

Local development framework

CHELTENHAM

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**CHELTENHAM CENTRAL CONSERVATION AREA
MANAGEMENT PLANS SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING
DOCUMENT**

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL REPORT

JULY 2008

Cheltenham Borough Council
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CHELTENHAM CENTRAL CONSERVATION AREA MANAGEMENT PLANS SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL REPORT

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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Sustainability Appraisal is a process to promote sustainable development through the integration of social, environmental and economic considerations into the preparation of major new plans and programmes.

This Scoping Report describes the early stages of the Sustainability Appraisal process which will be used to assess Cheltenham Central Conservation Area Management Plans, which will form Supplementary Planning Documents within the Local Development Framework and which will provide guidance on how the preservation or enhancement of the character or appearance of character areas can be achieved through a set of management proposals. The Supplementary Planning Documents will provide a sound basis for development control decisions and will be used in conjunction with the Local Plan as a material consideration in determining planning applications.

This report establishes the scope, legislative context and approach used to undertake the appraisal process, in line with Government advice. It also incorporates the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive which is designed to provide a level of protection to the environments when new plans are prepared.

The Sustainability Appraisal process consists of five stages:

Table 1: The five stages of Sustainability Appraisal	
Stage A	Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope of the appraisal process
Stage B	Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects
Stage C	Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report
Stage D	Consulting on the draft plan and Sustainability Appraisal Report
Stage E	Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the plan

This Scoping Report covers Stage A, which in itself consists of five stages:

Table 2: The five stages of Stage A – Scoping	
Stage A1	An assessment of relevant plans, policies and programmes to identify Sustainability Themes
Stage A2	Collection of baseline information
Stage A3	Identification of Sustainability Issues
Stage A4	Development of SA framework consisting of Sustainability Objectives, Decision Aiding Questions and Potential Indicators
Stage A5	Consultation on the scope of the SA with statutory consultees

In summary, this complex process firstly involved the identification of a series of **Key Sustainability Themes** using Stage A1, the assessment of relevant plans, policies and programmes. This involved looking at a range of national, regional and local plans and programmes to identify what external influences there will be on the Cheltenham Central Conservation Area Management Plans Sustainability Appraisal process.

Following on from this, Stage A2, the collection of **baseline data** for Cheltenham, looked at environmental, economic and social data and trends using a large number of indicators, some of which have been tracked over a number of years. These were then analysed to identify

Key Sustainability Issues for the Cheltenham Central Conservation Area Management Plans to address. (Stage A3).

Finally, the Themes and Issues were then used to develop a set of **Sustainability Objectives**, which will form the basis of the **Sustainability Framework**. (Stage A4). In order to consider the sustainability effects of the Cheltenham Central Conservation Area Management Plans, and compare how different options would help to deliver the Sustainability Objectives, a series of **Decision Aiding Questions** and **Potential Indicators** were drawn up.

20 Sustainability Objectives have been identified from this initial scoping exercise. These are shown in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Sustainability Objectives for Cheltenham Central Conservation Area Management Plans SA	
1.	Protect, restore, create and enhance habitats, species and sites of wildlife or geological interest
2.	Reduce carbon emissions, striving for a carbon neutral borough
3.	Improve the resilience of people, businesses and the environment to the inevitable consequences of climate change
4.	Manage and reduce flood risk and surface water run-off
5.	Maximise the use of sustainable modes of transport
6.	Maximise appropriate reuse of previously developed land
7.	Minimise development of open land and green spaces within Cheltenham
8.	Protect and enhance the unique setting and landscape character of Cheltenham
9.	Minimise the volume of waste created and promote reuse, recycling and composting to reduce landfill
10.	Protect and enhance Cheltenham's distinctive townscape quality and its historic heritage
11.	Improve air, water and soil quality and reduce noise and light pollution and the amount of contaminated land
12.	Support people and existing businesses in reducing their carbon footprint and the use of natural resources
13.	Support the vitality and viability of Cheltenham town centre as a retail, service, leisure and learning destination
14.	Protect and enhance Cheltenham's vibrant cultural life
15.	Integrate sustainable construction principles and standards into all development schemes
16.	Reduce inequalities in wellbeing and opportunity
17.	Improve the health and wellbeing of local residents, with good access to community health facilities
18.	Protect and enhance open spaces, gardens and allotments for leisure and recreation, including creating opportunities for wildlife and local food production
19.	Reduce crime and the fear of crime
20.	Encourage everyone to participate in local decision making

Public involvement through consultation is a key element of the SA process. This first round of consultation on the Scoping Report will involve the three statutory consultees (Natural England, English Heritage and The Environment Agency) as well as other local stakeholders.

CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report has been prepared by Cheltenham Borough Council, as part of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Cheltenham Central Conservation Area Management Plans Supplementary Planning Documents.
- 1.2 Sustainability Appraisal is required for all new plans under the new system of planning introduced by the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act. The requirements of the European Union Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive have been incorporated within this Sustainability Appraisal process, in line with government good practice guidance. The Scoping Report also incorporates a screening judgement on the need for Habitats Regulation Assessment.
- 1.3 This report has been published for consultation with the three statutory bodies identified under the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations (2004): English Heritage, the Environment Agency and Natural England. The report has also been made available to a number of other local stakeholders and published on Cheltenham Borough Council's website.
- 1.4 The Sustainability Appraisal process is iterative and ongoing so comments will always be welcome, however, only comments received before 5pm on Monday the 18th of February will be considered in the revision of the Sustainability Appraisal Framework set out in Chapter 8.

PURPOSE OF THE SCOPING REPORT

- 1.5 The purpose of Sustainability Appraisal is to promote sustainable development and focus planning policy on the achievement of sustainable patterns of development in line with the overarching aim of planning set out in Planning Policy Statement 1. The process of Sustainability Appraisal seeks to integrate social, environmental and economic issues into policy making. Sustainability Appraisal informs and supports decision making and should ensure that decisions about the Cheltenham Central Conservation Area Management Plans objectives and policies do not conflict with the achievement of sustainable development.
- 1.6 This report describes the "Scoping" stage of the Sustainability Appraisal process for Cheltenham Central Conservation Area Management Plans. Scoping is the process of deciding the scope and level of detail of the appraisal process, including setting the legislative context, establishing the baseline situation in the Borough and detailing the methodology to be employed during the appraisal.
- 1.7 More information on the scoping stage and the whole appraisal process is set out in Chapters 3 to 5, including details about the methodology employed for the Cheltenham Central Conservation Area Management Plans Sustainability Appraisal. For those familiar with the Sustainability Appraisal process, Chapters 2, 6, 7 and 8 contain detailed information specific to Cheltenham.
- 1.8 If you were involved in responding to the original Scoping Report, you may wish to move straight to Chapter 10.

CHAPTER 2. THE LOCAL CONTEXT

- 2.1 Cheltenham Borough is a predominately urban local authority nestling in the foothills of the Cotswolds in the north east of the South West Region. The Borough has a population of just over 110,000, the majority of which live within the urban area of Cheltenham.
- 2.2 Cheltenham is well connected to national and regional transport infrastructure. The M5 passes directly to the west of the Borough while a mainline station provides direct services to London, Bristol and Birmingham. Cheltenham and Gloucester are, as a result, attractive business locations. Consequentially, the area is generally affluent - although there are pockets of deprivation and housing can be extremely expensive.

NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT

- 2.3 Cheltenham has an attractive and distinctive natural and built environment. It is encircled by designated protected land with the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to the east and south, and green belt to the west and north. The Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty designation covers some 22% of the Borough, while 17% of land is designated as green belt. The town itself nestles against the Cotswold's escarpment and serves as a gateway and service centre.
- 2.4 Cheltenham's built environment is highly regarded. The town centre contains many fine examples of Regency architecture and is justly famous for its public squares and gardens. The town contains 7 distinct conservation areas and has over 2600 listed buildings.

REGIONAL PLANNING CONTEXT

- 2.5 Cheltenham is one of 21 Strategically Significant Cities and Towns identified in the draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West and acts as a centre for tourism and retailing within Gloucestershire and the wider region. The draft Regional Spatial Strategy outlines future growth for Cheltenham in the region of 12,500 new homes and 10,000 new jobs in the period to 2026. Such expansion will not be possible within the administrative boundary of the Borough and is likely to require cross-boundary cooperation with Tewkesbury and other neighbouring Local Authorities.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY

- 2.6 Cheltenham Borough Council signed the *Nottingham Declaration* in 2002 to express its commitment to tackling climate change. Working with a broad stakeholder board, the Council published *Climate Change – A Strategy for Cheltenham* in 2005. The overarching aim of the strategy is to make Cheltenham a carbon neutral Borough. This aspiration has been embedded in successive Community Strategies and the Council's corporate strategic framework.
- 2.7 *Our Future, Our Choice, Cheltenham's Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-11* is based on the principles of community engagement and participation, tackling inequalities and promoting cohesion, and tackling climate change. The Sustainable Community Strategy contains a vision for Cheltenham to:

'deliver a sustainable quality of life, where people, families, their communities and businesses thrive; and in a way which cherishes our cultural and natural heritage, reduces our impact on climate change and does not compromise the quality of life of present and future generations.'

- 2.8 Having consulted widely with the community, the following priorities were identified for concerted and coordinated action over the next 20 years, through both partnership working and implementing the Local Development Framework:
- Promoting community safety;
 - Promoting sustainable living;
 - Promoting a strong and sustainable economy;
 - Building healthy communities and supporting older people;
 - Building stronger communities and supporting housing choice;
 - A focus on children and young people; Investing in environmental quality;
 - Investing in travel and transport;
 - Investing in arts and culture.

CHELTHENHAM CENTRAL CONSERVATION AREA MANAGEMENT PLANS

- 2.9 The Cheltenham Central Conservation Area Management Plans Supplementary Planning Documents will provide guidance on how the preservation or enhancement of the character or appearance of character areas can be achieved through a set of management proposals.
- 2.10 The Management Plan will provide a sound basis for development control decisions and will be used in conjunction with the Local Plan as a material consideration in determining planning applications.
- 2.11 The management plan can be considered to have three broad functions:
- a) **a control tool** - its action points will be material considerations in decision making on applications for planning and related consents;
 - b) **a project development tool** - it will identify proactive work which can address some of the negative factors identified in the Character Appraisal. The responsibility for the work falls within the remit of various agencies (primarily Cheltenham Borough Council and Gloucestershire County Council). Many of the projects do not yet have resources (funding, staffing etc) and few are programmed. However, their inclusion in this document is important because as an adopted document, the management plan can form the basis for bids for resources and programmed works;
 - c) **a best practice guide** - it will establish a series of action points to preserve and enhance the area's character. They should be considered in the design and implementation of all projects regardless of the need for permissions and who is undertaking them (public bodies, corporate bodies or private individuals).

CHAPTER 3. THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL PROCESS

- 3.1 The Cheltenham Central Conservation Area Management Plans will provide guidance on how the preservation or enhancement of the character or appearance of character areas can be achieved through a set of management proposals. To ensure that the management proposals will promote sustainable development and will not encourage harmful impacts on the environment, they will be subject to Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment. To ensure that these processes are conducted as efficiently as possible, an Integrated Assessment methodology has been developed that addresses the level of depth and breadth required by the two processes. The integrated assessment methodology will also incorporate a screening judgement on the need for Habitats Regulation Assessment.

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

- 3.2 The requirement for Sustainability Appraisal is set out in Planning Policy Statement 1 – Delivering Sustainable Development and Planning Policy Statement 12 – Local Development Frameworks. The requirement is formalised in Statutory Instrument 2204 of 2004 - The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004, which states that a Sustainability Appraisal Report must accompany all Local Development Documents at adoption.

THE STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DIRECTIVE

- 3.3 The Strategic Environmental Assessment process is designed to evaluate the potential environmental consequences of proposed policies, plans or programmes and ensure that environmental issues are fully integrated into the policy making process. Strategic Environmental Assessments were introduced by the European Union Directive 2001/42/EC and transposed into English law by Statutory Instrument 1633 of 2004 - the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations.

INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT

- 3.4 Government guidance - Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks (Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, November 2005) – recommends that the requirements of the Directive be combined with Sustainability Appraisal to allow for a single appraisal process of all Local Development Documents.
- 3.5 The integrated process that has been established for the Cheltenham Central Conservation Area Management Plans, as described in this report, is intended to fulfil the requirements of the Directive by looking in depth at the effect on the environment of implementing the Management Plans and the requirement for Sustainability Appraisal by expanding its scope to cover social and economic issues.

HABITATS REGULATION ASSESSMENT

- 3.6 In addition to Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment the Cheltenham Central Areas Management Plan is also subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment under the European Union Habitats Directive with respect to its potential effect on European designated Natura 2000 sites.
- 3.7 It is a requirement of the European Habitats Directive 92/43 that any plan or project that is likely to have a significant effect on a European designated site, such as a Special Area of Conservation, must be subject to an Appropriate Assessment.

- 3.8 There are three Special Areas of Conservation within 15 kilometres of the Borough boundary. The SPD's influence will not extend beyond the urban area of Cheltenham and is therefore highly unlikely that it will have any impact on these sites.

CHAPTER 4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The Sustainability Appraisal process has five stages, and their relationship to the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive are summarised in table 4 below. This Scoping Report represents stages A1 to A4. The remaining stages of the appraisal process will be reported in a Sustainability Appraisal Report to accompany the submission of the Cheltenham Central Conservation Area Management Plans when it goes out for consultation.

Table 4: The Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment process	
Sustainability Appraisal Stage	Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive Requirement
A1: Identification of other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainable development objectives	An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes. The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State 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.
A2: Collection of baseline information	The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme. The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be affected.
A3: Identification of sustainability issues and problems	Any existing environmental problems that 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.
A4: Development of a Sustainability Appraisal Framework	
A5: Consultation on the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal with the statutory consultees	The authorities designated by Member States shall be consulted when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the environmental report.
B1: Testing the Management Plan's objectives against the Sustainability Appraisal Framework	
B2: Developing the Management Plan options	Identification, description and evaluation of likely significant effects on the environment of reasonable alternatives. An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with.
B3: Predicting the effects of the draft Management Plan	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
B4: Evaluating the effects of the draft Management Plan	
B5: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects	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.
B6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Management Plan	A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring.
C1: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report	Preparation of an Environmental Report.
D1: Public participation on the Sustainability Appraisal Report and the draft Management Plan	The draft plan or programme and the Environmental Report shall be made available to the designated authorities and the public.

