

Stirchley Framework (SPD)

Draft Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Report
Revised November 2014

Contents

1.	Introduction	3
1.1	Context and Purpose of this SA Report	3
1.2	Purpose of the Stirchley SPD	3
1.3	Objectives of the Stirchley SPD	3
2.	Methodology.....	4
2.1	Key stages and tasks	4
2.2	Scoping Report and Consultation.....	4
2.3	The Draft Sustainability Report	4
2.4	Responsibility for preparing the SA	4
3.	Key Sustainability Issues and SA Objectives and Themes.....	5
3.1	The Issues.....	5
3.2	SA Objectives and Appraisal Questions.....	7
3.3	Appraisal Framework and Assessment of Strategic Options.....	10
3.3.1	Appraisal Framework.....	10
3.3.2	Assessment of Strategic Options.....	10
4.	SA Appraisal of the Stirchley SPD	11
4.1	Testing the SPD Objectives and SA Objectives	11
4.2	Analysis.....	11
4.3	Sustainability Appraisal of the Draft Stirchley SPD Policies	13
4.4	Commentary on Appraisal.....	19
4.4.1	Principal effects of the draft SPD	19
4.4.2	Secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects	19
5.	Implementation and Monitoring	20
6.	Summary	28
Appendices	29	
	Appendix 1: List of other plans and programmes of relevance to the SPD	29
	Appendix 2: Compliance with the SEA directive - quality assurance checklist.....	30
	Appendix 3: Responses received on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report	32
	Appendix 4: Brief description of sustainability issues relevant to the SPD.....	39
	Appendix 5: Baseline information.....	42
	Appendix 6: Assessment of strategic options	43
	Appendix 7: List of abbreviations	44

1. Introduction

1.1 Context and Purpose of this SA Report

The Stirchley SPD is being prepared under Chapter 20 of the adopted Birmingham Plan (UDP) 2005. It is also consistent with the Examination Birmingham Development Plan and with the National Planning Policy Framework 2012.

The Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2008 removed the statutory requirement for the Sustainability Appraisal of all SPDs. However, where the Sustainability Appraisal for the relevant Development Plan pre-dates the SA/SEA Directive 2005 or does not meet the SA/SEA requirements in sufficient detail, an SA should be undertaken.

As this SPD expands on existing UDP Policy, whose preparation predates the SA/SEA Directive, and as the Examination Birmingham Development Plan and its accompanying SA is not finalised /adopted, it is considered prudent to undertake a separate SA for the Stirchley SPD. This will ensure that the SPD is robust, and that sustainability considerations are properly taken into account.

The Sustainability Appraisal ensures that the potential social, economic and environmental impacts associated with the Stirchley SPD are identified, and that measures are taken to mitigate any potentially detrimental effects.

The SA Scoping Report (dated 05th August 2011) draws on the SA carried out for the Core Strategy (which evolved into the Birmingham Development Plan). While this SA draws on the SA for the Examination Birmingham Development Plan, it does not intend to repeat these previous SAs, but does examine the relevant sustainability issues at a level commensurate with the SPD.

1.2 Purpose of the Stirchley SPD

The main purpose of this SPD is to expand on policies for Stirchley in the UDP. It will help secure investment in the area and maintain an appropriate balance between the number of shops and other uses such as offices, Community facilities etc. It will provide guidance to those who wish to submit a planning application for retail and other service uses compatible with a local centre.

1.3 Objectives of the Stirchley SPD

The Objectives of the Stirchley SPD are to:

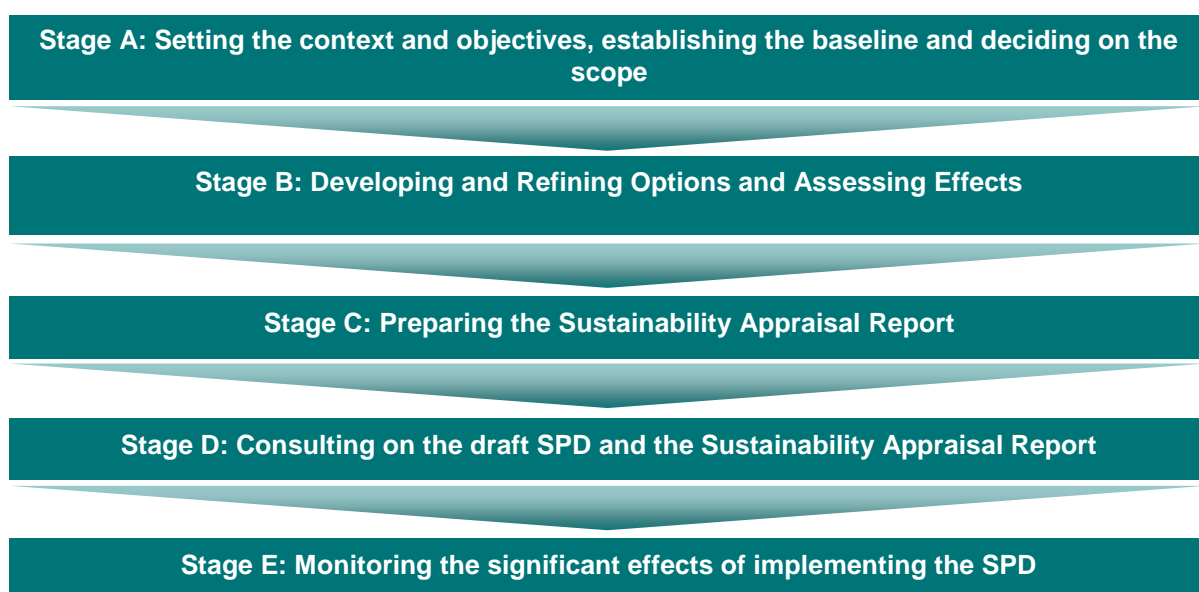
- encourage investment in Stirchley, and increase employment in the area
- confirm the Council's overall aspirations for the regeneration of Stirchley;
- provide guidance to support the determination of planning applications; and
- ensure sites coming forward for development will contribute to the Council's vision for Stirchley

2. Methodology

2.1 Key stages and tasks

The Good Practice Guides produced by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) identify a number of different stages in the production of a Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment. These are:

Table 1: SA stages



2.2 Scoping Report and Consultation

A Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and Sustainability Appraisal have been prepared for the Examination Birmingham Development Plan, and this has been used as the basis for the Sustainability Appraisal of the Stirchley SPD (Stage A). This Scoping Report was sent to the three Consultation Bodies as specified in the SEA Guidance (Natural England, the Environment Agency and English Heritage). The comments received in response to the Scoping Report are set out in Appendix 3.

2.3 The Draft Sustainability Report

This Sustainability Appraisal Report covers Stages B to D. The appraisal matrix used is explained in section 4 and presents a summary of the key sustainability effects associated with each draft SPD policy.

This SA report is now issued for consultation alongside the Draft Stirchley SPD.

2.4 Responsibility for preparing the SA

This SA has been prepared by the planning officers of Birmingham City Council alongside work on the SPD.

3. Key Sustainability Issues and SA Objectives and Themes

3.1 The Issues

The SA Scoping Report set out the background to the Sustainability Appraisal process. It:

- considers links to other plans and programmes, and
- outlines the current baseline situation.

These are summarised in Appendix 1 and Appendix 5 of this SA (see pages 29 and 42).

The Scoping Report identifies 20 specific social, economic and environmental sustainability issues for the Stirchley SPD, and these are set out in Table 2 below and Appendix 4.

These have been drawn from the 28 sustainability issues and accompanying baseline information that has been comprehensively appraised in the Sustainability Appraisal Report (October 2013) for the Examination Birmingham Development Plan. They also draw on information collected for the Examination Birmingham Development Plan and this SPD (see Appendix 5 below).

These issues have informed the SA Objectives which are described in section 3.2, and these in turn have lead to the identification of a number of sustainability objectives and provide the basis for the assessment of the SPD in terms of how it contributes to sustainable development.

**Table 2: Summary of Key Sustainability Issues for the Stirchley SPD
(drawn from the Examination Birmingham Development Plan SA Report)**

	Key Sustainability Issues	
a)	Efficient Use of Land	The city's scale of development over the next 20 years is intended to be managed in ways that should contribute to greater efficiency in the use of land- through the regeneration of brownfield sites for example. There is an opportunity for Stirchley to contribute towards the achievement of this objective with several sites with potential for development
b)	Sustainable Transport	Although well served by public transport with a local rail station and good bus links Stirchley suffers from congestion on the roads which increases fuel use and traffic emissions. The Millennium cycle route (no.5) runs parallel to the A441 along the River Rea but is not well signposted.
c)	Reduce the need to travel	Approximately 30% of the people that work in Stirchley live within a mile of the centre
d)	Managing Climate Change	The main issue for Stirchley is the potential for flooding of the River Rea and the Bourn. Some areas around their confluence have been designated flood zone 3 by the Environment Agency. This will require further investigation in the full SA to address the impacts on future development. Many Local Centres around Birmingham have been a focus for regeneration through environmental enhancement projects including tree planting which is considered to contribute positively to the local micro-climate and the aim is to continue to encourage these initiatives.

		There is some scope for this in Stirchley.
e)	Built and Historic Environment	Stirchley has a number of listed buildings including the Library and the former Baths site and some more of note together with access to the adjacent Birmingham to Worcester canal which runs to the west and south of the area.
f)	Biodiversity	Stirchley is surrounded by wildlife corridors in the form of the canal the Bourn and the River Rea. The Rea is also a SLINC.
g)	Natural Landscape	Although much of Stirchley is built up, there is a significant amount of open land within the area including parks and the river Rea, parts of which have not previously been developed.
h)	Air Quality	Air quality is an issue due to the heavy traffic on the A441 and the degree of congestion that the Stirchley area suffers from especially at peak times.
i)	Water Quality	The chemical and biological quality of rivers and waterways in Birmingham is generally poor compared to the West Midlands and England as a whole. Stirchley is in close proximity to Canals and rivers and development will need to ensure there is no threat to nearby water resources.
j)	Soil Quality	While most of Stirchley is brown field there are areas such as the Rea valley and the Stirchley and Hazelwood recreation grounds that have not seen development.
k)	Economy	With its mixed offer of retail and commercial / industrial companies Stirchley is an important area for employment, efforts need to be made to retain this mix in the area while increasing the economic viability of Stirchley. Stirchley is well off, the study area is outside the 20% most deprived on the employment indices of deprivation for 2010
l)	Learning and Skills	The Study area lies outside the 20% most deprived in the Education, Skills and Training Deprivation domain. However in 2001 27% of the residents aged 17 – 74 did not have any qualifications (This is lower than the constituency average of 30%)
m)	Sense of Place	While many of the other Birmingham Local Centres have places such as public squares, and other community assets which add to the sense of place, Stirchley suffers from long-term underinvestment in parts of the high street, and on the whole poor public realm with the exception of a new seating area close to the junction of the A441 and Cartland Road.
n)	Population	Just under 40% of Birmingham's population live in areas that are in the most deprived 10% in England. Unemployment rates are above the national average. Compared to this Stirchley is well off with the whole of the study area outside the 20% most deprived
o)	Health	The Stirchley SPD area is largely outside the 20% most deprived in the Health deprivation and Disability Domain with some small clusters in the 20%-10% most deprived
p)	Crime	Despite recent reductions in crime in recent years, in 2005 Birmingham remains ranked 20th on the list of authorities with the highest crime rates in England and Wales. Most of the study area lies outside the top 20% most deprived in the Crime Domain except for a small area around Cartland Road Ripple Road there that SOA (which is largely outside the study area) which is in the 20% but not the 10% most deprived.
q)	Community Involvement	There are a number of community groups in the area which are actively engaged in the planning process as registered consultees, they will be involved in the public consultation of the SPD
r)	Culture / Sport /	Birmingham has many strengths in this area and is internationally recognised for sports and exhibitions. The Stirchley area has a number

