diversity and local distinctiveness of the rural landscape in the Borough. | ↑ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | Policies IMP1 and REC2 ensure the provision of open space within new development. Good quality open space can enhance the character of a neighbourhood and create a sense of place. |

* Please note that the appraisal of Policy IMP1 only takes into account the provision of play and open space in accordance with this policy. It does not take into account the provision of other services / facilities (e.g. education facilities) in accordance with Policy IMP1, as the provision of such services is outside the remit of the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document.

**Sustainability Appraisal of the Hinckley and Bosworth Play and Open Space Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document
Appendix E - Sustainability Appraisal Matrices**

| Sustainability Appraisal Objectives | Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan Policies IMP1*, REC2 and REC3 | | | | |
|---|--|---------------------|-------------|-----------|--|
| | Magnitude | Duration | Sensitivity | Certainty | Description |
| 11. To conserve and enhance woodland cover in the Borough, particularly in the National Forest area. | ↔ | / | / | / | No significant effects are anticipated. |
| | ↓ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | There is the potential for the development of open space and sports / recreation facilities as required by Policy IMP1 to have an effect upon existing woodland habitat within or surrounding the proposed development area (e.g. direct disturbance, loss of woodland). |
| 12. To manage prudently water resources, improve water quality and protect the floodplain. | ↑ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | There is the potential for the provision of open space as required by these policies to help reduce surface water run-off and flood risk. |
| | ↓ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | There is the potential for the development of sports / recreation facilities to increase surface water run-off and flood risk. |
| 13. To improve air quality particularly through reducing transport related pollutants. | ↑ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | Open spaces can help to counteract the effects of air pollution by absorbing / offsetting pollutants. |
| 14. To manage prudently mineral resources and avoid / reduce pollution of land. | ↔ | / | / | / | No significant effects are anticipated. |
| 15. To minimise energy use and develop renewable energy resources. | ↔ | / | / | / | No significant effects are anticipated. |
| 16. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the rate of climate change. | ↑ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | Open spaces can help to counteract the effects of greenhouse gas emissions by absorbing / offsetting pollutants. |
| 17. To involve people, through changes to lifestyle and at work, in preventing and minimising adverse local, regional and global environmental impacts. | ↔ | / | / | / | No significant effects are anticipated. |
| 18. To improve access to education and training for children, young people and adult learners. | ↔ | / | / | / | No significant effects are anticipated. |
| 19. To develop a strong culture of enterprise and innovation whilst providing access to appropriate employment opportunities for the local population, particularly in rural areas. | ↑ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | Policies IMP1 and REC2 ensure the provision of open space within new development. Good quality open space can enhance the character of a neighbourhood, increase property values, encourage business investment and therefore help to improve local economies. |
| | ↓ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | Poorly maintained open space can contribute towards the decline of an area. |
| 20. To help farmers diversify their agricultural activities or venture into new rural businesses. To help other rural businesses diversify their activities. | ↔ | / | / | / | No significant effects are anticipated. |
| 21. To optimise the use of previously developed land, buildings and existing infrastructure. | ↔ | / | / | / | No significant effects are anticipated. |
| 22. To promote and ensure high standards of sustainable design and construction. | ↔ | / | / | / | No significant effects are anticipated. |
| 23. To minimise waste and to increase the re-use and recycling of waste materials. | ↔ | / | / | / | No significant effects are anticipated. |
| 24. To improve access to services, particularly for the rural population, those without a car and for disabled, elderly and deprived people. | ↑↑ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | The requirement for the provision of sports / recreation facilities in accordance with Policies IMP1 and REC2 should help to ensure local communities have access to such facilities. |
| 25. To encourage and develop the use of public transport, cycling and walking as alternatives to the private car. | ↔ | / | / | / | No significant effects are anticipated. |

* Please note that the appraisal of Policy IMP1 only takes into account the provision of play and open space in accordance with this policy. It does not take into account the provision of other services / facilities (e.g. education facilities) in accordance with Policy IMP1, as the provision of such services is outside the remit of the Play and Open Space Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document.

