

Notice of Meeting

Cabinet

- Date:** Wednesday 4 November 2020
- Time:** 5.30 pm
- Venue:** Being held virtually by Microsoft Teams. The public can listen to a live stream here:
<http://www.audiominutes.com/p/player/player.html?userid=tvbc>

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Legal and Democratic Service

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This is formal notice under The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 that part of this meeting may be held in private because the agenda and reports for the meeting may contain exempt information under Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SCHEME

If members of the public wish to address the meeting they should notify the Legal and Democratic Service at the Council's Beech Hurst office by noon on the working day before the meeting.

Membership of Cabinet

MEMBER

WARD

Councillor P North (Chairman)

Bourne Valley

Councillor N Adams-King (Vice-Chairman)

Blackwater

Councillor P Bundy

Chilworth, Nursling & Rownhams

Councillor D Drew

Harewood

Councillor M Flood

Anna

Councillor I Jeffrey

Mid Test

Councillor A Johnston

Mid Test

Councillor T Tasker

Andover Romans

Cabinet

Wednesday 4 November 2020

AGENDA

**The order of these items may change as a result of members
of the public wishing to speak**

- 1 Apologies**
- 2 Public Participation**
- 3 Declarations of Interest**
- 4 Urgent Items**
- 5 Minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2020**
- 6 Recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: None**
- 7 Social Inclusion Services Contribution 5 - 12**

Housing and Environmental
To consider the Social Inclusion Services Contribution.
- 8 Planning Advisory Panel 13 - 16**

Planning
To consider replacing the Planning Advisory Panel with all Member briefings.
- 9 Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report 17 - 227**

Planning
To consider the updated Scoping Report for approval.

10 Corporate Financial Monitoring (6 months)

228 - 252

Finance

To consider the actual revenue income and expenditure against the profiled budget for four months ended 30 September 2020.

- 1.3 The existing Cabinet approval to fund our contribution expires in March 2021. Social inclusion services are an important aspect of the local strategic approach to preventing and tackling homelessness, and hence this report is recommending TVBC agrees to fund a further £55K to support social inclusion services during 2021/22.

2 Background

- 2.1 Historically, social inclusion service provision across Hampshire was delivered under the umbrella of the Supporting People (SP) programme, and provided housing and community support services for people whose needs did not make them eligible for adult social care.
- 2.2 The SP programme was subject to regular reviews until it was ultimately subsumed into Adult Services' strategic commissioning programme.
- 2.3 In 2015, against the backdrop of increasing pressures on social care services, the County Council undertook a review and significantly reduced its investment in the social inclusion service cluster. Under the Transformation to 2019 (T19) programme, the County undertook another review and reduced its spending on social inclusion services further.
- 2.4 For Test Valley, the outcome of the 2019 review resulted in Cabinet approving the investment of £55K from the borough council, to support the service cluster until March 2021.
- 2.5 During 2020/21, Hampshire County Council has funded:
- Direct access hostel provision (Dene Court) (£330K), including a limited outreach service provision for rough sleepers (representing a £10K shortfall in outreach capacity that TVBC agreed to meet).
 - Stubbs and Turin Court Stage 2 supported move-on provision (£15K).
 - Limited Community Support restricted to single people with complex needs only, and to support move-on from Stage 1 (£29K).
- 2.6 We understand that the County Council will continue to maintain this level of funding during 2021/22.
- 2.7 The County's funding provision for the new social inclusion contract in 2019 resulted in 2 identifiable local gaps in provision:
- £10K to maintain an outreach service with capacity to support Test Valley's strategic aims (as referenced above), and
 - £45K to maintain the supported housing provision at Bridge House in Andover, which the County determined they would no longer fund in their 2019 review.

- 2.8 Cabinet approved the funding of these aspects of social inclusion service provision in the local area from August 2019 until March 2021. This £55K per annum (pro-rata for the period in 2019/20) was identified in the Council's Flexible Homelessness Support Grant reserve.
- 2.9 Subsequent successful bids for MHCLG funding have temporarily bolstered local capacity further, however, the above investment remains critical to enable basic provision to remain available in the local network of services.
- 2.10 In addition to the £55K above, TVBC introduced its own in-house Resettlement Service in 2019. The Council also formalised aspects of a developmental pilot such that it became 'business as usual' in the day to day operations of the Housing & Environmental Health Service.
- 2.11 The Housing & Environmental Health Service has reviewed potential options for future investment in the Council's housing services, and it is apparent that within the current Flexible Homelessness Support Grant reserves, and with member agreement, we should be able to maintain our existing capacity and provision within the HEH Service base budget, bolstered by the current homelessness funding that exists in our reserves, during 2021/22. The broader detail of how this affects the Council's own Housing Services will be subject of a separate report.
- 2.12 Whilst at the time of writing, we await the results of the Comprehensive Spending Review, in order to learn our future allocation of Flexible Homelessness Support Grant for 2021/22 and beyond, the Council has a current FHSG reserve balance of £308K.
- 2.13 The FHSG reserve for 2021/22 means that it will be possible to contribute to the social inclusion services contract for that year, maintaining the current baseline capacity within our local services for single people experiencing homelessness or requiring supported housing. Subject to member approval, this has been factored into the Housing & Environmental Health Service's forward planning for the next financial year and will not require any compromise in terms of the current in-house capacity to support people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- 2.14 Future decisions relating to our services from 2022/23 can be made – subject to central government confirmation - with the benefit of a clearer understanding of government Flexible Homelessness Support Grant determinations moving forward.

- 2.15 It is also relevant to note that in March this year, in the context of the unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic, the government issued a directive to all local authorities in England to bring inside anyone who may have been sleeping rough. The directive included requiring local authorities to move anyone residing in shared emergency hostel beds into more suitable accommodation, in the interests of facilitating social distancing and self-isolation. Under this directive, the Council's Housing Service placed over 30 individuals into accommodation who presented during the period of the lockdown. This includes single people who were precariously housed, moving between addresses, along with a handful of rough sleepers. Local social inclusion services were a key partner in meeting the challenges arising through the pandemic and associated lockdown.
- 2.16 The Council has been actively working with its partners to end rough sleeping locally, yet the Housing Service remains under high demand and particularly from single people with complex needs. The provision of social inclusion services directly contributes to meeting local demand. They are also a critical partner in facilitating the ongoing delivery of our pledge; to ensure no local resident who approaches us for assistance, should have to sleep rough without first being made an offer of emergency accommodation to prevent them hitting the street.

3 Corporate Objectives and Priorities

- 3.1 Preventing and relieving homelessness is a high priority for Test Valley Borough Council.
- 3.2 Social inclusion services contribute to achieving our Corporate Plan priorities to support town centres, communities, people and the local environment, by actively contributing to reduced instances of homelessness, supporting vulnerable people and actively contributing to the prevention of homelessness in the borough.
- 3.3 The Council's Housing Strategy 2020 to 2025 identified four key themes. This include preventing and relieving all forms of homelessness. This priority area is further supported by a Preventing Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020 to 2023.
- 3.4 Housing and homelessness remain at the top of the national policy agenda, and with a renewed focus in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, our local social inclusion services remain a vital element in our strategic approach to supporting our communities.

4 Consultations/Communications

- 4.1 Operational staff have been engaged in the delivery and review of social inclusion services locally and have been consulted regarding potential implications of the recommendations in this report.
- 4.2 The Head of Housing & Environmental Health has liaised with colleagues within Adult Services commissioning at the County Council to discuss the future of this service cluster and in light of the implications of the Covid-19 pandemic.

- 4.3 Local social inclusion service provider, Two Saints, has been part of discussions associated with the future of the service cluster and we continue to enjoy a close working relationship with them in the interests of delivering effective homelessness prevention and relief services.

5 Options

- 5.1 The housing service continues to receive a high demand for housing options and homelessness services, and this is in the context of a complex range of challenges arising from the Covid-19 pandemic. The options available to the Council should be understood and considered in this context.

- 5.2 There are 2 options available to the Council currently:

- (i) To contribute £55K of ring fenced Flexible Homelessness Support Grant to the ongoing delivery of local social inclusion services at current capacity during 2021/22. (Recommended)
- (ii) To opt not to invest £55K of ring fenced Flexible Homelessness Support Grant in the ongoing delivery of local social inclusion services in the area.

6 Option Appraisal

- 6.1 Two Saints provide expert support and outreach to people with complex needs in the local area, and offer an effective service to our most vulnerable single people who may be experiencing homelessness or who may be at risk of homelessness in Test Valley.
- 6.2 The current pandemic, along with the ongoing high demand for housing related services, means that it is not recommended for the Council to withdraw its support for social inclusion services in the borough. Failure to invest the proposed £55K in 2021/22 will invariably result in a reduced level of service and in turn, this risks increasing levels of homelessness, including street homelessness.
- 6.3 The recommended option (i) will ensure that we are able to deliver a local social inclusion services baseline capacity. This will reflect the current service delivery and will enable the continued provision of both supported housing units to assist vulnerable people as they move to independence, along with outreach support to people who find themselves street homeless and/or who may otherwise be precariously housed.

7 Risk Management

- 7.1 An evaluation of the risks associated with the matters in this report has previously been reported to members on 17 April 2019. The risk assessment has been reviewed and no new risks identified.

8 Resource Implications

- 8.1 The Council was awarded Flexible Homelessness Support Grant funding as part of a 3-year determination. This current determination is due to expire in 2020/21. Whilst it is not anticipated the government will cease this grant, there is no certainty it will be an ongoing funding stream.
- 8.2 Due to the Council's prudent financial planning, there remains, however, £308K of Flexible Homelessness Support Grant in the Council's reserves that will be carried forward to 2021/22, and which can be directed to facilitate the ongoing investment being recommended in this report.
- 8.3 Ongoing investment in social inclusion services has been factored into the Housing & Environmental Health Services' forward planning. The remainder of the available ring fenced homelessness reserve will be the subject of a separate report focused on the resourcing of the Council's in-house housing services from 2021/22 onwards, and this will be brought forward in due course.

9 Legal Implications

- 9.1 The Council has statutory duties to prevent and relieve homelessness and must comply with the Housing Act 1996, Part 7 (as amended, including most recently by the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017).
- 9.2 The Council will work with Hampshire County Council to support the ongoing provision of social inclusion services by the current provider, Two Saints, for the duration of 2021/22, including the ongoing availability of supported move-on accommodation at Bridge House and a continued outreach service for single people experiencing homelessness.

10 Equality Issues

- 10.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment (EQIA) was completed in April 2019 and has been revisited in light of this report.
- 10.2 The recommendation contained in this report does not create any new equalities concerns and falls within scope of the Council's Housing Strategy and Preventing Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy aims.
- 10.3 The recommendation in this report is targeted to mitigate potential negative impacts on vulnerable people in the local area, and in the interests of ensuring individuals in need are able to receive services that are accessible and that proactively seek to prevent and relieve homelessness for all residents.