D2: Assessing significant changes	
D3: Making decisions and providing information	A statement summarising how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme and how the environmental report and the opinions expressed have been taken into account and the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of reasonable alternatives.
E1: Finalising aims and methods for monitoring	Member States shall monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans and programmes in order to identify at an early stage unforeseen adverse effects, and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action.
E2: Responding to adverse effects	

- 4.2 The appraisal process for the Cheltenham Central Conservation Area Management Plans will be undertaken in accordance with government guidance and is compliant with the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive.

CHAPTER 5. STAGE A – OVERVIEW OF THE SCOPING PROCESS

- 5.1 The Scoping Report for the Cheltenham Central Conservation Area Management Plans has been based upon the Scoping Report for Cheltenham Borough Council's Core Strategy. The same scoping stages and methodologies have been undertaken for both Scoping Reports.
- 5.2 In undertaking the scoping stages of the Cheltenham Central Conservation Area Management Plans Sustainability Appraisal process, two key sets of information were analysed to obtain a clear picture of both the higher level plans and policies, and the more detailed local issues, that should influence the development of the Sustainability Appraisal Framework.
- 5.3 Table 5 below sets out the five steps in the scoping process, together with the key outputs from each step:

Table 5: The five stages of Stage A – Scoping		
Stage	Process	Key Output
A1	An assessment of relevant plans, policies and programmes	Identification of Key Sustainability Themes
A2	Collection of baseline information; environmental, economic and social data and trends	List of Key Sustainability Issues
A3	Identification of key sustainability issues and possible sustainability consequences	
A4	Development of Sustainability Appraisal Framework	SA Framework consisting of Sustainability Objectives, Decision Aiding Questions and Potential Indicators
A5	Consultation on the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal with statutory consultees	Revisions to the Sustainability Appraisal Framework

- 5.4 Throughout the appraisal process, the analysis and conclusions have been subdivided into three strands. These reflect both the Government's sustainable development agenda, as articulated in *Securing the Future – UK Government Strategy for Sustainable Development*, and that of Cheltenham's Sustainable Community Strategy, 2008-11, *Our Future, Our Choice*.
- 5.5 These strands are:
1. Living with environmental limits (natural resource protection and enhancement),
 2. A sustainable economy (sustainable consumption and production) and
 3. A strong, healthy and just society (sustainable communities).
- 5.6 In some instances this grouping is somewhat arbitrary, as a number of themes are concerned with more than one strand of sustainability, but the topics covered generally reflect the content of the Sustainable Community Strategy as the Local Development Framework will be a key vehicle for delivering the community's ambitions for Cheltenham.
- 5.7 A detailed explanation of Stages A1 to A4 is set out in chapters 6 to 8 below.

CHAPTER 6. STAGE A1 – REVIEW OF RELEVANT PLANS, POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

- 6.1 The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive and Government guidance require that international, national, regional and local plans, policies, programmes and sustainability objectives that may have relevance to the Central Conservation Area Management Plans are reviewed during this stage of the appraisal process. This review should identify environmental protection objectives together with the potential for the Central Conservation Area Management Plans to contribute to the achievement of the UK Sustainable Development Strategy and other plans and strategies at a regional and local level, including those of other local public services, such as the police or health services.

KEY SUSTAINABILITY THEMES

- 6.2 Table 6 below sets out 14 **Key Sustainability Themes** that have been derived from the review of plans, policies, programmes and strategies as part of Stage A1 of the Sustainability Appraisal scoping process. The table identifies the key sources of guidance for each of the themes as at November 1st 2007.
- 6.3 There are also a number of national strategies and local strategies promoting cross-cutting sustainable development objectives which impact on the majority of the themes, such as the *UK Government Strategy for Sustainable Development, The Planning White Paper: Planning For A Sustainable Future, 2007*; *PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development, 2005*, the *Sustainable Development Framework for the South West*; and *Our Future, Our Choice - Cheltenham Sustainable Community Strategy, 2008-11*.
- 6.4 Appendix 1 of this Scoping Report contains a more detailed summary of the documents reviewed at this stage. Documents published since 1st November 2007 will be included in the full Sustainability Appraisal report which will be published with the Cheltenham Central Conservation Area Management Plans.

Table 6 Key Sustainability Issues identified by the Review of Plans, Policies, Programmes Or Strategies	
Sustainability Theme	Source/Evidence
1. Living within environmental limits (natural resource protection and enhancement)	
Biodiversity – work with the grain of nature to protect, restore, create and enhance habitats, species and sites of geological interest	European Birds Directive, 1979 Convention of Biodiversity, 1992 European Habitats Directive, 1992 England Biodiversity Strategy, 2002 – 2006 PPS9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation, 2005 SW Biodiversity Implementation Plan, 2004 South West Nature Map, 2007 Draft Regional Spatial Strategy, 2006 Gloucestershire Biodiversity Action Plan, 2000
Climate change – reduce carbon emissions through improving energy efficiency and promoting renewable sources of energy, and reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change	Kyoto Protocol, 1997 The Physical Science Basis, IPCC 2007 The Nottingham Declaration Climate Change Adaptation Workstream, 2006 Code For Sustainable Homes, 2006 Draft Climate Change Bill, 2007 SEA and Climate Change: Guidance For Practitioners, 2007 Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change, 2007 The Energy White Paper, 2007

	PPS1 Planning and Climate change PPS22: Renewable Energy, 2004 Renewable Energy Strategy for SW, 2003 'Warming to the idea' SW Climate Change Impacts Scoping Study, 2003 Draft Regional Spatial Strategy, 2006 Glos Renewable Energy Action Plan, 2005 Glos Sustainable Energy Strategy, 2007 Cheltenham Climate Change Strategy, 2005
Water – conserve water resources and reduce pollution, flood risk and surface water run-off	2000/60 EU Water Framework Directive, 2000 Draft Strategy For Water Efficiency in New Buildings, 2006 Code For Sustainable Homes, 2006 PPS25: Development and Flood Risk, 2006 Draft Regional Spatial Strategy, 2006 Severn Trent Water Resources Plan, 2005 Draft Severn Vale Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy, 2007 Groundwater Protection: Policy and Practice, 2006 Cheltenham Borough Council Sustainable Drainage Systems, 2003
Land resources – protect good quality land and soil, enhance sensitive and valued landscapes and encourage recycling of previously developed land and buildings	PPG2: Green Belts, 2001 UK Strategy for Sustainable Development, 2005 Cotswold AONB Management Plan, 2004 Draft Regional Spatial Strategy, 2006
Waste – reduce the amount of waste produced and encourage recycling and reuse to decrease the volume needing to be landfilled	Waste Strategy For England, 2007 PPS10: Planning For Sustainable Waste and Management, 2005 Draft Regional Spatial Strategy, 2006 Gloucestershire Waste Local Plan, 2004 Draft Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy, 2007
Built environment – encourage a safe, clean and attractive environment and protect, enhance and improve understanding of the historic and cultural heritage	'Towards an Urban Renaissance' 1999 The Sustainable Communities Plan, 2003 PPG15: Planning and The Historic Environment, 1994 PPG16: Archaeology and Planning, 1990 Joining up: Culture South West Report, 2004 Strategy for the Historic Environment in the South West, 2004 Draft Regional Spatial Strategy, 2006
Pollution – reduce risks to health and the environment by reducing air, water and noise pollution and contaminated land	EC Air Quality Framework Directive, 1996 European Air Quality Directive, 2000 EC Water Framework Directive, 2000 The Air Quality Strategy, 2007 The Urban Environment, 2007 Code For Sustainable Homes, 2006 PPG14: Planning Development on Unstable Land, 1990 PPS23: Planning and Pollution Control, 2004 PPG24: Planning and Noise, 1994 Draft Regional Spatial Strategy, 2006 Air Quality Strategy for Gloucestershire, 2004
2. A sustainable economy (sustainable consumption and production)	
Economic development -	PPG4: Industrial, Commercial Development and Small Firms,

encourage sustainable economic and tourism growth which ensures high quality employment opportunities, a skilled workforce and prosperity without harming environmental quality	1992 PPG21: Tourism, 1992 (DCLG) A Guide to Sustainable Tourism in the South West, 2000 State of the Key Sectors Reports, 2004 Regional Economic Strategy For SW 2006 Draft Regional Spatial Strategy, 2006 Draft Glos Urban Economic Strategy, 2007 Cheltenham Economic Development Strategy, 2007
Sustainable construction - promote more sustainable methods of construction to reduce resource and energy use and waste	Code For Sustainable Homes, 2006 (DCLG) Draft Strategy for Sustainable Construction, 2007 Draft Strategy For Water Efficiency in New Buildings, 2006 Building a Greener Future 2007 Future Foundations Sustainable Construction Charter for the SW, 2002 Draft Regional Spatial Strategy, 2006 Cheltenham Sustainable Construction Action Plan, 2006
Town centre – promote the vitality and viability of the town centre	PPS6: Planning For Town Centres, 2005
3. A strong, healthy and just society (sustainable communities)	
Social cohesion – reduce inequalities in health, education and learning, employment opportunities, crime and environmental quality and promote a more inclusive society, locally and globally	A New Commitment to Neighbourhood Renewal, 2001 The Sustainable Communities Plan, 2003 Our Shared Future, 2007 Creating Sustainable Communities In The South West, 2005 Draft Regional Spatial Strategy, 2006
Green space – retain, create and enhance open spaces for recreation and sport to improve wellbeing	Bringing Communities Together Through Sport and Culture', 2004 PPG17: Planning For Open Space, Sport and Recreation, 2002 Draft Regional Spatial Strategy, 2006
Health – improve mental and physical health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	Our Health, Our Care, Our Say White Paper, 2006 The Health Profile of England, 2006 Draft Guidance On Health In SEA, 2007 Our Children: Our Future, Glos 2005 – 2006 Draft Glos Health and Community Well-Being Strategy, 2007
Community safety and empowerment – reduce crime levels and improve understanding and ownership of the local area and participation in decision making	Aarhus Convention, 1998 Strong and Prosperous Communities White Paper, 2006 Cheltenham Crime Reduction Strategy, 2005

CHAPTER 7, STAGES A2 AND A3 – BASELINE DATA COLLECTION AND KEY SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES

BASELINE DATA COLLECTION (STAGE A2)

- 7.1 Baseline information provides the basis for predicting and monitoring effects and helps identify sustainability problems and alternative ways of dealing with them. The baseline data used in this Scoping Report draws on information for Cheltenham that has been collected over a number of years, including Best Value Performance Indicators, local quality of life indicators and measures included in the council's internal performance management system - TEN. Any future targets and predicted trends have also been included, where available.
- 7.2 Wherever possible, the most recent information that provides, ideally, both a local trend and a comparison with other areas has been used, in order to attempt to define and distil the local distinctiveness of the borough, although inevitably some information has been difficult to obtain or track over time, and some gaps have been identified. The data used is as up-to-date as possible, as at 1st November 2007.
- 7.3 The new National Indicator set is likely to impact significantly on a number of these indicators and it may be difficult to continue using trend data in some instances as the criteria has altered. The full Sustainability Appraisal Report may include relevant National Indicators as well as updated data for all baseline indicators that are still appropriate.

KEY SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES (STAGE A3)

- 7.4 The baseline data is again subdivided into environmental, social and economic categories. A summary of the datasets for each of these areas is included below, together with an assessment of the **Key Sustainability Issues** arising from the analysis. These issues have been derived from the analysis of quantifiable and, in some instances, quality indicators of local circumstances and highlight any specific characteristics of Cheltenham which should be addressed through the appraisal process because of the sustainability consequences or tensions that could result. These consequences, together with the key trends and evidence basis are detailed with each of the Key Sustainability Issues. Some gaps have been identified where data is scarce.
- 7.5 The full datasets are provided in Appendix 2.

Table 7A - Environmental Baseline Data Summary

Key Indicator	Source	Year	Cheltenham data	National data	Regional data	Trend	Sustainability issue
% of land designated as conservation area	CP – CBC LPI	2006/7	14.77%	Gap	Gap	This figure rose in the period 01/02 reflecting the designation of an additional conservation area. Since then, it has remained the same.	% of land designated as conservation area has remained static since 01/02. Most areas have character appraisals but only 16.5% have management proposals. Without management proposals it is difficult to manage and develop areas in a sustainable way.
No. of conservation areas	TEN Corporate BVPI 219A	2006/7	7			See above.	
Percentage of conservation areas with up-to-date: • Character appraisal • Management proposals	TEN Corporate BVPI 219B and C	2006/7	88% 16.5%			Conservation areas with character appraisals and management proposals increasing.	
No. of listed buildings	CBC Heritage and Conservation	2006/7	2,602			The number of listed buildings fell from 2,700 to 2,540 in 2000. This was largely due to a re-list commissioned in this year by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. Some additional buildings have been added in the last two years.	Listed buildings have management issues, particularly in terms of ensuring they are resilient to climate change and remain habitable environments.
No. of buildings at risk	CBC Heritage and Conservation	2006/7	1			Most buildings at risk have been placed on the register and it has been possible to remove them swiftly following remediation works. The current building at risk has been on the register since 1999.	The good maintenance of buildings is essential to maintain a sustainable lifespan. It is important that on any future buildings at risk, remediation work continues to be swiftly undertaken.
Scheduled monuments	Regional Ancient Monuments Inspectorate Bristol	2006/7	6			There are six scheduled monuments within Cheltenham.	It is important that these historically and culturally valuable monuments are well preserved.
Net increase/decrease in trees	TEN GE5 (2001/02-2003/04) Chris Chavasse (CBC)	2006/7	36			The net figures have decreased dramatically since 2000/01 when net increase was 242.	Tree numbers overall and the number of new/replacement trees on council-owned land have been decreasing steadily. Trees are important for absorbing CO2 and therefore combating

Key Indicator	Source	Year	Cheltenham data	National data	Regional data	Trend	Sustainability issue
New/replacement trees on CBC land	Chris Chavasse (CBC)	2006/7	109			The number of new/replacement trees have been decreasing.	climate change. They also have a cooling effect and provide areas of shade. Choice of species for replacing trees will be an important factor in ensuring they are resilient to climate change.
No. of parks with Green Flag/green pennant	TEN GE11	2006/7	2			Winston Churchill Memorial Gardens held Green Flag status for five consecutive years, but this was lost in 002/03. Hatherley Park achieved Green Flag status for the first time in 2005. Naunton Park in 2006.	It is important these parks continue to remain well maintained as animal habitats and recreational space. The green space has important functions in absorbing runoff and trees are important for absorbing CO2 and therefore combating climate change.
Land Designations: Special Areas of Conservation	Natural England	2006/7	None	228 (809,144ha)	64 (121,097.43ha)	Special Areas of Conservation are designated areas that are important habitats or endangered species. Any plan that may affect an SAC must be subject to a Habitats Regulation Assessment under the Habitats Directive. There are no SAC designations in Cheltenham. REGIONAL: 2007 – 64 (121,097.43ha) NATIONAL: 2007 – 228 (809,144ha)	Special Areas of Conservation have important functions in providing animal habitats, protecting endangered species and in some places, absorbing runoff.
% new homes built on previously developed land	TEN Corporate BVPI 106	2006/7	90.4%	Gap	63% (2005)	After reaching its peak in the period 2001-03, the use of previously developed land has dropped off. However, there has been an increase in 2006/07. Rate of use of previously developed land is much higher in Cheltenham than for the SW, reflecting the urban nature of the borough	Almost all development is occurring on previously developed sites. The reducing availability of sites is leading to pressures to develop garden areas and pressures for high densities, which impacts on residential amenity, opportunities for food growing, wildlife and capacity to surface absorb runoff.
Cheltenham's Ecological footprint – global hectares per person	www.Ecologicalbudget.org.uk WWF/ Stockholm Environment Institute	2005/6	5.39 gha	5.4 gha	5.24 gha	Our target footprint should be 1.8 gha if we are to live within our ecological budget – in the UK we use 5.4 gha and are 15 th highest the world. Cheltenham is above the regional average.	Our ecological footprint shows that we consume more than our fair share of the planet's resources, needing three planets' worth of resources to sustain our lifestyles. We need to move to a more sustainable way of living, reducing and recycling waste, conserving energy and natural resources, reducing our dependency on carbon-based energy sources, reducing our need to travel and supporting our local economy.

