

Final SA Scoping Report: Borough Plan and Neighbourhood Plans



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Foreword

This scoping report marks an early stage in preparation of a Borough Plan and a series of Neighbourhood Plans for the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. It sets out the scope and level of detail for the subsequent Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of those plans.

The purpose of preparing an SA is to encourage sustainable development through improved integration of environmental, social and economic considerations throughout the preparation and adoption of land use plans and policies. In this way the local authority can be more informed about the choices to be made when deciding which policies are the most appropriate to take forward.

The draft scoping report was published for a five week period of consultation with statutory consultees starting in September 2011. Following this consultation, amendments were made and the revised scoping report published in November 2011.

If you have any queries or would like further information and details on the SA process, please see the council's website www.rbwm.gov.uk or contact the Strategy and Plans Team using the details below.

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Foreword

Glossary

Term	Definition
Accessibility	The ease with which facilities of any kind can be reached by people wishing to use them.
Adverse Impact	Where a development or policy would result in harmful effects.
Affordable Housing	Housing provided for rent or sale with some form of subsidy to meet the needs of people who otherwise would not be able to access housing in the private market.
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area.
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan.
Baseline Data	Data used as a reference with which to compare future observations or results.
Biodiversity	The richness and variety of living things (plants, birds, animals, fish, insects &c.) which exist in a given area, and the habitats that support them.
Borough Plan	A new borough-wide planning document that sets out policies for the development and use of land. Produced by a Borough Council.
Consultation Body	Bodies which must be consulted at specific stages of Sustainability Appraisal because of their environmental responsibilities: Natural England, Environment Agency and English Heritage.
DCLG	Government department: Department of Communities and Local Government.
Development Plan	Those plans that together form the adopted planning strategy for the area. At the time of writing this consists of the South East Plan and the saved policies of the RBWM Local Plan. Over time these will be replaced by the Borough Plan and the relevant Neighbourhood Plan.
Environmental Report	A document required by the SEA Directive, that identifies, describes and evaluates the likely effects on the environment of implementing a plan or programme.
Green Belt	Land designated in development plans in accordance with PPG2, where development is restricted.
Habitat	A site or area upon which wild flora or fauna are reliant for their continued free existence.
Habitat Regulations Assessment	The name given to the evaluation of the potential effects of a proposed project or plan on a Natura 2000 site (one designated for its international importance to nature conservation).
Indicator	Measure of variables over time, often used to measure achievement of objectives.
Indirect (Secondary) Effects	Effects which are not a direct result of the plan, often produced away from or as a result of a complex pathway.
Local Plan	A borough-wide planning document that sets out policies for the development and use of land. Currently this is the RBWM Local Plan 1999 (incorporating amendments 2003). In future, the term may be used instead to describe the new Borough Plan.
Mitigation Measures	Measures designed and intended to reduce adverse effects that cannot be avoided.

Glossary

Term	Definition
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	A statement by the government of national planning policy. The development plan must accord with the NPPF.
Neighbourhood Plan	A plan that sets out detailed planning policy for a small area within a borough. Produced by a Parish Council or a Neighbourhood Forum.
Objective	A statement of what is intended, specifying the desired direction of change in trends.
Planning Policy Guidance Note (PPG)	A series of notes issued by the government, setting out national planning policy. Mostly replaced by Planning Policy Statements.
Planning Policy Statement (PPS)	A series of statements issued by the government, setting out national planning policy. They are intended to be replaced by the National Planning Policy Framework.
PPPSIs	Plans, policies, programmes, strategies and initiatives.
Previously Developed Land (PDL)	Land which is or was occupied by a building (except those used for agriculture and forestry). It also includes land within the curtilage of a building, with the exception of domestic gardens.
Ramsar	Wetland designated as being of international importance.
RBWM	Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead
Renewable Energy	Energy flows that occur naturally and repeatedly in the environment, e.g. from the sun, wind, wave or fall of water. Other sources include plants, some waste materials and geothermal energy.
Scoping	The process of deciding the scope and level of detail of an SA, including sustainability effects and alternatives that need to be considered, the assessment methods to be used, and the structure and contents of the proposed SA report.
SEA Directive	European Directive 2001/42/EC "On the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment".
SEA Regulations	The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.
Soundness (of a plan)	A judgement of quality and procedure based on key elements of the plan-making process as set out in national policy.
South East Plan (SEP)	The Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East. The SEP is expected to be abolished in 2012
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	A site designated under the EC directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora for its international importance to nature conservation.
Special Protection Area (SPA)	A site designated under the EC directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds for the international importance of its habitat to nature conservation.
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	A tool for integrating environmental considerations into decision making by ensuring that significant environmental effects arising from the decision are taken into account.
Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)	Document providing supplementary guidance to policies and proposals in other planning documents. They do not form part of the development plan.