11 Other Issues

- 11.1 Community Safety – the ongoing investment in local social inclusion services will contribute positively to reducing community safety issues including anti-social behaviour and harmful street activity in our towns.
- 11.2 Environmental Health Issues – the recommendation in this report will contribute to sustaining low levels of rough sleeping (with the aim to ensure no-one has to sleep rough in Test Valley) and any associated Environmental Health concerns that may otherwise arise.
- 11.3 Sustainability and Addressing a Changing Climate – no issues identified.
- 11.4 Property Issues – no issues identified.
- 11.5 Wards/Communities Affected – the local social inclusion service cluster supports residents from across the borough.

12 Conclusion and reasons for recommendation

- 12.1 The Council has an opportunity to continue to contribute to local social inclusion services at the current level, and at a level that has been planned for by the Housing & Environmental Health Service.
- 12.2 The Flexible Homelessness Support Grant is ring fenced for the purposes of preventing and relieving homelessness, and cannot therefore be used for any other purpose.
- 12.3 The Council has a positive working relationship with both the County Council and the local service provider, Two Saints, and the partnership successfully prevents and relieves homelessness for vulnerable people.
- 12.4 In light of Covid-19, it is vital that the local area is geared up to meet the needs of single people who may be homeless or at risk of becoming homeless more than ever, and with ongoing high demand for housing and related services, social inclusion services will continue to be greatly needed in 2021/22.
- 12.5 The recommendation in this report is intended to continue to meet locally identified priorities and maintain strong partnership arrangements in the interests of meeting the needs of vulnerable people in our communities. It can be achieved through the adoption of a targeted contribution of £55K of ring fenced government grant funding for 2021/22.

| | | | |
|--|-------------|-----------|-----------------|
| <u>Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)</u> | | | |
| None | | | |
| <u>Confidentiality</u> | | | |
| It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and can be made public. | | | |
| No of Annexes: | 0 | File Ref: | N/A |
| (Portfolio: Housing & Environmental Health) Councillor P Bundy | | | |
| Officer: | Phil Turner | Ext: | 8544 |
| Report to: | Cabinet | Date: | 4 November 2020 |

ITEM 8

Planning Advisory Panel

Report of the Planning Portfolio Holder

Recommended:

That the Planning Advisory Panel be replaced with all Member briefings.

SUMMARY:

- The report considers replacing the Planning Advisory Panel with all Member briefings. The briefings will be organised as required.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Members play a valuable role in the formulation and review of planning policy. The Council's informal Members' panel, the Planning Advisory Panel, provides the forum for Members to be briefed and views to be raised.
- 1.2 The Planning Advisory Panel was last reviewed in 2019 the outcome of which was agreed by Cabinet. There is now an opportunity to revisit that review and consider whether there is merit in retaining the Planning Advisory Panel.

2 Background

- 2.1 Planning policy documents establish the planning framework for the Borough. The Head of Planning Policy & Economic Development is responsible for advising the Council on planning policy issues at a national, sub regional and local level. The planning policy element of the Service is responsible for taking planning documents through the necessary processes and monitoring their application.
- 2.2 As a mechanism for greater Member involvement in the planning policy process an informal Planning Advisory Panel (PAP) was established. The PAP has been in place for a number of years. PAP is not a decision making body but provide an opportunity for Members to be briefed on planning policy including the review of evidence, the implications for Government guidance and case law on the Boroughs strategic planning function and for Members to raise any issues they may have.
- 2.3 The function and role of councillors in the planning policy process was considered as part of the OSCOM Review into member involvement in the preparation of planning policy. This review reported to Cabinet on 1 June 2016 and its recommendations were approved. A subsequent OSCOM review was reported to Cabinet on 2 November 2016 and was noted.

2.4 In September 2019 Cabinet reviewed the arrangements and membership of the PAP. It was confirmed that the core membership of PAP would comprise 16 Councillors. The membership would be politically proportionate with each party nominating their chosen representatives. As a result of both reviews the PAP meetings have been open to all Members to receive agendas, attend and participate. This in effect gave all Members an equal position in any discussion, making it a more inclusive format, remembering that PAP is a non-decision making body. Since these measures were put in place, PAP has not met since 2019 and then only infrequently. When there has been opportunity to engage with Members, the more recent approach has been to hold all Member briefings rather than use the more formal setting of PAP. When PAP has met, the items discussed could equally have been presented as a briefing session.

2.5 As the Council moves forward with drafting the next Local Plan and considering other strategic planning issues there is an opportunity to re-evaluate whether the current PAP model should be retained or replaced with Member briefings/workshops.

3 Corporate Objectives and Priorities

3.1 Improving the way in which the Council develops and implements its planning policies will help, either directly or indirectly, deliver the corporate objectives.

4 Consultations/Communications

4.1 Ensuring that Councillors are briefed on the strategic planning process for the Borough is key. The recommendation proposed aims to improve ongoing involvement with all Members.

5 Options

5.1 The options are to consider whether the PAP should be retained, or replaced with Member briefings/workshops.

6 Option Appraisal

6.1 There remains value in having a forum in which Councillors can be involved in the preparation of planning policy documents. Their experience and insight can, albeit on an informal basis, help inform possible future reviews of policy in combination with other material factors e.g. case law, national guidance.

6.2 In replacing PAP with all Member briefings it would still allow for Councillors to be involved in the preparation of planning policy documents and briefed on strategic planning issues. For example, in the drafting of the Issues & Options document for the next Local Plan all Member workshops were held. This allowed Members to highlight particular concerns.

6.3 All Member briefings would remove the perceived confusion of the comparative roles between the Members that attend. It would also provide more opportunity for a greater range of Members to be engaged in the strategic planning process.

6.4 The briefings would be organised when required with the necessary e-agendas still produced, if relevant. The format of the session would vary depending on the topic being discussed. Given the success of the recent virtual meetings it is proposed that these briefings would continue to take place online as much as possible. By doing so it is hoped to make it easier for Members to attend as well as reducing travel. This is especially the case where, as we move through the local plan review process, the number of sessions increases.

6.5 Based on the points outlined, the recommended action is to replace PAP with informal Member briefings.

7 Resource Implications

7.1 The proposed recommendation can be met from within existing budget.

8 Legal Implications

8.1 There are no legal implications of the proposed change in practice provided that Member involvement acts in a purely advisory capacity and is not a decision making body.

9 Equality Issues

9.1 An EQIA screening had been completed in accordance with the Council's EQIA methodology and no potential for unlawful discrimination or negative impact has been identified, therefore a full EQIA has not been carried out.

10 Other Issues

10.1 Community Safety – None.

10.2 Environmental Health Issues – None.

10.3 Sustainability and Addressing a Changing Climate – none, save for the potential to host briefings virtually and the resultant reduction in travel for Councillors and officers.

10.4 Property Issues – None.

10.5 Wards/Communities Affected – All.

11 Conclusion

11.1 Members have an important role to play in the process of preparing, approving and implementing the Council's planning policies. The proposed recommendation to replace the Planning Advisory Panel with all Member briefings provides greater opportunity for informal Member engagement and involvement in planning policy.

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|--|---------|----------|-----------------|
| <u>Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)</u> | | | |
| None | | | |
| <u>Confidentiality</u> | | | |
| It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and can be made public. | | | |
| No of Annexes: | 0 | File Ref | Pp2_2 |
| (Portfolio: Planning) Councillor N Adams-King | | | |
| Author: | G Smith | Ext: | 8141 |
| Report to: | Cabinet | Date: | 4 November 2020 |

ITEM 9 Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

Report of the Planning Portfolio Holder

Recommended:

- 1. That the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, including its appendices and summary as annexed to the report, be approved.**
- 2. That the Head of Planning Policy and Economic Development, in consultation with the Planning Portfolio Holder, be authorised to make changes of a minor nature to improve the presentation of the document and correct typographical errors prior to publication.**

SUMMARY:

- A Scoping Report has been prepared in line with national guidance to fulfil the first stage of the sustainability appraisal process. It will replace the Scoping Reports approved in 2017 and 2018.
- The Scoping Report includes baseline information, identifies sustainability issues and updates the sustainability objectives.
- The Scoping Report has been subject to consultation for a period of 6 weeks. The responses received have been taken into account in the preparation of the document proposed for approval.

1 Introduction

- 1.1** This report seeks approval of the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (including its appendices and summary) as annexed to the report.
- 1.2** The current Scoping Report was approved in 2017, with an additional Scoping Report specifically regarding the emerging Gypsy and Travellers Development Plan Document (DPD) approved in 2018. It is important to ensure that the Scoping Reports remain up to date, taking account of changing baseline information. With this in mind, it is intended to replace both of the approved Scoping Reports.

2 Background

- 2.1** There is currently a statutory requirement, through the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended), that an appraisal of the sustainability of Development Plan Documents is carried out. This process is designed to ensure that plans and policies contribute to the overall objective of achieving sustainable development. Furthermore, there are requirements through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 to undertake an assessment of plans and programmes that are likely to have a significant effect. The sustainability appraisal process is designed to cover the requirements of both pieces of legislation.

- 2.2 National guidance on sustainability appraisals identifies five broad stages that need to be undertaken. The first of these comprises setting the context, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope – this is delivered through a Scoping Report.
- 2.3 The main output of the Scoping Report is the identification of sustainability objectives within a ‘sustainability appraisal framework’. This is utilised in later stages of the sustainability appraisal process, including the assessment of alternative options considered in plan preparation. The Scoping Report itself does not make any decisions on policy, instead provides a framework for considering their sustainability.
- 2.4 The ‘Planning for the Future’ White Paper proposes removing the requirement for sustainability appraisals. This is currently a consultation document, the outcomes of which and timescales for potential implementation are unknown. Therefore, at this stage there remains a requirement for the preparation of sustainability appraisals.
- 2.5 In addition, it has been announced that the Government intends to consult on changes to environmental assessment processes this autumn. This could link to the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. Again, the outcome of this process and timescales for potential implementation are unknown.

3 Corporate Objectives and Priorities

- 3.1 The Scoping Report, as part of the sustainability appraisal process, will help to ensure that future planning policy for the Borough contributes to delivering sustainable development – this includes environmental, social and economic factors.
- 3.2 There is currently a legal requirement to undertake sustainability appraisals as part of the preparation of local plans. Therefore, through aiding the preparation of planning policy documents, there are links to all four priorities in the Corporate Plan.

4 Consultation and Communication

- 4.1 There is a requirement to consult on the scope of the sustainability appraisal process for at least 5 weeks through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. This legislation only requires consultation with the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England, however the Council notified more organisations than required (including all parish councils within the Borough).
- 4.2 In addition to specifically advising a range of organisations of the consultation, advance notification of a consultation on the Scoping Report was included as part of the letters / emails distributed for the refined issues and options consultation for the next Local Plan. A post on Facebook highlighted the consultation and the availability of all documents on the Council’s website.

- 4.3 Consultation was undertaken on the draft Scoping Report between 24 July and 4 September 2020, for a period of 6 weeks.
- 4.4 Through the consultation 8 responses were received. These responses are summarised in Appendix 1 of the Scoping Report, along with officer responses to the comments made. This has resulted in some changes to the Scoping Report, including additions to the sustainability issues identified, amendments to the sustainability appraisal framework, and updates to a number of topics within the baseline.
- 4.5 The opportunity has also been taken to update aspects of the Scoping Report where new information has become available. This includes reference to additional plans, policies and programmes (including adding references to the masterplans for Andover town centre and Romsey south of the town centre, and the recently approved Playing Pitch and Sport Facilities Strategies) and updated data sources (such as on renewable energy generation, vacancy rates in the town centres, and including a data on personal wellbeing).