Table 7B – Key Environmental Sustainability Issues

Key sustainability issues	Evidence	Sustainability Consequences
Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings – significant conservation area coverage and high numbers of listed buildings	% of land designated as conservation area has remained static since 01/02. Most areas have character appraisals but only 16.5% have management proposals. Cheltenham has a high number of listed buildings.	Without management proposals it is difficult to manage and develop areas in a sustainable way. Listed buildings have management issues, particularly in terms of ensuring they are resilient to climate change and remain habitable environments
Habitats – small number of designated sites and very low area of SSSI's in favourable condition, decreasing numbers of trees on council owned land	Cheltenham has only one designated local nature reserve, covering 0.8ha, with six additional sites that were proposed several years ago, which would increase area to over 44 ha, but still significantly below national average. Only 20% of SSSI land is favourable or recovering, well below the 95% target for 2010. Tree numbers overall and the number of new/replacement trees on council-owned land have been decreasing steadily	The condition and lack of designated sites could have a major impact on the biodiversity and sustainability of wildlife habitats. Trees are important for absorbing CO2 and therefore combating climate change. They also have a cooling effect and provide areas of shade. Choice of species for replacing trees will be an important factor in ensuring they are resilient to climate change.
Land designated as AONB or Green Belt – plays an important role in protecting the unique setting and landscape character of Cheltenham	Almost a third of the borough is covered by AONB status, forming part of the Cotswolds AONB, which is the largest AONB in the UK and almost a fifth of the borough is covered by the green belt separating Cheltenham, Gloucester and Bishops Cleeve	The area of AONB and green belt within Cheltenham Borough is important for protecting the unique setting and landscape character of Cheltenham. It also provides sites for wildlife and recreational opportunities. Loss of this land could adversely affect the character of Cheltenham, impact on biodiversity and affect the quality of life of local people.
River quality –very poor biological and reducing chemical river qualities	Biological quality of river is very poor and chemical quality dropped significantly in 2005.	Much of the river Chelt is culverted which probably contributes to its poor biological and chemical quality, but watercourses are important for biodiversity and for acting as wildlife corridors.
Flooding – significant risks from flooding, especially with changing climate	Cheltenham has over 4000 properties at risk from flooding and many existing urban drainage systems cause further problems of flooding, pollution or damage to the environment. Information is not available from the Environment Agency regarding surface water runoff and groundwater flooding but recent experience shows that existing drainage systems and flood attenuation schemes will not be able to cope.	As the climate changes serious flooding is likely to become a more frequent event and the current 1 in 100 yr flood risk will occur more often. More concentrated periods of heavy rainfall will also increase pressure on existing drainage systems, which may not be able to cope with the increased level of surface water runoff
Waste and recycling – although recycling and composting rates are improving, they still lag behind national averages	Waste and recycling rates are improving, but Cheltenham still does not perform well, with above average volumes of waste collected per head and % landfilled	Landfilled waste contributes to climate change through the release of methane, which is 21 times more harmful than CO ₂ . Gloucestershire also has a lack of landfill space. In order to conserve natural resources and reduce our impact on climate change we need to reduce the

Key sustainability issues	Evidence	Sustainability Consequences
		amount of waste we create, reuse more of the waste we currently throw away and increase our recycling rates
Unsustainable lifestyles – Cheltenham has a high ecological footprint	Our ecological footprint shows that we consume more than our fair share of the planet's resources, needing three planets' worth of resources to sustain our current lifestyles.	We need to move towards a more sustainable way of living, reducing and recycling waste, conserving energy and natural resources, reducing our dependency on carbon-based energy sources, reducing our need to travel and supporting our local economy
CO2 emissions – electricity use and CO2 emissions are rising, rather than falling in line with national targets. CO2 emissions and electricity consumption within the business sector are increasing steadily	CO2 emissions for Cheltenham are significantly lower than regional and national averages, because of the size of the borough and the type of industry found here, but overall our emissions are too high. Domestic electricity use is also increasing in spite of energy efficiency measures, while gas use is fluctuating. Industrial electricity use is rising steadily, and is well above average, gas use is decreasing and is below average. CO2 emissions from industry are increasing	There is now global scientific consensus that CO2 emissions from human activity are contributing to climate change and we need to stabilise emissions by 2015. The UK has a national target to reduce CO2 emissions by 60% by 2050. The regional initiative 'Fair shares, fair choice' has set a target for 2007 to reduce CO2 emissions to 4.2 tonnes per person. The business community needs to adopt a low carbon approach to its activities to significantly reduce its consumption of electricity and its reliance on imported energy
Renewable energy generation – a general lack of renewable facilities and installations in Cheltenham	Renewable energy generation in Gloucestershire has been increasing steadily, but there is very little in Cheltenham.	Lack of local renewable energy generation means a greater dependence on imported energy from non-sustainable sources leaving Cheltenham vulnerable to increasing energy prices and issues of energy security
Sustainable construction – only a few schemes have been built to good eco building standards and the government agenda is moving swiftly	A couple of social housing schemes and one office building have been built to Ecohomes or BREEAM standards	New developments should be built in ways that minimise their impact on the environment and ensure they are resilient to the effects of climate change. The adoption of the Code for Sustainable Homes and BREEAM standards could contribute to achieving this. Refurbishment projects also need to take account of these issues
Pollution – although air quality is not a significant issue, light pollution levels are saturated	No air quality management areas designated although whole borough is classified as being saturated in terms of light pollution. Data on contaminated land inconclusive	Air quality is not such a significant local issue to warrant designating an AQM area. Light pollution saturation can be an issue for local residents and interest groups; street lighting adds to energy use.
Brownfield land – high take-up means fewer sites available bringing pressures on garden areas, which impacts on quality of life, opportunities for food growing, wildlife and flooding	The number of homes built on previously high has been high over recent years.	Almost all development has been occurring on Brownfield sites, the reducing availability of such sites is leading to increasing pressures on garden areas and increasing densities of development, which may achieve smaller carbon footprints at the expense of residential amenity and biodiversity

(No Economic Baseline Data Summary)

Table 8A - Key Economic Sustainability Issues

Key sustainability issues	Evidence	Sustainability Consequences
Reinforcing the Town Centre – ensuring that Cheltenham's key role as a retail, service, leisure and learning destination is strengthened	Cheltenham has dropped in the national ranking of retail centres which, if it continues, could impact on the economic prosperity of the town. Cheltenham's festivals make a significant contribution to annual business turnover and have wider positive impacts, enhancing the image of Cheltenham and helping to attract and retain new investment and employment	The town centre is a key public transport node and it is important that retail, service and leisure facilities are located within or close to the town centre to maximise use of public transport. Maintaining the vitality and viability of the town centre is key to ensuring the future prosperity of the town

Table 9A – Social Baseline Data Summary

Key indicator	Source	Year	Cheltenham data	National data	Regional data	Trend	Sustainability Issue
Population: Total	ONS - Mid year estimate	2006	111,500	50,762,900	5,124,100	The population of Cheltenham has been gradually increasing since 2004.	The population is increasing slowly, with most of the growth occurring in the working age population. Children and pensioners are slowly reducing as a proportion of the population, but the proportions are still above the national average. Fewer children means a smaller workforce in future. As the population ages, there could also be an increase in pensioners as a proportion of the population
Average house prices in Cheltenham	Land Registry Property Price Report	2007	£233,842	£230,474	£240,359	Property prices doubled in the space of five years (2000-6), but dropped slightly in 2007. They are still above the national average, although the gap is reducing. This has created a serious problem of affordability.	
Total number of new housing completions and % affordable	RLA Report	2006/7	1012 9%	n/a	n/a	The number of new housing completions increased rapidly in 2006/07, with 9% affordable, well below 40% target as few larger sites are coming forward.	Housing building rates increased dramatically in 2006/7, but only 9% affordable
Number of dwellings that have been empty over 6 months	TEN NR STAT 04	2006/7	450			Whilst this figure remains high, it peaked in the years 00/01 and 01/02 and has dropped dramatically in the following years, due to changes in council tax charges.	Number of empty and second homes remains high – these should be brought back into use to reduce housing demand
% of unfit, privately owned homes brought back into use	TEN Corporate BVPI 62 (Now deleted as a national performance indicator)	2005/6	9.4%			This record is encouraging, and approximately one in ten of unfit properties are being returned to use.	Well maintained, habitable properties are more sustainable than unfit homes.
Number of vacant dwellings returned to occupation or demolished	TEN NR BVPI 64	2006/7	37			This figure shows a steady positive movement.	Habitable properties are more sustainable than vacant dwellings which are sometimes poorly maintained.

Key indicator	Source	Year	Cheltenham data	National data	Regional data	Trend	Sustainability Issue
Number of Houses in Multiple Occupation	TEN NR9	2006/7	166			The number of houses in multiple occupation showed a vast increase since 2005/06.	The large recent growth of houses in multiple occupation may cause a decline in the demand for 'single family dwellings'.
Percentage of residents that feel fairly safe or very safe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outside after dark • Outside during the day 	Chelt Story or Dermot Carr (GCC) for latest data	2006/7 (Data for 2005)	42.5 (37.5) 89.7 (90.7)	Gap	Glos data 2005 45.7 91.5	Numbers feeling safe at night is increasing slowly with a slight decrease in numbers feeling safe during the day last year, with overall trend improving. Slightly higher fear of crime rates than the county average.	General improvements in perceptions of safety outdoors increases quality of life for residents.
% of population living in most deprived Super Output Areas (worst 25%) Glos QoL	ACDP QOL15	2003/4	9%	20%	Gap	4 wards in Cheltenham are in the worst 25% nationally – Hesters Way, Springbank, St Paul's and Oakley – 2 nd worst district in the county. Lower % living in SOA than national average.	Although Cheltenham is considered to be an affluent town, 9% of the population lives within highly deprived areas and nearly 16% of children live in low-income households. Deprived areas have wide ranging issues including poor housing and health, poor local environment and low levels of economic activity and learning achievement.
% of residents who think that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vandalism, graffiti, damage to property or vehicles etc • people using or dealing drugs • people being rowdy or drunk is a very big or fairly big problem in their area 	ACDP QOL7a ACDP QOL7b ACDP QOL7c	2003/4	57.6% 57.8% 53.5%			Too little information to give an accurate picture yet.	Public perception strongly influences the shaping of the character of areas. Areas experiencing such problems are unsustainable and undesirable places to live.
% of residents surveyed who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are satisfied with their local area as a place to live • feel that the 	CP, QoL 18 QoL 19 - Gloucestershire Local Information Network	2000/1	92% 24%			No recent information - Too little information to give an accurate picture.	Public perception strongly influences the shaping of the character of areas. Areas experiencing such problems are unsustainable and undesirable places to live.