Glossary

Term	Definition
Sustainability Appraisal (SA)	Appraisal of plans, strategies and proposals to test them against sustainability objectives.
Sustainable Development	Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (Brundtland Commission, 1987).
Target	A guide to the speed and direction in which indicators should move to achieve objectives.

Table 1 Glossary

Glossary

Local Planning Policy

1.1 The Council intends to produce a Borough Plan that will deal with strategic and spatial issues across the borough. Alongside this, the council is working with parish councils and other groups towards the production of a series of Neighbourhood Plans. Neighbourhood Plans will deal with issues at a more local level. It is intended that there will be seven Neighbourhood Plans, each led by a steering group made up of local people and each covering a different part of the borough, as follows:

- Ascot, Sunninghill and Sunningdale
- Bisham and Cookham
- Bray
- Datchet, Horton, Old Windsor and Wraysbury
- Hurley and the Walthams
- Maidenhead
- Windsor

1.2 Currently the saved policies from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Plan 1999, together with the South East Plan, the Replacement Minerals Local Plan for Berkshire (incorporating alterations 1997 and 2001), the Waste Local Plan for Berkshire (1998) and the Maidenhead Town Centre Area Action Plan (2011) form the statutory development plan for the borough.

1.3 The government has signalled its intention to revoke the South East Plan and, once that happens, it will no longer form part of the statutory development plan. When the new Borough Plan and Neighbourhood Plans are adopted, they will supersede policies in the current Local Plan and will themselves form part of the statutory development plan for the area.

1.4 The production of this SA Scoping Report is an early stage in the preparation of the Borough Plan and Neighbourhood Plans.

Purpose of the Borough Plan

1.5 The Borough Plan lies at the heart of the council's planning strategy. It is the overarching document that sets out the vision for the borough over the next 20 years and explains how spatial planning will contribute to realising that vision. It is intended that it will contain strategic policies covering the broad approach for the delivery of housing, employment, retail and leisure opportunities.

1.6 The contents of the Borough Plan will include:

- A vision for the borough
- Spatial objectives
- Core policies
- A monitoring framework for each policy

1.7 Although the council will produce the plan, it is a government requirement that it conforms to relevant national and (currently) regional policies. National policy is currently set out in a series of Planning Policy Statements and Circulars, but it is intended that these will be replaced by a National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Although the NPPF has, at the time of writing, been published in draft form only, it will help influence the contents of the Borough Plan. Regional policy is contained within the South East Plan. The government has signalled its intention to revoke that document so, whilst it provides a useful context for the preparation of the Borough Plan, its importance is diminished.

1.8 Within this regulatory context, the council will seek to engage and address the views of the local community.

Purpose of Neighbourhood Plans

1.9 Neighbourhood Plans are being produced to provide more detailed policy and expand on or interpret the approach outlined in the Borough Plan. Neighbourhood Plans are required to be in conformity with the Borough Plan but can take a different view on the interpretation of policy. For instance, the Borough Plan might allocate a certain number of houses to an area and propose that they be provided on site X, but the Neighbourhood Plan could instead propose that the same number be provided on sites Y and Z instead. In cases of conflict between the two plans, it is understood that the Neighbourhood Plan will prevail.

1 Background

1.10 Neighbourhood Plans will include the identification of individual sites for specific land uses, within the context set by the Borough Plan. The role of Neighbourhood Plans is therefore twofold:

- To set out individual site allocations for housing, employment and other uses and their associated site-related policies, as appropriate;
- To set out a suite of policies which might include housing, employment, retail, transport, countryside, nature conservation, historic environment, community facilities, recreation and tourism.