	Recreation	of facilities including Ten Pin Bowling, indoor bowls, parks and social clubs.
s)	Equality	Stirchley serves a diverse population composed of people from a wide variety of national, ethnic and religious backgrounds. There are inequalities relating to access to services such as to jobs and health services, which are partly to do with geographical location, but partly to do with social and economic disadvantage. There is generally good accessibility in most places at most times for those households without a car, due to the extensive bus network and local rail links.
t)	Housing	The study area lies outside the 20% most deprived in the Barriers to Housing and Services Domain. With around 67% (10% higher than Selly Oak Ward) owner occupation and 15% rented from the Council or RSL. (2001)

3.2 SA Objectives and Appraisal Questions

The SA objectives and appraisal questions are components of a framework that will be used consistently to appraise the policies in the Stirchley SPD.

The list of 20 SA objectives can be seen in Table 3 below. The objectives are supported by appraisal questions or criteria. These help to clarify the objectives, and have been used during the assessment process to help clarify to the assessors what they should be considering.

This table also shows how the objectives are grouped under 8 key themes. Again these are consistent with the themes in the Examination Birmingham Development Plan Sustainability Appraisal (see pages 11-23, October 2013).

Table 3: SA Objectives and Appraisal Questions/Criteria

SA Objective	Appraisal questions	SA Issues	Themes
SA1 Encourage land use and development that optimises the use of previously developed land and buildings	Will it encourage the efficient use of land and minimise the loss of greenfield land?	Efficient use of land	1 Natural Resources and Waste
SA2 Increase use of public transport, cycling and walking as a proportion of total travel and ensure that development is focussed on urban areas making efficient use of existing transport infrastructure.	Does it reduce road traffic congestion, pollution and accidents? Does it improve health through increased physical activity? Does it help to reduce travel by private car? Does it promote accessibility for disabled people?	Sustainable Transport	2 CO2 emissions
SA3 Ensure development reduces the need to travel	Will it reduce traffic volumes? Will it reduce average journey length?	Reduce the need to Travel	
SA4 Ensuring that the design and planning process takes into account predicted changes in	Will it minimise the risk of flooding from rivers and watercourses to people and property?	Managing climate change	3 Climate Change adaptation

Birmingham's climate including flood risk	Will it reduce the risk of damage to property from storm events? Will it reduce CO ² Emissions?		
SA5 Value, protect, enhance and restore the built and historic environment and landscape	Will it protect and enhance features of built and historic environment and landscape?	Built and historic environment	4 Historic environment, landscape, biodiversity and geodiversity
SA6 Value, protect, maintain, restore and re-create local biodiversity	Does it use approaches that improve the resilience of natural systems such as linking fragmented habitats where possible? Will it conserve and enhance natural/semi-natural habitats and conserve and enhance species diversity?	Biodiversity	
SA7 Value, protect, enhance and restore Birmingham's natural landscape.	Will it reduce the amount of derelict, degraded and underused land? Will it improve the landscape quality and character of the open/green space in Stirchley ?	Natural Landscape	
SA8 Minimise air pollution levels and create good quality air	Will it improve air quality?	Air quality	
SA9 Minimise water pollution levels and create good quality water	Will it improve water quality?	Water quality	5 Pollution
SA10 Minimise ground pollution levels and create good quality soil	Will it protect/improve ground quality?	Soil quality	
SA11 Achieve a strong, stable and sustainable economy and economic prosperity	Does it encourage and support a culture of enterprise and innovation, including social enterprise? Will it improve business development and enhance competitiveness? Will it promote growth in key sectors?	Economy	6 Economic Growth
SA12 Promote investment in future prosperity, including ongoing investment and engagement in learning and skills development	Does it ensure that the local workforce is equipped with the skills to access high quality employment opportunities suited to the changing economy, whilst recognising the value and contribution of unpaid work?	Learning and skills	
SA13 Encourage land use and development that creates and sustains well-designed, high quality built environments that incorporate green space, encourage biodiversity, and promote local distinctiveness	Will it improve the satisfaction of a diverse range of people with their neighbourhood?	Sense of place	7 Communities, healthy lifestyles and equality

and sense of place			
SA14 Address poverty and disadvantage, taking into account the particular difficulties of those facing multiple disadvantage	Does it recognise that deprived areas and disadvantaged communities are more likely to be affected by environmental damage and degradation?	Population	
SA15 Improve health and reduce health inequalities by encouraging and enabling healthy active lifestyles and protecting health Improve opportunities to participate in diverse cultural and recreational activities	Does it help provide equitable access to local Services and facilities? Does it encourage healthy lifestyles?	Health	
SA16 Reduce crime, fear of crime and antisocial behaviour	Will it reduce crime? Will it reduce the fear of crime?	Crime	
SA17 Enable communities to influence the decisions that affect their neighbourhoods and quality of life.	Does it encourage local stewardship of local environments, for example enabling communities to improve their neighbourhoods? Will it encourage engagement in community activities for example through the establishment of social and cultural activities that address the needs of equalities groups? Will it increase the ability of people to influence decisions?	Community Involvement	
SA18 Improve opportunities to participate in diverse cultural, sporting and recreational activities.	Will it encourage participation in sport and cultural activities for all the diverse communities in Birmingham?	Culture / Sport / Recreation	
SA19 Ensure easy and equitable access to services, facilities and opportunities, including jobs and learning	Does it ensure that people are not disadvantaged with regard to ethnicity, gender, age, disability, faith, sexuality, background or location?	Equality	
SA20 Provide decent and affordable housing for all, of the right quantity, type, tenure and affordability to meet local needs.	Will it reduce homelessness? Will it increase the range and affordability of housing for all social and cultural I groups? Will it reduce the number of unfit homes?	Housing	8 Housing

3.3 Appraisal Framework and Assessment of Strategic Options

3.3.1 Appraisal Framework

The Appraisal framework is a tool that enables the effects of SPD Objectives and proposed SPD policies on the Sustainability Objectives are assessed, as detailed in section 4 of this SA Report. There are 4 main elements to the framework:

- Identification of the SA Issues, Objectives and Appraisal considerations (see 3.1 / 3.2 and Tables 2 / 3 above)
- Assessing the strategic options (see 3.3.2)
- Testing the SPD Objectives and the SA Objectives (see 4.1 and Table 4)
- Appraisal of the SPD and the SA Objectives (see 4.3 and Table 5)

3.3.2 Assessment of Strategic Options

There are two strategic options for Stirchley SPD policy. These are:

Option 1 – Do nothing/business as usual, continuing to rely on existing policy which is gradually becoming life-expired.

Option 2 – Produce up to date policy guidance within the Local Development Framework, in line with national policy and the adopted development plan.

Both options have been assessed against the objectives of the Sustainability Appraisal Framework. The assessment examined whether the likely effects of each option would be positive, negative or neutral in respect of the sustainability objectives. This assessment is set out in Appendix 6.

A summary of the options assessment is set out below.

Option 1 – Business as usual

Under this option there would be largely neutral effects in the short term in respect of most of the objectives, with some uncertainties about the longer term. Some objectives show a potential for decline over the longer term.

Option 2 – Produce an SPD

Under this option there would also be largely neutral effects in the short term. However, in the medium and longer term it is believed that a positive effect on most of the objectives can be foreseen.

Conclusion

It is clear that the most preferable strategic option is to prepare up-to-date policy guidance. Doing nothing would lead to a reliance on life expired and out of date policy, which will reduce in effectiveness having been superseded by the National Planning Policy Framework and the Birmingham Development Plan on its adoption. Preparing a new SPD will ensure that the city has policy guidance which reflects current national policy and is fit for purpose.

4. SA Appraisal of the Stirchley SPD

4.1 Testing the SPD Objectives and SA Objectives

The testing framework (Table 4) consists of 8 key SA Themes, 20 SA Issues and Objectives (as identified in section 3 above) and the 4 SPD Objectives. The purpose of this section is to identify any potential conflicts of interest between the SA Objectives and the SPD Objectives.

Where conflicts are identified, there is a risk that sustainability of the SPD could be compromised. In the case of uncertain relationships, it may be necessary to seek further information or monitor the outcome of policies, with the aim of minimising risk. In some cases, there may be no clear relationship.

4.2 Analysis

Table 4 demonstrates that the relationship between the SA Objectives and SPD Objectives is generally positive. This is particularly evident for Objectives SA1, 2, 5, 11, 13, 14 and 20, which relate to spatial issues affecting people and places.

There are some instances where no clear impact can be identified, but of particular note is a cluster of environmentally focused Objectives (SA8, 9 and 10) where neutral or uncertain relationship is present. Further examination of these objectives and potential impacts may be necessary as the SPD evolves through consultation.

In comparison, the wider analysis of SA Objectives and the Objectives in the Birmingham Development Plan SA reveals generally positive relationships. However, this SA shows some uncertain relationships for Themes 4 and 15, rather than positive effects. This is due to the more detailed nature of this SPD, and the need to consider matters of detail in relation to specific development proposals. This reflects the importance of preparing a separate SA for the SPD.

Most importantly, no clear negative relationships/potential conflicts are identified between the SPD Objectives and the SA Objectives identified.