Key indicator	Source	Year	Cheltenham data	National data	Regional data	Trend	Sustainability Issue
area is getting worse							
% of people surveyed who feel that they can influence decisions affecting their local area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> as individuals working together 	NEW QOL – National source for data in the future	1999/2000	38% 59%	Gap	Gap	No recent information - Too little information to give an accurate picture.	Higher levels of people feeling they can influence decisions indicates a population that engages with the decision-making process and an authority that consults
% of residents who think that over the last 3 years: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public transport has got better or stayed the same Levels of congestion have got better or stayed the same 	ACDP QOL44a ACDP QOL44b	2003/4	61.8% 20.7%			New indicator – No recent information.	Public perception of improved public transport and levels of congestion could influence increased use of public transport which would lead to a reduction in CO2 levels and traffic congestion on roads and is overall a more sustainable means of travel.
Local bus services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> number of park and ride tickets sold number of bus trips (million) 	Old BVPI 102 Jonathan Roberts GCC & Ben Cole Stagecoach Derek Lucas GCC	2006/7 2004/5	630,249 16.7 m			The number of park and ride tickets sold has quadrupled over the recorded period. Bus trips have been relatively stable over the last few years.	Park and Ride usage has increased dramatically, normal bus trips have been stable

Key indicator	Source	Year	Cheltenham data	National data	Regional data	Trend	Sustainability Issue
Average daily traffic flow on principal roads: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tewkesbury Road • Evesham Road • London Road • Shurdington Road (1999) • Gloucester Road 	Kathryn Haworth (Gloucestershire County Council)	2006/7	27300 19100 22200 14800 43800			Traffic on Shurdington Road appears to have dropped but increased elsewhere.	Traffic volumes generally increasing, which increases carbon emissions

Table 9B – Key Social Sustainability Issues

Key Sustainability Issues	Evidence	Sustainability consequences
Housing stock – despite high levels of house building, little new housing is affordable and number of empty and second homes remains high GAP – fuel poverty?	Housing building rates increased dramatically in 2006/7, but only 9% affordable, number of empty homes remains high and number of second homes increasing	Not enough affordable homes are being built and the level is unlikely to increase sufficiently to close the gap. Bringing empty homes back into use and discouraging the purchase of second homes, which inflates house prices, could help to bridge this gap and ensure better use is made of the existing stock in the borough
Crime rates – high crime rates for violent offences, domestic and vehicle crime reducing, as is fear of crime	Crime rates have reduced for domestic burglaries and vehicle crime, but increased for violent offences, which are significantly above the national figure; general improvement in perceptions of safety outdoors	The increase in violent offences could have a negative effect on peoples' perception of safety, which has been improving. Social cohesion may affect crime rates and it will be important to build strong communities. Opportunities for designing out crime should also be maximised
Deprivation – nearly a tenth of households live in highly deprived areas, 16% children live in households on benefits	Although Cheltenham is considered to be an affluent town, 9% of the population lives within highly deprived areas and nearly 16% of children live in low-income households.	Deprived areas have wide ranging issues including poor housing and health, poor local environment and low levels of economic activity and learning achievement.
Health – generally good, although suicide rates are high	Suicide rates are above average, although cancer and circulatory disease rates are well below average. Low levels of limiting illnesses, infant mortality well below UK average and falling,	Cheltenham's residents enjoy good health, although suicide rates are above average. The growth in single person households and potential decreasing levels of social interaction may create some health issues and so opportunities for and accessibility to social activities could

	above average life expectancy	become increasingly important
Transport – increasing traffic volumes, cycling, walking and Park and Ride use high, but public transport is below average	Park and Ride usage has increased dramatically, normal bus trips have been stable, percentage of people using alternatives to the car for travelling to work has remained stable and is above average, high levels of cycling and walking levels, above national average car ownership levels, traffic volumes generally increasing while accident rates relatively fluctuate, but stable overall	Increasing traffic volumes add to congestion and climate change. Providing employment opportunities near to where people live would cut down the need to travel and make it easier to use other forms of transport such as cycling and walking, both of which have health benefits. Encouraging greater uptake of public transport is likely to depend on its affordability, especially in relation to the costs of running a car

CHAPTER 8. STAGE A4 – THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK

DERIVING THE SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES

- 8.1 The Sustainability Appraisal Framework of objectives, questions and indicators provides a vital tool to enable the sustainability effects of the Cheltenham Central Conservation Area Management Plans to be described, analysed and compared.
- 8.2 The Framework consists of **Sustainability Objectives** which identify the goals that the appraisal process should be seeking to deliver, based on the **Key Sustainability Themes** identified in Stage A1 and the **Key Sustainability Issues** identified in Stages A2 and A3.
- 8.3 The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive stipulates that a number of environmental topics need to be addressed in the Strategic Environmental Assessment process. The Sustainability Objectives have been cross-referenced with these topics to ensure that the appraisal process is compliant with the requirements of the Directive.
- 8.4 Table 10 (below) summarises the derivation of the Sustainability Objectives. It includes all the Themes and Issues from stages A1 and A3, together with an indication of the aims of Cheltenham's Sustainable Community Strategy. These have all helped to shape the Sustainability Objectives for the Cheltenham Central Conservation Area Management Plans appraisal process. Table 10 also identifies how each of these statutory Strategic Environmental Assessment topics have been addressed in the Framework.

Table 10 – Derivation of Sustainability Objectives

Sustainability Theme (stage A1)	Sustainability Issue (stages A2 & A3)	Sustainable Community Strategy	Sustainability Objective (stage A4)	SEA Topic
1. Living within environmental limits (natural resource protection and enhancement)				
Biodiversity – work with the grain of nature to protect, restore and enhance habitats, species and sites of geological interest	Habitats – small number of designated sites and very low area of SSSI's in favourable condition, decreasing numbers of trees on council owned land	Investing in environmental quality – ensure that new development enhances biodiversity; work to conserve and enhance biodiversity	Protect, restore, create and enhance habitats, species and sites of wildlife or geological interest	Biodiversity, fauna and flora Cultural heritage and landscape
Climate change – reduce carbon emissions through improving energy efficiency and	CO2 emissions – electricity use and CO2 emissions are rising, rather than falling in line with national targets	Tackling climate change – commitment to reducing carbon emissions, striving for a carbon-neutral	Reduce carbon emissions, striving for a carbon neutral borough	Climatic factors Air Biodiversity, fauna and flora Material assets

Sustainability Theme (stage A1)	Sustainability Issue (stages A2 & A3)	Sustainable Community Strategy	Sustainability Objective (stage A4)	SEA Topic
promoting renewable sources of energy, and reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change	Renewable energy generation – a general lack of renewable facilities and installations in Cheltenham	borough. Support for sustainable energy processes, saving energy and encouraging use of renewable sources. Everyone able to adapt to the inevitable consequences of climate change.	Improve the resilience of people, businesses and the environment to the inevitable consequences of climate change	
Water – conserve water resources and reduce pollution, flood risk and surface water run-off	Flooding – significant risks from flooding, especially with changing climate	Investing in environmental quality – need to ensure infrastructure and built and natural environmental assets are resilient to weather extremes such as water shortages and flooding	Manage and reduce flood risk and surface water run-off	Water and soil Climatic factors
	Car ownership – while the number of households with 2 or more cars is high, the number without access to a car is also significant		Maximise the use of sustainable modes of transport	
Land resources – protect good quality land and soil, enhance sensitive and valued landscapes and encourage recycling of previously developed land and buildings	Brownfield land – high take-up means fewer sites available, bringing pressures on garden areas, which impacts on quality of life, opportunities for food growing, wildlife and flooding	Promote sustainable living – make the most efficient and appropriate use of land	Maximise appropriate reuse of previously developed land	Biodiversity, fauna and flora Cultural heritage and landscape Water and soil Material assets?
	Land designated as AONB or Green Belt – plays an important role in protecting the unique setting and landscape character of Cheltenham		Minimise development of open land and green spaces within Cheltenham	
		Investing in environmental quality – ensure new development enhances Cheltenham's assets and improves biodiversity and that parks and open areas are managed to reduce resource use and encourage wildlife	Protect and enhance the unique setting and landscape character of Cheltenham	
Waste – reduce the amount of waste produced and encourage recycling and	Waste and recycling – although recycling and composting rates are improving,	Promote sustainable living – little waste sent to landfill and most is re-used, recycled	Minimise the volume of waste created and promote reuse, recycling and	Climatic factors Water and soil

Sustainability Theme (stage A1)	Sustainability Issue (stages A2 & A3)	Sustainable Community Strategy	Sustainability Objective (stage A4)	SEA Topic
reuse to decrease the volume needing to be landfilled	they still lag behind national averages	and composted	composting to reduce landfill	
Built environment – encourage a safe, clean and attractive environment and protect, enhance and improve understanding of the historic heritage	Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings – significant conservation area coverage and high numbers of listed buildings	Investing in environmental quality – promote quality of design in the public realm	Protect and enhance Cheltenham's distinctive townscape quality and its historic heritage	Cultural heritage and landscape Material assets
Pollution – reduce risks to health and the environment by reducing air, water and noise pollution and contaminated land	Pollution – although air quality is not a significant issue, light pollution levels are saturated River quality – very poor biological and reducing chemical river qualities	Investing in environmental quality – support improved cleanliness and maintenance of the public realm	Improve air, water and soil quality and reduce noise and light pollution and the amount of contaminated land	Population and human health Water and soil Air Material assets?
2. A sustainable economy (sustainable consumption and production)				
Economic development – encourage sustainable economic and tourism growth which ensures high quality employment opportunities, a skilled workforce and prosperity without harming environmental quality	Unsustainable lifestyles – Cheltenham has a high ecological footprint	Tackling climate change – all residents, businesses and community organisations do their bit to live within the environmental limits of the planet	Support people and existing businesses in reducing their carbon footprint and the use of natural resources	Population and human health Climatic factors Water and soil? Material assets?
Town centre – promote the vitality and viability of the town centre	Reinforcing the town centre – ensuring that Cheltenham's key role as a retail, service, leisure and learning destination is strengthened	Investing in arts and culture – take action to maintain our vibrant and stimulating cultural life; ensure the borough continues to play an important role nationally and worldwide in terms of its contribution to	Support the vitality and viability of Cheltenham town centre as a retail, service, leisure and learning destination	Population and human health Cultural heritage and landscape Material assets?

Sustainability Theme (stage A1)	Sustainability Issue (stages A2 & A3)	Sustainable Community Strategy	Sustainability Objective (stage A4)	SEA Topic
		arts and culture		
			Protect and enhance Cheltenham's vibrant cultural life	
Sustainable construction – promote more sustainable methods of construction to reduce resource and energy use and waste	Sustainable construction – only a few schemes have been built to good eco building standards and the government agenda is moving swiftly	Sustainable living – encourage and support sustainable construction processes	Integrate sustainable construction principles and standards into all development schemes	Biodiversity, fauna and flora Population and human health Water and soil Air Climatic factors Cultural heritage and landscape Material assets?
3. A strong, healthy and just society (sustainable communities)				
Social cohesion – reduce inequalities in health, education and learning, employment opportunities, crime and environmental quality and promote a more inclusive society, locally and globally	Deprivation – nearly a tenth of the population living in highly deprived areas, 16% children in households on benefits	Building stronger communities – support community regeneration in areas of multiple deprivation. Work in partnership to tackle health inequalities. Promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	Reduce inequalities in wellbeing and opportunity	Population and human health Climatic factors Air
Health – improve mental and physical health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	Health – generally good, although suicide rates are high	Building healthy communities – equitable access to locally-provided community based health and care services	Improve the health and wellbeing of local residents, with good access to community health facilities	Population and human health
Green space – retain, create and enhance open spaces for recreation and sport to improve wellbeing	Allotments – growing demand for allotments for food production, but number of sites is decreasing	Investing in environmental quality – parks and open spaces managed to reduce resource use and encourage wildlife; promote importance	Protect and enhance open spaces, gardens and allotments for leisure and recreation, including creating opportunities for	Biodiversity, fauna and flora Climatic factors Population and human health

Sustainability Theme (stage A1)	Sustainability Issue (stages A2 & A3)	Sustainable Community Strategy	Sustainability Objective (stage A4)	SEA Topic
		of gardens to local amenity	wildlife and local food production	
Community safety and empowerment – reduce crime levels and improve understanding and ownership of the local area and participation in decision making	Crime rates – high crime rate for violent offences, domestic an vehicle crime reducing, as is fear of crime	Promoting community safety – ensure residents feel safe and that crime and disorder is kept to a minimum	Reduce crime and the fear of crime	Population and human health
	Citizenship – good levels of democratic participation	Principle of community engagement – a place where all our communities feel engaged and where there is participation by local people, groups and businesses	Encourage everyone to participate in local decision making	

The 20 sustainability objectives for the Cheltenham Central Conservation Area Management Plans Sustainability Appraisal are set out in Table 11 below:

Table 11: Sustainability Objectives for Cheltenham Central Conservation Area Management Plans Sustainability Appraisal	
1.	Protect, restore, create and enhance habitats, species and sites of wildlife or geological interest
2.	Reduce carbon emissions, striving for a carbon neutral borough
3.	Improve the resilience of people, businesses and the environment to the inevitable consequences of climate change
4.	Manage and reduce flood risk and surface water run-off
5.	Maximise the use of sustainable modes of transport
6.	Maximise appropriate reuse of previously developed land
7.	Minimise development of open land and green spaces within Cheltenham
8.	Protect and enhance the unique setting and landscape character of Cheltenham
9.	Minimise the volume of waste created and promote reuse, recycling and composting to reduce landfill
10.	Protect and enhance Cheltenham's distinctive townscape quality and its historic heritage
11.	Improve air, water and soil quality and reduce noise and light pollution and the amount of contaminated land
12.	Support people and existing businesses in reducing their carbon footprint and the use of natural resources
13.	Support the vitality and viability of Cheltenham town centre as a retail, service, leisure and learning destination

14.	Protect and enhance Cheltenham's vibrant cultural life
15.	Integrate sustainable construction principles and standards into all development schemes
16.	Reduce inequalities in wellbeing and opportunity
17.	Improve the health and wellbeing of local residents, with good access to community health facilities
18.	Protect and enhance open spaces, gardens and allotments for leisure and recreation, including creating opportunities for wildlife and local food production
19.	Reduce crime and the fear of crime
20.	Encourage everyone to participate in local decision making

THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK

- 8.5 In order to test the Cheltenham Central Area Management Plan against the Sustainability Objectives, the Sustainability Appraisal Framework includes a set of **Decision Aiding Questions** to use to interrogate the policies of the plan and establish their performance against the objectives. The Framework also includes a set of **Potential Detailed Indicators** that could be used to assess the performance of the Management Plan. Performance against these indicators will be key in monitoring the performance of the Management Plan and in its future review.