1.11 Neighbourhood Plans could include:

- A detailed vision for settlements in their area
- Key objectives
- Site allocations including maps
- Detailed development management policies
- A monitoring framework for each policy

1.12 It should be noted that there is no defined format for Neighbourhood Plans, and neither is there a prescribed list of topics that they must cover. They are community-led plans and, as such, the topics that they cover and the level of detail they go into will vary according to local people's assessments of the needs of their area. As a result it is difficult to precisely define their effects.

1.13 This presents a difficulty for the SA process, as it is not possible to assess the effects of a policy when it is not known what the policy's scope is, or even whether it exists in the first place. To overcome this obstacle, this SA has been drawn as widely as possible in an attempt to cover all topics that may realistically be included in a Neighbourhood Plan. While such an exercise can never be completely accurate, it provides reassurance that any significant impacts arising from Neighbourhood Plans are unlikely to have been missed.

1.14 It can be seen that the "scope" of the SA process has been set as widely as possible. If in practice a Neighbourhood Plan covers fewer topics or is less detailed than assumed herein, its effects will clearly be less than any currently identified. If a Neighbourhood Plan goes beyond the scope identified herein, then its effects may be greater. In that case, a further bespoke SA of that particular Neighbourhood Plan is likely to be necessary.

The Sustainability Appraisal Process

2.1 An SA is required for many local planning documents. The purpose of preparing an SA is to encourage sustainable development through improved integration of environmental, economic and social considerations throughout the preparation and adoption of land use plans and policies. It is not the role of the SA to determine which policies should be taken forward but it should help identify the most sustainable policies overall, or different policies that promote the different dimensions of sustainability. In this way, decision makers can be more informed about the choices they have when deciding which policies are the most appropriate to take forward.

2.2 The SA process is being carried out by a Senior Planning Officer in the RBWM Planning Policy Team, working with other team members, development control officers and other officers and members of the council, as appropriate.

2.3 The aims of this SA are to:

- Make the Borough and Neighbourhood Plans as sustainable as possible by ensuring the principles of sustainable development are integrated into the strategy making process, influencing all stages of policy process;
- Provide a high level of environmental protection and balance environmental, economic and social considerations in the plans' preparation;
- Use consultation to challenge and confirm professional judgement.

2.4 According to government guidance,⁽¹⁾ the main stages in the SA process and how they are aligned with the production of the plans are shown in the following table⁽²⁾ This Scoping Report represents Stage A of the process.

Stages of Sustainability Appraisal within the Plan Making Process
PLAN STAGE 1: PRE-PRODUCTION - EVIDENCE GATHERING
SA Stage A – Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on scope
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives. • A2: Collecting baseline information. • A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems. • A4: Developing the SA framework. • A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA.
PLAN STAGE 2: PRODUCTION
SA Stage B – Developing and refining options and assessing effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B1: Testing the Plan objectives against the SA framework. • B2: Developing the Plan options. • B3: Predicting the effects the draft Plan. • B4: Evaluating the effects of the draft Plan. • B5: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects. • B6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Plan.
SA Stage C – Preparing the SA Report
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C1: Prepare the SA Report.
SA Stage D – Consultation on the draft Plan and Sustainability Appraisal Report
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D1: Public participation on the draft Plan and the SA Report. • D2(i): Appraising significant changes.
PLAN STAGE 3: EXAMINATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D2(ii): Appraising significant changes resulting from representations.

1 Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents, ODPM, November 2005

2 Based on the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2004(as amended). Regulations pertaining to the production of Neighbourhood Plans were published in draft form in late 2011.

The Sustainability Appraisal Process

Stages of Sustainability Appraisal within the Plan Making Process
PLAN STAGE 4: ADOPTION AND MONITORING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D3: Making decisions and providing information.
SA Stage E – Monitoring implementation of the Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E1: Finalising aims and methods for monitoring. • E2: Responding to adverse effects.

Table 2 Stages of Sustainability Appraisal within the Plan Making Process

2.5 UK regulations⁽³⁾ stipulate that Sustainability Appraisal of plans should meet the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive. The purpose of the SEA Directive is to provide for a high level of environmental protection and contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans. It also aims to promote sustainable development, by ensuring that an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. This Scoping Report incorporates the requirements for an SEA of the Borough and Neighbourhood Plans.