**Sustainability Appraisal of the Hinckley and Bosworth Play and Open Space Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document
Appendix E - Sustainability Appraisal Matrices**

| Sustainability Appraisal Objectives | Hinckley and Bosworth Play and Open Space Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document | | | | | |
|--|---|---------------------|-------------|-----------|---|---|
| | Magnitude | Duration | Sensitivity | Certainty | Description | Mitigation |
| 1. To ensure the provision of decent and affordable housing that meets local needs and links into the provision of services. | ↔ | / | / | / | No significant effects are anticipated. | / |
| 2. To improve health and reduce health inequalities by promoting healthy lifestyles, protecting health and providing access to health services. | ⇒⇒ | Permanent Long Term | Local | High | The SPD ensures the provision of reasonable amounts of play and open space within residential development commensurate with its scale and nature. Such spaces provide formal and informal leisure, recreation and play space for local residents, which can have a beneficial effect upon people's physical and mental health and well being. | <p>Ensure play and open space is provided in accordance with best practice design standards and guidance*.</p> <p>Ensure play and open space provision takes account of the needs of everyone, including the physically and mentally disabled.</p> <p>Promote the use of open spaces for community and social events (e.g. festivals, exhibitions and fairs). Such activities can boost social inclusion and encourage community interaction.</p> |
| | ↑↑ | Permanent Long Term | Local | High | The requirement for the provision of sports / recreation facilities (including equipped childrens space, provision for teenagers and formal open space for outdoor sport for certain housing types) will provide opportunities for people of all ages to exercise / participate in activities. | |
| | ↑↑ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | The SPD highlights the importance of ensuring that play and open space is easy to reach by residents of the associated development for which contributions are required. The need to take account of the capabilities of different age groups to ensure they can travel independently is also emphasised. | |
| | ↔ | / | Local | Low | There is potential for noise / disturbance issues associated with open space areas and sports / recreation facilities (e.g. associated with sports activities and socialising), which could effect neighbouring residents. | |
| 3. To provide better opportunities for local people and tourists to access and understand local heritage. | ↔ | / | / | / | No significant effects are anticipated. | Open space can act as a venue for a range of cultural / historic events. This potential should be highlighted within the SPD and such opportunities encouraged where possible. |
| 4. To improve access to and participation in cultural and leisure activities. | ⇒⇒ | Permanent Long Term | Local | High | The SPD ensures the provision of reasonable amounts of play and open space for residential development commensurate with its scale and nature, which would provide formal and informal leisure, recreation and play opportunities for local residents. | <p>Open spaces can be used as venues for a range of cultural activities such as festivals, fairs and performances. This potential should be highlighted within the SPD and such opportunities encouraged where possible.</p> <p>Ensure play and open space is provided in accordance with best practice design standards and guidance*.</p> <p>Ensure play and open space provision takes account of the needs of everyone, including the disabled.</p> <p>Ensure play and open space is user friendly and accessible to everyone, including the disabled.</p> |
| | ⇒⇒ | Permanent Long Term | Local | High | The requirement for the provision of sports / recreation facilities (including equipped childrens space, provision for teenagers and formal open space for outdoor sport for certain housing types) will provide opportunities for people of all ages to exercise / participate in sports activities. | |
| | ⇒ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | The requirement for contributions towards the maintenance of open space and play facilities (where applicable) should help to ensure their longevity, and thereby encourage continued use of the facilities. | |
| 5. To improve community safety, reduce the fear of crime and reduce anti-social behaviour, particularly in Hinckley town centre. | ⇒ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | The provision of play and open space as part of residential development may help to reduce the potential for youth crime and anti-social behaviour (e.g. such spaces provide opportunities for informal sports and recreation). | <p>The potential for crime and anti-social behaviour, and the fear of crime can be a major deterrent to the use of open space. There is therefore a need to ensure this is acknowledged within the SPD.</p> <p>Include a requirement within the SPD to incorporate the Secured by Design Principles set out in the 'Secured by Design Guide for Play Areas' to reduce the potential for crime / anti-social behaviour and to help reduce the fear of crime (e.g. the provision of lighting as appropriate to facilitate natural surveillance at night). The overarching Secured by Design Principles should also be acknowledged to ensure that open space is positively integrated within housing developments.</p> <p>Ensure play and open space is provided in accordance with best practice design standards and guidance*.</p> |
| | ⇒ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | The SPD ensures the provision of sports / recreation facilities (including equipped childrens space, provision for teenagers and formal open space for outdoor sport for certain housing types). Such facilities may engage children and young people and thereby help to reduce the potential for youth crime and anti-social behaviour. | |
| | ⇒ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | The requirement for contributions towards the maintenance of open space and play facilities (where applicable) should help to ensure their longevity. Well maintained facilities may help to foster a sense of place / ownership thus discouraging vandalism. In addition, maintenance activities may deter vandals through staff presence. | |
| | ↕ | / | Local | Low | Poorly designed and / or maintained play and open space can become the focus of crime and anti-social behaviour (e.g. robbery, vandalism and under age drinking). There may also be a fear of crime associated with open space (e.g. overhanging vegetation on pathways, limited lighting and isolated corners). | |
| | ⇒ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | The SPD states that play and open space should be of high quality in respect of its planning, situation and design. This may help to reduce the potential for crime and anti-social behaviour (e.g. the location of play areas in areas that allow natural surveillance). | |
| 6. To promote and support the empowerment of local communities in creating and implementing solutions that meet their needs focusing particularly on young, elderly and deprived people. | ↑ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | The draft SPD will be subject to consultation, which should help to ensure that the views of the community have been taken into account during its preparation. | <p>Ensure local communities, including children are given adequate opportunity to participate in the decision making process.</p> <p>Encourage community involvement in the design and planning of play and open space to ensure that provision meets local needs. Positive community involvement also helps to create a sense of place / ownership.</p> |