Table 4: Stirchley SPD Objectives vs Sustainability Objectives

SA Theme	1 Natural Resources and Waste	2 CO2 emissions		3 Climate Change adaptation	4 Historic environment, landscape, biodiversity and geodiversity			5 Pollution			6 Economic Growth		7 Communities, healthy lifestyles and equality							8 Housing
SA Issues and Objectives for the Stirchley SPD (see Table 3 above & key below)	SA 1	SA 2	SA 3	SA 4	SA 5	SA 6	SA 7	SA 8	SA 9	SA 10	SA 11	SA 12	SA 13	SA 14	SA 15	SA 16	SA 17	SA 18	SA 19	SA 20
SPD objectives																				
1 encourage investment in Stirchley, and increase employment in the area	✓	✓	✓	?	✓	N	N	?	?	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	N	✓	N	✓	✓
2 confirm the Council's overall aspirations for the regeneration of Stirchley;	✓	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	N	N	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3 provide guidance to support the determination of planning applications	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	N	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	N	✓	✓	N	✓
4 ensure sites coming forward for development will contribute to the Council's vision for Stirchley	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	?	✓	?	?	?	✓	N	✓	✓	?	N	✓	✓	N	✓

✓ = Compatible ? = uncertain relationship ✗ = potentially incompatible N = neutral relationship

Key to issues & objectives in Tables 4 - 8

1	SA1	Efficient use of land	6	SA11	Economy
2	SA2	Sustainable Transport		SA12	Learning and skills
	SA3	Reduce the need to Travel		SA13	Sense of place
3	SA4	Managing climate change		SA14	Population
	SA5	Built and historic environment		SA15	Health
4	SA6	Biodiversity	7	SA16	Crime
	SA7	Natural Landscape		SA17	Community Involvement
	SA8	Air quality		SA18	Culture / Sport / Recreation
5	SA9	Water quality		SA19	Equality
	SA10	Soil quality	8	SA20	Housing

4.3 Sustainability Appraisal of the Draft Stirchley SPD Policies

The purpose of table 5 is to identify any potential conflicts of interest between the SA Objectives and the SPD policies. Where conflicts are identified, there is a risk that sustainability of the SPD could be compromised. In the case of uncertain relationships, it may be necessary to seek further information or monitor the outcome of policies, with the aim of minimising risk. In some cases, there may be no clear relationship. The SPD policies are taken from the draft SPD.

There are 4 main SA assessment criteria for this SPD as set out in the SA Scoping Report (pages 22-24). These include:

- Timing of effect in terms of short (5 years), medium (lifetime of SPD) or long-term (beyond the lifetime of SPD);
- Commentary in terms of specific considerations, SPD Response or mitigation measures that would increase opportunity for sustainable development;
- Secondary effect in terms of cumulative and synergistic effects and;
- Geographical effects within different parts of the centre.

Account has been taken of these SA assessment criteria to inform the score ratings as shown in Table 5 below, along with the considerations identified in column 2 of Table 3 above. The resulting scores are classified as follows:

Assessment scores		
Score	Description	Symbol
Major positive impact	The proposed policy contributes significantly to the achievement of the objective	++
Minor positive impact	The proposed policy contributes to the achievement of the objective, but not significantly	+
Neutral	The proposed policy does not have any effect on the achievements of the objective	0
Minor negative impact	The proposed policy detracts from the achievement of the objective but not significantly	—
Major negative impact	The proposed policy detracts significantly from the achievement of the objective	--
No relationship	There is no clear relationship between the proposed policy and the achievement of the objective or the relationship is negligible	#
Uncertain	The proposed policy has an uncertain relationship to the objective, or the relationship is dependant on the way in which the aspect is managed. In addition, insufficient information may be available to enable an assessment to be made.	?
Timescales (may not be shown if not a factor in assessment)		
Short = S (<5yrs) Medium = M (5-10yrs) Long = L (>10yrs)		

Table 5: Appraisal of the Stirchley Draft SPD Policies – No New Plan option, Plan Boundary, Retail

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	SA 1	SA 2	SA 3	SA 4	SA 5	SA 6	SA 7	SA 8	SA 9	SA 10	SA 11	SA 12	SA 13	SA 14	SA 15	SA 16	SA 17	SA 18	SA 19	SA 20	Comments
Maintain the Status Quo :- No New Plan option																					
Do not produce a new SPD to direct future development	0	0	—	—	S— M--	0	—	0	0	0	—	0	M— L--	0	0	M— L--	M— L--	M— L--	0	0	Significant negative impacts of maintaining status quo as aspects of area continue to suffer from underinvestment with spin off impacts: - worsening over time.
Appraisal of Plan Boundary																					
Plan Boundary	+	?	?	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	+	?	#	#	#	+	0	?	Positive or neutral impacts. Uncertain on travel impacts as only small area of city covered.
Appraisal of Draft SPD Policies :- Retail																					
New retail led developments should normally be located in the Primary Shopping Area (PSA).	++	?	+	0	+	#	#	0	0	0	++	?	++	+	0	+	0	#	#	#	Neutral to positive impacts with major impacts on economy and efficient use of land
the Hazelwell Lane site provides an opportunity for retail led mixed use development	+	?	+	0	+	#	#	0	0	0	++	+	+	+	?	?	#	#	#	#	Neutral to positive impacts with major impacts on economy and efficient use of land
.. group refurbishment schemes for retail use .. sensitive merging of existing units (with suitable plot capacity) will be supported	++	+	+	+	++	#	#	0	0	0	++	#	++	0	#	0	#	?	+	0	Neutral to positive impacts with major impacts on economy and efficient use of land
Retention .. of shops to meet the needs of independent retailers .., will be supported	++	?	++	0	++	#	#	0	0	0	++	?	++	+	#	0	#	?	+	0	Neutral to positive impacts with major impacts on economy and efficient use of land
The vitality .. not be compromised by allowing further loss of the retail opportunity within the PSA ...	++	?	+	0	++	#	#	0	0	0	+	?	++	+	#	#	#	?	#	#	Neutral to positive impacts with major impacts on economy and efficient use of land
proposals for reuse or conversion / redevelopment of vacant retail units will be encouraged for uses in keeping with a district centre	++	+	+	+	+	#	#	0	0	0	++	#	++	0	0	0	+	?	+	?	Neutral to positive impacts with major impacts on economy and efficient use of land
New developments should be in scale with surrounding development .. integrated with the centre, maintain active frontage	+	#	#	#	++	#	#	0	0	0	+	#	++	#	#	+	#	#	#	#	Where impacts exist they are positive. Positive impacts on crime through increase in natural surveillance
First floor conversions to residential will be assessed on their merits, and will need to be compatible with existing neighbouring uses	+	?	+	0	+	#	#	0	0	0	+	#	+	+	#	+	+	#	+	+	Where impacts exist they are positive. Positive impacts on crime through increase in natural surveillance and wider community benefits.
SA1 Efficient use of land, SA2 Sustainable Transport, SA3 Reduce the need to Travel, SA4 Managing climate change, SA5 Built and historic environment, SA6 Biodiversity, SA7 Natural Landscape, SA8 Air quality, SA9 Water quality, SA10 Soil quality, SA11 Economy, SA12 Learning and skills, SA13 Sense of place, SA14 Population, SA15 Health, SA16 Crime, SA17 Community Involvement, SA18 Culture / Sport / Recreation, SA19 Equality, SA20 Housing Major positive impact = ++ Minor positive impact = + Neutral = 0 Minor negative impact = — Major negative impact = -- No relationship = # Uncertain = ? Timescales (may not be shown if not a factor in assessment) Short = S (<5yrs) Medium = M (5-10yrs) Long = L (>10yrs)																					

Table 6: Appraisal of the Storchley Draft SPD Policies – Commercial, industrial and Employment, Housing

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	SA 1	SA 2	SA 3	SA 4	SA 5	SA 6	SA 7	SA 8	SA 9	SA 10	SA 11	SA 12	SA 13	SA 14	SA 15	SA 16	SA 17	SA 18	SA 19	SA 20	Comments
Appraisal of Draft SPD Policies :- Commercial, industrial and employment																					
New industrial and commercial uses will be encouraged in the area (on the sites identified)	+	#	+	#	+	#	#	0	0	0	++	#	+	0	#	#	#	#	#	#	Potential for major economical impact both from direct investment and spin off for the 'high street'.
small scale office developments, will be encouraged in ... appropriate locations	+	#	#	#	+	#	#	0	0	0	+	#	+	0	#	#	#	#	#	#	
Existing industrial and commercial sites retained in employment use ... to maintain the variety of Storchley's employment offer.	+	#	#	#	+	#	#	0	0	0	+	#	+	0	#	#	#	#	#	#	Impact tending to positive overall
for new developments the employment of local people will be encouraged.... in conjunction with the Council's Employment Access Team.	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	+	+	+	+	#	#	#	#	+	#	Potential for major positive impact on SA12, for small numbers of people, but dependent on suitable investment in area
Appraisal of Draft SPD Policies :- Housing																					
New housing will be encouraged on appropriate sites, and as part of mixed-use schemes throughout the area.	+	#	+	?	+	#	#	#	#	#	+	#	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	++	Tending to positive with major impacts on SA20 for the area
New housing will also be encouraged elsewhere provided it is not in the following locations	+	#	+	?	+	#	#	#	#	#	+	#	0	+	0	?	+	0	+	+	Tending to positive with major impacts on SA20 for the area
Small residential schemes (<15) and infill developments should reflect the design and mix of housing in the area.	+	#	+	?	+	#	#	#	#	#	+	#	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	++	Tending to positive with major impacts on SA20 for the area
Larger schemes i.e. those with more than 15 dwellings, should have a mix of dwelling type size and tenure with ..35% affordable housing. While retaining local scale and massing ..	+	?	+	?	+	#	#	#	#	#	+	?	+	++	0	+	+	0	+	++	Tending to positive with major impacts on S\$ 14 & SA20 for the area
All new residential developments should meet lifetime homes standards and aim to be zero carbon from 2016	+	#	#	+	+	#	#	#	#	#	+	#	+	++	+	#	#	#	++	++	Tending to positive with major impacts on SA14, SA19 & SA20 for the area
SA1 Efficient use of land, SA2 Sustainable Transport, SA3 Reduce the need to Travel, SA4 Managing climate change, SA5 Built and historic environment, SA6 Biodiversity, SA7 Natural Landscape, SA8 Air quality, SA9 Water quality, SA10 Soil quality, SA11 Economy, SA12 Learning and skills, SA13 Sense of place, SA14 Population, SA15 Health, SA16 Crime, SA17 Community Involvement, SA18 Culture / Sport / Recreation, SA19 Equality, SA20 Housing Major positive impact = ++ Minor positive impact = + Neutral = 0 Minor negative impact = — Major negative impact = -- No relationship = # Uncertain = ? Timescales (may not be shown if not a factor in assessment) Short = S (<5yrs) Medium = M (5-10yrs) Long = L (>10yrs)																					

Table 7: Appraisal of the Storchley Draft SPD Policies –Connectivity & Public Space, Community Facilities