Table 12: The Sustainability Appraisal Framework

Sustainability Objective (stage A4)	Decision Aiding Questions Will the Conservation Management Plan SPD...	Potential indicators
1. Living within environmental limits (natural resource protection and enhancement)		
Protect, restore, create and enhance habitats, species and sites of wildlife or geological interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that habitats and sites of wildlife or geological interest are enhanced to improve biodiversity, character and appearance? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Important habitats Number of key wildlife sites Net increase/decrease in trees New/replacement trees on CBC land

Sustainability Objective (stage A4)	Decision Aiding Questions Will the Conservation Management Plan SPD...	Potential indicators
Reduce carbon emissions, striving for a carbon neutral borough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce dependency on carbon based energy sources? • Reduce carbon emissions from new and existing buildings? • Maximise opportunities for renewable energy generation within character areas? • Encourage microgeneration? • Encourage repair rather than replacement of architectural features e.g. windows and doors? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total CO2 emissions for Cheltenham • Total CO2 emissions per capita • Estimated domestic CO2 emissions • Estimated domestic CO2 emissions per capita • Planning and Listed Building Consent applications for replacement of windows, doors and other original features on historic buildings, where consent is required
Improve the resilience of people, businesses and the environment to the inevitable consequences of climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure new and existing buildings, infrastructure and the environment are resilient to the effects of extreme weather events? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developments meeting Code for Sustainable Homes (and previously EcoHomes) or BREEAM standards?
Manage and reduce flood risk and surface water run-off	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that development does not increase surface water run-off? • Ensure that surface water run-off is slowed and absorbed? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area of land in floodplain • Percentage of borough in floodplain • Area liable to flood • Surface water run-off • Groundwater flooding • Developments incorporating sustainable drainage systems

Sustainability Objective (stage A4)	Decision Aiding Questions Will the Conservation Management Plan SPD...	Potential indicators
Maximise the use of sustainable modes of transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximise opportunities for cycling, walking and public transport? • Increase safety for pedestrians across vehicular routes? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimated CO2 emissions for road transport • Local bus services: no of park and ride tickets sold; number of bus trips • Travel to work data: % cycling; % walking; % using public transport; % reliant on the car • 'Pedestrian safety' works implemented on highways
Maximise appropriate reuse of previously developed land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the appropriate development of previously developed land? • Minimise development of open land and green spaces within Cheltenham, including gardens to protect biodiversity and character and appearance of Central Conservation Area? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % new buildings built on previously developed land
Minimise development of open land and green spaces within Cheltenham		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of gardens built on • Green space data
Protect and enhance the unique setting and landscape character of Cheltenham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance the special character of the Central Conservation Area? • Protect and enhance the setting of the Central Conservation Area? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Character area statements for Cheltenham's seven Conservation Areas
Minimise the volume of waste created and promote reuse, recycling and composting to reduce landfill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise the volume of waste created during construction (including demolition waste)? • Encourage owners to repair rather than replace original architectural features e.g. timber windows and doors? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % domestic waste land filled, recycled and composted • Kg of waste collected per head per annum
Protect and enhance Cheltenham's distinctive townscape quality and its historic heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance Cheltenham's historic heritage? • Promote plans and proposals to protect and enhance the townscape quality and historic heritage? • Promote good design that complements and enhances the built environment of Cheltenham's Central Conservation Area? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of land designated as conservation area • No of conservation areas • Percentage of conservation areas with up-to-date character appraisals/management plans • No of planning/listed building consent applications and planning appeals which are supported by conservation area character appraisals/management plans

Sustainability Objective (stage A4)	Decision Aiding Questions Will the Conservation Management Plan SPD...	Potential indicators
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No of listed buildings
Improve air, water and soil quality and reduce noise and light pollution and the amount of contaminated land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce light and noise pollution? Support improved cleanliness and maintenance of the public realm? Improve the quality of contaminated land? Reduce air pollution? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of km of river achieving cat A (good biological quality) % of km of river achieving cat B (good chemical quality) Light pollution Air quality management areas No sites of potential concern with respect to contamination Public realm works
2. A sustainable economy (sustainable consumption and production)		
Support people and existing businesses in reducing their carbon footprint and the use of natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support people and businesses in reducing their carbon footprint and the use of natural resources, both globally and locally? Support procurement of sustainable local goods and services? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheltenham's ecological footprint – global hectares per person
Support the vitality and viability of Cheltenham town centre as a retail, service, leisure and learning destination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the vitality and viability of Cheltenham town centre as a retail, service, leisure and learning destination? Deliver plans and proposals to increase the vitality and viability of Cheltenham town centre as a retail, service, leisure and learning destination? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retail footprint ranking % employed in tourism related industries
Protect and enhance Cheltenham's vibrant cultural life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and enhance Cheltenham's vibrant cultural life? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % contribution of festivals to total business turnover
Integrate sustainable construction principles and standards into all development schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that sustainable construction principles and standards are integrated into all development schemes, aiming for the highest standards possible? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developments meeting Code for Sustainable Homes (and previously EcoHomes) or BREEAM Standards
3. A strong, healthy and just society (sustainable communities)		
Reduce inequalities in wellbeing and opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help to reduce inequalities in wellbeing and opportunity? Deliver plans and proposals to improve the physical and mental wellbeing of communities? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of population living in most deprived Super Output Areas (worst 25%) % of children under 16 living in low-income households % of children and people over 60 living in income deprived households

Sustainability Objective (stage A4)	Decision Aiding Questions Will the Conservation Management Plan SPD...	Potential indicators
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of unemployed people as at August each year? • % of unemployed people claiming benefits who have been out of work for more than a year?
Improve the health and wellbeing of local residents, with good access to community health facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help people to live healthy lifestyles? • Enhance the surrounding built and physical environment for local residents to improve their health and wellbeing? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Death rate by cause for every 100,000 people in the population – cancer in under 75s; circulatory diseases in under 75s; suicide; all accidents • Limiting illness • Infant mortality rate per 1000 live births • Life expectancy rates (3 yr averages) – male; female
Protect and enhance open spaces, gardens and allotments for leisure and recreation, including creating opportunities for wildlife and local food production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure existing open spaces, gardens and allotments are protected and enhanced? • Support the provision of new green space which includes opportunities for wildlife and increased levels of biodiversity and improved access for recreation and leisure? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No allotment plots • % tenanted allotments • No of public green open spaces within borough • No of green open spaces within Central Conservation Area
Reduce crime and the fear of crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce opportunities for crime through implementation of management proposals? • Make people feel safer through ensuring good design? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No of reported crimes per 1000 households – domestic burglaries; violent offences (per 1000 popn); vehicle crime (per 1000 popn) • % of residents that feel fairly safe or very safe – outside after dark; outside during the day
Encourage everyone to participate in local decision making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable everyone to participate in local decision making? • Enable everyone to participate in developing and commenting on management proposals to enhance the built and physical environment of areas? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of electoral voting at last election • % of people who feel they can influence decisions affecting their local area – as individuals; working together

CHAPTER 9. REMAINING STAGES OF APPRAISAL

- 9.1 Sustainability Appraisal is an iterative and ongoing process that is broken down into a number of stages that coincide with stages in the development and adoption of a Supplementary Planning Document. This staged approach to the production of a final Sustainability Appraisal Report helps to refine the Supplementary Planning Document objectives and ensures that the preferred policy options selected will both achieve these objectives and achieve sustainable development objectives.

STAGE A5 - CONSULTATION OF THE SCOPING REPORT (see Table 4)

- 9.2 Government guidance on the preparation of Sustainability Appraisals and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive specify that Scoping Report must be prepared in consultation with:
- Natural England
 - The Environment Agency
 - English Heritage
- 9.3 Full consultation with the public is not required by the government at this stage, although a number of stakeholders will be given the opportunity to comment and the Scoping Report will be placed on the Council's website and updated in light of consultation responses as appropriate.

REVISED SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK

- 9.4 The Sustainability Appraisal Framework will be revised to take account of any representations received as a result of consultation with the three statutory consultees and other organisations and individuals. This revised Framework will then form the framework against which the vision, objectives and policy options of the Central Cheltenham Conservation Area Management Plans will be measured.

CHELTENHAM CENTRAL CONSERVATION AREA MANAGEMENT PLANS VISION AND OBJECTIVE TESTING

- 9.5 The Cheltenham Central Conservation Area Management Plans will form Supplementary Planning Documents within the Cheltenham Local Development Framework. The Management Plans will provide guidance on how the preservation and enhancement of the character or appearance of character areas can be achieved through a set of management proposals. Once these proposals are available, they will be tested against the Sustainability Appraisal Framework to ensure they are compatible with the aims of sustainable development. This will also assist in refining the Cheltenham Central Conservation Area Management Plans' vision and objectives and ensure that they maximise their potential to achieve sustainable development.
- 9.6 If there is conflict between the Cheltenham Central Conservation Area Management Plans objectives and the achievement of sustainable development a judgment will be made about which objectives are most important for the future development of the Cheltenham Borough and what mitigating measures are required to off set any adverse effects. If such decisions and judgments are necessary then they will be fully documented in the final Sustainability Appraisal Report.

INITIAL APPRAISAL OF CHELTENHAM CENTRAL CONSERVATION AREA MANAGEMENT PLANS POLICY OPTIONS

- 9.7 It is necessary during the early stages of the Cheltenham Central Conservation Area Management Plans' development to consider a wide range of policy options. A Sustainability Appraisal of this range of policy options should identify a wide range of implications for the achievement of sustainable development and assist the identification of the most sustainable policy option and possible mitigation measures to off set any adverse impacts. Testing of early policy options will be reported in the Sustainability Appraisal Report.
- 9.8 A full commentary on the appraisal of the policy options considered for the Cheltenham Central Conservation Area Management Plans will be prepared to show how the appraisal process has assisted in identifying the most sustainable policy options. This commentary will be included in the draft Sustainability Appraisal Report that will accompany the Management Plans when they go out for consultation. Both documents will be subject to extensive public and stakeholder consultation.

APPRAISAL OF PREFERRED OPTIONS AND PREDICTED SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ANALYSIS

- 9.9 Once the preferred policy options for the Cheltenham Central Conservation Area Management Plans have been agreed, the social, economic and environmental effects of implementing these policies can be predicted. These predictions will be based on the likely changes to the baseline data identified in this Scoping Report if the policies were implemented. These **Predicted Significant Effects** can then be compared with the predicted effects if no planning policy action was taken (no change option) or if any of the other viable options for the Cheltenham Central Conservation Area Management Plans were implemented.
- 9.10 Once the Predicted Significant Effects of implementing a policy option have been identified they then need to be subject to a **Predicted Significant Effect Analysis** to ascertain the Magnitude, Significance, Duration, Probability, Reversibility and the Potential for Cumulative Effects of the effect. The appraisal of the Cheltenham Central Conservation Area Management Plans' preferred policy options and the analysis of their predicted significant effects will be published in the Sustainability Appraisal Report that will accompany the Management Plan's at adoption.

MITIGATION MEASURES

- 9.11 At each stage of the Cheltenham Central Conservation Area Management Plans' development the Sustainability Appraisal process will include recommendations for any necessary mitigation measures to prevent, reduce or offset any predicted negative affects that implementation of the Management Plan's may produce. Mitigation measures could include making changes to Cheltenham Central Conservation Area Management Plan policies.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

- 9.12 This document has sets the baseline for the Sustainability Appraisal of the Cheltenham Central Conservation Area Management Plans. From the baseline data and review of relevant plans, policies and programmes a number of Sustainability Objectives have been developed. Progress towards these objectives will be monitored annually using the Decision Aiding Questions and Potential Detailed Indicators set out in the Sustainability Appraisal Framework. 9.13 The results of this monitoring will be included in the Annual

Monitoring Reports that must be submitted to the Government Office for the South West every December.

- 9.14 The purpose of this monitoring is to identify where planning policy is not contributing to sustainable development and to allow action to be taken before damage is done to the local environment, economy or community. If monitoring shows that progress is not being made towards the achievement of Sustainability Objectives, changes will be made to the way planning policy is being implemented or selected policy areas will be brought forward for review within the Local Development Scheme.

CONSULTATION RESPONSES

- 9.15 A Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for the Cheltenham Central Conservation Area Management Plans Supplementary Planning Documents was produced in January 2008. It detailed the scope of the appraisal process and included a draft Sustainability Framework. The Scoping Report was put out for consultation with the Sustainability Appraisal Consultees – Natural England, The Environment Agency and English Heritage – and other local stakeholders over a five week period to 18 February 2008. The following responses were received by this deadline:

9.16 Table 13: Scoping Report Consultation Responses

Consultee	Consultation Response	Amendment
Gloucestershire County Council	There may be scope to reduce or combine some of the 20 SA objectives as there may be some difficulty in scoring options at a later stage.	Comment acknowledged. However, it has been possible to effectively score all 20 SA objectives.
Gloucestershire County Council	The list of statutory consultees on Page 2 should say 'Natural England' rather than 'English Nature'	Comment acknowledged and wording amended accordingly.
Gloucestershire County Council	Objective 9 is welcomed. Maybe the 'waste hierarchy' could be specifically referred to. Objective 15 is also welcomed but could add to this ' <i>increasing energy efficiency and reducing levels of construction and demolition waste</i> '.	Comment noted. A recognition of the waste hierarchy is considered to be implicit in this objective. Future objectives will be amended to make this explicit.
Gloucestershire County Council	The waste objective could refer specifically to the waste hierarchy and should refer to the Gloucestershire's emerging Draft Waste Core Strategy and Gloucestershire's adopted Supplementary Planning Document <i>Waste Minimisation in</i>	Comment noted. A recognition of the waste hierarchy is considered to be implicit in this objective. Future objectives will be amended to make this explicit.

	<i>Development Projects (September 2006).</i>	
Gloucestershire County Council	There is mention that the closet European site to the borough is over 10 miles away at Bredon Hill in Worcestershire. This is incorrect. The closest European site is Dixon Hill SAC in Tewkesbury Borough (c.5km north west of the Cheltenham Borough boundary).	Comment noted. Reference to Bredon Hill has been amended accordingly.
Environment Agency	The 'Biodiversity' theme should be amended to read "Biodiversity – work with the grain of nature to protect, restore, create and enhance habitats, species and sites of geological interest"	Agree. Wording amended.
Environment Agency	PPS1 DRAFT Planning and Climate change has now been finalised so remove word 'draft'	Agree. Wording amended.
Environment Agency	Reference should be made in the 'Water' theme to CBC's SPG on SuDS	Agree. Wording added.
Environment Agency	Typo in the 'Waste' theme – the word 'encouraged' should read 'encourage'	Agree. Wording amended.
Environment Agency	Typo in the Social themes header – the word 'healthy' appears as 'heath'	Agree. Wording amended.

Where agreed, these changes have been made to the Sustainability Appraisal Framework and will be utilised in the appraisal of the plan's options.

CHAPTER 10. SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK

- 10.1 The Sustainability Appraisal Framework of Objectives, Criteria and indicators is a vital tool in the appraisal of the plan's options, preferred option and in the monitoring and future review of the document. The Framework provided below includes all the Themes and Issues outlined previously and, in addition, those suggested by consultees. The Framework also cross references all the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive's topics.
- 10.2 After analysing consultation responses and making appropriate amendments, no sustainability objectives have been amended. Therefore there is no need to include an amended sustainability appraisal framework table.