*** Best Practice Design Standards and Guidance:**

- The National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) Six Acre Standard.
- English Nature A Space for Nature (1996).
- The Department for the Communities and Local Government (DCLG) How to Create Quality Parks and Open Spaces (2007)
- Sport England Design and Technical Guidelines: (www.sportengland.org).
- The NPFA Can Play Will Play - Disabled Children and Access to Outdoor Playgrounds (2004).
- CABE Green Space Strategies: A Good Practice Guide.
- Sport England Active Design: Promoting Opportunities for Sport and Activity through Good Design.
- Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation.
- CABE Involving Young People in the Design and Care of Urban Spaces (2004).
- CABE Make Space.
- CABE Policy Note: Preventing Anti-social Behaviour in Green Spaces (2004).
- The NPFA Playground Safety and Management (2001).
- Secured by Design Guides and Publications (<http://www.securedbydesign.com>)

Please note this is not a definitive list and not all aspects of the above documents will be applicable.

**Sustainability Appraisal of the Hinckley and Bosworth Play and Open Space Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document
Appendix E - Sustainability Appraisal Matrices**

| Sustainability Appraisal Objectives | Hinckley and Bosworth Play and Open Space Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document | | | | | |
|---|---|---------------------|-------------|-----------|---|---|
| | Magnitude | Duration | Sensitivity | Certainty | Description | Mitigation |
| 7. To protect and enhance the natural environment (species and habitats) whilst contributing to the achievement of Biodiversity Action Plan targets. | ↑ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | The requirement for the provision of Accessible Natural Greenspace and allotment gardens as part of development (where applicable) is likely to have a beneficial effect. Such open spaces can support a range of habitats and species and thereby help to maintain / enhance biodiversity. Natural Greenspaces and allotment gardens also provide wildlife corridors for species to travel / migrate to other suitable habitats. | The ecological potential of open space should be highlighted and opportunities for habitat creation and / or enhancement should be encouraged. The SPD should include a requirement for developers to consult with a suitably qualified ecologist, to determine how best to protect and enhance biodiversity. Ensure the provision of accessible natural greenspace in accordance with English Nature's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard; natural greenspace should be provided within less than 300 metres (in a straight line) from a home. Open spaces also provide opportunities for people to enjoy, understand and have access to the natural environment. This potential should be highlighted within the SPD and such opportunities encouraged where possible. |
| | ↑ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | Play space (for children and young people and outdoor sports) and amenity green spaces can potentially support a range of habitats and species and may provide wildlife corridors for species to travel / migrate to other suitable habitats. | |
| | ↓ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | There is the potential for the development of play and open space in accordance with the SPD to have an effect upon habitats and species associated with the area to be developed (e.g. direct disturbance, loss of habitat). | |
| 8. To conserve and enhance the character, diversity and local distinctiveness of towns and villages in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough. | ↑ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | The SPD states that play and open space should be of high quality in respect of its planning, situation and design. Good quality open space can enhance the character of a neighbourhood, contribute to visual amenity and create a sense of place. | The potential effects of play and open space upon its surroundings should be acknowledged and opportunities for the protection and enhancement of the surrounding landscape / townscape encouraged. Ensure play and open space is provided in accordance with best practice design standards and guidance*. Ensure play and open space creates, or enhances, a distinctive character that relates well to the surroundings and supports a sense of local pride and civic identity. Recommend consultation with a suitable qualified landscape architect at the start of the design process. |
| | ↑ | Permanent Long Term | Local | High | The requirement for contributions towards the maintenance of open space and play facilities (where applicable) should help to ensure the protection and enhancement of towns and villages. | |