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	SA 1	SA 2	SA 3	SA 4	SA 5	SA 6	SA 7	SA 8	SA 9	SA 10	SA 11	SA 12	SA 13	SA 14	SA 15	SA 16	SA 17	SA 18	SA 19	SA 20	Comments
Appraisal of Draft SPD Policies :- Public space & Connectivity																					
Car parking and loading in the high street will be rationalised. ..., on street parking and loading bays may be relocated	+	0	0	0	++	#	#	+	#	#	+	#	++	0	+	+	0	0	0	#	Minor air quality improvements due to improved traffic flow – influence on health output
When off street car parking is provided as part of any major retail / mixed use development, developers will be expected to <i>(provide a package of measures)</i>	+	+	0	0	+	#	#	0	#	#	+	#	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	#	
Provision for off-street loading will be encouraged in new developments where appropriate	+	0	0	0	++	#	#	+	#	#	+	#	++	0	+	+	0	0	0	#	Minor air quality improvements due to improved traffic flow – influence on health output
Improved routes for pedestrians and cyclists will be provided across the plan area....	+	++	0	++	++	#	#	+	#	#	+	#	++	0	++	0	++	++	+	#	Improvements in various outputs due to modal shift from cars to cycles.
Improvements to the urban realm on the high street, to encourage pedestrian use and increase shopper dwell time, ..new public spaces	+	+	+	+	++	#	#	0	#	#	++	#	++	0	0	+	++	0	0	#	Improvements in various outputs due to modal shift to pedestrian movement in one centre
..to reduce congestion ...road capacity increases needed by new development;.. improvements may be required at the following junctions	+	0	0	0	++	#	#	+	#	#	+	#	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	#	Minor air quality improvements due to improved traffic flow – influence on health output
Appraisal of Draft SPD Policies :- Community Facilities and open spaces																					
Existing community uses will be supported and investment in new and existing facilities encouraged.	0	0	0	0	+	#	#	#	#	#	+	0	++	0	+	+	+	+	+	#	
The council seeks to support the provision of the community market and other community initiatives e.g. through design of public and private spaces to allow for these uses, and the community use of buildings.	+	0	+	0	+	#	#	#	#	#	+	0	++	0	+	+	+	+	+	#	
The open spaces in Storchley should be protected from development and enhanced. <i>(improvement measures)</i>	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	?	?	+	0	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	#	Largely positive, uncertain relationship on crime as may form escape routes - with improved linkages. Increased use may adversely affect water / soil quality.
SA1 Efficient use of land, SA2 Sustainable Transport, SA3 Reduce the need to Travel, SA4 Managing climate change, SA5 Built and historic environment, SA6 Biodiversity, SA7 Natural Landscape, SA8 Air quality, SA9 Water quality, SA10 Soil quality, SA11 Economy, SA12 Learning and skills, SA13 Sense of place, SA14 Population, SA15 Health, SA16 Crime, SA17 Community Involvement, SA18 Culture / Sport / Recreation, SA19 Equality, SA20 Housing Major positive impact = ++ Minor positive impact = + Neutral = 0 Minor negative impact = — Major negative impact = -- No relationship = # Uncertain = ? Timescales (may not be shown if not a factor in assessment) Short = S (<5yrs) Medium = M (5-10yrs) Long = L (>10yrs)																					

Table 8: Appraisal of the Storchley Draft SPD Policies –Design and Heritage

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	SA 1	SA 2	SA 3	SA 4	SA 5	SA 6	SA 7	SA 8	SA 9	SA 10	SA 11	SA 12	SA 13	SA 14	SA 15	SA 16	SA 17	SA 18	SA 19	SA 20	Comments
Appraisal of Draft SPD Policies :- Design and Heritage																					
Large scale retail led or mixed use developments will be expected to be integrated with the centre and maintain an active frontage on Pershore Roadlegibility	++	+	+	+	+	#	#	+	#	#	++	?	++	0	0	0	#	?	+	0	Tending to positive or neutral impacts as investment attracts more customers and further investment. May improve air quality by reducing journeys by locals as services improve.
In order to promote local distinctiveness, in all high street developments ...local context....scale massing...fine grain...respect road hierarchy....reflect the Victorian vernacular	+	0	0	0	+	#	#	#	#	#	++	0	++	0	0	0	#	?	+	0	
When designing for the public realm - new public spaces and highways - should contain attractive street furniture, hard and soft landscaping including trees where appropriate.	+	0	0	0	+	?	?	#	#	#	++	0	++	0	0	0	#	?	+	0	
In waterside developments, it is expected that buildings should face the waterside where feasible to encourage natural surveillance.	0	0	0	0	+	?	#	#	#	#	+	0	++	0	0	0	#	+	+	0	
Retention and sympathetic reuse of heritage assets is expected in planned developments in order to retain and enhance the historic character of Storchley	+	0	0	0	++	#	#	#	#	#	+	0	++	0	0	0	#	?	+	0	
Archaeological assets should be protected. Archaeological desk based assessments and field evaluations may be required when there are proposals which impact on heritage assets.	+	0	0	0	++	#	#	#	#	#	#	0	++	0	0	0	#	#	#	0	
SA1 Efficient use of land, SA2 Sustainable Transport, SA3 Reduce the need to Travel, SA4 Managing climate change, SA5 Built and historic environment, SA6 Biodiversity, SA7 Natural Landscape, SA8 Air quality, SA9 Water quality, SA10 Soil quality, SA11 Economy, SA12 Learning and skills, SA13 Sense of place, SA14 Population, SA15 Health, SA16 Crime, SA17 Community Involvement, SA18 Culture / Sport / Recreation, SA19 Equality, SA20 Housing Major positive impact = ++ Minor positive impact = + Neutral = 0 Minor negative impact = — Major negative impact = -- No relationship = # Uncertain = ? Timescales (may not be shown if not a factor in assessment) Short = S (<5yrs) Medium = M (5-10yrs) Long = L (>10yrs)																					

Table 9: Appraisal of the Storchley Draft SPD Policies – Sustainability

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	SA 1	SA 2	SA 3	SA 4	SA 5	SA 6	SA 7	SA 8	SA 9	SA 10	SA 11	SA 12	SA 13	SA 14	SA 15	SA 16	SA 17	SA 18	SA 19	SA 20	Comments
Appraisal of Draft SPD Policies :- Sustainability																					
Priority should be given to walking and cycling to access public open space, with local facilities and local travel....good public transport connections	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	+	+	+	#	+	+	+	#	
Flood risk assessments will be required when considering development proposals in areas susceptible to surface water flooding	+	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	+	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	
Opportunities for flood risk management and improvement of the River Rea and the Bourn will be encouraged.... SUDS	+	#	#	#	+	0	0	#	+	0	#	#	+	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	
Surrounded by wildlife corridorsStorchley has a rich biodiversity. Opportunities will be taken to strengthen this “green ring” by...	0	#	#	0	#	++	++	#	#	#	#	#	+	#	+	#	#	+	#	#	
All new residential development should meet lifetime homes standards, Zero Carbon from 2016. BREAAAM excellent for non residential > 1,000sqm, > 0.5Ha	+	0	+	++	+	?	?	?	?	?	++	0	+	++	++	0	0	0	++	++	
... new development will need to make efficient use of water resources, such as grey water recycling and water saving technologies	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	+	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	
Sustainable waste management should be incorporated from the beginning of development	+	#	#	+	#	#	#	#	#	#	+	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	
With scope for some large developments in the area, there is a significant opportunity for energy saving or generating technologies	+	#	#	+	+	#	#	#	#	#	+	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	
SA1 Efficient use of land, SA2 Sustainable Transport, SA3 Reduce the need to Travel, SA4 Managing climate change, SA5 Built and historic environment, SA6 Biodiversity, SA7 Natural Landscape, SA8 Air quality, SA9 Water quality, SA10 Soil quality, SA11 Economy, SA12 Learning and skills, SA13 Sense of place, SA14 Population, SA15 Health, SA16 Crime, SA17 Community Involvement, SA18 Culture / Sport / Recreation, SA19 Equality, SA20 Housing Major positive impact = ++ Minor positive impact = + Neutral = 0 Minor negative impact = — Major negative impact = -- No relationship = # Uncertain = ? Timescales (may not be shown if not a factor in assessment) Short = S (<5yrs) Medium = M (5-10yrs) Long = L (>10yrs)																					

4.4 Commentary on Appraisal

The SA appraisal in Tables 5- 9 is largely self-explanatory, and shows that the SPD policies perform relatively well against SA objectives. There are predicted to be positive effects in respect of a number of the social and economic objectives. Of particular note is the demonstration that the draft policies in the SPD are not expected to have any adverse impacts.

In general terms, the policies seek to focus development in Stirchley creating a greater sense of place and community.

4.4.1 Principal effects of the draft SPD

Appraisal of the plan no plan option clearly shows the risks of maintaining the status quo as the current degree of underinvestment in the area is continued, resulting in increased negative impacts over time.

In general positive benefits are shown across the proposed policies with the notable exception of the pollution measures SA9 & SA10 which demonstrate either neutral outcomes or have no relationship in contrast SA8 shows some potential for improvement from a number of measures looking at improving traffic flows and reducing congestion and encouraging modal shift to cycling and walking.

SA1, SA5, SA11 and SA13 are expected to have positive outcomes with most of the proposed policies showing positive impacts and a small number having neutral / no relationship.

In summary, the principal specific positive effects of the draft SPD are:

- Ensuring the efficient use of land;
- A sustainable economy and economic prosperity of Stirchley;
- Good access to services, facilities and opportunities;
- Retaining the employment offer in the area;
- Promoting local distinctiveness and sense of place;
- Improving the Community Facilities of the area;
- Improving the green assets and open spaces of the area;

There are no negative impacts identified.

4.4.2 Secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects

The cumulative, secondary and synergistic impacts of the SPD are generally positive. For example, safeguarding the vitality and viability of Stirchley District Centre, by ensuring that it retains its retail function and that excessive numbers of non retail uses are avoided and improving the green assets of the area.

In view of the outcome of the appraisal, no specific mitigation measures are required at this stage.

5. Implementation and Monitoring

The draft SPD and this SA will be subject to a 6 week period of consultation. In the event that any changes are made to the SPD these will need to be reappraised against the Sustainability Appraisal Framework before the SPD is finalised and formally adopted.

The SPD will be implemented via the Development Control (Planning Management) process.

Monitoring is an important part of the SA process which is ongoing and does not end once the SPD has been adopted. Through monitoring it will be possible to determine whether the implementation of the SPD is working towards the Sustainability Appraisal objectives set out in this report.

The Sustainability Appraisal Framework identifies a range of indicators which could be used to monitor the impact of the SPD. These will be developed and reported upon as necessary.