5 Options

- 5.1 Having undertaken consultation on the draft Scoping Report, the options available relate to whether or not to approve the Scoping Report. If a decision was made not to approve this Scoping Report, the documents from 2017 and 2018 would remain in place.

6 Option Appraisal

- 6.1 The preferred option is to approve the Scoping Report as appended to this report, which has been prepared having regard to legal requirements and national guidance, including the completion of the required consultation.
- 6.2 If this option is not progressed, it would result in continued reliance, at least in the short term, on the 2017 and 2018 Scoping Reports, which are becoming increasingly out of date (e.g. in terms of the baseline data they draw on). This potentially results in a risk to the outcomes of the sustainability appraisal process.
- 6.3 If a decision was taken to undertake a further review process, leading to a requirement for an additional consultation, this could have implications for the timescales for the preparation of the next Local Plan. The Scoping Report, and particularly the identification of the sustainability objectives, feed into the sustainability appraisal of local plan documents, which is undertaken alongside the preparation of emerging plans.
- 6.4 It is recognised that proposals to abolish sustainability appraisals are currently being consulted on, with a consultation on changes to environmental assessment processes anticipated this year. As the timescales for the outcome of these consultations (and subsequent implementation of any changes) are not yet known, this could also have implications for the preparation of the next Local Plan if the approval of the Scoping Report is deferred.

- 6.5 It would remain appropriate to keep the content of the Scoping Report under review to ensure it remains up to date and in accordance with the necessary legislation and guidance.

7 Risk Management

- 7.1 An evaluation of the risks indicate that the existing controls in place mean that no significant risks have been identified at this time.

8 Resource Implications

- 8.1 The preparation of this Scoping Report has been undertaken in-house using existing resources.

9 Legal Implications

- 9.1 There is currently a statutory requirement to undertake sustainability appraisals (which includes the scoping stage) of Development Plan Documents (DPDs). A Scoping Report that has been prepared in line with the statutory processes will aid in the preparation of 'sound' and legally compliant plans.

10 Equality Issues

- 10.1 The EQIA has not identified any potential for discrimination or adverse impact and all opportunities to promote equality have been taken.

11 Other Issues

- 11.1 Community Safety – no issues arising.
- 11.2 Environmental Health Issues – no issues arising.
- 11.3 Sustainability and Addressing a Changing Climate - as noted above, the sustainability appraisal process is designed to support the production of planning policy documents that promote sustainable development. The consideration of risks and implications of a changing climate are incorporated in the Scoping Report.
- 11.4 Property Issues – no issues arising.
- 11.5 Wards/Communities Affected – all Wards are covered within the Scoping Report.

12 Conclusion and reasons for recommendation

- 12.1 It is recommended that the Scoping Report (including associated appendices and summary document) is approved so as to ensure that it is robust and up to date and thus will better inform the sustainability appraisal for future planning policy documents.

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|--|---------------|-----------|-----------------|
| <u>Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)</u> | | | |
| Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) | | | |
| Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Reports (2017 & 2018) | | | |
| <u>Confidentiality</u> | | | |
| It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and can be made public. | | | |
| No of Annexes: | 3 | File Ref: | pp1.4 |
| (Portfolio: Planning) Councillor N Adams-King | | | |
| Officer: | Karen Eastley | Ext: | 8258 |
| Report to: | Cabinet | Date: | 4 November 2020 |

Test Valley Borough Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

2020



Any queries in relation to this Scoping Report should be directed to the Planning Policy Team. Contact details are provided below:

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List of Abbreviations

| | |
|-------|--|
| AMR | Authority Monitoring Report |
| AONB | Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty |
| AQMA | Air Quality Management Area |
| BAP | Biodiversity Action Plan |
| BEIS | Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy |
| DEFRA | Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs |
| DfT | Department for Transport |
| DPD | Development Plan Document |
| GVA | Gross Value Added |
| HBIC | Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre |
| HRA | Habitat Regulations Assessment |
| LDF | Local Development Framework |
| LDS | Local Development Scheme |
| LEP | Local Enterprise Partnership |
| LSOA | Lower Super Output Area |
| MHCLG | Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government |
| NFNP | New Forest National Park |
| NPPF | National Planning Policy Framework |
| ONS | Office for National Statistics |
| PPG | Planning Practice Guidance |
| SA | Sustainability Appraisal |
| SAC | Special Area of Conservation |
| SAPF | Small Area Population Forecast (data provided by Hampshire County Council) |
| SEA | Strategic Environmental Assessment |
| SINC | Site of Importance for Nature Conservation |
| SPA | Special Protection Area |
| SPD | Supplementary Planning Document |
| SSSI | Site of Special Scientific Interest |
| SuDS | Sustainable Drainage System |

1 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 This Scoping Report has been prepared by the Council as part of the sustainability appraisal (incorporating strategic environmental assessment) process.

What Are Sustainability Appraisals?

- 1.2 Sustainability Appraisals are intended to help promote sustainable development (including social, economic and environmental objectives) in the preparation of certain planning documents. This includes considering the likely effects of the plans, as well as opportunities to minimise negative effects and maximise positive effects. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 includes a requirement for the appraisal of the sustainability of Development Plan Documents (DPD).¹
- 1.3 The Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) also advises that Sustainability Appraisals incorporate the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (often referred to as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Regulations). This legislation establishes a process of assessment to ensure that environmental considerations are taken into account in preparing certain plans.

Scoping Reports

- 1.4 The first stage of the sustainability appraisal process involves setting the context, identifying the baseline and producing sustainability objectives, namely setting the scope for the appraisal process.
- 1.5 This report includes a review of relevant policies, plans and programmes that relate to the local area; information on the baseline characteristics of the local area; consideration of the sustainability issues / problems and develops a framework for the future stages of the sustainability appraisal process, including the identification of sustainability objectives.
- 1.6 This Scoping Report is intended to be used in relation to relevant planning policy documents² (including DPDs and any relevant Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)) and any other Council strategies to which the SEA Regulations apply. There may be exceptions where separate Scoping Reports are prepared.

¹ Section 180 (5) (d) of The Planning Act 2008 amended the requirements of Part 2 of Section 19 (5) (a) of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 so that only Development Plan Documents need to be subject to sustainability appraisal.

² This is in relation to the area for which the Council is the local planning authority. This excludes the area within the Borough of Test Valley for which the New Forest National Park Authority is the local planning authority.

What is sustainable development?

- 1.7 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) requires that DPDs are prepared with a view to ‘contributing to the achievement of sustainable development’ (Section 39(2)). The National Planning Policy Framework³ (NPPF) states that ‘The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development’ (paragraph 7). In this context it sets out that the planning system has three overarching objectives – economic, social and environmental. These are noted to be interdependent.
- 1.8 The NPPF refers to the definition of sustainable development provided by the Brundtland Commission – this states that ‘sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without comprising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’.⁴
- 1.9 In an international setting, Member States of the United Nations adopted the Sustainable Development Goals⁵ in 2015, which came into effect in January 2016, in order to guide decision taking. The seventeen goals are indicated in Figure 1. The intention is to achieve all the goals by 2030. There are multiple targets and indicators in place for each of the goals. The Government has indicated it is committed to delivery of these goals, through ensuring they are embedded in the activity of each department.⁶

Figure 1: United Nations Sustainable Development Goals



³ Available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

⁴ Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future, World Commission on Environment and Development (Brundtland Commission), 1987, Part I, Chapter 2. Also see, Resolution 42/187 of the United Nations General Assembly.

⁵ For more information, see: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/>

⁶ See: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/implementing-the-sustainable-development-goals/implementing-the-sustainable-development-goals--2>

Test Valley Borough Council's Corporate Plan

1.10 The Council's Corporate Plan⁷ sets out the Council's vision and priorities for 2019 to 2023, and as a result provides a focus for Council activities. This includes planning policy documents and other strategies / plans produced by the Council. It sets out four priorities, and indicates that using the Council's investing approach it will grow the potential of:

- **Town Centres** to adapt and be attractive, vibrant, and prosperous places
- **Communities** to be empowered, connected and able to build upon their strengths
- **People** to be able to live well and fulfil their aspirations
- The **Local Environment** for current and future generations

1.11 In relation to each of these priorities, the Corporate Plan identifies what the Council will be investing in and the expectations as to what will happen as a result.

Test Valley's Local Development Framework

1.12 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires the Council to produce a Local Development Framework (LDF). This includes a number of policy documents, namely Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs), as well as non-policy documents – the Local Development Scheme (LDS) and Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

1.13 The Council's Local Development Scheme (LDS) outlines the policy documents that will be prepared for the Local Development Framework (LDF) and the programme for their production. The LDS will be subject to review, therefore the DPDs to be produced and their programming may be subject to change.

1.14 The current version of the LDS is available via the Council's website at: <https://testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/lDs>

1.15 This Scoping Report does not provide an outline (or the objectives) of the DPDs or SPDs that may come forward.⁸ This would be undertaken as part of later stages of the sustainability appraisal process. If this indicates that the scope of sustainability appraisal needed to be reviewed, this would be considered on a plan by plan basis. In addition, if a plan / strategy focuses on a specific topic or geographic area, additional information, or more locally specific information, linked to the scoping stage of the appraisal process may be required. This would be reviewed as part of the sustainability appraisal process for that specific plan / strategy.

⁷ Test Valley Borough Council Corporate Plan 2019-2023: Growing Our Potential, 2019 (available: <https://testvalley.gov.uk/aboutyourcouncil/corporatedirection/corporate-plan-for-2019-to-2023>).

⁸ A brief outline of each DPD can be found within the latest LDS.

- 1.16 Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs)⁹ may also be produced for areas within the Borough. These are not set out within the LDS. They are not required to be subject to a Sustainability Appraisal but may need a Strategic Environmental Assessment to be undertaken. This document is not intended to cover the scope of NDPs but may provide contextual information.

Uncertainties

- 1.17 At the time of producing this Scoping Report, there are a number of potential changes to the planning system that are anticipated. These changes may influence the content of DPDs and other planning documents, which results in some uncertainty at this stage on their specific remit. The recent White Paper (Planning for the Future)¹⁰ proposes substantial changes to the planning system, including in relation to the content and approach to preparing local plans. Additionally, it proposes to abolish the sustainability appraisal system. The outcome of the consultation and implications for changes to be implemented are not known at this stage.
- 1.18 Some of the environmental legislation for the UK has its origin in directives from the European Union. The UK has now left the European Union and is currently in a transition period. It is understood that at present there are no stipulations in legislation around non-regression in relation to environmental legislation and standards. It has been announced that there will be a consultation on changes to environmental assessment processes, this is likely to be published in autumn 2020.
- 1.19 The Environment Bill is also currently being considered by Parliament, which covers a number of topics, such as water resources, air quality and biodiversity. This could result in changes in the legal framework for such matters.
- 1.20 The COVID-19 pandemic has had a number of significant implications, including on the economy (leading to the deepest recession ever experienced), with the medium and longer term implications currently unknown. Therefore this is also likely to result in uncertainties, including the effects on the economy, implications on the ways spaces are designed and used, and delays to delivering on other objectives or implementing changes to legislation.
- 1.21 The need to update this Scoping Report will be kept under review, including when accounting for the above uncertainties.