| | ↓ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | Poorly designed and / or maintained play and open space can detract from the surrounding townscape and contribute towards the decline of an area. | |
| 9. To preserve and enhance the character, appearance and setting of archaeological sites, historic buildings, conservation sites, historic parks and other cultural assets. | ↕ | / | Local | Low | The requirement for the provision of open space may help to protect and enhance cultural, historic and archaeological assets (e.g. open spaces could improve the setting and features of places of historic interest). The SPD may also help to ensure the protection and enhancement of existing open spaces considered to be of cultural or historic value, should developers be required to improve existing open space areas. | The potential effects of open space upon cultural, historic and archaeological assets should be acknowledged and opportunities for the protection and enhancement of these assets should be encouraged. Recommend consultation with the relevant historic environment bodies to determine the potential impact of play and open space upon cultural, historic and archaeological assets and their settings, and ensure the implementation of appropriate mitigation where necessary. Ensure development design is sensitive to the surrounding historic landscape character. Design of development should take account of relevant historic landscape character area designations. |
| | ↓ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | Poorly designed and / or maintained play and open space could have an adverse effect upon the setting of cultural, historic and archaeological assets. | |
| 10. To conserve and enhance the character, diversity and local distinctiveness of the rural landscape in the Borough. | ↑ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | The SPD states that play and open space should be of high quality in respect of its planning, situation and design. Good quality open space can enhance the character of a neighbourhood, contribute to visual amenity and create a sense of place. | The potential effects of play and open space upon its surroundings should be acknowledged and opportunities for the protection and enhancement of the surrounding landscape / townscape encouraged. Ensure play and open space is provided in accordance with best practice design standards and guidance*. Ensure play and open space creates, or enhances, a distinctive character that relates well to the surroundings and supports a sense of local pride and civic identity. Recommend consultation with a suitable qualified landscape architect at the start of the design process. |
| | ↑ | Permanent Long Term | Local | High | The requirement for contributions towards the maintenance of open space and play facilities (where applicable) should help to ensure the protection and enhancement of the landscape character. | |
| | ↓ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | Poorly designed and / or maintained play and open space can detract from the surrounding landscape character and contribute towards the decline of an area. | |
| 11. To conserve and enhance woodland cover in the Borough, particularly in the National Forest area. | ↑ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | The SPD ensures the provision of Accessible Natural Greenspace as part of development (where applicable), which may include woodland. | Opportunities for the protection / enhancement of existing woodland within open space areas and for the creation of new woodland habitat within open space should be encouraged. |
| | ↓ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | There is the potential for the development of play and open space to have an effect upon existing woodland habitat associated with the area to be developed (e.g. direct disturbance, loss of woodland). | |
| 12. To manage prudently water resources, improve water quality and protect the floodplain. | → | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | Open space, in particular Natural Greenspace, may help to reduce surface water run-off and flood risk. | Open spaces can be used for managing flood risk and urban drainage (e.g. the incorporation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems within open space). This potential should be highlighted within the SPD and such opportunities encouraged where possible. |
| | ↓ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | There is the potential for the development of sports / recreation facilities to increase surface water run-off and flood risk, particularly large areas of hardstanding such as tennis courts and astro turf pitches. | |