CHAPTER 11. COMPATIBILITY OF OBJECTIVES

- 11.1 It is essential that any new plan developed is compatible with the principles and objectives of sustainability. It is, therefore, necessary to check the compatibility of the plan's stated objectives with those in the Sustainability Appraisal Framework. Plan objectives are tested against all Sustainability Objectives and rated compatible 😊, incompatible ☹, or not relevant 😐. Any incompatible objective should be removed from the plan objectives and the plan altered accordingly.

Cheltenham Central Conservation Area Management Plans Supplementary Planning Documents Objectives:

1. To act as a **development control tool** – the management proposals will be material considerations in decision making on applications for planning and related consents;
2. To act as a **project development tool** – the management plan identifies proactive work which relates to specific sites and areas, which can address some of the negative factors identified in the character appraisal;
3. To act as a **best practice guide** – the management plan established a series of management proposals to enhance the area's character. These proposals should be considered in the design and implementation of all projects regardless of the need for permissions and who is undertaking them (public bodies, corporate bodies or private individuals).

Sustainability Appraisal Framework Objectives

1. Protect, restore, create and enhance habitats, species and sites of wildlife or geological interest
2. Reduce carbon emissions, striving for a carbon neutral borough
3. Improve the resilience of people, businesses and the environment to the inevitable consequences of climate change
4. Manage and reduce flood risk and surface water run-off
5. Maximise the use of sustainable modes of transport
6. Maximise appropriate reuse of previously developed land
7. Minimise development of open land and green spaces within Cheltenham
8. Protect and enhance the unique setting and landscape character of Cheltenham
9. Minimise the volume of waste created and promote reuse, recycling and composting to reduce landfill
10. Protect and enhance Cheltenham's distinctive townscape quality and its historic heritage
11. Improve air, water and soil quality and reduce noise and light pollution and the amount of contaminated land
12. Support people and existing businesses in reducing their carbon footprint and the use of natural resources
13. Support the vitality and viability of Cheltenham town centre as a retail, service, leisure and learning destination
14. Protect and enhance Cheltenham's vibrant cultural life
15. Integrate sustainable construction principles and standards into all development schemes
16. Reduce inequalities in wellbeing and opportunity
17. Improve the health and wellbeing of local residents, with good access to community health facilities
18. Protect and enhance open spaces, gardens and allotments for leisure and recreation, including opportunities for wildlife and local food production
19. Reduce crime and the fear of crime
20. Encourage everyone to participate in local decision making

Table 14: Compatibility Matrix

Cheltenham Central Conservation Area Management Plans Supplementary Planning Document Objectives Sustainability Appraisal Framework Objectives	1	2	3
1	☹	☹	☹
2	☹	☹	☹
3	☹	☹	☹
4	☺	☺	☺
5	☹	☹	☹
6	☺	☺	☺
7	☺	☺	☺
8	☺	☺	☺
9	☹	☹	☹
10	☺	☺	☺
11	☹	☹	☹
12	☹	☹	☹
13	☹	☹	☹
14	☹	☹	☹
15	☹	☹	☹
16	☹	☹	☹
17	☹	☹	☹
18	☺	☺	☺
19	☹	☹	☹
20	☹	☹	☹

None of the plan objectives are incompatible with the Sustainability Appraisal Framework Objectives.

The only options available for the plan were a “do nothing” approach – not producing the Supplementary Planning Documents and relying on Local Plan policies and other existing legislation – or producing and implementing the Supplementary Planning Documents.

CHAPTER 12. APPRAISAL OF OPTIONS

“Do Nothing Approach”

The “do nothing” approach does not necessarily imply that the baseline situation would not alter. However, it can be safely assumed that current baseline trends will continue as they are and that the baseline situation will change according to these trends.

Production and Implementation of the Supplementary Planning Documents

An appraisal of the potential effects of the two plan options above against the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives is tabulated below.

Table 15: Appraisal of Options

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	“Do Nothing” Option	Produce and Implement the Supplementary Planning Documents
1. Protect, restore, create and enhance habitats, species and sites of wildlife or geological interest	Local Plan policies and planning permissions will protect habitats, species and sites from development	SPDs contain proposals to enhance specific sites and areas and encourage the retention of green spaces where permissions are not required e.g. proposals ‘Pittville Park Heritage Lottery Bid’, and ‘Clarence Square, Wellington Square and Pittville Crescent’. This will improve on the “do nothing” option
2. Reduce carbon emissions, striving for a carbon neutral borough	Existing plans and policies in place	Could be reduction in carbon emissions as a result of implementing management proposal ‘Equipment or installations (for example satellite dishes, small scale renewable energy schemes and other such features)’ and the ‘Lamp standards’ proposal in The Park management plan.
3. Improve the resilience of people, businesses and the environment to the inevitable consequences of climate change	Existing plans and policies in place	Could have positive impact on improving resilience as a result of ensuring enhancements are resilient to effects of climate change through use of materials, appropriate planting, decreasing levels of surface water run-off, requirements for energy

		efficiency etc.
4. Manage and reduce flood risk and surface water run-off	Existing Local Plan policy (BE7) states that 'Development which introduces or extends the parking of vehicles on forecourts or front gardens of buildings in conservation areas will not be permitted'	SPDs encourage retention of front garden space to reduce surface water run-off and contain a proposal to prepare a guidance note on the sustainable design of front garden parking. This will improve on the "do nothing" option
5. Maximise the use of sustainable modes of transport	Existing plans and policies in place	The implementation of management proposals 'Pittville Gates' (in the Pittville management plan) and 'Lower High Street – Traffic and Public Realm' (in the Lower High Street management plan) will have a positive impact creating better spaces for pedestrians and cyclists.
6. Maximise appropriate reuse of previously developed land	Existing Local Plan policies and planning permissions will have control over development on previously developed land. Section 215 notices improve the quality of existing buildings but don't maximise the appropriate reuse of previously developed land	No difference made to maximising appropriate reuse of previously developed land as a result of implementing SPDs
7. Minimise development of open land and green spaces within Cheltenham	Local Plan policies and planning permissions will control the development of open land and green spaces	SPDs contain proposals to protect and enhance open land and green spaces within the conservation area against development. This will improve on the "do nothing" option
8. Protect and enhance the unique setting and landscape character of Cheltenham	Local Plan policies and planning permissions protect setting and landscape character against development	SPDs contain proposals to protect views, open spaces and overall landscape character of Central Conservation Area. This will significantly improve on the "do nothing" option
9. Minimise the volume of waste created and promote reuse, recycling and composting to reduce landfill	Existing plans and policies in place...	Management proposal 'Loss of traditional architectural features on some historic buildings' would have a particularly beneficial impact on use of sustainable materials.

10. Protect and enhance Cheltenham's distinctive townscape quality and its historic heritage	Local Plan policies and planning permissions protect and enhance Cheltenham's townscape quality and heritage	All proposals within the SPDs contain works to protect and enhance Cheltenham's distinctive townscape quality and its historic heritage (in particular the 'project proposal' works aim to enhance specific areas). This will significantly improve on the "do nothing" option
11. Improve air, water and soil quality and reduce noise and light pollution and the amount of contaminated land	Existing plans and policies in place...	Possible benefits to light pollution through improvements to street lighting which is raised in The Park and Tivoli management plans for example.
12. Support people and existing businesses in reducing their carbon footprint and the use of natural resources	Existing plans and policies in place...	SPDs contain proposal to encourage repair rather than replacement of original architectural features and use sustainable materials and techniques when doing so. Use of renewable energy schemes would also positively contribute to reducing carbon footprints. Through protecting some of the commercial units in Grove Street, this would impact positively on carbon footprints through cutting need to travel to work.
13. Support the vitality and viability of Cheltenham town centre as a retail, service, leisure and learning destination	Local Plan policies, planning permissions and projects in place e.g. Cheltenham's Civic Pride project	SPDs contain proposals which support and enhance the vitality and viability of Cheltenham. The implementation of the SPDs will enhance the unique character and appearance of the town. This will improve on the "do nothing" option
14. Protect and enhance Cheltenham's vibrant cultural life	Local Plan policies, planning permissions and projects in place e.g. Cheltenham's Civic Pride project	SPDs contain proposals which support and enhance the vitality and viability of Cheltenham. The implementation of the SPDs will enhance the unique character and

		appearance of the town. This will improve on the “do nothing” option
15. Integrate sustainable construction principles and standards into all development schemes	Local Plan policies and requirements of planning permission. Introduction of sustainability statement/checklist to accompany planning applications...	No significant effect.
16. Reduce inequalities in wellbeing and opportunity	Existing plans and policies in place...	SPDs do not directly affect this but proposals to enhance specific spaces and sites could indirectly improve the wellbeing of local residents and users of the space. This would slightly improve on the “do nothing” option
17. Improve the health and wellbeing of local residents, with good access to community health facilities	Existing plans and policies in place...	SPDs do not directly affect this but proposals to enhance specific spaces and sites could indirectly improve the wellbeing of local residents and users of the space. This would slightly improve on the “do nothing” option
18. Protect and enhance open spaces, gardens and allotments for leisure and recreation, including opportunities for wildlife and local food production	Local Plan policies, planning permissions and projects in place e.g. the restoration of Montpellier Gardens and Heritage Lottery Fund bid for restoration of Pittville Park	SPDs contain proposals to enhance specific sites and areas and encourage the retention of green spaces where permissions are not required e.g. proposals – ‘Pittville Park Heritage Lottery Bid’ and ‘Clarence Square, Wellington Square and Pittville Crescent’. The management proposals ‘Drives and loss of front gardens’ and ‘Tree Management’ also highlight the importance of biodiversity and the need to protect it. This will improve on the “do nothing” option
19. Reduce crime and the fear of crime	Existing plans, policies and projects in place	No significant effect
20. Encourage everyone to participate in local decision making	Existing legislation in place to consult with the public in developing plans, policies, project etc.	No significant effect

Preferred Option

Producing and implementing the Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDS) should not produce any detrimental significant effects over the “do nothing” approach and should have a number of significant beneficial effects as a result of the adoption and implementation of the SPDS.

Producing and implementing the SPDS is therefore considered to be the preferred option.

CHAPTER 13. PREDICTED EFFECTS

Predicted Effects

The prediction and evaluation of the potential effects of the SPDS has been undertaken using a matrix to assess the significance, probability, duration, nature and reversibility of impacts, as well as the potential for cumulative effects. It should be noted that the impacts have been assessed prior to mitigation.

The appraisal process has not identified any significant detrimental effects due to the implementation of the SPDS. This prediction should be carefully monitored through the Annual Monitoring Report and policy should be reviewed if significant detrimental effects are found to be occurring.

The following beneficial effects have been predicted in relation to the Sustainability Appraisal Framework of Objectives and Criteria. Following implementation of the SPDS, they should be monitored using the Potential Detailed Indicators identified in the Framework.

Table 16: Predicted Effects of Producing and Implementing the SPDS

Significant Effect	Magnitude	Significance	Duration	Probability	Reversibility	Potential for cumulative effect
Retain front garden space and reduce surface water run-off	Small	Moderate	Medium term	Moderate	Probable	Yes - positive
Protect and enhance open land and green space	Small	Moderate	Medium term	Moderate	Possible	Yes - positive
Protect views, open spaces and overall landscape character	Medium	High	Long term	Very High	Improbable	Yes - positive
Encourage repair rather than replacement of original architectural	Medium	Moderate	Medium	Moderate	Possible	Yes - positive

features						
Protect and enhance Cheltenham's distinctive townscape quality and its historic heritage	Medium	High	Long term	Very High	Improbable	Yes - positive
Encourage repair rather than replacement of original architectural features	Small	Moderate	Medium	Moderate	Possible	Yes - positive
Enhance specific spaces and sites, indirectly improving the wellbeing of local residents	Small	Slight	Long term	High	Possible	Unknown
Enhance specific spaces and sites, indirectly improving the wellbeing of local residents	Small	Slight	Long term	High	Possible	Unknown
Enhance specific sites and areas and encourage the retention of green spaces	Medium	Moderate	Medium term	Moderate	Possible	Yes - positive

None of the predicted effects above are negative but many of the positive effects predicted are either of little significance, of small magnitude or are reversible. That said, many of the predicted effects have a high probability of being long term and have the potential for positive cumulative effect when considered alongside other significant effects. In particular there is potential for a positive cumulative effect if the SPDs help to retain front garden space, protect and enhance green spaces, protect views, protect townscape quality and historic heritage and help with the retention of original architectural features. Such a cumulative effect will significantly contribute to Cheltenham's Central Conservation Area becoming a more sustainable space within the town centre.

CHAPTER 14. MITIGATION

Mitigation

Mitigation should be used to ensure that potential detrimental significant effects are minimised. In this instance there are no predicted significant detrimental effects and therefore no need for mitigation. However, a number of the potential beneficial effects are uncertain in terms of significance and magnitude and these should be carefully monitored to ensure that they have the effect predicted. Mitigation measures should be considered as part of any review of the SPDs should any detrimental effects be demonstrated to have occurred.

CHAPTER 15. MONITORING AND REVIEW

Monitoring

Following the adoption of the SPDs, their significant sustainability effects will be monitored as part of the Cheltenham Borough Council Annual Monitoring Report. This will consider the performance of the SPDs against the relevant sustainability objectives for the Sustainability Appraisal Framework and establish whether the significant effects predicted have occurred following the implementation of the SPDs.

Review

The SPDs should be reviewed if either they do not achieve the beneficial significant effects that are predicted or if non-beneficial significant effects occur that the SPDs were intended to minimise or mitigate against.