⁹ For more information on NDPs see: <https://testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/neighbourhood-planning>

¹⁰ White Paper: Planning for the Future, MHCLG, 2020 (available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future>)

2 Summary of Consultation Process

- 2.1 The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations require consultation when deciding the scope of the process. This relates to specific consultation bodies comprising Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency. The legislation establishes that these organisations should respond within 5 weeks of the commencement of the consultation.
- 2.2 As this Scoping Report has a wider remit than the requirements of this legislation, it was appropriate to invite other stakeholders to make representations. The Scoping Report was also available for consideration by the public via the Council's website.
- 2.3 The Scoping Report was subject to consultation for six weeks, from 24 July to 4 September 2020. The representations received were taken into consideration in the preparation of this document. Further information is available within Appendix 1 on the comments received.

3 Report Structure

- 3.1 The structure and information presented in this Scoping Report has taken account of national guidance. It has been designed to incorporate the requirements of the SEA Regulations and wider social and economic considerations.
- 3.2 National guidance refers to five main stages of the sustainability appraisal process; these are summarised in Table 1.¹¹

Table 1: Key stages of sustainability appraisal process

| Stage | Brief Description |
|-------|---|
| A | Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope |
| B | Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects |
| C | Prepare the sustainability appraisal report |
| D | Seek representations on the sustainability appraisal report from consultation bodies and the public |
| E | Post adoption reporting and monitoring |

- 3.3 Stages B to E of the sustainability appraisal process, as set out in Table 1, are undertaken in relation to a specific plan, strategy or programme, therefore are not covered as part of this Scoping Report.

Scoping Report Process

- 3.4 This Scoping Report relates to Stage A within Table 1. Government guidance sets out that it '*needs to identify the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the sustainability appraisal report*'.¹² It is normally undertaken alongside evidence gathering for a DPD or another strategy document. Within Stage A, there are five connected tasks, which are set out below.¹³
- Task A1: Identify other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives
 - Task A2: Collect baseline information
 - Task A3: Identify sustainability issues and problems
 - Task A4: Develop the sustainability appraisal framework
 - Task A5: Consult the consultation bodies on the scope of the sustainability appraisal report
- 3.5 More information is provided below on each task.

¹¹ Based on flowchart indicating how the sustainability appraisal stages relate to plan preparation available as part of the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) (reference ID: 11-013-20140306) at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/580027/sea1_013.pdf

¹² PPG, reference ID 11-014-20140306. Available: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal>

¹³ Derived from PPG, reference ID: 11-013-20140306.

Task A1: Identify other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives

- 3.6 The purpose of this task is to understand how the plan / strategy may be affected by outside factors and to help identify sustainability objectives. This could include identifying similar objectives as well as possible conflicts or inconsistencies.
- 3.7 Relevant plans, policies and programmes may have been developed at a range of scales – from international to local. Generally, with the exception of legislation, those plans, policies and programmes developed at a more local scale have the potential for the greatest direct relevance.
- 3.8 When considering the SEA Regulations, this task should be undertaken in the context of the relationship with the plan / strategy under consideration. As set out in section 1, this Scoping Report has been produced with the potential to be utilised for a variety of different plans / strategies prepared by the Council which makes it more challenging to identify the relevant documents.
- 3.9 An outline of the content and objectives for specific plans that will be subject to a sustainability appraisal has not been provided as part of this document, but would form part of the later stages of the sustainability appraisal process. Similarly, this document does not specify the characteristics that are likely to be significantly affected by future plans, as the remit of these documents (having regard to the outline and objectives) is not set out at this stage.
- 3.10 Appendix 2 to this report provides a summary of the main plans, policies and programmes that are likely to be relevant to the plans / strategies to which this Scoping Report may relate. However, this position would be reviewed in relation to each plan / strategy as part of the sustainability appraisal process.

Task A2: Collect baseline information

- 3.11 This task seeks to provide the evidence base to inform the identification of issues / problems (see Task A3), enable the prediction of effects (including in relation to alternative proposals) and inform monitoring.
- 3.12 The PPG¹⁴ indicates that baseline information relates to existing environmental, economic and social characteristics of an area that are likely to be affected, and their likely evolution without the implementation of new policies. Where possible, this should ideally include data on historic and likely future trends.
- 3.13 This report has drawn on baseline evidence reflecting the scale of information needed to inform the scope of sustainability appraisals for the types of plans / strategies referred to in the introduction. If a strategy or plan is focused on a more specific topic or geographic area, more targeted or specific baseline information may need to be collated through a separate scoping exercise. It is recognised that local sources of knowledge and information on local issues are available that can supplement the information contained within this report,

¹⁴ Reference ID: 11-016-20190722.

including at a parish level (including information collated for Neighbourhood Plans).

Task A3: Identify sustainability issues and problems

- 3.14 This task draws on information gathered and seeks to provide a focus for later parts of the process, including establishing the sustainability appraisal framework (Task A4) and predicting effects. The focus is sustainability issues directly relevant to the plans / strategies that are being prepared. As reflected above, local sources of knowledge may be able to provide additional information or context on local issues that are beyond the focus of this Scoping Report.

Task A4: Develop the sustainability appraisal framework

- 3.15 Establishing sustainability objectives as part of the framework gives a mechanism to review the plan / strategy under consideration. It draws on all the information collated from the previous tasks. Whilst they may overlap with objectives for a specific plan / strategy they are not the same thing.
- 3.16 The sustainability objectives can be presented as part of a framework, along with indicators that can be used to help appraise a plan / strategy under consideration.

Task A5: Consult the consultation bodies on the scope of the sustainability appraisal report

- 3.17 The SEA Regulations includes a requirement to consult the statutory environmental stakeholders on the scope and level of detail of the environmental information to be used when preparing plans. Therefore consultations provide an opportunity to verify the scope of the appraisal process.

Structure of this Scoping Report

- 3.18 The following chapters of this report present the information required by Tasks A1 to A3. An initial chapter provides general contextual information on the Borough of Test Valley. This is followed by theme based information, rather than being organised by the Tasks outlined above. Additional information is provided in supporting appendices. These sections are followed by a summary of the sustainability issues that have been identified, and then the proposed sustainability objectives (and associated framework).

Compliance with the SEA Regulations

- 3.19 The Government has produced a checklist on compliance with the SEA Regulations. By following this, and having regard to the legislation itself, the required environmental information should be provided. Throughout this report, references to sustainability appraisal should be taken as incorporating the requirements of strategic environmental assessment.

- 3.20 Sustainability appraisal reports for specific plans / strategies will signpost where the environmental information is provided and how it has been considered in the plan making process.
- 3.21 It should be noted that not all spatial planning documents require strategic environmental assessment under the Regulations. A screening process for determining if an assessment is required is set out within the legislation.

Commentary on the Scoping Report Process

- 3.22 The SEA Regulations require that information be provided on how an assessment (or appraisal) was undertaken and any difficulties encountered in compiling the required information. Table 2 summarises the tasks undertaken so far, who was involved in the work and any difficulties that were encountered.

Table 2: Commentary on Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Stage

| SA Stage / Task | Who was involved? | When undertaken? | Difficulties / Issues Encountered |
|--|----------------------|--|--|
| Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope | | | |
| Task A1: Identify other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives | Planning Policy Team | January – July 2020, reviewed September – October 2020 | Difficulties ensuring that all most relevant plans, policies and programmes are included (particularly whether the versions identified are the most up to date). Many documents do not have clear sustainability objectives. |
| Task A2: Collect baseline information | Planning Policy Team | January – July 2020, reviewed September – October 2020 | Availability and access to up to date data at a scale relevant to the scoping process (particularly from external sources) and to understand local characteristics and trends. Accessing data that helps inform future trends, as well as current / recent circumstances. Consistency of data between sources. |

| SA Stage / Task | Who was involved? | When undertaken? | Difficulties / Issues Encountered |
|--|---|----------------------------------|---|
| Task A3: Identify sustainability issues and problems | Planning Policy Team | July 2020, reviewed October 2020 | Reflecting above, difficulties in establishing likely future trends, particularly where there are multiple drivers. As a result the expected issues for the future were more challenging to identify. |
| Task A4: Develop the sustainability appraisal framework | Planning Policy Team | July 2020, reviewed October 2020 | Ensuring coverage of all the relevant issues whilst maintaining a manageable number of objectives. Phrasing the objectives to be appropriately ambitious but also achievable. |
| Task A5: Consult the consultation bodies on the scope of the sustainability appraisal report | Planning Policy Team, statutory consultees and other consultees (see section 2 and Appendix 1). | July to September 2020 | In some cases it was not appropriate / possible to amend the Scoping Report to reflect comments received. See Appendix 1. |

Habitat Regulations Assessment Process

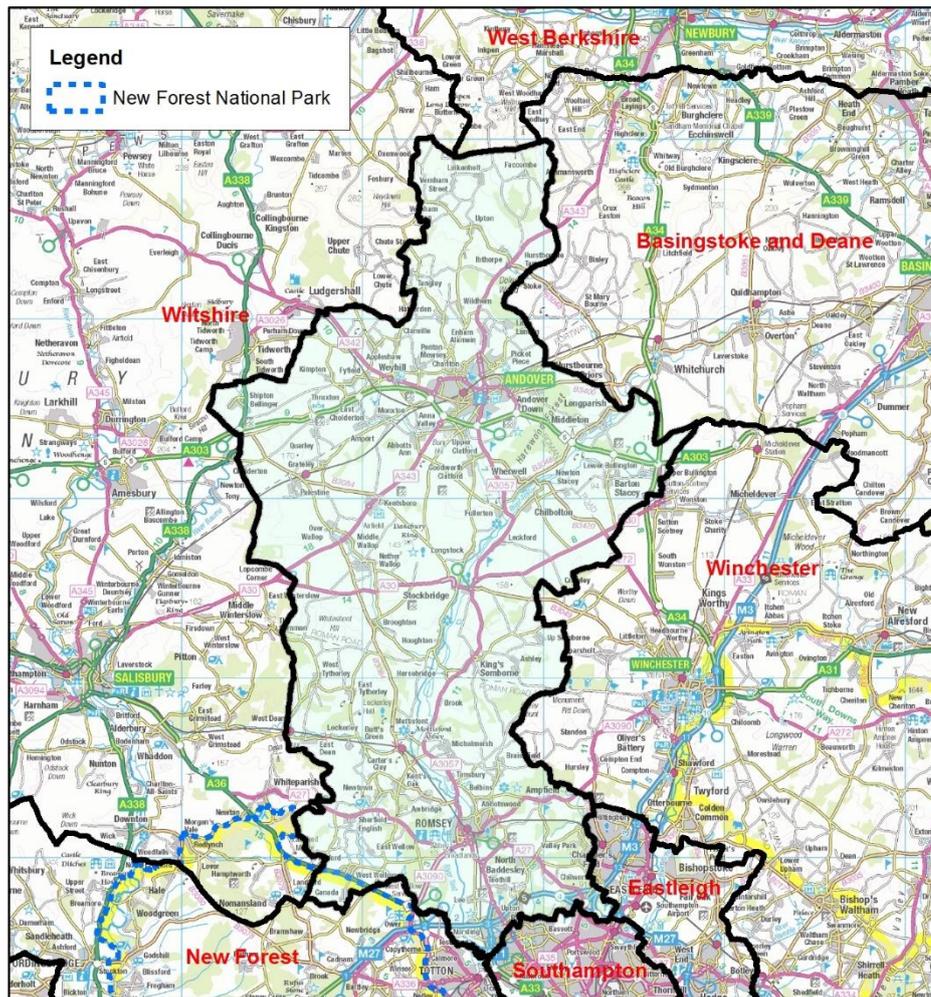
- 3.23 Plans and projects that are likely to have a significant effect on certain nature conservation designations need to be assessed in line with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, as amended (known as the Habitat Regulations).¹⁵ Whilst there are some links between this requirement and the sustainability appraisal / strategic environmental assessment process (such as consideration of likely significant effects on certain internationally designated nature conservation sites), they will be reported separately.