*** Best Practice Design Standards and Guidance:**

The NPFA Six Acre Standard.
 English Nature A Space for Nature (1996).
 The Department for the Communities and Local Government (DCLG) How to Create Quality Parks and Open Spaces (2007)
 Sport England Design and Technical Guidelines: (www.sportengland.org).
 The NPFA Can Play Will Play - Disabled Children and Access to Outdoor Playgrounds (2004).
 CABE Green Space Strategies: A Good Practice Guide.
 Sport England Active Design: Promoting Opportunities for Sport and Activity through Good Design.
 Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation.
 CABE Involving Young People in the Design and Care of Urban Spaces (2004).
 CABE Make Space.
 CABE Policy Note: Preventing Anti-social Behaviour in Green Spaces (2004).
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Sustainability Appraisal of the Hinckley and Bosworth Play and Open Space Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document
Appendix E - Sustainability Appraisal Matrices

| Sustainability Appraisal Objectives | Hinckley and Bosworth Play and Open Space Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document | | | | | |
|---|---|---------------------|-------------|-----------|---|--|
| | Magnitude | Duration | Sensitivity | Certainty | Description | Mitigation |
| 12. To manage prudently water resources, improve water quality and protect the floodplain. | ↑ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | The requirement for play and open space to be appropriately laid out, drained and serviced should help to reduce the potential risk of flooding. | Open spaces can be used for managing flood risk and urban drainage (e.g. the incorporation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems within open space). This potential should be highlighted within the SPD and such opportunities encouraged where possible. |
| 13. To improve air quality particularly through reducing transport related pollutants. | ⇒ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | Open spaces can help to counteract the effects of air pollution by absorbing / offsetting pollutants. | Promote accessibility by walking, cycling and public transport. Ensure the inclusion of pedestrian / cycle friendly infrastructure and facilities within open space, including the provision of dedicated cycle storage within open space and safe crossing points to and from open space areas where practicable. Ensure larger open spaces and intensive sports and recreation facilities are planned for locations well served by public transport. |
| 14. To manage prudently mineral resources and avoid / reduce pollution of land. | ↔ | / | / | / | No significant effects are anticipated. | / |
| 15. To minimise energy use and develop renewable energy resources. | ↔ | / | / | / | No significant effects are anticipated. | There may be opportunities to incorporate renewable energy technologies within open space (e.g. energy efficient lighting). Such opportunities should be acknowledged and encouraged where possible. |
| 16. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the rate of climate change. | ⇒ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | Open spaces can help to counteract the effects of air pollution by absorbing / offsetting greenhouse gas emissions. | Trees can provide an important carbon sink (i.e. trees have capacity to absorb carbon dioxide). Opportunities for the protection / enhancement of existing woodland within open space areas and for the creation of new woodland habitat within open space should be encouraged. Promote accessibility by walking, cycling and public transport. Ensure larger open spaces and intensive sports and recreation facilities are planned for locations well served by public transport. Ensure the inclusion of pedestrian / cycle friendly infrastructure and facilities within open space, including the provision of dedicated cycle storage within open space and safe crossing points to and from open space areas. |
| 17. To involve people, through changes to lifestyle and at work, in preventing and minimising adverse local, regional and global environmental impacts. | ↔ | / | / | / | No significant effects are anticipated. | Promote accessibility by walking, cycling and public transport. Ensure larger open spaces and intensive sports and recreation facilities are planned for locations well served by public transport. Ensure the inclusion of pedestrian / cycle friendly infrastructure and facilities within open space, including the provision of dedicated cycle storage within open space and safe crossing points to and from open space areas. |
| 18. To improve access to education and training for children, young people and adult learners. | ↔ | / | / | / | No significant effects are anticipated. | Play and open space can be used as a local education and learning resource (e.g. the use of open spaces for school field trips / outdoor learning). This potential should be highlighted within the SPD and such opportunities encouraged where possible. |
| 19. To develop a strong culture of enterprise and innovation whilst providing access to appropriate employment opportunities for the local population, particularly in rural areas. | ↑ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | The SPD states that play and open space should be of high quality in respect of its planning, situation and design. Good quality open space can enhance the character of a neighbourhood, contribute to visual amenity and create a sense of place. This can help to increase property values, encourage business investment and therefore help to improve local economies. | / |
| | ↓ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | The requirement for the provision of play and open space may discourage developers from pursuing development opportunities in the Borough. Developers may also decide to develop below the threshold to avoid the cost associated with the provision of play and open space. | / |
| | ↓ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | Poorly maintained open space can contribute towards the decline of an area. | / |
| 20. To help farmers diversify their agricultural activities or venture into new rural businesses. To help other rural businesses diversify their activities. | ↔ | / | / | / | No significant effects are anticipated. | / |