Table 9: Monitoring Indicators

SA Objective	Appraisal guide questions for the SA. Will the Stirchley SPD help to.....	Indicator	Target
SA1 Encourage land use and development that optimises the use of previously developed land and buildings	encourage the efficient use of land and minimise the loss of greenfield land?	Percentage of retail, office and leisure development in centres	No target identified
	Value and protect the biodiversity/geodiversity of previously developed land and buildings?	Percentage of employment land, by type which is on previously developed land (AMR)	No target identified
		Encourage land use and development that optimises the use of previously developed land and buildings	No target identified
		Percentage of new and converted dwellings on previously developed land (AMR)	No target identified
SA2 Increase use of public transport, cycling and walking as a proportion of total travel and ensure that development is focussed on urban areas making efficient use of existing transport infrastructure.	Is new development served by public transport ?	Percentage of new residential development within 30 mins public transport time of a GP, hospital, primary and secondary school, employment and a major shopping centre (AMR)	By 2020, increase by 50% the total population within 30 minutes inter-peak travel time of a main NHS hospital by 'accessible' public transport compared to 2005 (West Midlands Local Transport Plan)
	Are new developments within easy access of public transport?		
	Encourage walking and cycling?		
	Reduce travel by private car?	Car use outside the inner ring road	By 2020, reduce car use outside the inner ring road by 14%

		Cycling index	(compared to 2000) levels (Local Transport Plan Visions) Increase the cycling index by 1% by 2010 (West Midlands Local Transport Plan)
SA3 Ensure development reduces the need to travel	Reduce traffic volumes? Reduce average journey length?	Increase in road traffic Work Place Travel Plans Number of people working from home	No more than a 7% increase in road traffic mileage between 2004 and 2010 (Local Transport Plan) 30% of all employees to work in organisations committed to work place travel plans by 2011 No target identified
SA4 Ensuring that the design and planning process takes into account predicted changes in Birmingham's climate including flood risk	minimise the risk of flooding from rivers and watercourses to people and property? reduce the risk of damage to property from storm events?	Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on either flood defence grounds or water quality Number of developments built to or over Code for Sustainable Homes / BREEAM minimum standards	No target identified
SA5 Value, protect, enhance and restore the built and historic environment and landscape	protect and enhance features of built and historic environment and landscape?	Monitor the Character & Condition of the listed buildings and the character & condition of the historic environment	No loss of listed buildings or deterioration in the historic environment. Positive improvements in the condition of the above.
SA6 Value, protect, maintain, restore and re-create local biodiversity	Use approaches that improve the resilience of natural systems such as linking fragmented habitats where possible? conserve and enhance natural/semi-natural habitats and conserve and enhance species diversity?	Change in areas and populations of biodiversity importance, including: (i) change in priority habitats and species (by type); and (ii) change in areas designated from their intrinsic environmental value including sites of international, national, regional or sub-regional significance (AMR)	No loss of SSSIs Maintain current extent of other Priority Habitats (RSS) Birmingham and Black Country Biodiversity Action Plan Targets (various)

		<p>Populations of Wild Birds (Working with the Grain of Nature)</p> <p>Biological quality of rivers (Working with the Grain of Nature)</p> <p>Net loss/gain in area of SINC/ SLINC/1RIGs (Local Sites)</p> <p>Net loss/gain in area of environmental/green infrastructure</p> <p>Number of LNRs designated</p> <p>Net loss/gain in amount of Local Biodiversity Action Plan habitat</p> <p>Positive/ negative impact on Local Biodiversity Action Plan species</p>	<p><i>No target identified</i></p> <p>Specific River Quality Objective Targets (Environment Agency)</p> <p>Net gain</p> <p>Net gain</p> <p>5yr target</p> <p>Net gain</p> <p>Positive impact</p>
SA7 Value, protect, enhance and restore Birmingham's natural landscape.	Safeguard and enhance the character of the local landscape and local distinctiveness?	None Found	None found
SA8 Minimise air pollution levels and create good quality air	improve air quality?	Nitrogen dioxide levels	By 2011, reduce the average nitrogen dioxide level by 1% in areas where nitrogen dioxide exceeds the national objective compared to 2004/05 (West Midlands LTP)
SA9 Minimise water pollution levels and create good quality water	improve water quality?	<p>Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on either flood defence grounds or water quality (AMR)</p> <p>Biological quality of rivers (Working with the Grain of Nature)</p> <p>Percentage of water bodies classified as being of 'good ecological status'</p> <p>Incorporation of surface water management</p>	<p>No target identified</p> <p>Specific River Quality Objective Targets (Environment Agency)</p> <p>All water bodies to reach 'Good Ecological Status' by 2015 (Water Framework Directive)</p>

		systems on new developments	
SA10 Minimise ground pollution levels and create good quality soil	Maintain and enhance soil quality? Minimise the loss of soils to development?	Area of contaminated land	No target identified – reduction if possible
SA11 Achieve a strong, stable and sustainable economy and economic prosperity	encourage and support a culture of enterprise and innovation, including social enterprise? improve business development and enhance competitiveness? promote growth in key sectors? Reduce unemployment, especially amongst disadvantaged groups.	Amount of land developed for employment by type (AMR) Employment land supply by type (AMR) Loss of employment land to other uses (AMR)	No target identified No target identified No target identified
SA12 Promote investment in future prosperity, including ongoing investment and engagement in learning and skills development	ensure that the local workforce is equipped with the skills to access high quality employment opportunities suited to the changing economy, whilst recognising the value and contribution of unpaid work?	Proportion of vacant commercial units in centres	No target identified
SA13 Encourage land use and development that creates and sustains well-designed, high quality built environments that incorporate green space, encourage biodiversity, and promote local distinctiveness and sense of place	improve the satisfaction of a diverse range of people with their neighbourhood?	Provision of open space: (i) Net loss/gain in amount of public open space and public and private playing fields; (ii) Percentage of new dwelling completions within reasonable walking distance of public open space Number of planning applications including a landscape appraisal	No net loss Meet criteria in Examination Birmingham Development Plan 100% of applications
SA14 Address poverty and disadvantage, taking into account the particular difficulties of those facing multiple disadvantage	recognise that deprived areas and disadvantaged communities are more likely to be affected by environmental damage and degradation? Reduce household poverty, especially the	Children in poverty (Tackling Health Inequalities: A Programme for Action) Homeless families living in temporary accommodation (Tackling Health Inequalities: A Programme for Action)	No target identified By 2009, reduce by 36% the number of people and families accepted as homeless (Community Strategy)

	proportion of children living in poor households?	Consumption of fruit and vegetables (Tackling Health Inequalities: A Programme for Action)	No target identified
		Proportion in non-decent housing (Tackling Health Inequalities: A Programme for Action)	No target identified
		Percentage of 5-16 year olds undertaking moderate physical activity	By 2009, increase percentage of 5-16 year olds undertaking moderate physical activity by 26%
		- Infant mortality - Life expectancy at birth	By 2010 reduce the inequalities in health outcomes by 10% as measured by infant mortality and life expectancy at birth (Tackling Health Inequalities: A Programme for Action)
		Gap between the areas with the worst health and deprivation indicators and the population as a whole	By 2010 reduce by at least 10% the gap between the areas with the worst health and deprivation indicators and the population as a whole (Tackling Health Inequalities: A Programme for Action)
		Gap in mortality between routine and manual groups and the population as a whole	Starting with children under one year, by 2010 reduce by at least 10% the gap in mortality between routine and manual groups and the population as a whole (Tackling Health Inequalities: A Programme for Action)
		- Number of people killed or seriously injured in road accidents in Birmingham - Number of children killed or seriously injured in road accidents in Birmingham	Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in Great Britain in road accidents by 40% and the number of children killed or seriously injured by 50% by 2010

			compared with the average for 1994-98 (Transport White Paper, The Future of Transport)
SA15 Improve health and reduce health inequalities by encouraging and enabling healthy active lifestyles and protecting health Improve opportunities to participate in diverse cultural and recreational activities	provide equitable access to local Services and facilities? encourage healthy lifestyles?	Improvements to leisure & community facilities Improvements in key health indicators- e.g. obesity.	No target identified No target identified
SA16 Reduce crime, fear of crime and antisocial behaviour	reduce crime? reduce the fear of crime?	Recorded crime rates	Reduce total recorded crime by 20% (Community Safety Strategy)
SA17 Enable communities to influence the decisions that affect their neighbourhoods and quality of life.	Encourage local stewardship of local environments, for example enabling communities to improve their neighbourhoods? Encourage engagement in community activities for example through the establishment of social and cultural facilities that address the needs of equalities groups? Increase the ability of people to influence decisions?	Percentage of people who feel that they can influence decisions affecting the local area Percentage of geographic coverage of community neighbourhood forums Membership of community networks and associations Percentage of citizens who are active citizens or volunteers	By 2009, increase by 63% the percentage of people who feel that they can influence decisions affecting the local area (Community Strategy) By 2009, increase by 15% (to 75%) the geographic coverage of community neighbourhood forums (Community Strategy) By 2009, increase by 50% (to 12,000) the membership of community networks and associations (Community Strategy) By 2009, increase by 18-30% the percentage of citizens who are active citizens or volunteers (Community Strategy)
SA18 Improve opportunities to participate in diverse cultural, sporting and recreational activities.	Improve sporting or recreational facilities? Encourage participation in sport and cultural activities for all the diverse communities in	Percentage of residents satisfied with museums and galleries Percentage of residents	By 2009, increase by 7% the percentage of residents satisfied with museums and galleries (Community Strategy) By 2008/9, 55% of

	the area?	<p>satisfied with library services</p> <p>Percentage of residents satisfied with theatres and concert halls</p> <p>Percentage of 5-16 year olds undertaking moderate physical activity</p> <p>Percentage of children achieving Key Stage 2 standard for swimming by age 11</p> <p>Gap between 5-15 year olds from equalities groups undertaking moderate physical activity and the average</p>	<p>residents will be satisfied with library services (LAA)</p> <p>By 2009, increase by 6% the percentage of residents satisfied with theatres and concert halls (Community Strategy)</p> <p>By 2009, increase the percentage of 5-16 year olds undertaking moderate physical activity by 26% (Community Strategy)</p> <p>By 2009, double the percentage of children achieving Key Stage 2 standard for swimming (25m) by age 11 (Community Strategy)</p> <p>No target identified</p>
SA19 Ensure easy and equitable access to services, facilities and opportunities, including jobs and learning	ensure that people are not disadvantaged with regard to ethnicity, gender, age, disability, faith, sexuality, background or location?	Development of business and training opportunities	No target identified
SA20 Provide decent and affordable housing for all, of the right quantity, type, tenure and affordability to meet local needs.	<p>increase the range and affordability of housing for all groups?</p> <p>reduce the number of unfit homes?</p> <p>reduce homelessness?</p>	<p>Housing trajectory showing:</p> <p>(i) net additional dwellings over the previous five year period or since the start of the relevant development plan document period, whichever is longer;</p> <p>(ii) net additional dwellings for the current year;</p> <p>(iii) projected net additional dwellings up to the end of the relevant</p>	No targets identified

		<p>development plan document or over a ten year period from its adoption whichever is the longer;</p> <p>(iv) the annual net additional dwelling requirement; and</p> <p>(v) annual average number of net additional dwellings needed to meet overall housing requirements, having regard to previous years' performances (AMR)</p> <p>Affordable housing completions (AMR)</p> <p>Reduction in vacancies in the existing housing stock (AMR)</p> <p>Number (or proportion) of Lifetime Homes constructed</p> <p>Length of stay in temporary accommodation (hostel)</p>	<p>No targets identified</p> <p>No targets identified</p> <p>No targets identified</p> <p>By 2008/9, the average stay in temporary accommodation will be 60 days (63% reduction on 04/05) (LAA)</p>
--	--	---	---

6. Summary

The Stirchley SPD is being prepared with the following 4 objectives:

- encourage investment in Stirchley, and increase employment in the area
- confirm the Council's overall aspirations for the regeneration of Stirchley;
- provide guidance to support the determination of planning applications; and
- ensure sites coming forward for development will contribute to the Council's vision for Stirchley

It is considered prudent to prepare Sustainability Appraisal (SA) to accompany the SPD. This will ensure that the SPD is robust, and that sustainability considerations are properly taken into account. The SA ensures that the potential social, economic and environmental impacts associated with the Stirchley SPD are identified, and that measures are taken to mitigate any potentially detrimental effects.