¹⁵ Includes Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) – national guidance recommends that Ramsar sites are also assessed in the same way.

4 Overview of Borough of Test Valley

- 4.1 The Borough of Test Valley is situated in west Hampshire. The main towns are Andover, towards the north, Romsey, towards the south, and Stockbridge, which is located near the centre of the Borough. There are also a significant number of villages and hamlets located within Test Valley.
- 4.2 The Borough is in close proximity to a number of cities and towns, including Southampton to the south; Eastleigh, Chandler's Ford, Winchester and Basingstoke to the east; and Salisbury to the west. Figure 2 illustrates the location of the Borough relative to some of the surrounding settlements.

Figure 2: Location of Test Valley



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Test Valley
Borough Council

- 4.3 The area of the Borough is approximately 628 square kilometres (about 62,760 hectares) and is predominantly rural in character. The 2011 Rural-Urban

Classification, has classed the Borough as 'urban with significant rural' (based on the proportion of the population in rural areas, which stood at 36.5%).¹⁶

- 4.4 The Borough includes 20 Wards and 59 Parish areas. More information on each of the Wards is contained in the Ward profiles, which are available via the Council's website at: <https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/communityandleisure/my-local-area-new>
- 4.5 The Borough is bordered by seven local authorities, namely Wiltshire Council, West Berkshire Council, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Winchester City Council, Eastleigh Borough Council, Southampton City Council and New Forest District Council.
- 4.6 The New Forest National Park Authority has had responsibility as a local planning authority within the National Park boundary since 1 April 2006. This includes a small area within the south west of Test Valley, as indicated in Figure 2.¹⁷ It should be noted that in many cases, the way data is produced means that whilst this area is not the responsibility of Test Valley Borough Council for planning purposes, it is included within background data (i.e. information provided for the local authority area as a whole).
- 4.7 The following sections provide further baseline information on a series of specific themes. In some cases there is an overlap or inter-dependence between them, however, such information has not been covered in all sections to avoid duplication. Therefore it will be important to have regard to information linked to all themes.

¹⁶ Derived from: 2011 Rural-Urban Classification of Local Authorities and other geographies, available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/2011-rural-urban-classification-of-local-authority-and-other-higher-level-geographies-for-statistical-purposes>

¹⁷ Therefore it is the New Forest National Park Authority that is responsible for planning matters, including policy development, in that part of the Borough that lies within the National Park boundary.

5 Air Quality

- 5.1 Table 3 provides some of the key documents relevant to air quality for the Borough. There are links between this and other themes within this Scoping Report, including transport and health as explained below.

Table 3: Summary of Key Documents

| Key Messages | Source of Key Messages | Implications |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor air quality can have negative impacts on health and the environment, as well as having economic implications. There are national objectives on air quality, with some more localised action plans where issues have been identified There are no Air Quality Management Areas currently designated within the Borough but there are areas designated nearby | <p>A Green Future; Clean Air Strategy; UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations; National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF); Air Quality Plans; Air Quality Status Report.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunities to support objectives to improve air quality should be taken, including to reduce pollution from road traffic Seek opportunities to promote sustainable travel Avoid sensitive uses in areas of higher air pollution |

- 5.2 The national Clean Air Strategy¹⁸ indicates that there has been a reduction in emissions since the 1970s but that this rate of reduction has slowed. Air pollution can result in a number of adverse effects, including on health and the natural environment. The Clean Air Strategy indicates that air pollution is the top environmental risk to human health in the United Kingdom.
- 5.3 More locally, air quality, particularly nitrogen dioxide levels, has been given additional scrutiny in the Southampton area. A range of projects have been identified and delivered seeking to improve air quality in this area.
- 5.4 Local authorities are responsible for reviewing air quality within their area, with the aim of meeting national air quality objectives. Where an authority finds that local air quality does not meet these targets it must declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and prepare an action plan for it.
- 5.5 Air quality within the Borough is generally good, with traffic being one of the main sources of air pollution. The most recent monitoring within the Borough

¹⁸ Clean Air Strategy, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), 2019.

did not identify any exceedances of the current air quality objectives. Although there are no AQMAs within the Borough, there are AQMAs in neighbouring authorities including Eastleigh Borough, New Forest District, Southampton City, Winchester City and Wiltshire. Transport and traffic flows to and from Test Valley will, to some degree, have implications for air quality in these locations.

- 5.6 Through the Council's own monitoring (published in the Annual Status Report¹⁹) for nitrogen dioxide, all monitoring sites show trends for stable or lower concentrations in 2019 and do not exceed the specific air quality objective of 40µg/m³.
- 5.7 It is difficult to predict likely future changes in air quality when accounting for the range of factors that can influence it. Air quality targets should continue to provide an impetus to improve air quality / reduce levels of pollutants, for example with continuing improvements in emissions from vehicles. This would need to be considered in the context of additional population in the area and how they may be travelling in the future (and implications on congestion levels), both within and beyond the Borough. As indicated above, changes in air quality can have knock on effects, for example on health and biodiversity. There are also links with other topics such as changes in traffic levels not only influencing air pollutant levels but also greenhouse gas emissions (linked to climate change).

¹⁹ Available: <http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/housingandenvironmentalhealth/environmentalprotection/air-quality>

6 Biodiversity and Geodiversity²⁰

- 6.1 The Borough supports a wealth of biodiversity, including designated and non-designated sites and features. Table 4 identifies some of the key documents linked to this theme. This does not include reference to treaties, conventions or legislation, which would also be relevant in establishing the approach to biodiversity and geodiversity.

Table 4: Summary of Key Documents

| Key Messages | Source of Key Messages | Implications |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal obligations to protect certain designated species and habitats, as well as a duty to have regard to the purpose of conservation of biological diversity • Follow the mitigation hierarchy (avoid, then mitigate, and only as a last resort compensate) • Recognise the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites. • Provide net gains for biodiversity, including through coherent ecological networks to retain connectivity • Take account of ecosystem services and natural capital | <p>A Green Future; Biodiversity 2020; NPPF; Biodiversity Action Plans; designation citations; Green Infrastructure Strategies.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to satisfy legal obligations in relation to biodiversity, as well as specific habitats and species (which may be designated) • Seek to conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity, moving towards net gains and ecological connectivity • Think about indirect and cumulative effects on biodiversity (e.g. through changes to the water environment) |

- 6.2 The Borough includes statutory and non-statutory designations related to habitats and species. There are protections for such designations, which include distinctions between international, national and local sites. Table 5 sets out the international designations²¹ that are within the Borough. There are additional designations located within the vicinity of the Borough, including the

²⁰ This section is taken as covering flora and fauna as well as biodiversity for the purposes of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

²¹ Details on the reason for designation is available from the JNCC at <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=4>.

recently designated Solent and Dorset Coast Special Protection Area (SPA), and the River Avon Special Area of Conservation (SAC). There is the potential for designations beyond the Borough to be affected by proposals and plans within Test Valley. Maps within Appendix 3 show the location of the international nature conservation designations within and in close proximity to the Borough.

Table 5: International Nature Conservation Designations in Test Valley

| Designation | Sites |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Special Area of Conservation (SAC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emer Bog • Mottisfont Bats • New Forest • Salisbury Plain • Solent Maritime |
| Special Protection Area (SPA) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Forest • Porton Down • Salisbury Plain • Solent and Southampton Water |
| Ramsar | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Forest • Solent and Southampton Water |

- 6.3 Test Valley includes a number of additional statutory nature conservation designations. Collectively, the statutory designations covers about 3% of the Borough. Table 6 includes the area of these designations (which includes the above mentioned international designations). For reference, there are no National Nature Reserves within Test Valley.

Table 6: Statutory Nature Conservation Designations in Test Valley as at 31 March 2019²²

| Designation | Area within Test Valley (Hectares) ²³ | Area within Hampshire (Hectares) | Percentage of this designation within Hampshire contained in Test Valley |
|--|--|----------------------------------|--|
| Special Area of Conservation (SAC) | 788 | 37,091 | 2.12% |
| Special Protection Area (SPA) | 599 | 41,797 | 1.43% |
| Ramsar site | 52 | 36,993 | 0.14% |
| Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) | 1,868 | 50,559 | 3.69% |
| Local Nature Reserves (LNR) | 102 | 2,388 | 4.27% |

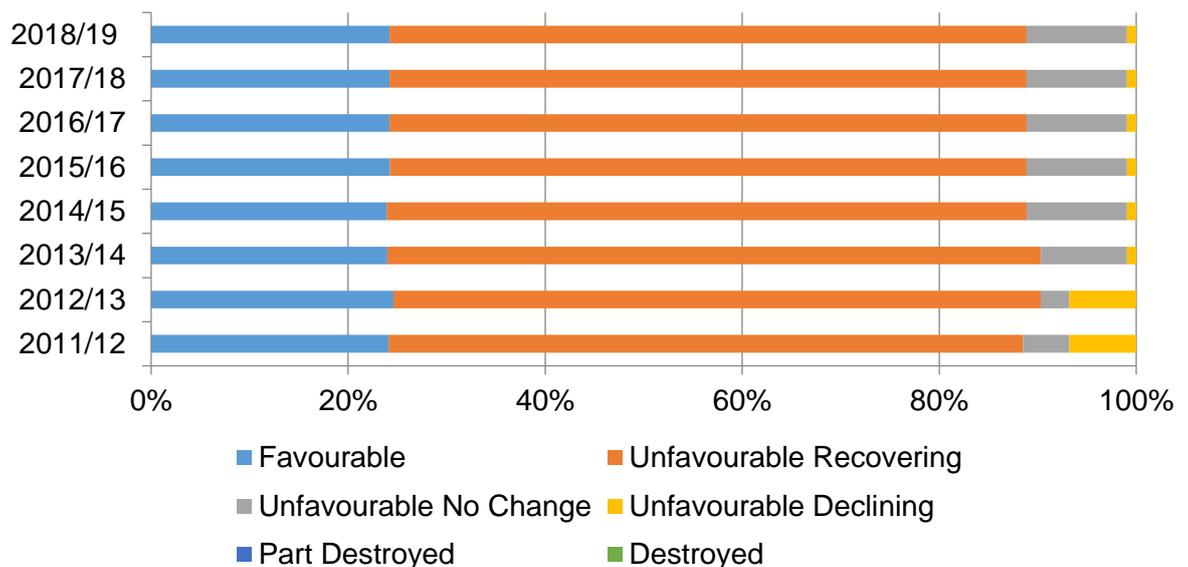
²² Taken from data provided by Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) for monitoring reports. Data published through the Council's Authority Monitoring Reports.