*** Best Practice Design Standards and Guidance:**

The NPFA Six Acre Standard.
 English Nature A Space for Nature (1996).
 The Department for the Communities and Local Government (DCLG) How to Create Quality Parks and Open Spaces (2007)
 Sport England Design and Technical Guidelines: (www.sportengland.org).
 The NPFA Can Play Will Play - Disabled Children and Access to Outdoor Playgrounds (2004).
 CABE Green Space Strategies: A Good Practice Guide.
 Sport England Active Design: Promoting Opportunities for Sport and Activity through Good Design.
 Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation.
 CABE Involving Young People in the Design and Care of Urban Spaces (2004).
 CABE Make Space.
 CABE Policy Note: Preventing Anti-social Behaviour in Green Spaces (2004).
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| Sustainability Appraisal Objectives | Hinckley and Bosworth Play and Open Space Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document | | | | | |
|--|---|------------------------|-------------|-----------|---|--|
| | Magnitude | Duration | Sensitivity | Certainty | Description | Mitigation |
| 21. To optimise the use of previously developed land, buildings and existing infrastructure. | ↔ | / | / | / | No significant effects are anticipated. | / |
| 22. To promote and ensure high standards of sustainable design and construction. | ↔ | / | / | / | No significant effects are anticipated. | Ensure play and open space is provided in accordance with best practice design standards and guidance*. Ensure the use of energy saving technologies (e.g. energy efficient lighting systems and use of best practice for watering open space) and encourage the use of sustainable / recycled materials for construction (e.g. sustainable timber from a recognised source such as the Forest Stewardship Scheme). |
| 23. To minimise waste and to increase the re-use and recycling of waste materials. | ↔ | / | / | / | No significant effects are anticipated. | There may be opportunities for waste recycling associated with play and open space e.g. composting of grass cuttings and recycling of waste such as newspapers, cans etc). Such opportunities should be acknowledged and encouraged where possible. |
| 24. To improve access to services, particularly for the rural population, those without a car and for disabled, elderly and deprived people. | ⇒⇒ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | The SPD highlights the importance of ensuring that play and open space is easy to reach by residents of the associated development for which contributions are being required. The need to take account of the capabilities of different age groups to ensure they can travel independently is also emphasised. | Ensure play and open space is user friendly and accessible to everyone, including the disabled. The NPFA Can Play Will Play - Disabled Children and Access to Playgrounds (2004) provides guidance on meeting the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. |
| | ↑ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | The requirement for contributions towards the maintenance of open space and play facilities (where applicable) should help to ensure these facilities remain accessible (e.g. maintenance of footpaths). | Ensure the inclusion of pedestrian / cycle friendly infrastructure and facilities within open space, including the provision of dedicated cycle storage within open space and safe crossing points to and from open space areas. Ensure consideration is given to the location of entrances and external factors such as busy roads. |
| 25. To encourage and develop the use of public transport, cycling and walking as alternatives to the private car. | ↑↑ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | The location of play and open space within easy reach of local residents should help to encourage people to walk / cycle to access such facilities. | Promote accessibility by walking, cycling and public transport. Ensure the inclusion of pedestrian / cycle friendly infrastructure and facilities within open space, including the provision of dedicated cycle storage within open space and safe crossing points to and from open space areas. |
| | ⇒ | Permanent Long Term | Local | Low | The requirement for contributions towards the maintenance of open space and play facilities (where applicable) may help to encourage walking / cycling within open spaces (e.g. the maintenance of footpaths to create a safe environment). | Ensure larger open spaces and intensive sports and recreation facilities are planned for locations well served by public transport. Ensure consideration is given to the location of entrances and external factors such as busy roads. |