Stage A: Setting the Context of the Appraisal and Establishing the Scope

3.1 It is necessary to take account of other relevant policies, plans, programmes, strategies and initiatives (PPPSIs) when conducting an SA, as these will help to identify external social, environmental and economic objectives that should be taken into account. They may also influence the options to be considered when preparing the Borough and Neighbourhood Plans. A full PPPSI review is set out in Background Paper A and can be found on the council's website.

3.2 In order to assist in identifying key sustainability issues for the borough, it is necessary to collate baseline information which can be used as a basis for predicting and monitoring the effects of proposed policies and site allocations. The SA baseline data can be found in Background Paper B, which is also available on the council's website.

3.3 These background papers have informed the key sustainability issues outlined in this Scoping Report.

3.4 The key sustainability issues facing the borough are listed below and have been developed with evidence taken from Background Papers A and B, plus previous consultations on planning documents and area-based workshops undertaken as a precursor to Neighbourhood Plans. These are considered to be the issues that should be taken into account when developing the Borough Plan and Neighbourhood Plans and when undertaking the SA. Note that some of the trends identified may need to be amended when the 2011 census results are made available.

Population

- Projections of population change and household growth for the borough are being determined.
- The borough has the greatest proportion of older people in Berkshire, and this number is expected to increase.
- A small proportion of the population is made up of ethnic minorities.
- Provision needs to be made for gypsies and travellers.

Housing

- The number of dwellings to be built each year is no longer determined by central government but must be determined according to local evidence.
- Housing growth is currently focussed largely on Maidenhead. Almost all housing is currently built within existing settlements or on PDL.
- Household sizes are falling and the number of one-person households is increasing. These and other demographic changes will have implications for the number and type of dwellings and care home spaces required.
- One third of all dwellings are detached, reflecting the relative wealth of the area. The majority of new dwellings built since 2001 have been flats, which creates issues about changing the character of an area. However, this trend may not continue.
- The borough has the highest average property prices in Berkshire, causing affordability issues.
- The estimates of affordable housing need are several times greater than the total number of dwellings able to be built.
- Housing cost may be causing a net inflow of commuters, as people with jobs in the borough cannot afford to live locally.

Transport and Accessibility

- Maidenhead is a sub regional transport hub.
- Crossrail is expected to commence operations during the validity of the Borough and Neighbourhood Plans (2017). This will enhance links to central, east and south east London and may increase development pressures.
- The borough is well connected to the strategic road and rail networks.
- There is a high level of vehicle trips within and through the borough. This leads to some congestion and concerns about rat-running.
- The borough has a high level of car ownership.
- A higher percentage of residents than the national average commute by car, but home-working is also increasing.
- In-commuting is increasing faster than out-commuting.
- Use of local bus services has seen a significant increase in recent years.

Stage A: Setting the Context of the Appraisal and Establishing the Scope

- Alternative forms of transport to that of the car should be encouraged.
- Traffic levels in the borough have fallen recently, perhaps owing to the recession.
- White Waltham Airfield is a significant facility that creates various local issues.

Community Activity and Neighbourhoods

- Three quarters of people in the borough are satisfied or very satisfied with their local area as a place to live.
- Just 22% of local people agree that they can influence decisions affecting their area. This may increase as a result of Neighbourhood Plans.

Crime

- Car crime is decreasing.
- Fear of crime also appears to be decreasing.

Poverty and Deprivation

- Overall poverty in the borough is lower than the England average.
- Almost 8,000 people are dependent on means-tested benefits.
- Some 2,400 children in the borough live in low income households.
- Approximately 7,780 households do not have use of a car.

Health and Wellbeing

- Borough residents have a longer life expectancy than the England average. Death rates from cancer, stroke, heart disease and smoking are below average.
- Residents generally have a much healthier lifestyle than in other parts of England. However, only 1 in 8 adults take the recommended level of physical activity.
- One in five adult residents is obese.

Education and Skills

- Borough schools perform above the national average.
- There are more places available in secondary than in primary schools, reflecting the fact that two secondary schools have designated areas that extend into other boroughs.
- Some schools have capacity issues, particularly at primary level.
- Windsor has a three tier educational system while the rest of the borough is two-tier. Some residents wish the whole borough to become two-tier, which would have implications for school sites.
- Borough residents are generally well qualified although there are some areas where poor literacy and numeracy exist.