²³ This excludes the part of Test Valley that lies within the New Forest National Park.

6.4 The above table refers to Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), which are of national importance in relation to nature conservation and / or geological interest. A map in Appendix 3 shows the distribution and extent of these designations within the Borough.

6.5 The condition of SSSIs is monitored by Natural England. The trend in proportion of SSSIs with different condition statuses is set out in Figure 3. This indicates that in the years shown, none of the SSSI designations were recorded as part destroyed / destroyed. The proportion in 'favourable' status has remained broadly similar across these years, with the biggest changes in the proportion classified as 'unfavourable no change' or 'unfavourable declining'. It should be noted that the condition of SSSIs is not reviewed every year, so the figures are based on the most recent condition assessment. The future trend for the condition of these designations is uncertain as it may well depend on management regimes in place and other factors leading to changes (e.g. as a result in changes in climate). A range of factors can influence the condition of these designations; this includes water quality, recreational use and management regimes.

Figure 3: Proportion of SSSIs in the Borough at each status category for 2011/12 to 2018/19



6.6 In addition to the statutory designations, Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) are designated as county (local) level importance. As at 31 March 2019 there were 585 SINCs within the Borough (an increase of 3 sites relative to the previous year). The location of the SINCs is shown in Appendix 3. These sites cover approximately 5,588 hectares within the Borough, which represents just under 16% of the total area of SINCs within Hampshire.²⁴ These sites receive no statutory protection, therefore may be more vulnerable to changes in condition.

²⁴ Taken from data provided by Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) for monitoring reports.

- 6.7 Ancient woodland is referred to as an irreplaceable habitat within national planning guidance.²⁵ Records available for ancient woodland are not definitive. A map indicating the location of the known ancient woodland areas within the Borough is provided within Appendix 3. For information, many ancient woodlands are also designated as SINCs.
- 6.8 The Borough also contains a variety of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Habitats, this includes lowland calcareous grassland (757 hectares), lowland mixed deciduous woodland (5,852 hectares) and coastal floodplain grazing marsh (1,941 hectares).²⁶
- 6.9 Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) monitors the presence of 50 notable species within Hampshire looking at a rolling ten year period. This includes (but is not limited to) mammals, birds, flowering plants, butterflies and beetles and incorporates 30 UK Priority species. The most recent monitoring indicated that 39 of these species occurred within Test Valley. There has been no change in the number of species relative to the previous monitoring period. At a Hampshire scale, the latest monitoring indicated that 24 of the 50 species were in decline, with 16 stable, 5 fluctuating, 4 increasing and one unknown.²⁷
- 6.10 The NPPF set out that ecological networks should be identified and mapped, which take account of designated sites, wildlife corridors, and stepping stones that connect them. They should also identify opportunities for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation.
- 6.11 As a result, a Hampshire ecological network has been mapped on behalf of the Local Nature Partnership. The network is hierarchical, including core statutory sites²⁸, core non-statutory sites²⁹ and network opportunity areas³⁰. Appendix 3 includes a map of the network as it relates to the Borough. Hedgerow information can also be used as part of the network. It has been identified to inform the location, layout and design of development taking account of habitats and species.³¹ The ecological network does not change the approach that would need to be taken for considering habitats and species identified in legislation, such as international nature conservation designations.
- 6.12 Table 4 refers to ecosystem services; this approach seeks to give a holistic view of the environment and the benefits it provides. Linked to this is a natural

²⁵ See paragraph 175 c) of the National Planning Policy Framework.

²⁶ Taken from data provided by Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) for monitoring reports.

²⁷ Taken from data provided by Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) for monitoring reports, which includes details of the species present (available: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/biodiversity/informationcentre/information>).

²⁸ Ramsar sites, SACs, SPAs, SSSIs and Local Nature Reserves.

²⁹ Includes ancient woodland, SINCs and certain habitat types.

³⁰ Includes certain habitat types, such as woodland, neutral grassland and calcareous grassland.

³¹ For more information see:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/biodiversity/informationcentre/information#step-7>

capital approach, which considers the value of the natural environment for people and the economy.³² Both intend to avoid the services provided by the natural environment being undervalued in decision making.

- 6.13 There are a number of pressures³³ on biodiversity assets within and in close proximity to the Borough. This includes direct effects as a result of development; this is most relevant to features that are not subject to statutory protection. Indirect effects as a result of development can include; increased pressures from the use of sites, including recreation (such issues have already been identified in relation to the New Forest SPA³⁴ and Solent SPAs³⁵ when considering in-combination effects); as well as changes in the quality of the habitats, for example through nutrient enrichment (e.g. for nitrogen on the Solent SAC and SPA designations, and phosphates on the River Avon SAC) or hydrology (relevant to Emer Bog SAC). Some of the effects can also arise as a result of wider changes (e.g. foraging habitats for the barbastelle bats associated with the Mottisfont Bats SAC). Development can also provide opportunities to enhance or restore biodiversity assets.
- 6.14 Changes can also arise from other causes including variations in the climate (through direct and indirect routes). It is likely that effects might arise from combinations of factors, for example a number of habitats found within the Solent are vulnerable to coastal squeeze³⁶. Whilst it may not be possible to avoid some of these effects, there may be opportunities to facilitate the adaption of habitats and species.
- 6.15 In terms of likely future changes, the Government has highlighted the importance of supporting nature's recovery through the 25 year Environment Plan, as well as seeking to deliver net biodiversity gain through the planning system. The latter is referred to within the National Planning Policy Framework and is also being progressed through the Environment Bill, which is proposing to make it mandatory for certain developments to provide at least a 10% net gain. This may support opportunities to have positive effects on biodiversity. This will need to be balanced with other impacts (including as a result of development). The role of ecological networks, including to try and address habitat fragmentation and increase connectivity, has been identified. This includes exploring opportunities to enhance and establish ecological networks, whilst avoiding the risk of prejudicing future improvements in connectivity. It would be essential to ensure that development and any other changes are planned sensitively, accounting for direct, indirect and cumulative effects – not

³² More guidance is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/enabling-a-natural-capital-approach-enca>

³³ Please note, while examples have been provided in the context of international nature conservation designations, such issues, as well as other matters, may arise for other designated sites, as well as non-designated areas.

³⁴ The Council has an interim mitigation framework in place in relation to this matter. Evidence on recreational disturbance on the New Forest has recently been reviewed, the output reports are available at: <https://testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/evidence-base/evidence-base-environment>

³⁵ In relation to the Solent SPAs, for more information see: <https://solent.birdaware.org/home>

³⁶ This is where sea level rises but habitats cannot move further inland, for example due to the presence of manmade structures.

just in relation to designated sites. This can include opportunities for delivering multi-function spaces to support resilient ecological networks.

7 Climate Change

- 7.1 The climate varies naturally over time; however, greater focus has been given to human induced changes to the climate, particularly as a result of greenhouse gas emissions, which are generally resulting in a warming of the climate. It has been reported that over the last decade it has been on average 0.9°C warmer than the 1961-1990 average, while all ten of the warmest years in the UK have been since 2002.³⁷
- 7.2 Whilst this theme sets out some of the future trends that are anticipated, it also highlights adaptation considerations. Table 7 highlights some of the key documents relevant to this theme.

Table 7: Summary of Key Documents

| Key Messages | Source of Key Messages | Implications |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The climate is forecast to get warmer and wetter in winter and warmer and drier in summers, with an increased risk of extreme weather events There is an international aim to keep global temperature rise this century well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C There are a variety of risks as a result of a changing climate, including health and economic matters Action is needed in a range fields to reduce emissions, improve resilience and allow adaptation | <p>Paris Agreement; A Green Future; Clean Growth Strategy; NPPF; Climate Change Risk Register; National Adaptation Programme; Climate Emergency Action Plan.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to work towards national objectives for reducing emissions Need to be planning now for future climatic conditions, including adaptation measures (e.g. increased capacity of measures to reduce flood risk) Take opportunities to achieve multiple benefits (co-benefits) from proposals, not just in relation to climate change matters. |

³⁷ State of the UK Climate in 2019, Met Office, 2020 (available: <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/climate/maps-and-data/about/state-of-climate>).

Climate Change Projections

- 7.3 There are a range of projections available in relation to future climate scenarios, from a range of models. This report uses the UK Climate Projections 2018 (UKCP18).³⁸ This model produced projections based on different scenarios taking account of current understanding of how the climate systems work. The headline message remains that there will be a greater chance of warmer, wetter, winters and warmer, drier, summers across the UK in the future.
- 7.4 Table 8 sets out some of the outputs of the UKCP18 projections for the South East England region. These relate to mean temperature and precipitation changes.

Table 8: Climate change projections for the South East England region, low and high emission scenarios, indicating change relative to 1981-2000³⁹

| Variable | Time Horizon | Low emission scenario | High emission scenario |
|---------------------------|--------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Mean annual temperature | 2030-2049 | 0.5°C to 2.0°C warmer | 0.7°C to 2.3°C warmer |
| Mean winter temperature | | 0.1°C to 2.0°C warmer | 0.3°C to 2.3°C warmer |
| Mean summer temperature | | 0.6°C to 2.8°C warmer | 0.6°C to 3°C warmer |
| Mean winter precipitation | | 5% drier to 25% wetter | 3% drier to 28% wetter |
| Mean summer precipitation | | 35% drier to 5% wetter | 40% drier to 8% wetter |
| Mean annual temperature | 2060-2079 | 0.6°C to 2.4°C warmer | 1.6°C to 4.5°C warmer |
| Mean winter temperature | | 0°C to 2.3°C warmer | 0.9°C to 4.3°C warmer |
| Mean summer temperature | | 0.7°C to 3.1°C warmer | 1.8°C to 6.1°C warmer |
| Mean winter precipitation | | 6% drier to 29% wetter | 5% drier to 49% wetter |
| Mean summer precipitation | | 38% drier to 5% wetter | 61% drier to 1% wetter |

- 7.5 In terms of sea level changes, information has been accessed for London, looking at the same low and high emissions scenarios. This projects that by 2040 there will be sea level rise of 0.13m to 0.26m in a low emission scenario, and 0.16m to 0.29m in a high emission scenario (relative to 1981-2000 average). By 2070, the sea level rise for London would be 0.22m to 0.47m in a

³⁸ Available: <http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/>

³⁹ This uses RCP2.6 (low) and RCP8.5 (high) scenarios, results based on 10th to 90th percentile range. Taken from Key Results Spreadsheet for UKCP18, available: <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/pub/data/weather/uk/ukcp18/science-reports/UKCP18-Key-results.xlsx>

low emission scenario and 0.33m to 0.65m in a high emission scenario.⁴⁰ Whilst the projected sea level rise varies around the country, and Test Valley does not have a coastline, tidal waters extend into the lower River Test in the south of the Borough.