*** Best Practice Design Standards and Guidance:**

The NPFA Six Acre Standard.
 English Nature A Space for Nature (1996).
 The Department for the Communities and Local Government (DCLG) How to Create Quality Parks and Open Spaces (2007)
 Sport England Design and Technical Guidelines: (www.sportengland.org).
 The NPFA Can Play Will Play - Disabled Children and Access to Outdoor Playgrounds (2004).
 CABE Green Space Strategies: A Good Practice Guide.
 Sport England Active Design: Promoting Opportunities for Sport and Activity through Good Design.
 Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation.
 CABE Involving Young People in the Design and Care of Urban Spaces (2004).
 CABE Make Space.
 CABE Policy Note: Preventing Anti-social Behaviour in Green Spaces (2004).
 The NPFA Playground Safety and Management (2001).
 Secured by Design Guides and Publications (<http://www.securedbydesign.com>)

Please note this is not a definitive list and not all aspects of the above documents will be applicable.

APPENDIX F
TARGETS AND INDICATORS

**Sustainability Appraisal of the Hinckley and Bosworth Play and Open Space Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document
Appendix F - Targets and Indicators**

| Sustainability Appraisal Objective | Target | Target Source | Indicator | Indicator Source |
|--|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. To ensure the provision of decent and affordable housing that meets local needs and links into the provision of services. | / | / | / | / |
| 2. To improve health and reduce health inequalities by promoting healthy lifestyles, protecting health and providing access to health services. | All play and open space provided as part of new development to meet the minimum standards set out in the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) Six Acre Standard | Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council Play and Open Space Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) | Percentage of play and open spaces provided as part of new development that meets the minimum standards of the NPFA Six Acre Standard | Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council |
| | All new development to provide open space areas in accordance with English Nature's Accessible Natural Greenspace standard | / | Percentage of open space areas provided as part of new development that meet English Natures Accessible Natural Greenspace standard | |
| | Reduce deficiencies in play provision for children and young people by 50% in Hinckley and Barwell by 2010 | Hinckley and Bosworth Green Space Strategy (1995) | Percentage of population with access to play provision for children and young people | |
| 3. To provide better opportunities for local people and tourists to access and understand local heritage. | / | / | / | / |
| 4. To improve access to and participation in cultural and leisure activities. | All play and open space provided as part of new development to meet the minimum standards set out in the NPFA Six Acre Standard | Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD | Percentage of play and open spaces provided as part of new development that meets the minimum standards of the NPFA Six Acre Standard | Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council |
| | All new development to provide open space areas in accordance with English Nature's Accessible Natural Greenspace standard | / | Percentage of open space areas provided as part of new development that meet English Natures Accessible Natural Greenspace standard | |
| | Reduce deficiencies in play provision for children and young people by 50% in Hinckley and Barwell by 2010 | Hinckley and Bosworth Green Space Strategy (1995) | Percentage of population with access to play provision for children and young people | |
| | Increase the use of play and open space as venues for community and social events (e.g. fairs, exhibitions and plays). | / | Percentage of play and open space areas that are used as venues for community and social events | |
| 5. To improve community safety, reduce the fear of crime and reduce anti-social behaviour, particularly in Hinckley town centre. | All play and open space provided as part of new development to meet the minimum standards set out in the NPFA Six Acre Standard | Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD | Percentage of play and open spaces provided as part of new development that meets the minimum standards of the NPFA Six Acre Standard | Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council |
| | All play and open spaces to incorporate the relevant Secured by Design Principles, including those set out in the 'Secured by Design Guide for Play Areas' | / | Percentage of play and open spaces that incorporate the relevant Secured by Design Principles | |
| 6. To promote and support the empowerment of local communities in creating and implementing solutions that meet their needs focusing particularly on young, elderly and deprived people. | / | / | Number of SPD and SA documents provided in accessible formats and locations | Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council |
| | / | / | Number of public consultation events held | |
| 7. To protect and enhance the natural environment (species and habitats) whilst contributing to the achievement of Biodiversity Action Plan targets. | All new development to provide open space areas in accordance with English Nature's Accessible Natural Greenspace standard | / | Percentage of open space areas provided as part of new development that meet English Natures Accessible Natural Greenspace standard | Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council |
| | Protect and enhance habitats associated with play and open space | / | Number of planning applications involving habitat creation and enhancement as part of play and open space provision | |
| | Zero loss of mature trees, hedgerows and other habitats considered to be of value | / | Number of mature trees, hedgerows and habitats lost as a result of development | |
| | All developers to have sought advice from a suitably qualified ecologist | / | Percentage of developers who sought advice from an ecologist | |
| 8. To conserve and enhance the character, diversity and local distinctiveness of towns and villages in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough. | All developers to have sought advice from a suitably qualified Landscape Architect | / | Percentage of developers who sought advice from a Landscape Architect | Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council |
| | Zero loss of mature trees, hedgerows and other habitats considered to be of value | / | Number of mature trees, hedgerows and habitats lost as a result of development | |
| 9. To preserve and enhance the character, appearance and setting of archaeological sites, historic buildings, conservation sites, historic parks and other cultural assets. | Zero loss of cultural, historical and archaeological assets considered to be of value | / | Number of cultural, historical and archaeological assets lost as a result of development | Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council |
| 10. To conserve and enhance the character, diversity and local distinctiveness of the rural landscape in the Borough. | All developers to have sought advice from a suitably qualified Landscape Architect | / | Percentage of developers who sought advice from a Landscape Architect | Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council |
| | Zero loss of mature trees, hedgerows and other habitats considered to be of value | / | Number of mature trees, hedgerows and habitats lost as a result of development | |
| 11. To conserve and enhance woodland cover in the Borough, particularly in the National Forest area. | All new development to provide open space areas in accordance with English Nature's Accessible Natural Greenspace standard | / | Percentage of open space areas provided as part of new development that meet English Natures Accessible Natural Greenspace standard | Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council |
| | Increase provision of woodland habitat within open spaces areas where practicable | / | Number of planning applications involving woodland habitat being created as part of play and open space provision | |
| 12. To manage prudently water resources, improve water quality and protect the floodplain. | / | / | / | / |
| 13. To improve air quality particularly through reducing transport related pollutants. | / | / | / | / |
| 14. To manage prudently mineral resources and avoid / reduce pollution of land. | / | / | / | / |