Employment

- Economic activity rates are above the regional and national figures, and are amongst the highest in the country.
- Unemployment is below regional and national figures.
- The majority of jobs in the borough are in the service sector, and there is little manufacturing.
- IT and telecoms are well represented in the borough.
- Average annual income of borough residents is well above the regional and national average (note that this may be inflated by the high proportion of residents who work in London).
- The local workforce is highly skilled and lower-skilled workers are under-represented. This can create problems when trying to fill menial jobs.
- Key workers often have difficulty affording property in the borough.
- Shops are a significant source of employment in the major town centres.

Economy

- Employment, retail, leisure and (to a lesser extent) tourism development is likely to be focussed on the major towns owing to national policy.

Stage A: Setting the Context of the Appraisal and Establishing the Scope

- There is a high level of entrepreneurship in the borough. The number of business births and deaths is above the national average, indicating a dynamic economy.
- Offices account for the highest proportion of commercial floorspace stock in the borough. Office demand is projected to further increase while the demand for other types of employment floorspace decreases.
- Headline rents are high, but the amount of vacant office floorspace is above the normally expected level.
- The borough (principally Windsor) is a major visitor destination, with visitors estimated to spend some £400 million per year in the borough.
- Tourism supports more than one in ten of all jobs in the borough.
- The government strongly supports economic development through national policy.

Town, District and Local Centres

- Maidenhead is the principal commercial and shopping centre of the borough. It has fallen behind other comparable centres and is in need of improvement. Shop vacancy levels are above the national average. The Maidenhead Town Centre Area Action Plan is designed to address this.
- The council has signed a development agreement with ING to develop a major part of Maidenhead town centre with a retail-led mixed-use scheme and, at the time of writing, a planning application had just been submitted.
- Windsor provides for the shopping needs of its population. It also caters for an extensive tourist market, with an upmarket comparison goods offer significantly greater than its size could otherwise support. It exhibits a good level of vitality and viability, with vacancy levels below the national average.
- District centres at Ascot and Sunningdale provide a good range of food and other day to day requirements.
- There are over 20 local centres and shopping parades, although very few of these are actually defined in the development plan.
- Residents express concern about the spread of chain stores. There is a need to create and maintain local distinctiveness.

Leisure and Culture

- There are three leisure centres and three outdoor sports centres in the borough. Just over two thirds of residents are satisfied with these.
- The borough has several golf courses.
- There are 11 libraries and almost 70% of residents are satisfied with these.
- The borough has six theatres, arts centres and cinemas. Around 60% are satisfied with the theatres and concert halls.
- There are four museums and art galleries including a new museum in Windsor. Prior to its opening, only about a third of residents were satisfied with museum provision.
- Public rights of way are used mainly for leisure.

Landscape and Open Space

- 83% of the borough is Green Belt. This and the presence of particular areas of landscape character, plus land at risk of flooding, heavily constrains opportunities for the location of development.
- There are two Areas of Special Landscape Importance (ASLIs) including Windsor Great Park. These also constrain development opportunities.
- The River Thames is one of the borough's most significant landscape features and has an important role in providing leisure and tourist attractions.
- There is a lack of some types of public open space in the borough.

Natural Environment

- The borough has five sites with international nature conservation designations. These include one Ramsar site, two SPAs and three SACs.
- 11 SSSIs cover 8.4% of the borough. Some of these form part of the sites with international nature conservation designations.
- There are 8 local nature reserves and 116 Wildlife Heritage Sites, covering 7.2% of the borough. 96% of the SSSIs are in favourable or recovering condition.
- Urban biodiversity may be adversely affected by building on PDL.
- The borough possesses a good representation of UK BAP priority species.

Stage A: Setting the Context of the Appraisal and Establishing the Scope

- Connecting habitats such as woodland, hedgerows and watercourses are important in maintaining biodiversity.
- Legal requirement to protect the Thames Basin Heaths SPA currently constrains housebuilding in the south of the borough. Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace needs to be provided to enable housing development there to proceed.

Quality of the Built Environment

- The borough has over 900 listed buildings, with 23 of them being listed Grade I.
- There are 26 conservation areas and nine historic parks and gardens. These impose constraints on development.
- The council promotes sustainable design and construction.