The Appraisal sets out a framework to provide the context in which the potential effects of the SPD are assessed. There are 4 main elements to the framework:

- Identification of the SA Issues, Objectives and Appraisal considerations
- Assessing the strategic options
- Testing the SPD Objectives and the SA Objectives
- Appraisal of the SPD and the SA Objectives

A number of Sustainability Issues have been identified as being relevant to the SPD, which in turn have led to the development of 20 Objectives for the Sustainability Appraisal. A Scoping Report has been prepared and subjected to statutory consultations, as required by the SEA Directive.

A test to examine strategic options (do nothing/produce up to date policy guidance) has been undertaken to determine whether the likely effects of each option would be positive, negative or neutral in respect of the sustainability objectives. This led to the clear conclusion that the preferable strategic option is to prepare an SPD to ensure that the city has policy guidance which is fit for purpose.

The SA Objectives were then tested against the Objectives of the SPD. Most relationships were positive, with an equal amount of uncertain/neutral interactions. Importantly, no potential incompatible relationships were revealed.

The policy guidance within the SPD was then tested against the SA Objectives. This test shows that the SPD policies perform relatively well against the SA objectives. There are predicted to be positive effects in respect of a number of the social and economic objectives, in particular those relating to sustainable communities. Of particular note is the demonstration that the draft policies in the SPD are not expected to have any adverse impacts on sustainability.

Appendices

Appendix 1: List of other plans and programmes of relevance to the SPD

International:

EU (1992) Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EEC, Habitats Directive)

National:

Defra (2005) UK Sustainable Development Strategy

National Planning Policy Framework 2012

ODPM (2003) Sustainable Communities Plan

Guidance on the Control of Odour and Noise from Commercial Kitchen Exhaust Systems –

Department for Environment food and Rural affairs

Litter and Refuse - Guidance on Part 4 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 as amended by the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 – (DEFRA)

Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.

Air Quality Framework Directive (96/62/EC)

Strong and Prosperous Communities - The Local Government White Paper (2006)

Waste Strategy for England 2007

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended);

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000;

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006;

The Climate Change Act 2008;

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

Waterways for Tomorrow

Regional:

Sustainability West Midlands (2006) – Regional Sustainable Development Framework

The 7 Authorities of the West Midlands Metropolitan Area (2006) - West Midlands Local Transport Plan

West Midlands Regional Assembly (2005) - West Midlands Regional Housing Strategy and

The West Midlands Regional Strategy (pending the outcome of the Localism Bill)

West Midlands Regional Visitor Economy Strategy (2008)

Local:

Birmingham City Council (2014) - Examination Birmingham Development Plan

Birmingham City Council (2005) - The Birmingham Plan (UDP, pending completion and adoption of the Birmingham Development Plan)

Birmingham City Council (2005) - Developing Birmingham: An Economic Strategy for the City 2005-2015

Birmingham Sustainable Community Strategy 2026

Birmingham City Council Heritage Strategy 2007-2012.

Sustainable Management of Urban Rivers & Floodplains SPD 2007

Birmingham Mobility Action Plan

Appendix 2: Compliance with the SEA directive - quality assurance checklist

The following table demonstrates how this sustainability appraisal complies with the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)

<u>Quality Assurance Checklist</u>	
SEA Directive requirements	Where covered in the SA Report
Preparation of an environmental report in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated.	This Report and predecessors
a) An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.	Outline (Sections 1 & 2) of this SA Report; and Section 2 of scoping report (Links with other related plans, programmes and policies are identified and explained). Appendix 1 contains the listing of these key documents.
b) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.	Section 3.32 & appendix 7 of this Report. See also baseline data published in the Scoping Report.
c) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	See section 3 of this Report
d) Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC.	See section 3 of this Report
e) The environmental protection, objectives, established at international, Community or national level, 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.	See Scoping Report.
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. (Footnote: These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects).	See key sustainability issues in section 3 of this SA Report and explanation in appendix 4.
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.	Appraisal of significant effects in section 4 of this SA Report.
h) An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information.	Methodology (section 2) Appraisal framework (Section 3) Appraisal of the Shopping & Local Centres SPD Policies (Section 4)

i) a description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Art. 10	Monitoring
j) a non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	Summary
The report must include the information that may reasonably be required taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme, its stage in the decision-making process and the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process to avoid duplication of the assessment (Art. 5.2)	This SA Report
Consultation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • authorities with environmental responsibility, when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information which must be included in the environmental report (Art. 5.4) • authorities with environmental responsibility and the public, shall be given an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and the accompanying environmental report before the adoption of the plan or programme (Art. 6.1, 6.2) • other EU Member States, where the implementation of the plan or programme is likely to have significant effects on the environment of that country (Art. 7). 	<p>Consultation on Scoping Report and response to comments received at Appendix 3.</p> <p>The Sustainability Report and the draft SPD are being published together for public consultation.</p> <p>Not considered necessary in the case of this SPD.</p>
Taking the environmental report and the results of the consultations into account in decision-making (Art. 8)	The Sustainability Appraisal report and consultation responses will be taken into account before the SPD is adopted.
Provision of information on the decision: When the plan or programme is adopted, the public and any countries consulted under Art.7 must be informed and the following made available to those so informed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the plan or programme as adopted • a statement summarising how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme and how the environmental report of Article 5, the opinions expressed pursuant to Article 6 and the results of consultations entered into pursuant to Art. 7 have been taken into account in accordance with Art. 8, and the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and • the measures decided concerning monitoring (Art. 9) 	Environmental and other relevant bodies and the public will be informed when the SPD is adopted.
Monitoring of the significant environmental effects of the plan's or programme's implementation (Art. 10)	The Sustainability Appraisal for the Examination Birmingham Development Plan identifies a range of monitoring indicators which will be reported upon as part of the Annual Monitoring Report.

Appendix 3: Responses received on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

1. English Heritage

No response received

2. Environment Agency

No response received

3. Natural England

By Email

Consultation Service
Hornbeam House
Electra Way
Crewe Business Park
Crewe
CW1 6GJ
T: 0300 060 3900

Dear Mr Richardson,

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Scoping Report: Stirchley Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

Thank you for your consultation on the above, which was received by Natural England on 2 December.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

In general Natural England supports the proposed SA/SEA scope. We have a number of recommendations intended to further strengthen the SA/SEA, presented below

1. Do you agree with the main sustainability issues identified? These are listed in Table 1. They outline the key problems and opportunities affecting Stirchley and the issues which should be taken into account.

We welcome the recognition given to the River Rea under the points on biodiversity, landscape and water quality. The River Rea is an important Green Infrastructure corridor and as such should be protected and enhanced. **(Noted)**

2. Do you know of any other baseline information which will help to inform the SA process? The key baseline information relating to each sustainability issue is presented in Section 3. This information will be used to help inform the appraisal process.

Reference could be made to the Statement of the Environment Reports, if considered relevant and kept up to date locally;

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/publications/sone/default.aspx>.

Reference could be made to the Council's PPG17 audits and Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt);

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/enjoying/places/greenspace/default.aspx> .

The Local Records Centre should be able to provide baseline information on biodiversity matters, if considered relevant. **(Noted however PPG17 now replaced by the NPPF)**

3. Do you agree that the SA objectives cover the breadth of sustainability issues appropriate for Stirchley?

The appraisal questions under D Managing Climate Change should be expanded to cover additional aspects of climate change, including mitigation through reducing emissions and other elements of adaptation, such as increasing temperatures. **(Added CO² Emissions)**

The relevance of the appraisal question around derelict land to point G Natural Landscape is not immediately apparent. Whilst derelict land can in some circumstances detract from the appearance of an area, this is generally an issue for urban areas and therefore is not relevant when considering the natural landscape. The potential wildlife value of derelict areas should also be borne in mind. The appraisal question around improving the landscape quality and character of the countryside should be expanded to cover all types of open/green space, making it more relevant to Stirchley. **(noted and done)**

The meaning of the appraisal question Will it protect ground quality under J Soil Quality is ambiguous. We suggest instead Will it protect/improve soil quality. This would also then encompass the remediation of any contaminated land. **(Noted and done)**

Additional recommendations

2.1 Relevant Plans and Programmes

We recommend adding the following pieces of relevant legislation:

- The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended);
- The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000;
- The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006;
- The Climate Change Act 2008;
- The Flood and Water Management Act 2010. **(Noted & included)**

3.3 City Wide SA Topics

- Point B) Sustainable Transport should make reference to climate change or contain a cross reference to point D) Managing Climate Change.
- Point D) Managing Climate Change only covers flooding. We recommend that other aspects of climate change adaptation are given equal weight. Predicted temperature rises may be particularly pertinent, with reference to the urban heat island effect. Climate change mitigation should also be covered.
- Point F) Biodiversity could be expanded to include mention of protected species and wider biodiversity, with connections to Green Infrastructure. **(Noted: these indicators are copied from the Development Plan SA and need to stand as written)**

Table 3 Monitoring Indicators and Targets

Against the SA Objective on Climate Change, the number of developments built in line with or in over minimum standards set in the Code for Sustainable Homes/BREEAM could be monitored **(Noted : in line with Places for the Future draft SPD)**. The number of developments informed by CABE's Climate Change Adaptation by Design could also be monitored, if the council were to promote this as best practice.

We note that there are no Indicators/Targets against the SA Objective's to Value, protect, enhance and restore the built and historic environment and landscape and to Value, protect, enhance and restore Birmingham's natural landscape. We recommend reviewing the local State of the Environment Report to see whether this brings relevant indicators to light. **(Noted: indicators found in the Regeneration Through Conservation – Strategy SPD 1999)**

A possible way forward might be to monitor the contribution of developments towards local Green Infrastructure aspirations. This could also be relevant against the SA Objective on

biodiversity and on encouraging land use and development to create well-designed, high quality built environments.