APPENDIX 1 – Stage A1 Relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes

INTERNATIONAL PLANS, POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES		
Other plan/programme	Objectives or requirements of the other plan or programme	How objectives and requirements might be taken on board
Convention of Biodiversity, 1992 (UN Nations Convention on Biological Diversity)	<p>The Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty adopted at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. The Convention has three main goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation of biological diversity Sustainable use of its components; and Fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources <p>In other words, its objective is to develop national strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. It is often seen as the key document regarding sustainable development.</p>	<p>The LDF will need to incorporate within it policies that will meet the requirements of the Biodiversity Convention.</p> <p>The SA needs to incorporate objectives relating to biodiversity.</p>
EC conservation of Natural Habitats of Wild Fauna and Flora, 1992 (EC Habitats Directive)	<p>Promotes the maintenance of biodiversity by the requirement to restore natural habitats and wild species at a favourable conservation status, introducing robust protection for those habitats and species of European importance.</p>	<p>The LDF will need to incorporate within it policies that will meet the requirements of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>The SA needs to incorporate objectives and targets relating to the protection of habitats and species.</p>
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), 2001 (European Union Directive)	<p>European directive which requires an assessment to be made of the effect of certain plans and programmes on the environment. Key issues include biodiversity, health, soil, water, air quality, landscape, cultural heritage, climate, flora and fauna.</p>	<p>The SA will need to ensure that it incorporates the specific requirements of the directive.</p>
Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, 2002 (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs)	<p>The Johannesburg Declaration highlights present challenges, expresses a commitment to sustainable development, underscores the importance of multilateralism and emphasizes the need for implementation across a range of topics including sustainable consumption, renewable energy and energy efficiency, biodiversity, poverty reduction, water agriculture, etc.</p>	<p>The LDF will need to be underpinned by the central concept of sustainable development.</p> <p>The SA will seek to incorporate some of the key issues addressed by the declaration.</p>

Other plan/programme	Objectives or requirements of the other plan or programme	How objectives and requirements might be taken on board
Ten Year Transport Plan, 2000 (Department For Transport)	Aims to deliver the Governments priorities with regard to transport. Includes reduced congestion, better integration between modes of transport, and improving choice, reliability, and safety throughout all forms of public transport.	<p>The LDF will need to address all aspects of transport provision including car, public transport, walking, cycling and freight.</p> <p>SA to incorporate objectives relating to reducing the need to travel and encouraging alternative modes of transport to the private car.</p>
<p>PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development, 2005 (DCLG)</p> <p>PPS1 DRAFT Supplement: Planning & Climate Change, 2006 (DCLG)</p>	<p>Key objectives are to promote sustainable economic growth, regeneration to improve quality of life for local communities and social cohesion and inclusion.</p> <p>Also to bring forward land and resources sufficient for future needs, to improve access to facilities, to focus development which attracts large numbers of people in existing centres, promote more efficient use of land, protect and enhance the natural environment and address the issue of climate change.</p> <p>Planning and Climate Change is a new-style PPS reflecting the expectations of the Government's Planning Green Paper, Planning – delivering a fundamental change.</p> <p>Planning and Climate Change sets out how spatial planning, in providing for the new homes, jobs and infrastructure needed by communities, should help shape places with lower carbon emissions and resilient to the climate change now accepted as inevitable. Spatial planning, regionally and locally, provides the framework for integrating new development with other programmes that influence the nature of places and how they function.</p>	<p>The LDF will need to be based on the overarching principles of PPS1.</p> <p>The SA will need to ensure that the SA Framework will assess each potential policy/proposal having regard to the key priorities of PPS1 including social cohesion, quality of life etc. The protection and enhancement of the environment, the prudent use of natural environment, economy and society are the 4 key principles of the document. These 4 principles need to work together to achieve sustainable development.</p> <p>Engage constructively and imaginatively with developers to secure the delivery of sustainable buildings and recognises there will be local circumstances that justify higher standards for particular developments.</p>
PPS3: Housing, 2007 (DCLG)	PPS3 underpins the delivery of the Government's strategic housing policy objectives and the goal to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent home, which they can afford in a community where they want to	SPD's/DPD's must allow for enough housing to meet local needs whilst maximising the use of previous developed

	<p>live.</p> <p>The Government's objectives are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Achieve a wide choice of high quality homes, both affordable and market housing, to address the requirements of the community 2. Widen opportunities for home ownership and ensure high quality housing for those who cannot afford market housing, in particular those who are vulnerable or in need 3. Improve affordability across the housing market, including by increasing the supply of housing 4. Create sustainable, inclusive, mixed communities in all areas, both urban and rural 	<p>land. As well as this, they should seek to promote mixed-use developments that include affordable housing and aim to achieve sustainable residential environments.</p> <p>Meet the requirements of specific groups such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - disabled people - families with children - single parent families - homeless households - older people - students
PPS6: Planning For Town Centres, 2005 (DCLG)	<p>Seeks to promote the vitality and viability of town centres by planning for the growth and development of existing centres and promoting and enhancing existing centres, by focussing development in such centres and encouraging a wide range of services in a good environment, accessible to all.</p>	<p>Policies/proposals to maintain and enhance the vibrancy of the town centre and other designated centres.</p> <p>SA objectives and criteria to include reference to vitality and viability of centres.</p>
PPS9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation, 2005 (DCLG)	<p>Sets out policies on the protection of biodiversity and geological conservation through the planning system.</p>	<p>LDF to address issue of biodiversity and geological conservation.</p> <p>SA objectives and criteria to relate to biodiversity and geological conservation.</p>
PPS11: Regional Spatial Strategies, 2005 (DCLG)	<p>The policy statement sets out the procedural policy on the nature of Regional Spatial Strategies (RSSs) and focuses on what should happen in preparing revisions to them and explains how this relates to the Act and associated regulations.</p>	<p>Ensures indirectly that the LDF will be prepared in accordance with the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West.</p>
PPS12: Local Development Frameworks, 2004 (DCLG)	<p>Sets out the Government's policy for the preparation of Local Development Frameworks. Strong emphasis on community consultation and frontloading. Requires LDFs to be prepared with a view to contributing towards sustainable development. SA to be integrated into the plan preparation process.</p>	<p>The LDF must be prepared in accordance with the guidance set out in PPS12 and must be underpinned by the central concept of sustainable development.</p>

		Ensure compliance with SEA directive.
PPG15: Planning and The Historic Environment, 1994 (DCLG)	<p>Sets out the Government's policies for the Historic Environment, Conservation Areas, and other areas of the Historic Environment.</p> <p>Policies should seek protection and enhancement of the historic environment whether it is listed buildings, conservation areas, or any other aspect of the historic environment.</p>	<p>Local authorities must monitor Conservation Areas, listed and non-listed buildings in order to ascertain if any further designations are required. LDF to address the preservation and enhancement of the historic environment.</p> <p>SA to incorporate objectives and criteria relating to the protection and preservation of the historic environment.</p>
PPG16: Archaeology and Planning, 1990 (DCLG)	<p>Sets out Government policies with regard to archaeological remains and also how they should be recorded and preserved.</p> <p>Policies should be included in the LDF aimed at the protection, enhancement, and preservation of sites of archaeological interest and also their settings. An archaeological investigation of areas within a proposals map may be required to ascertain if any archaeological remains exist, and the importance that should attached to their preservation and/or further assessment.</p>	<p>The LDF will need to include policies relating to sites of archaeological importance.</p> <p>SA to incorporate objectives and criteria relating to the protection and preservation of the historic environment.</p>
PPG17: Planning For Open Space, Sport and Recreation, 2002 (DCLG)	<p>Sets out the Government's policies with regard to the retention and provision of open space, sport, and recreation facilities.</p> <p>Areas of open space for sport and recreation are essential for people's quality of life therefore policies should seek to ensure an adequate supply of good quality open space.</p> <p>They promote health and wellbeing, promote sustainable development, promote social inclusion and community cohesion and support an urban renaissance and rural renewal.</p>	<p>Local authorities required to undertake assessments of the amount and quality of open spaces for sport and recreation in their areas and the needs of their areas and to set local standards accordingly. LDF to address issue of open space and recreation provision/protection.</p> <p>Objectives and criteria of SA to incorporate recreation and open space provision.</p>
English Heritage – Guidance on the management of conservation areas (2005)	The document provides guidance on relating the designation and management of conservation areas to the principles of conservation management planning for historic assets, and outlines how the management of conservation areas relates to the new development plans	Consideration of content of document in terms of conservation area policy, implications of designation and formulating management proposals

	system	
English Heritage – Guidance on conservation area appraisals (2005)	This document offers guidance and advice to those undertaking, or commissioning, conservation area appraisals	Consideration of content of document in formulating appraisal and adoption of standard framework for writing character statements
Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990	This Act of Parliament provides the primary legislation in England and Wales, which sets out the legal requirements for the control of development and alterations which affect buildings, including those which are listed or in conservation areas, and the framework by which control is maintained	Acknowledgement and consideration of sections within Act when writing character appraisals
London Assembly Environment Committee – Crazy Paving The environmental importance of London's front gardens (2005)	This document assesses the impact of continued paving over London's front gardens	Consideration of issues and design solutions in analysing the built environment of conservation areas and developing management proposals
Royal Horticultural Society – Urban Series – Gardening Matters (date unknown)	This document addresses the potential problems caused by loss of garden space and design solutions to create an attractive garden complete with off-street parking	Consideration of issues and design solutions in analysing the built environment of conservation areas and developing management proposals
REGIONAL PLANS, POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES		
Other plan/programme	Objectives or requirements of the other plan or programme	How objectives and requirements might be taken on board
Regional Planning Guidance for the South West, 2001 (GOSW)	<p>The Guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a regional spatial strategy within which local authority development plans and Local Transport Plans (LTPs) in the South West should be prepared Sets out a broad development strategy for the period to 2016 and beyond Provides the spatial framework for other strategies and programmes <p>This Guidance is due to be replaced by the Regional Spatial Strategy.</p>	<p>The LDF will in the first instance be prepared in accordance with RPG10 which has been granted temporary status as Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West. It will need to accommodate housing requirement to 2016.</p> <p>SA to have broad regard to the aims and objectives of the regional guidance many of which are underpinned by national guidance.</p>
'Our Environment: Our Future' The Regional Strategy for the South West Environment, 2004 – 2014 (SWRA)	<p>The document provides a vision and aims for the environment of the south west in the future. It identifies pressures threatening the environment and key issues to be tackled. The purpose of the Strategy is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generate awareness of the importance of the south west 	The LDF will have regard to the key issues of climate change; wiser use of natural resources; food, farming and forestry; tourism and leisure; spatial planning and transport.

	<p>environment to people living in, working in and visiting the south west</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify priorities for protecting and enhancing the environment for the benefit of current and future generations ▪ Ensure decisions are based on an understanding that social and economic activity must be undertaken within the carrying capacity of the region ▪ Provide a framework for action 	Recognition of a broad range of environmental issues within the SA.
Strategy for the Historic Environment in the South West, 2004 (English Heritage)	<p>The Strategy aims to change the way the historic environment is perceived and valued in the region. It recognises that the entire environment is historic - with human activity having created land use and settlement patterns that closely reflect the physical environment, particularly geology and topography, climate and the region's peninsula landform.</p> <p>Priorities are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure the Historic Environment is integrated into the Region's Policy Framework ▪ Develop positive and creative partnerships that reflect the many linkages and opportunities in the South West ▪ Ensure the Historic Environment is accessible and relevant to people in their everyday lives ▪ Raise awareness of the historic dimension of the wider environment and its contribution to quality of life ▪ Share knowledge and build a better understanding of the role and potential of the Historic Environment 	<p>The LDF will need to have regard to the protection of the historic built environment in its broadest sense and to ensure that the historic environment is accessible to all.</p> <p>SA to recognise the importance of the historic environment, not just protecting it but also improving access to it.</p>
Draft Regional Spatial Strategy, 2006 – 2026 (SWRA)	<p>This is due to replace the Regional Planning Guidance 10. The RSS will look forward to 2026 and is designed to manage the change and development the South West will need if it is to rise to the challenge of a growing population and play its role in national and regional prosperity. It would also provide the spatial framework for other strategies and programmes.</p>	The LDF will be prepared in accordance with the emerging RSS once it has been adopted.
COUNTY LEVEL PLANS, POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES		
Other plan/programme	Objectives or requirements of the other plan or programme	How objectives and requirements might be taken on board

Gloucestershire Structure Plan Second Review, 1999	<p>Existing adopted County Structure Plan providing strategic planning guidance for the County focusing new development in the Principal Urban Areas. Covers the period 1991 to 2011. The Strategy is based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maximising the use of brownfield sites ▪ Utilising the capacity identified by the joint working process on Greenfield sites well related to existing urban areas <p>Elsewhere in the County, to utilise the capacity identified by the joint working process on sites within or adjacent to towns and villages.</p>	<p>Remains the Adopted Local Plan and will therefore need to be reflected in the LDF until replaced.</p> <p>SA to incorporate some of the main strategic objectives of the plan including the reuse of brownfield land.</p>
Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan, 2000	<p>The Local Transport Plan (LTP) replaces the Transport Policies Programmes (TPP) as the County Council's bid to central Government for funding for transport schemes in the County. The LTP sets out the transport strategies Gloucestershire County Council will seek to implement from 2001/2002 to 2005-2006.</p> <p>The LTP considers a much wider range of issues such as social exclusion, air pollution and financial measures such as road user charging and parking charges.</p> <p>Targets set:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ By 2010 to reduce killed or seriously injured road accident casualties by at least 50% compared with the average for 1994 – 1998 ▪ To double cycle journeys by the year 2012 from a base year of 2002 	<p>The LDF will need to incorporate the transport priorities of the LTP within its own transport policies and proposals.</p> <p>The SA Framework must recognise the importance of reducing the need to travel, reducing congestion and encouraging sustainable patterns of development.</p>
Local Agenda 21 Strategy for a Sustainable Gloucestershire, 2000	<p>Sets out a sustainability framework for Gloucestershire.</p>	<p>The LDF will be underpinned by the central concept of sustainable development.</p> <p>SA Framework to include objectives relating to reducing emissions, revitalising designated centres, reducing energy demand and traffic.</p>
Gloucestershire Local Transport	<p>LTP2 is a delivery programme designed to achieve targets reflecting</p>	<p>LTP2 includes a number of targets and</p>