Air and Noise

- The borough has three AQMAs. Air quality in Windsor has shown a marked improvement recently.
- There is pressure to develop within the AQMAs in Windsor and especially Maidenhead.
- The main pollutant is nitrogen dioxide, with the main source being road traffic.
- The number of noise complaints in the borough is around 500 per year, down significantly from the figure in the early 2000s.
- Noise from aircraft and traffic is a significant concern in parts of the borough.

Energy

- The borough needs to contribute to a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by encouraging the production and use of renewable energy, the use of low emission vehicles and increasing energy efficiency in new developments.
- The borough is on target to reduce domestic energy use.
- The borough is below target in installing renewable energy capacity, but hydro power schemes on the Thames are being promoted.

Land

- By far the majority of development in the borough takes place on PDL.
- Mineral extraction is an issue in some parts of the borough.
- Approximately 480 sites in the borough are potentially contaminated.
- There are significant amounts of Grade 1 and Grade 2 farmland in the borough.

Water and Flooding

- Climate change is likely to lead to more intense weather conditions, which has implications for the design of buildings and the control of flood risk.
- 25.6% of residential and 26.4% of commercial properties in the borough are at risk of flooding, including 9,511 residential and 51 commercial properties that are at higher risk (1 in 100 years).
- The borough lies in one of the driest parts of the country and has a high demand for water, so groundwater sources need to be protected.
- A new pipeline has recently been completed to bring extra water to Maidenhead.

Waste

- The amount of domestic waste generated in the borough was historically high, but has now reduced to near national average levels. Recycling has been boosted by the Recyclebank initiative.
- The proportion of waste going to landfill is decreasing and the proportion being recycled or composted is rising.
- Demolition waste has increased in general in recent years. The situation needs to be stabilised.

3.5 The SA framework is central to the SA process and provides an objective way in which the sustainability effects of policies, options and proposals can be described, analysed and compared. It provides a way of assessing whether the objectives, policies and proposals in a planning document are the most appropriate in sustainability terms.

Stage A: Setting the Context of the Appraisal and Establishing the Scope

3.6 The council has developed a set of objectives for Sustainability Appraisal. These SA objectives are distinct from the objectives of the document being assessed, although in some cases they may overlap. The council's SA objectives are based on information from the council's Background Papers A and B, along with regional sustainability objectives (those used to assess the South East Plan). In devising objectives for the borough, regional objectives have been amended to reflect specific local issues.

3.7 The council's SA objectives are:

No.	Objective
1	Ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home.
2	Improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health.
3	Reduce poverty and social exclusion and close the gap between the most deprived areas and the rest.
4	Raise educational achievement levels and develop the opportunities for everyone to acquire the skills needed to find and remain in work.
5	Reduce crime and the fear of crime.
6	Create and sustain vibrant and distinctive communities which recognise the needs and contributions of all individuals.
7	Improve accessibility to all services and facilities including the countryside and the historic environment.
8	Encourage increased engagement in cultural and sporting activity across all sections of the community.
9	Ensure high and stable levels of employment for everyone's benefit.
10	Sustain economic growth and competitiveness and a buoyant, sustainable tourism sector by focussing on the principles of smart growth.
11	Stimulate economic revival.
12	Develop a dynamic, diverse and knowledge-based economy that excels in innovation with higher value, lower impact activities.
13	Re-use previously developed land and existing materials from buildings, and ensure that there is a high quality townscape.
14	Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment.
15	Reduce air pollution and the proportion of the local population subject to noise pollution.
16	Address the causes of climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and ensure that the borough is prepared for its impacts.
17	Conserve and enhance the borough's biodiversity.
18	Protect and enhance the borough's countryside, natural and historic environment.
19	Improve the efficiency of transport networks by enhancing the proportion of travel by sustainable modes and by promoting policies which reduce the need to travel.
20	Reduce the global social and environmental impact of consumption of resources by using sustainably and ethically produced, local or low impact products.

Stage A: Setting the Context of the Appraisal and Establishing the Scope

No.	Objective
21	Reduce waste generation and disposal, and achieve the sustainable management of waste.
22	Maintain and improve the water quality of the borough's rivers and ground waters, and achieve sustainable water resources management.
23	Increase energy efficiency, and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources in the borough.