Household carbon emissions are not a relevant Indicator against the SA Objective on air quality, as carbon emissions do not affect air quality. **(Noted and removed)**

An additional Indicator based around ANGSt could be added under SA Objective Improve opportunities to participate in diverse cultural, sporting and recreational activities.

For any correspondence or queries relating to this consultation only, please contact Hayley Pankhurst using the details given below. For all other correspondence, please contact the address above or email consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Hayley Pankhurst
Lead Advisor
Land Use Operations Team

Additional responses

Highways Agency Email

Many thanks for your consultation regarding the Stirchley SPD Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, below.

The Highways Agency has had previous involvement with Birmingham City Council regarding the Birmingham Core Strategy, and expects this engagement to continue as the Core Strategy progresses through the various stages to adoption. However, Stirchley is located some distance from the M6 and M5 Motorways. As a result, we do not expect the SPD Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report to have a significant impact on the Strategic Road Network around the Birmingham area. Therefore, the Highways Agency has no comments to make regarding this document.

Regards

Letty Cheadle

Highways Agency | The Cube | 199 Wharfside Street | Birmingham | B1 1RN

(Noted)

Severn Trent Email

Further to your request for views and observations on the content of the scoping report, please find below the following comments:

1; With regards to the issues identified in table 1 could you please consider including the following items

Managing Climate Change

In addition we would like to see included mention of the need to apply water efficiency techniques to future developments in order to conserve future water resources. **(Noted & incorporated in SPD)**

Water Quality

In order for us to free up capacity in the Foul Sewers we will need to look at ways to reduce the amount of Surface Water (rain water) that enters the Foul Sewers. Also in addition, Surface Water should be managed on site for all developments and not connected to the public sewerage system. Where connecting Surface Water to the public sewerage system is the only option

It is recommended that attenuation is provided to restrict flows to greenfield rates. **(Noted & incorporated in SPD)**

2 & 3 Further to your request for comments we agree at this stage that the SA objectives cover the issues appropriate to Stirchley. **(Noted)**

I hope you find the above comments satisfactory and should you wish to discuss this matter further please do not hesitate to contact me direct.

Kind Regards

Dawn Williams
Water Strategy

Inland Waterways

Email

Dear Mr Richardson,

Re: Stirchley SPD SA Scoping Report September 2011

This letter forms the Inland Waterways Association's response to the consultation on the Stirchley SPD SA Scoping report and is written by its Birmingham, Black Country and Worcestershire Branch on behalf of its ruling Council. The Inland Waterways Association (IWA) is a registered charity, founded in 1946, which advocates the conservation, use, maintenance, restoration and development of the inland waterways for the public benefit. IWA has 18,000 members whose interests include boating, towpath walking, industrial archaeology, nature conservation and many other activities associated with the inland waterways of this country.

Responses to specific details of the SA Scoping report are given below. However, the main relevant point we wish to raise relates to the proposed border of the SPD along the canal, and whether this boundary is the most suitable given the aims of the SPD and its focus on the shopping centre. The IWA believe that, for the SPD to best address the issues it sets out to, particularly regarding transport, access and economy, it should include the full width of the canal, into the Cadbury's site and Bournville station. **(Noted: the SPD boundary runs along the western boundary of the Canal and reference is made to improved links with the Station)**

Cadbury's is a significant visitor attraction, as is the canal – it is a main route for leisure boat traffic into Birmingham. The visitor moorings provided near Cadbury's and the station (currently limited, somewhat insecure and with huge scope to be made more attractive to entice visitors to stop) allow for passing boat traffic to contribute to the local economy. Equally, the shopping centre forms the nearest retail and eating destination for Cadbury workers; access needs of this significant market should therefore be considered. As the boundary for the draft SPD is still unclear, this IWA response is based on the assumption that the SPD will include the full width of the canal and the access routes across it into Bournville station/Cadbury's. As such, the SPD should incorporate provision for improved moorings and boating facilities. This will a) entice boaters to stop and thus contribute to the local shopping/dining economy and b) provide an attractive edge-of-centre environment for shoppers, thus enhancing the overall attractiveness of the area to local and city users. **(Noted & incorporated in SPD)**

On this basis, we make the following comments on the text of the SA Scoping report:

Section 2.1 Relevant Policies and Plans

The following documents could be added to the list of relevant documents from which to derive objectives: **(Noted & added)**

- National: Waterways for Tomorrow
<http://archive.defra.gov.uk/rural/documents/countryside/waterways/waterways-for-tomorrow.pdf>
- Local: Sustainable Management of Urban Rivers & Floodplains
<http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/cs/Satellite?c=Page&childpagename=Development%2FPageLayout&cid=1223092715125&pagename=BCC%2FCommon%2FWrapper%2FWrapper>

Section 3.2 Key Sustainability Issues

We would like to highlight that the SPD should take account of the following issues, which sympathetic management of the inland waterway in the SPD area can help address. **(Noted: these indicators are copied from the Development Plan SA and need to stand as written but some points are explored in the SPD)**

- b) **sustainable transport.** The canal towpath can provide cycle and pedestrian links to/from the shopping centre, particularly if bridge, ramp and step access to the towpath is enhanced **(Noted: Already in SPD)**
- e) **historic environment.** We are pleased to see mention of the canals in this section. We recommend wording be amended to note that the historic canals are now heavily-used leisure routes. **(Noted)**
- f) **biodiversity.** Canals serve as biodiversity corridors. Suitable planting as part of the SPD can enhance this **(Noted: Already in SPD)**
- k) **economy.** As highlighted above, the tourist and leisure users of canals, as well as the commuter pedestrian/cycle traffic they carry, can make significant contributions to the surrounding economy IF there is suitable, signed, access to and from the canal and shopping area. For boaters in particular, this means secure, safe-feeling moorings with clear signage. **(Noted & incorporated in SPD)**
- o) **Health** q) **community** and r) **Culture sport and leisure.** The canals provide an accessible, level walking and cycling route and are well used for a range of

recreational activities such as fishing and canoeing. They also provide a focus for community activities, as demonstrated by the nearby Lapal Trust clean-ups etc, or walking group such as those organized for women's groups by the Heartlands Ring Partnership elsewhere in Birmingham. **(Noted)**

Table 1: Key Sustainability Issues in Stirchley

We have the following comments to make on the text in this table:

B) **Sustainable transport**. See b) above. The towpath is on the Cadbury's side of the canal. Therefore access and signage is essential to make the most of this asset.

M) **Sense of place**. The river and canal are unique, important place-making elements in Stirchley. They should be enhanced and made focus of the design of the public realm to enhance the local environment and sense of place

R) **Culture sport and leisure** – See above.

Table 2 (SA Objectives) and Table 3 (Indicators and targets)

We agree with these objectives and indicators. An indicator to be used to measure engagement with the natural and historic environments could be the British Waterways boat and pedestrian counters that are installed at places along this stretch, and periodic towpath user surveys.

We agree with the scoring mechanisms suggested.

IWA would be pleased to be kept informed as to the progress of this SDP. We would be grateful if you could send these to me, Nicki Schiessel, at the above address or by email. If you have any further questions on points of detail, I'd be happy to discuss these. **(noted & included in consultation list for the SPD)**

Yours faithfully,
Nicki Schiessel
IWA Planning Officer, Birmingham

Sport England

Good afternoon John,

Further to the invite to Sport England to comment on the above draft.

Active Places: www.Activeplaces.com gives a comprehensive list of sporting venues within Stirchley.

It should be noted that the City's leisure department have just produced the following strategies: Playing Pitch Strategy; Sports Halls, Artificial Grass Pitch and Fitness Studio Strategy; and Swimming Strategy. **(noted)**

Under the monitoring section for sport and recreational section, I would suggest that you use the Active People Survey data which is available quarterly from Sport England:

http://www.sportengland.org/research/active_people_survey.aspx

This survey has been taken place for a number of years now and therefore is considered to be sound for baseline data on how active local communities are and then used by a number of LA for setting target for increasing physical activity and linking it to schemes for improving health. **(noted: however the survey only reports at a citywide level. Birmingham has an estimated population of 1,036,800 with a**

population of just under 10,000 (0.9% of the City) Stirchley has little impact on these figures and any baseline data is impossible to calculate)

This would allow to set a target for increasing participation in sport for the 18+ which can then be monitored.

Kind regards
Bob

Bob Sharples MRTPI RIBA
Planning Manager

Appendix 4: Brief description of sustainability issues relevant to the SPD

a) Efficient Use of Land:

A very high proportion (80%) of employment development in Birmingham has taken place on previously developed land between 1991 and 2006. Retail and office development has been largely directed to existing centres in line with policy in the UDP, unless exceptional circumstances have been demonstrated.

b) Sustainable Transport

The city has a complex road network with around 12 major radial roads and ring roads traversing the city. There are also three busy motorways: the M5, M6 and M42, located towards the west, north and east of the city respectively. Although there has been a recent rise in the use of the car, there has been a reduction in average travel speeds according to the Transport Strategy. Congestion is a significant issue and demand exceeds available capacity at certain times and in some locations, both on road and rail. Congestion has indirect and cumulative effects on the economy, securing urban renaissance, on people's health and well being and on air quality. Congestion can make deliveries less reliable and deter investment in Birmingham

c) Reduce the need to travel

Birmingham draws in workers from across the West Midlands region, and according to the 2001 Census there were about 64,000 more people with a workplace in Birmingham than there were employed residents. Managers, senior officials and professionals make up about 35% of persons commuting into Birmingham, compared with 23% of the City's working residents.

d) Managing Climate Change:

Many of Birmingham's rivers and streams are susceptible to flooding (whether due to climate change or otherwise), and the City Council is required to consult the Environment Agency on all planning applications within the floodplain zones defined by the Agency. The City Council is undertaking a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA). Development and Flood Risk. The results of the SFRA should be incorporated into the SA process once they become available.

Flood zones in Birmingham are mapped based on the Environment Agency Indicative Flood Maps and some centres are within flood zones.

e) Built and Historic Environment:

Birmingham has a wide variety of distinctive historic townscapes, buildings and landscapes. There are currently 25 Conservation Areas in Birmingham, which accounts for 4% of the land area. The City's Listed Buildings range in date from mediaeval churches and houses to important examples of 20th century architecture. Some centres are within Conservation Areas and many centres contain Listed Buildings. Birmingham also has an extensive network of historic canals, reflecting its key role during the Industrial Revolution in the 18th and 19th centuries.