**Sustainability Appraisal of the Hinckley and Bosworth Play and Open Space Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document
Appendix F - Targets and Indicators**

| Sustainability Appraisal Objective | Target | Target Source | Indicator | Indicator Source |
|---|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| 15. To minimise energy use and develop renewable energy resources. | / | / | / | / |
| 16. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the rate of climate change. | / | / | / | / |
| 17. To involve people, through changes to lifestyle and at work, in preventing and minimising adverse local, regional and global environmental impacts. | / | / | / | / |
| 18. To improve access to education and training for children, young people and adult learners. | Increase use of play and open space as an education / learning resource | / | Percentage of play and open space areas that are utilised for education / learning | Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council |
| 19. To develop a strong culture of enterprise and innovation whilst providing access to appropriate employment opportunities for the local population, particularly in rural areas. | / | / | / | / |
| 20. To help farmers diversify their agricultural activities or venture into new rural businesses. To help other rural businesses diversify their activities. | / | / | / | / |
| 21. To optimise the use of previously developed land, buildings and existing infrastructure. | / | / | / | / |
| 22. To promote and ensure high standards of sustainable design and construction. | | | | |
| 23. To minimise waste and to increase the re-use and recycling of waste materials. | / | / | / | / |
| 24. To improve access to services, particularly for the rural population, those without a car and for disabled, elderly and deprived people. | All play and open space provided as part of new development to meet the minimum standards set out in the NPFA Six Acre Standard | Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD | Percentage of play and open spaces provided as part of new development that meets the minimum standards of the NPFA Six Acre Standard | Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council |
| | All new development to provide open space areas in accordance with English Nature's Accessible Natural Greenspace standard | / | Percentage of open space areas provided as part of new development that meet English Nature's Accessible Natural Greenspace standard | |
| | Reduce deficiencies in play provision for children and young people by 50% in Hinckley and Barwell by 2010 | Hinckley and Bosworth Green Space Strategy (1995) | Percentage of population with access to play provision for children and young people | |
| 25. To encourage and develop the use of public transport, cycling and walking as alternatives to the private car. | All play and open space provided as part of new development to meet the minimum standards set out in the NPFA Six Acre Standard | Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD | Percentage of play and open spaces provided as part of new development that meets the minimum standards of the NPFA Six Acre Standard | Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council |