Table 3 SA Objectives

3.8 It should be noted that not all of these objectives will be relevant to all documents being appraised.

3.9 The following SA framework table lists the SA objectives and associated possible indicators and targets. The table is central to the SA and will be used to appraise the Borough and Neighbourhood Plans. Where local data is unavailable, regional or national data has been used where possible. In practice, not all of the indicators or targets will be relevant to the plans and, once the scope of those plans becomes clearer, the list of indicators and targets can be refined.

3.10 Note that targets will largely be set later in the SA process (once the relevant indicators are agreed), and data on current trends is incomplete as much is still to be collected.

Stage A: Setting the Context of the Appraisal and Establishing the Scope

SA Objective	Possible Indicators	Possible Targets	Current Trends
1. Ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home.	A. Net housing completions	Meet housing targets as set out in relevant plans	Housing allocation currently under review
	B. Affordable housing completions	Achieve at least 30% affordable housing on sites of >0.5ha or in schemes with 15+ net additional dwellings (Local Plan target)	
	C. Number of care home spaces completed		
	D. Type and size of dwellings built		
	E. Housing density		
	F. Average house price / average earnings		
	G. Households on the housing register		
	H. Number of unfit homes	Reduce number to zero	Proportion in borough is below regional average
	I. % of new build and retrofit homes meeting the Code for Sustainable Homes Level X	100%	
	2. Improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health.	A. Death rates from circulatory disease, cancer, accidents and suicides	Use PSA targets
B. Average life expectancy		Use PSA targets	Life expectancy is above regional and national average
3. Reduce poverty and social exclusion and close the gap between the most deprived areas and the rest.	A. % of children that are living in families that are income deprived		

Stage A: Setting the Context of the Appraisal and Establishing the Scope

SA Objective	Possible Indicators	Possible Targets	Current Trends
	B. % of population of working age claiming key benefits		
	C. % of households in fuel poverty		
	D. Indices of multiple deprivation	No ward to all within the 10% most deprived wards in the country	Achieved
4. Raise educational achievement levels and develop the opportunities for everyone to acquire the skills needed to find and remain in work.	A. Proportion of 19 year olds with Level 2 qualifications (5 GCSEs A*-C or NVQ equivalent)		
	B. Proportion of adults with poor literacy and numeracy skills		
5. Reduce crime and the fear of crime.	A. Rate of domestic burglaries, violent offences in a public place and vehicle crimes		Vehicle crime is reducing
	B. Fear of crime		
6. Create and sustain vibrant and distinctive communities which recognise the needs and contributions of all individuals.	A. % of people who agree that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds can get on well together		<i>Is this data still collected?</i>
	B. % of people satisfied with their local area as a place to live		<i>Is this data still collected?</i>
	C. % of residents who agree that they can influence decisions affecting their local area		<i>Is this data still collected?</i>
7. Improve accessibility to all services and facilities including the countryside and the historic environment.	A. % of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of key services		
	B. Additional public open space secured (including SANG)		
	C. % of residents satisfied with the borough's parks and open spaces		

Stage A: Setting the Context of the Appraisal and Establishing the Scope

SA Objective	Possible Indicators	Possible Targets	Current Trends
8. Encourage increased engagement in cultural and sporting activity across all sections of the community.	<p>A. % of public rights of way that are easy to use by members of the public</p> <p>B. % of residents satisfied with sports and leisure facilities</p>	95% easy to use	Achieved
9. Ensure high and stable levels of employment for everyone's benefit.	<p>A. Proportion of people of working age in employment</p> <p>B. Ratio of total jobs to working age population</p>	Maintain > 1	Economic activity rates are above regional and national average
10. Sustain economic growth and competitiveness and a buoyant, sustainable tourism sector by focussing on the principles of smart growth.	<p>A. Gross Value Added (GVA) per head</p> <p>B. Shopping patterns</p>	<p>Increase comparison goods market share of Maidenhead town centre to 13.1% by 2016 (2009 retail study)</p> <p>9.9% at 2009</p>	
11. Stimulate economic revival.	<p>A. Supplementary Planning Documents covering Maidenhead town centre</p> <p>B. Small business assistance</p>	<p>Produce planning briefs for X key sites</p> <p>Develop a mechanism to assist small businesses</p>	<p>May be dependent on regional targets that no longer exist.</p>
12. Develop a dynamic, diverse and knowledge-based economy that excels in innovation with higher value, lower impact activities.	<p>B. Expenditure on R&D as a proportion of GVA</p>		