The City's archaeological resource is surprisingly varied for such a major urban area. Some remains are recognised as being of national importance, and are protected by scheduling. The Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) maintained by the City Council includes details of all known archaeological remains within local centres.

f) Biodiversity:

Birmingham has a number of areas that are protected for their nature conservation value, including Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Sites of Importance for Nature

Conservation (SINC), Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (SLINC) and Local Nature Reserves (LNRs). Some of these sites adjoin or are close to existing centres.

g) Natural landscape

Although much of Birmingham is built up, there is a significant amount of open land within the City. Approximately 15% of Birmingham's land area is designated as Green Belt which lies within the Cannock Chase and Cank Wood JCA. This includes all the open countryside within the City's boundary, as well as other areas extending into the City, for example along river valleys. There are also areas of open space within the built-up areas of the City, such as parks and playing fields, nature reserves and allotments.

h) Air Quality:

The whole of Birmingham was declared as an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in 2003. The main pollutant is nitrogen dioxide, the primary sources of which are transport and industrial combustion processes.

The transportation sector is a major contributor to the emissions of nitrogen oxides across the city, but there has been a slight decrease in the traffic contribution over the last few years according to the Air Quality Action Plan.

i) Water Quality:

The Environment Agency monitors the chemical and biological quality of rivers and waterways. A comparison of the % river length with good biological/chemical quality shows that the figures for Birmingham are significantly below the regional and national averages.

j) Soil Quality:

As most of Birmingham is built-up, there is very little quality soil in local centres. There are a number of sites which could be subject to land contamination, especially where there has been a broad spectrum of manufacturing industries and land uses such as roads, canals and railways, which have the potential to leave a legacy of land contamination.

k) Economy

Birmingham's economic prosperity was originally built on manufacturing, but changes in the 1970s and 80s led to a massive decline in this sector. Centres such as Stirchley provide an important source of local employment, particularly in the retail sector. Vital and viable centres are also important to a thriving economy.

l) Learning and skills:

Learning and skills is an issue in Birmingham, particularly with regard to poor educational achievement.

m) Sense of Place

Birmingham people are positive about their city; according to the Community Strategy, and opinion polls show that three quarters of people think it is a good place to live. Centres are important focal points of community life, and Birmingham is characterised by a large number of well established local centres, each with their own identity and range of shops and other facilities and services, all of which contribute to sense of place

n) Population

Birmingham's residents are from a wide range of national, ethnic and religious backgrounds. The city is one of the most ethnically diverse cities in Europe. Birmingham also has high levels of deprivation and unemployment.

The population is continuing to rise as projected in the emerging Core Strategy and other strategic plans to have 100,000 increase by 2026.

o) Health:

Birmingham's population suffers from a number of health problems. A key concern has been a sharp rise in obesity. Recent evidence places Birmingham firmly in the top 20% of Local Authorities with the highest prevalence of obesity in adults, and just outside the top 20% for children. Research has found that hot food Takeaway Outlets generally serve unhealthy food high in fat, and exposure to take away shops can result in obesity and health problems

p) Crime:

Amongst Core Cities, Birmingham recorded the lowest overall crime rate per 1,000 population in 2005/2006 and the trend of a marked reduction in overall recorded crime continues. According to performance update figures produced by the Community Safety Partnership (2008), there was a reduction of over 22,000 offences during 2007. However, the rate of violent crime in Birmingham is above the national average, with over 25,000 reported incidents in 2005/06 (NHS, 2007). Crime and safety remain the biggest single concern of local people, with only one third of survey respondents thinking that Birmingham is a safe city (MORI Opinion Survey 2004).

q) Community involvement

One important aspect of community involvement is the extent to which people feel involved in the development of their local area. Surveys in 2005 found over half those asked felt that people together can influence decisions in their constituency (most apparent in areas of Ladywood and Sparkbrook), compared to just over a quarter who felt that people collectively had little or no influence (most apparent in Perry Barr and Selly Oak). (Birmingham Community Strategy – Strategic Assessment Update November 2006)

r) Culture Sport and Recreation

Birmingham is internationally known for sports and exhibitions, with well-known venues including the International Indoor Arena and the National Exhibition Centre. Developments in arts, sports and leisure have played a key part in the City's renaissance over the past twenty years. A significant amount of leisure development that has taken place in Birmingham since 1991 has been tourism related, for example, the National Sea Life Centre and Millennium Point. The number of international visitors to the City has increased from 520,000 in 2000, to 720,000 in 2003 (Office for National Statistics). Culture and leisure facilities both attract people to Birmingham and serve local residents. According to the Community Strategy, surveys show that 45% of Birmingham residents had been to the theatre or a concert in the city in the last year, while 36% had visited a museum or gallery..

s) Equality

A separate Equalities Impact Analysis is under preparation as integral part of the SPD process and as part of the duties set out in the Equality Act 2010, and within the guidance published by the Equalities and Human Rights Commission.

t) Housing

The Office of National Statistics 2006 mid year estimate of Birmingham's population was approximately 1.006 million. The City covers an area of 26,777 hectares (267.8 square kilometres), of which 15,200 hectares is residential. According to the Housing Development Plan Birmingham's residents live in 406,000 – 410,000 households. The city has about 414,000 self-contained properties. The overall population density of 37.4 persons per hectare is much greater than the English average of 3.85. Since 2001, the City's population has grown; the gains reflect a shift in the overall balance of migration from negative to positive, coupled with greater natural increases. The main reason for this has been the high levels of international immigration in recent years. These statistics have implications for housing and service provision.

Appendix 5: Baseline information

Birmingham Examination Birmingham Development Plan Equalities Impact Assessment at <http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/plan2031>

Roger Tym and Partners undertook a retail capacity study which included an assessment of all Centres in Birmingham in 2009.

A summary of the reported health (Birmingham RETAIL NEEDS ASSESSMENT VOLUME 3 - FULL HEALTH CHECK REPORT - Stirchley p59) of retail centres in Birmingham as well as detailed reports are provided under the evidence base at [http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/plan2031/evidence base](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/plan2031/evidence%20base)

Examination Birmingham Development Plan Sustainability Appraisal – reports available at <http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/plan2031>

Appendix 6: Assessment of strategic options

	Option 1 Business as usual continue to rely on UDP, NPPF and Examination Birmingham Development Plan		Option 2 Produce up-to-date policy guidance in a new SPD for the area	
Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Impact	Comments	Impact	Comments
SA1 - Efficient Use of Land	0 S - M - - L	UDP and SPG policies become out of date and weaker as they no longer meet national government guidance. Resulting in further decline in Stirchley through inappropriate development.	+ S + M ++ L	Up to date policy reinforces the concentration of appropriate uses in the area and provides the conditions for further investment.
SA2- Sustainable Transport	-	Minor negative impact if traffic congestion is not addressed .	0 S + M/L	No immediate impact. Longer term effects positive as development brings forward improvements to roads and shifts in transport modes. Improvements to cycle and walking routes (incl access) bring about modal shift.
SA3- Reduce the need to Travel	0 - - L	Neutral Impact. Potential for greater negative impacts if local facilities are lost and routine travel out of area increases for shopping, work etc.	+ M	No immediate impact. Longer term effects positive as development brings forward employee travel plans, and improves shopping offer for locals
SA4- Managing climate change	0 S ? M/L	No immediate impact. Longer term effects uncertain	0 S ? M/L	No immediate impact. Longer term effects uncertain; however insistence on CSH and BREEAM brings about benefits by reducing fuel poverty (and use).
SA5- Built and historic environment	0 S - M/L	Neutral Impact initially, but area will deteriorate from lack investment in the medium / long term	+ S/M ++ L	Positive effects as more buildings brought in to reuse, with improvements in maintenance etc
SA6- Biodiversity	0	Neutral impact	0 S + M/L	No immediate impact. Longer term effects positive as more protection provided with improvements in maintenance etc
SA7- Natural Landscape	0	Neutral impact	0 S + M/L	No immediate impact. Longer term effects positive as more protection provided with improvements in maintenance etc
SA8- Air Quality	0	Neutral impact	0 S + M/L	No immediate impact. Minor positive impact as improvements on SA2 & 3 are realised
SA9- Water quality	0	Neutral impact	0 S + M/L	Neutral impact initially. Positive impacts as SUDS schemes implemented and attenuate run off / reduce pollution.
SA10- Soil quality	0	Neutral impact	0	Neutral impact
SA11- Economy	0 S - M/L	Lack of up-to-date policy guidance could lead to further decline and reducing employment in the area in the longer term	0 S + M/L	Clear policy guidance helps to secure investment and employment in the longer term
SA12- Learning and skills	0 S - M/L	Lack of up-to-date policy guidance could lead to reduced opportunities and skills in the longer term	0 S + M/L	Clear policy guidance can help to secure investment in learning and skills in the longer term
SA13- Sense of place	0 S - M/L	Lack of up-to-date policy guidance could lead to ongoing loss of retail units to other non-retail uses in the long term & further neglect of area through poor quality conversions.	+ S ++ M/L	Clear policy guidance brings certainty to the short term, and helps to secure a healthy mix of appropriate uses and investment in the longer term. With improvements in public realm and building appearance.
SA14- Population	0 S ? M/L	No immediate effects on communities, but the longer term impact of a lack of up-to-date policy is unclear	0 S + M/L	No immediate effects on communities, but a healthy mix of appropriate uses and investment in the longer term will bring positive benefits to local people
SA15- Health	0	Neutral impact	0 S + M/L	No immediate impact, but increase in health of residents as levels of exercise increase with improvements in (and access to) recreational facilities.
SA16- Crime	0 S ? M/L	Neutral impact; may be long term negative effects if area deteriorates through lack of investment.	0 S + M/L	No immediate impact but reduction in crime levels with improved surveillance from increased use of buildings, and increase in residential above shops.
SA17- Community Involvement	0	Neutral impact	+ S/M/L	Investment in the area will bring a stronger sense of community and with it a greater sense of community investment and involvement.
SA18- Culture / Sport / Recreation	0 S - M/L	Neutral Impact in short term with potential for loss or running down of facilities due to lack of investment.	0 S ++ M/L	Investment in the area will bring further investment in community and recreational facilities through developer contribution.
SA19- Equality	0	Neutral impact	0 S + M/L	Improving services in Stirchley will contribute to improvements in accessibility and equality
SA20- Housing	0	Neutral impact	+ S ++ M/L	Local investment will improve sense of place and make Stirchley more attractive to housing investment. Clear policies on meeting DfL and CSH will guide new residential investment and improve standards.
Key; Impacts ++ Major positive, + Minor positive, 0 Neutral, - Minor negative, - - Major negative, ~ No relationship, ? Uncertain. Timescales Short = S (<5yrs) Medium = M (5-10yrs) Long = L (>10yrs)				

Appendix 7: List of abbreviations

BME	Black and Minority Ethnic
BREEAM	Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method
CSH	Code for Sustainable Homes
DfL	Design for Life
DPD	Development Plan Document
EINA	Equalities Impact Needs Assessment
LDF	Local Development Framework
NHS	National Health Service
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
ODPM	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SLINC	Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SUDS	Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems
UDP	Unitary Development Plan
UK	United Kingdom