Plan (LTP2), 2006 – 2011	<p>national, regional and local priorities. LTP2 sets out the transport strategies Gloucestershire County Council will seek to implement from 2006 - 2011.</p> <p>This vision set out in LTP2 for transport in the county is expanded into six objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintenance and improvement 2. Economy and integration 3. Safety 4. Accessibility 5. Real choices and awareness 6. Environment 	<p>indicators. The LDF will need to incorporate the transport priorities of the LTP within its own transport policies and proposals.</p> <p>LDF and SA to look at the main priority for transport. This is separated into four areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tackling congestion 2. Delivering accessibility 3. Safer roads 4. Better air quality
CHELTENHAM PLANS, POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES		
Other plan/programme	Objectives or requirements of the other plan or programme	How objectives and requirements might be taken on board
Honeybourne Way – Vegetation Management Plan, 2003 - 2008	The Honeybourne line was formerly a railway line connecting Cheltenham and Honeybourne, Worcestershire. The line is now a popular cycle route and is also an important wildlife corridor. The Management Plan sets out how aspects of the line shall be managed such as trees and verges, plus maintaining the feeling of openness.	LDF and SA to recognise the local importance of the Honeybourne Line.
Supplementary Planning Guidance: Amenity Space in Residential Development, 2003	The Guidance relates to policy RC 6 in the Cheltenham Borough Local Plan Second Review Revised Deposit Draft (2004), which states; "Residential development will only be provided where it provides an appropriate amount of amenity space".	Recognise the importance of green spaces within the Borough, including public amenity spaces within developments and private gardens.
Supplementary Planning Guidance: Sustainable Buildings, 2003	The Guidance is intended to ensure that healthy and highly efficient buildings are created, using materials and methods, which have a reduced impact on the environment. This means considering environmental impacts during the whole lifecycle of a building, from site identification through the construction process, to the building's normal operating conditions, and then to the end of its proposed lifespan. All developments should encourage long periods of use.	SA to ensure that buildings are developed using materials and methods that have a reduced impact on the environment.
Supplementary Planning	The Guidance is designed to encourage more sustainable developments in	Developments should consider

Guidance: Sustainable Developments, 2003	Cheltenham, by providing advice on healthy and highly efficient buildings, the use of appropriate materials and methods, which have a reduced impact on the environment.	environmental impacts during the whole lifecycle of a building, from site identification through the construction process, to the building's normal operating conditions, and then to the end of its proposed lifespan.
Cheltenham Local Plan Second Review, 1991 – 2011 (2006)	<p>The Plan has been prepared within the context of the Gloucestershire Structure Plan Second Review and covers the period to 2011. The Plan is intended to perform four functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To Develop the policies and proposals of the Structure Plan ▪ To develop a detailed basis for development control ▪ To provide a basis for co-ordinating development and other use of land ▪ To bring local and detailed planning issues before the public 	Cheltenham Local Plan has undergone a sustainability appraisal. This can inform the SEA process.
Cheltenham Corporate Business Plan, 2007 – 2010	<p>The Business Plan is a flagship document that sets out the broad ambitions for action over the next three years.</p> <p>The priorities for the next three years are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promoting sustainable living ▪ Economic development and regeneration ▪ Improving environmental quality ▪ Promoting housing choice <p>High priorities from residents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community safety ▪ Healthy communities ▪ Sustainable living ▪ Environmental quality ▪ Children and young children <p>The organisational priority is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Being an excellent, efficient and sustainable council 	<p>The LDF will provide a mechanism for working towards a number of the Council's objectives.</p> <p>SA to address and incorporate the Strategy's main priorities and aims.</p>
Cheltenham Urban Design Framework, Public Realm Strategy, Draft March 2007	Sets out a cohesive approach to unifying elements such as signage, lighting, public art, planting and materials to be used across the town centre and will aim to build on the existing character of individual quarters. The	Consideration of design proposals and proposed schemes in analysing the built environment of conservation areas and

	Public Realm Strategy includes proposals on how to improve the key public spaces identified in the Urban Design Strategy.	developing management proposals.
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APPENDIX 2 – Baseline Data Tables – Environmental, Economic and Social

ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE DATA

Key Indicator and Source	Source	98/99	99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Trend
% of land designated as conservation area	CP – CBC LPI	12.9%	12.9%	12.9%	14.77 %	14.77 %	14.77 %	14.77 %	14.77 %	14.77 %	This figure rose in the period 01/02 reflecting the designation of an additional conservation area. Since then, it has remained the same.
No. of conservation areas	TEN Corporate BVPI 219A	6	6	6	7	7	7	7	7	7	See above.
Percentage of conservation areas with up-to-date: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Character appraisal • Management proposals 	TEN Corporate BVPI 219B and C								71% 0%	88% 16.5%	Conservation areas with character appraisals and management proposals increasing.
No. of buildings at risk	CBC Heritage and Conservation	3	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	1	Most buildings at risk have been placed on the register and it has been possible to remove them swiftly following remediation works. The current building at risk has been on the register since 1999.
Scheduled monuments	Regional Ancient Monuments Inspectorate Bristol	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	There are six scheduled monuments within Cheltenham.
No. of listed buildings	CBC Heritage and Conservation	2,700	2,700	2,540	2,540	2,540	2,540	2,540	2,602	2,602	The number of listed buildings fell from 2,700 to 2,540 in 2000. This was largely due to a re-list commissioned in this year by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. Some additional buildings have been added in the last two years.
No. of parks with Green	TEN GE11	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	2	Winston Churchill Memorial Gardens held

Key Indicator and Source	Source	98/99	99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Trend
Flag/green pennant											Green Flag status for five consecutive years, but this was lost in 002/03. Hatherley Park achieved Green Flag status for the first time in 2005. Naunton Park in 2006.
Land Designations: Special Areas of Conservation	Natural England	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	Special Areas of Conservation are designated areas that are important habitats or endangered species. Any plan that may affect an SAC must be subject to a Habitats Regulation Assessment under the Habitats Directive. There are no SAC designations in Cheltenham. REGIONAL: 2007 – 64 (121,097.43ha) NATIONAL: 2007 – 228 (809,144ha)
Habitats: Important Habitats	CBC Biodiversity Audit, 2006	There are 31 protected BAP species and 31 habitats within Cheltenham boundary.									REGIONAL: N/A NATIONAL: 2007 – 1,149 species, 65 habitats
No. allotment plots	TEN GE2B	916	917	700	708	674	674	646	618	628	The number of allotment plots has steadily decreased over the accounted period, reflecting a drop in usage and the development of some allotment plots.
% tenanted allotments	TEN GE2	72%	74%	69%	72%	75%	75%	77%	90%	88%	Allotments available are being increasingly well utilised, reflecting growing demand.
Net increase/decrease in trees	TEN GE5 (2001/02-2003/04) Chris Chavasse (CBC)	222	185	242	54	42	91	N/A	100	36	The net figures have decreased dramatically since 2000/01.
New/replacement trees on CBC land	Chris Chavasse (CBC)				230	170	187	N/A	155	109	The number of new/replacement trees have been decreasing.
% of sites surveyed that fall below Grade B for cleanliness (combined deposits of litter and detritus)	TEN Corporate BVPI 199A (2006 changed criteria)						15.3%	18%	15%	10.7%	Situation peaked in 2004/05, since then street cleanliness has improved.
% new homes built on previously developed land	TEN Corporate BVPI 106	91%	96%	87%	100%	100%	89.1%	81%	84.8%	90.4%	After reaching its peak in the period 2001-03, the use of previously developed land has dropped off. However, there has been an increase in 2006/07.

Key Indicator and Source	Source	98/99	99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Trend
Noise complaints reported to CBC. Jane Mitchell – Public Protection(CBC)	Construction Domestic Alarms Industrial/Commercial Miscellaneous Street				11 260 21 174 7 17	9 164 40 154 2 14	11 147 21 144 9 9	34 192 28 104 12 7	34 206 21 108 14 5	36 181 14 109 11 5	This indicator relies on people reporting noise complaints, which may not be as useful, given that it could demonstrate an increase in noise levels or decrease in tolerance. Recorded construction complaints have increased dramatically in recent years, whilst other noises have stayed reasonably constant. These results are encouraging.
Cheltenham's Ecological footprint – global hectares per person	www.Ecologicalbudget.org.uk – WWF/Stockholm Environment Institute								5.39 gha	N/A	Our target footprint should be 1.8 gha if we are to live within our ecological budget – in the UK we use 5.4 gha and are 15th highest the world, with a regional figure of 5.24 hectares.
Use of renewable electricity in CBC buildings	Climate change strategy	0%	0%	0%	56%	56%	100%	100%	100%	100%	The use of renewable energy in CBC buildings increased from 0% to 100% in 3 years, which is a very positive achievement.
% viewpoint members switching to renewable energy	TEN Corporate Viewpoint PPR 6B				30%	N/A	N/A	87%	N/A	9.89	Despite the infrequency of recording, the increase in this trend is encouraging.

These areas of baseline information were particularly useful and relevant in developing the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and Sustainability Appraisal (SA).

(NO ECONOMIC BASELINE DATA)

SOCIAL BASELINE DATA

A Strong, healthy and just society – Social Baseline Data											
Key Indicator and Source	Source	98/99	99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Trend
Population: Total	ONS – mid year estimates				110,000	109,800	109,500	109,900	110,800	111,500	The population of Cheltenham has been gradually increasing since 2004. This has increased Cheltenham's population to 111,500 in 2006. REGIONAL: 2006 – 5,124,100 NATIONAL: 2006 – 50,762,900
Total number of new housing completions and % affordable	RLA Report	173 55%	319 19%	523 4%	365 20%	420 13%	681 22%	505 21%	460 6%	1012 9%	The number of new housing completions increased rapidly in 2006/07. With 9% affordable. Whilst this is encouraging, the target of 40% of affordable units on development sites of a certain size does not produce sufficient units as too few larger sites are coming forward. The trigger or threshold for the provision of affordable housing on development sites has been reduced from 25 to 15 units.
% of unfit, privately owned homes brought back into use	TEN Corporate BVPI 62 (Now deleted as a national performance indicator)	5.3%	8.2%	9.5%	3.9%	7.6%	9.5%	9.8%	9.4%	N/A	This record is encouraging, and approximately one in ten of unfit properties are being returned to use.
Number of vacant dwellings returned to occupation or	TEN NR BVPI 64		17	21	25	25	46	50	38	37	This figure shows a steady positive

A Strong, healthy and just society – Social Baseline Data											
Key Indicator and Source	Source	98/99	99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Trend
demolished											movement.
Number of dwellings that have been empty over 6 months	TEN NR STAT 04	333	492	897	924	542	568	470	510	450	Whilst this figure does remain high, it peaked in the years 00/01 and 01/02 and has dropped dramatically in the following years, due to changes in council tax charges.
Number of Houses in Multiple Occupation	TEN NR9					28	43	51	40	166	The number of houses in multiple occupation showed a vast increase since 2005/06.
% of council dwellings that are empty	Adam Waller (CBH)	1.8%	2.3%	3.8%	N/A	3.8%	4.5%	3.9%	2.3%	2%	The percentage of empty council dwellings appears to be relatively steady.
Average house prices in Cheltenham	Land Registry Property Price Report	N/A	£101,905	£122,949	£139,747	£165,187	£182,213	£206,388	£228,456	£239,985	Property prices doubled in the space of just five years and still continuing to increase. This has created a serious problem of affordability. Average house prices (2007): South West: £225,810 National: £210,578 Source: BBC website
% of residents who think that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vandalism, graffiti , damage to property or vehicles etc • people using or dealing drugs • people being rowdy or drunk is a very big or fairly big problem in their area 	ACDP QOL7a						57.6%	N/A	N/A	N/A	Too little information to give an accurate picture yet.
	ACDP QOL7b						57.8%	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	ACDP QOL7c						53.5%	N/A	N/A	N/A	

A Strong, healthy and just society – Social Baseline Data												
Key Indicator and Source	Source	98/99	99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07		Trend
Number of reported crimes per 1000 households: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> domestic burglaries violent offences (changed criteria – from 2006 number of robberies per 1000 pop) vehicle crime (1,000 pop.) 	TEN PP BVPI 126, 127b, 128 Data from 2006/07 onwards are from TEN. Previous years up to 2005/06 data are from ACDP QOL6a, QOL6b, QOL6c.	12.6	11.2	18.9	N/A	18.6	15.6	13.3	13	14.9	Eng & Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic burglaries increased during 2001-03 but dropped slightly since. Violent offences have increased per 1000 households, though the criteria for recording this have altered and may be unreliable. Vehicle crime has dropped dramatically.
Percentage of residents that feel fairly safe or very safe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outside after dark Outside during the day 	Chelt Story or Dermot Carr (GCC) for latest data					35.6 85.7	40.7 88.5	37.3 90.1	37.5 90.7	42.5 89.7		Numbers feeling safe at night is increasing slowly with a slight decrease in numbers feeling safe during the day.
% of population living in most deprived Super Output Areas (worst 25%) Glos QoL	ACDP QOL15						9% (5.3% in Glos QoL)	N/A	N/A	N/A		4 wards in Cheltenham are in the worst 25% nationally – Hesters Way, Springbank, St Paul's' and Oakley – 2nd worse district in the county.
% of people surveyed who feel that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds and communities can live together harmoniously	NEW QOL – National source for data in the future						68% July 2003	73% Dec. 2004	79%	N/A		Too little information to give an accurate picture.
% of residents surveyed who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are satisfied with their 	CP, QoL 18 QoL 19 - Gloucestershire			92%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		No recent information - Too little information to give an accurate picture.

A Strong, healthy and just society – Social Baseline Data											
Key Indicator and Source	Source	98/99	99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Trend
local area as a place to live • feel that the area is getting worse	Local Information Network			24%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
% of people surveyed who feel that they can influence decisions affecting their local area • as individuals • working together	NEW QOL – National source for data in the future		38% 59%.	N/A N/A	N/A N/A	N/A N/A	N/A N/A	N/A N/A	N/A N/A	N/A N/A	No recent information - Too little information to give an accurate picture.
Local bus services: • number of park and ride tickets sold • number of bus trips (million)	Old BVPI 102 Jonathan Roberts (GCC) & Ben Cole (Stagecoach) Derek Lucas (GCC)	159,436	319,240	275,000 16.1m	390,000 16.8m	410,000 14.2m	N/A 16.2m	N/A 16.7m	519,105	630,249	The number of park and ride tickets sold has quadrupled over the recorded period. Bus trips have been relatively stable over the last few years.
Average daily traffic flow on principal roads: • Tewkesbury Road • Evesham Road • London Road • Shurdington Road (1999) • Gloucester Road	Kathryn Haworth (Gloucestershire County Council)				26100 14900 21200 18600 29700	N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A	N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A	N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A	26600 18900 20800 15600 N/A	27300 19100 22200 14800 43800	Traffic on Shurdington Road appears to have dropped but increased elsewhere.
% of residents who think that over the last 3 years: • Public transport has got better or stayed the same • Levels of congestion have got better or stayed the same	ACDP QOL44a ACDP QOL44b						61.8% 20.7%	N/A N/A	N/A N/A	N/A N/A	New indicator – No recent information.