Stage A: Setting the Context of the Appraisal and Establishing the Scope

SA Objective	Possible Indicators	Possible Targets	Current Trends
13. Re-use previously developed land and existing materials from buildings, and ensure that there is a high quality townscape.	A. % of new and converted dwellings on previously developed land		
	B. % of land developed for employment which is on previously developed land		<i>Note that land swaps may depress this figure</i>
	C. Number of contaminated sites		
14. Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment.	A. Number of properties at risk from flooding	Prevent inappropriate development in the flood plain	
	B. Number of planning applications approved against Environment Agency advice on flood defence grounds		
	C. New development with sustainable drainage systems (SUDS) installed		
15. Reduce air pollution and the proportion of the local population subject to noise pollution.	A. Concentration of NO ₂ in each AQMA	<40 µg / m ³	2010: Maidenhead 50.1 Windsor 37.4 Bray / M4 54.5
	B. Number of residential premises in AQMAs		
	C. Number of noise complaints		2009/10: 502
16. Address the causes of climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and ensure that the borough is prepared for its impacts.	A. Domestic carbon emissions per dwelling (kg of CO ₂ per dwelling)		
	B. Ecological footprint		
	C. Capacity during "critical periods" to supply water without the need for restrictions		

Stage A: Setting the Context of the Appraisal and Establishing the Scope

SA Objective	Possible Indicators	Possible Targets	Current Trends
	B. Mode of travel to work		
	C. % of residents who think that, for their local area over the past 3 years, public transport has got better or stayed the same		2010: 66%
20. Reduce the global social and environmental impact of consumption of resources by using sustainably and ethically produced, local or low impact products.	A. Ecological footprint		
	B. % of commercial buildings meeting XXXXXXXXXXXX standard		
21. Reduce waste generation and disposal, and achieve the sustainable management of waste.	A. Amount of household waste collected (kg per head p.a.)		
	B. % of total tonnage of all types of household waste that has been recycled, used to recover heat, power or other energy sources, and landfill		
	C. Generation of construction and demolition waste		
	D. Recycling rate for construction and demolition waste		
22. Maintain and improve the water quality of the borough's rivers and ground waters, and achieve sustainable water resources management.	A. Rivers of good or fair chemical and biological quality		SE: 2007 98%
	B. Number of planning permissions approved against Environment Agency advice on water quality grounds		
	C. Per capita consumption of water		
23. Increase energy efficiency, and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources in the borough.	A. Energy consumption per capita		
	B. Renewable energy capacity installed		

Stage A: Setting the Context of the Appraisal and Establishing the Scope

SA Objective	Possible Indicators	Possible Targets	Current Trends
	C. Energy demand from new development	Provide at least 10% of energy demand from renewable sources	

Table 4 SA Framework

Stage A: Setting the Context of the Appraisal and Establishing the Scope

3.11 It is intended that the options and policies in the Borough and Neighbourhood Plans will be assessed against the SA objectives. This will enable an assessment to be made of whether the options and policies are likely to have a positive, negative or neutral effect when measured against these criteria.

3.12 Various difficulties are envisaged when carrying out an SA Scoping of the Borough Plan and Neighbourhood Plans, and later the SA itself. These include:

- The council is reliant on other organisations for data. This is sometimes difficult to obtain and assumptions in the SA are only as good as the data on which they are based,
- Some previously-used data sets are no longer collected and hence some indicators may become difficult or impossible to assess in future.
- The organisations consulted may suffer from consultation fatigue. In that case, their input to the documents being appraised should be prioritised over their input to the SA, which should itself be prioritised over their input to the SA Scoping.
- The council is required by legislation to include certain issues and use specific terminology in the SA. This can make it difficult to read and lessen the chances of receiving a response to consultation.
- The scope and level of detail of a Neighbourhood Plan is largely unknown at this stage, as it is dependent on the community organisation that draw up the plan. The council does not control the contents of the plan or have the final say in policy choices, meaning that it does not have control over whether the most sustainable options are chosen.

3.13 The draft SA Scoping Report was made available for a five-week period of consultation beginning September 2011. Responses from the statutory consultees were analysed and, where appropriate, the report was amended. The revised SA Scoping Report was published in November 2011. Alongside this, a consultation statement setting out the comments received and the council's response to them was also published.