- 7.6 These changes are likely to occur without the impact of any new / updated planning policy documents within Test Valley. Given the scale on which the climate is affected, any proposals within plans for Test Valley are unlikely to significantly alter these projections on their own but any changes that result may have a cumulative effect.
- 7.7 The forecast changes in climate would be anticipated to have a range of effects on the other themes either directly or indirectly. For example, temperature and rainfall changes (including the potential for increased flooding and drought events) are likely to affect the biodiversity and landscape of the Borough, whilst also potentially affecting health (e.g. with more extreme weather events including heatwaves) and the local economy (including agriculture, for example there has been an increase in viticulture (grape growing) in Test Valley and the wider Hampshire area).
- 7.8 Consideration is being given to how such impacts can be planned for and managed, including through the national adaptation programme. The national adaptation programme responds to the climate change risk assessment. It includes key actions in relation to flooding and coastal change; risks to health, wellbeing and productivity from high temperatures; risks of shortages in public water supplies; risks to natural capital; risks to food production; and new and emerging pests, diseases and invasive non-native species. These matters will need to be considered locally, including implications on the appropriateness of land for development (e.g. taking account of changes to flood risk), opportunities to enhance the resilience of ecological networks, and the way open spaces and buildings are provided accounting for the identified risks.
- 7.9 Actions within the adaptation programme include ensuring access to information that is needed (including through raising awareness); encouraging joint working; making sure decisions reflect current and future risk (including regarding flood risk); delivering more green infrastructure; restoring natural processes within river systems; and building and enhancing ecological resilience. It is recognised that there remain evidence gaps that need to be addressed. Adaptation measures to be considered include; designing buildings to minimise the risk of overheating, with outdoor spaces having shade available; promoting the more efficient use of water resources; avoiding inappropriate development in areas likely to be at risk of flooding in the future and encouraging the greater use of sustainable drainage systems (building in greater capacity than currently needed); and ensuring the connectivity of habitats. There are opportunities for nature-based solutions to form part of the adaptation response, including through some of the way identified within the adaptation programme, as mentioned above.

⁴⁰ Taken from Key Results Spreadsheet for UKCP18.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- 7.10 Greenhouse gases relate to a series of emissions (including carbon dioxide and methane) that are contributing to changes to the climate. They are generated by a variety of activities including through the use of energy. Through the Climate Change Act 2008 (as amended), legally binding targets have been introduced, with emissions to be reduced by at least 100% (relative to a 1990 baseline) by 2050. Carbon budgets⁴¹ have been established, setting out how these targets will be achieved.
- 7.11 Data published for the UK indicated that as at 2018, total greenhouse gas emissions stood at 451 MtCO₂e – this was a 2% reduction compared to 2017 and a 43% reduction relative to 1990. It was put forward that most of this reduction related to a decrease in the use of coal for electricity generation. Approximately 23% of the 2018 emissions total was derived from energy supply, with 28% relating to transport. Additional emissions came from a range of sources including residential (15%), business (18%) and agricultural (10%) sources.⁴²
- 7.12 The same source also provides some information purely focusing on carbon dioxide emissions. This indicated total emissions for 2018 were 366 MtCO₂e, which is a 39% reduction in comparison to 1990 levels.
- 7.13 Carbon dioxide emissions data is available for local authority areas for 2005 to 2018, this is summarised in Table 9.⁴³ For this period, within Test Valley emissions fell from around 1,070 kt CO₂ in 2005 to around 823 kt CO₂ in 2018 (this trend was not consistent across the period). About 58% of the emissions for 2018 came from transport sources, with around 23% from domestic sources.
- 7.14 For 2018, the per person carbon dioxide emissions figure was 6.6 tonnes. For reference the equivalent figure for Hampshire was 4.9 tonnes, the South East region was 4.7 tonnes and for England was 5.0 tonnes.⁴⁴ Therefore, emissions in the Borough are above the county and national averages.

⁴¹ Available: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/carbon-budgets>

⁴² 2018 UK Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS), 2020 (available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/final-uk-greenhouse-gas-emissions-national-statistics-1990-to-2018>).

⁴³ UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics, BEIS, 2020 (available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics>).

⁴⁴ UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics, BEIS, 2019.

Table 9: Carbon dioxide emissions data (BEIS, 2020)

| Year | Test Valley Total Emissions (kt CO ₂) | Per Person Emissions for Test Valley (tonnes of CO ₂) | Per Person Emissions for Hampshire (tonnes of CO ₂) | Per Person Emissions for England (tonnes of CO ₂) |
|------|---|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 1,069.7 | 9.5 | 8.7 | 8.5 |
| 2006 | 1,082.0 | 9.5 | 8.4 | 8.4 |
| 2007 | 1,061.3 | 9.3 | 8.4 | 8.1 |
| 2008 | 1,005.7 | 8.7 | 8.1 | 7.9 |
| 2009 | 953.6 | 8.3 | 7.4 | 7.0 |
| 2010 | 993.1 | 8.6 | 7.1 | 7.2 |
| 2011 | 926.7 | 7.9 | 6.4 | 6.6 |
| 2012 | 971.7 | 8.3 | 6.5 | 6.8 |
| 2013 | 942.7 | 7.9 | 6.3 | 6.6 |
| 2014 | 878.1 | 7.3 | 5.7 | 6.0 |
| 2015 | 860.6 | 7.1 | 5.5 | 5.7 |
| 2016 | 845.3 | 6.9 | 5.2 | 5.3 |
| 2017 | 819.1 | 6.6 | 5.0 | 5.1 |
| 2018 | 823.1 | 6.6 | 4.9 | 5.0 |

- 7.15 The Committee on Climate Change recently published a report to Parliament on progress in reducing UK emissions. This indicated that whilst there were important announcements in relation to a range of sectors, they do not yet reflect the scale of the challenge and adequate progress is not being made in preparing for climate change. The report also sets out a number of changes that need to be made in order to achieve net zero emission policies, including in relation to transport, buildings and energy supply.⁴⁵
- 7.16 Given the legal requirements, greenhouse gas emissions should continue to reduce into the future although the ability to make reductions is likely to become more challenging (reflecting the latest progress report to Parliament). The Council has declared a climate emergency and has approved an action plan to move towards being a carbon-neutral organisation. In Test Valley, a key source of emissions relates to transport, which will need to be considered further in the context of the largely rural nature of the Borough.

Energy Consumption

- 7.17 In 2018, the electricity sales within the Borough came to 559 GWh, of which approximately 235 GWh was related to domestic consumers. The average consumption per household was 4,238 kWh which is above the average for England of 3,650 kWh. For comparison, the total sales for Test Valley in 2005 was 581 GWh, of which 260 GWh related to domestic customers, with an average domestic consumption per consumer of 5,350 kWh (not necessarily the same as the per household figure for 2018). Whilst it is not certain if the

⁴⁵ Reducing UK emissions Progress Report to Parliament, Committee on Climate Change, 2020 (available: <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/reducing-uk-emissions-2020-progress-report-to-parliament/>).

figures are directly comparable, it would appear that between 2005 and 2018, the electricity sales for the Borough have decreased. However, the average domestic electricity consumption is above that for England.⁴⁶

- 7.18 Also in 2018, the gas sales within the Borough came to 822 GWh, of which approximately 495 GWh related to domestic customers. The mean domestic consumption was 12,189 kWh per meter; this is below the figure for England of 13,259 kWh per meter. For comparison, the total sales for Test Valley in 2005 was 824 GWh, of which 571 GWh related to domestic customers – the average sales per domestic customer of 17,840 kWh per meter.⁴⁷ This indicates that the total sales and domestic sales of gas have reduced between 2005 and 2018, with the most recent average domestic consumption for the Borough being lower than the national average. There remain parts of the Borough that do not have access to mains gas, with a variety of fuels being used. It is estimated that 25% of households in Test Valley are not connected to the gas network; in comparison, the figure for England is 14% and for the South East region is also 14%.⁴⁸
- 7.19 Additional information is available on the source of energy being consumed for domestic, commercial & industrial, and certain transport modes (including road transport and rail) at a local authority level. The most recent data is for 2017, as summarised in Table 10, with a comparison on the portion of energy by fuel for England. For Test Valley, the transport sector was a higher energy consumer, than for the domestic or industry & commercial sectors. In comparison, for England the consumption by sector was more balanced but with the highest proportion being consumed by the industry & commercial sector.⁴⁹

⁴⁶ Regional and local authority electricity consumption statistics, BEIS, 2019 (available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/regional-and-local-authority-electricity-consumption-statistics-2005-to-2011>)

⁴⁷ Regional and local authority gas consumption statistics, BEIS, 2019 (available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/gas-sales-and-numbers-of-customers-by-region-and-local-authority>). Please note, this data is weather corrected.

⁴⁸ Sub-national estimates of households not connected to the gas network 2015-2018, BEIS, 2019 (available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/sub-national-estimates-of-households-not-connected-to-the-gas-network>).

⁴⁹ Total final energy consumption at regional and local authority level, BEIS, 2019 (available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/total-final-energy-consumption-at-regional-and-local-authority-level>).

Table 10: Energy Consumption Data by source for 2017 (BEIS, 2019)

| | Energy Consumption in Test Valley (GWh) | Proportion of energy consumption in Test Valley (%) | Proportion of energy consumption in England (%) |
|--------------------|---|---|---|
| Coal | 24.3 | 0.7 | 0.9 |
| Manufactured Fuels | 18.5 | 0.5 | 1.4 |
| Petroleum products | 2,073.4 | 60.0 | 39.4 |
| Gas | 690.5 | 20.0 | 36.0 |
| Electricity | 568.3 | 16.4 | 19.7 |
| Bioenergy & waste | 80.7 | 2.3 | 2.5 |
| All fuels | 3,455.7 | - | - |

- 7.20 In terms of renewable energy generation, in 2019 approximately 37% of all UK electricity generation came from renewables. Approximately 121 TWh of electricity consumed came from renewable sources, this represents a 9.5% increase from 2018. This was driven by increased capacity, particularly for wind energy. About 54% of renewable sources of electricity came from wind generation (onshore and offshore), with 11% from solar photovoltaics. The amount of renewable heat generation increased by 2.4% in 2019.⁵⁰
- 7.21 Data is available on the generation of renewable electricity at a regional scale – this indicates that as at the end of 2018, the South East was generating around 8,620 GWh of electricity from renewable sources (figure for England as a whole was 72,037 GWh). For the South East, the majority of the figure relates to offshore wind energy (at about 4,267 GWh), followed by solar photovoltaic (at about 2,109 GWh). For comparison, in 2010 the figure for the South East stood at 2,561 GWh, with England at 14,076 GWh.⁵¹
- 7.22 Information is also available at the local authority level in relation to electricity from renewable sources. This indicates that for Test Valley, in 2018 there was around 198,928 MWh of electricity generated from renewable sources, of which 190,449 MWh was from solar photovoltaics. The same data source indicates that there were 2,077 renewable energy installations within the Borough providing electricity from renewable sources, of which virtually all (2,070) relate to solar photovoltaics.⁵² There are a number of ‘solar farms’ located across the Borough that contribute to this total.
- 7.23 Although the scheme has now closed (as at March 2019), the feed in tariff provided a means supporting the uptake of certain renewable energy installations. Data available as at the end March 2019 indicated that a total of

⁵⁰ Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics (DUKES), BEIS, 2020 (available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/digest-of-uk-energy-statistics-dukes-2020>)

⁵¹ Regional Renewable Statistics, BEIS, 2019 (available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-renewable-statistics>).

⁵² Regional Renewable Statistics – Renewable electricity by local authority, BEIS, 2019 (available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-renewable-statistics>)

2,110 installations (of which 2,044 were domestic) had been installed in Test Valley and registered with the feed in tariff scheme – this resulted in a total installed capacity of 11,962 kW. The majority of the installations were for solar photovoltaics – this gave a figure of 397 installations per 10,000 households. For comparison, the figure for Great Britain was 296 installations per 10,000 households.⁵³

- 7.24 It is anticipated that the generation of renewable energy is likely to continue to grow in the future, although changes to funding mechanisms and government policies are likely to continue to influence the rate of increase and the specific technologies that provide this growth.

⁵³ Sub-national Feed in Tariff Statistics, BEIS, 2020 (available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/sub-regional-feed-in-tariffs-confirmed-on-the-cfr-statistics>)

8 Communities and Wellbeing

- 8.1 This section covers a range of topics linked to community matters including; deprivation, health and wellbeing, and community safety. Some of these matters overlap with themes covered elsewhere within this report. Table 11 summarises some of the key messages and implications linked to these themes from relevant documents.

Table 11: Summary of Key Documents

| Key Messages | Source of Key Messages | Implications |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Look to promote quality of life for all ▪ Seek opportunities for people to look after their own health and wellbeing and take action early ▪ Reduce health inequalities and need a holistic approach to healthy lifestyles • Places should be designed to be accessible and safe to reduce the risk that crime / fear of crime undermine community cohesion • Consider social, recreational and cultural facilities and services that meet community needs | <p>NPPF; Public Health England Strategy; Sporting Future; Towards an Active Nation Strategy; Noise Policy Statement for England; Hampshire's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment; Public Health Strategy; TVBC Corporate Plan, Andover Vision; Romsey Future Strategy; Parish Plans; Green Infrastructure Strategies; Playing Pitch Strategy; Sport Facilities Strategy.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Opportunities to reduce deprivation and inequality should be sought ▪ Design should have regard to crime prevention measures • Need to ensure appropriate facilities and services are in place to support healthy lifestyle choices (including doctors surgeries, as well as walking / cycling routes and leisure facilities), as well as inclusive and safe places. |

- 8.2 The Council's Corporate Plan includes priorities for growing the potential of communities to be empowered, connected and able to build upon their strengths, as well as for people to be able to live well and fulfil their aspirations. This includes helping communities to address matters that are important to them, such as through access to information, funding, other resources and support; supporting the delivery of local projects and initiatives; and support community planning activities.
- 8.3 As recognised in Appendix 2, the communities of Andover and Romsey have come together through Andover Vision and Romsey Future to consider key issues for now and the future (both looking forward 20 years), to try and focus community discussions on how to address these matters.

- 8.4 Parish Plans have also been prepared for certain communities within the Borough⁵⁴ (see Appendix 2). Whilst all documents are slightly different, in general they contain information on the issues that are important to the parishes, identifying a vision and providing action points. They also provide contextual information on the areas.

Leisure, Recreation and Culture

- 8.5 The Borough has a wide range of cultural and leisure attractions, a number of which have links to tourism attractions and heritage assets. Historical facilities (not including most religious buildings) include Romsey Abbey, Broadlands Estate in Romsey and Mottisfont Abbey. Museums within the Borough include the Museum of the Flying Army and Andover Museum. There are theatres in Andover (The Lights) and Romsey (The Plaza), as well as a cinema in Andover. There are also libraries at Andover, Romsey and North Baddesley. The main public leisure centres are found within Andover and Romsey, with additional larger leisure facilities at Charlton, Valley Park and a number of additional facilities / spaces in settlements across the Borough.
- 8.6 Audits of public open space provision (relative to standards within Local Plans) have considered the availability of such spaces across the Borough – this identifies both surpluses and deficits across different types of spaces and in different Parishes within the Borough.⁵⁵ There have been a number of additions to public open space provision, mainly around the larger settlements within the Borough, in conjunction with new developments. This includes the new neighbourhoods on the eastern side of Andover – this primarily relates to meeting the need of new residents but includes some town wide facilities (including outdoor sports pitches). In Romsey, work is underway to deliver a new outdoor sports facility to the north east of the town at Ganger Farm, which relates to an allocation in the current Local Plan.
- 8.7 Green infrastructure⁵⁶ can include a variety of types of space, many of which can provide multiple benefits, including links to biodiversity, access to green space and the natural environment (with potential health and wellbeing benefits⁵⁷) and in some cases supporting the local economy. For example, one report indicated that parks and green spaces are estimated to save the NHS in the order of £111 million per year only accounting for reductions in visits to GPs, as well as having benefits in reducing health inequalities and increasing social cohesion.⁵⁸

⁵⁴ Available:

<https://testvalley.gov.uk/communityandleisure/workingwithcommunities/communityledplans/parish-plans>

⁵⁵ Most recent Public Open Space Audit available at: <https://testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/evidence-base/evidence-base-leisure>

⁵⁶ For a definition see the glossary of the NPPF.

⁵⁷ For more information, see Improving access to greenspace: A new review for 2020, Public Health England, 2020.

⁵⁸ Revaluing Parks and Green Spaces: Measuring their economic and wellbeing value to individuals, Fields in Trust, 2018.

- 8.8 Green Infrastructure Strategies have been prepared for Test Valley and for the wider south Hampshire area identifying opportunities to improve green infrastructure resources. More focused strategies are also available looking at specific geographical areas – this includes the River Anton Enhancement Scheme and Romsey Waterways and Wetlands Enhancement Strategy. Linked to the latter document, a nature reserve has been provided to the north of Romsey at Fishlake Meadows.
- 8.9 The Sport England Active Lives Survey considers activity levels, with the latest data published for November 2018 to November 2019.⁵⁹ Activity levels are broken into three categories based on number of minutes of moderate intensity equivalent physical activity, namely inactive (doing less than 30 minutes a week), fairly active (30 to 149 minutes a week), and active (doing at least 150 minutes a week). It is reported that physical inactivity is responsible for 1 in 6 UK deaths and costs the NHS up to £1 billion per year.⁶⁰
- 8.10 For Test Valley, it was reported that 66% of adults (aged 16+) were active, 11% were fairly active and 22.1% were inactive. There was no significant change in comparison to the previous year. The position for Hampshire was 64.8%, 12.7% and 22.4% and for England was 63.3%, 12.2% and 24.6% respectively. Therefore, there is a higher activity level in Test Valley, relative to Hampshire and England.
- 8.11 The Council has recently updated its evidence in relation to current and future needs for pitches, as well as other sport and recreation facilities. This highlights the importance of protecting existing provisions, as well as highlighting where improvements and new facilities are needed to support the demand for certain sports and physical activities now and into the future. In considering future needs, in many cases this work assumed that current participation rates continue going forward.
- 8.12 It is difficult to forecast likely changes in availability of leisure and cultural facilities or the demand for such provisions. For example, there may be changes in the types of activities that are seeing higher participation levels. There may also be changes in the way provisions / spaces are used in light of behaviour changes associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 8.13 The links to other matters remain (including health and wellbeing) and it will be important to ensure continuing availability of facilities and infrastructure to support such activities. Without the provision of additional facilities, including to support changes in population, there may be increased pressure on existing resources and negative health implications if such facilities are not available to support active lifestyles. As noted above, there are proposals that are yet to be completed for additional provisions within Romsey, comprising an outdoor sports facility at Ganger Farm.

⁵⁹ Available: <https://www.sportengland.org/know-your-audience/data/active-lives#overview>

⁶⁰ Gear Change: A bold vision for cycling and walking, DfT, 2020.

Deprivation

- 8.14 Consideration of deprivation includes a wide variety of factors. The English Indices of Deprivation are collated by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and considers a range of matters. The Index of Multiple Deprivation gives an overview position. The most recent data was published in 2019 and is presented for Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs)⁶¹.
- 8.15 At a Borough scale, Test Valley is not a deprived area, with the Borough being ranked 262 out of all local authorities in England (317 in total) for the Index of Multiple Deprivation as a whole – this places the Borough in the 20% least deprived areas. This is not as positive a position as the previous Index for 2015. However, the Borough wide position masks more localised variations, with pockets of deprivation, particularly for the northern parts of Andover. Appendix 3 includes a map showing how the position for the overall index varies across the Borough.
- 8.16 Table 12 summarises the number of Lower Super Output Areas within the Borough that fall within the 20% most deprived across England. These indices cover a range of themes, some of which are also referred to in other parts of this report. Parts of Andover are within the 20% most deprived for the indices relating to education and crime, while areas identified under the ‘barriers’ and ‘living environment’ indices mainly relate to the more rural areas of the Borough.

Table 12: Number of Lower Super Output Areas within Test Valley falling within 20% most deprived for England (out of a total of 71 LSOAs)⁶²

| Index | Number of Test Valley LSOAs |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Index of Multiple Deprivation | 1 |
| Income Deprivation | 0 |
| Employment Deprivation | 0 |
| Health Deprivation and Disability | 0 |
| Education (Skills and Training) | 5 |
| Barriers (Housing and Services) | 19 |
| Crime Deprivation | 6 |
| Living Environment Deprivation | 9 |

- 8.17 In considering fuel poverty (as at 2018), just under 7% of households were classified as fuel poor using data collated by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.⁶³ The areas of the Borough with the highest proportion of fuel poor households (over 10%) are located in the Mid Test and Harewood Wards.
- 8.18 The 2011 Census provides data on the availability of central heating to households – this indicated that for Test Valley approximately 1.5% of

⁶¹ Represent census based population areas of between 1,000 and 3,000 residents.

⁶² Based on data collated by Hampshire County Council, available:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/business/ebis/reports>

⁶³ Available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/sub-regional-fuel-poverty-data-2020>

households had no central heating, this compared to 2.4% for the South East and 2.7% for England. A higher proportion of households within the Borough had central heating fuelled by oil, at 14.6% compared to 4.0% for the South East region and 3.8% for England – in part this may reflect less access to mains gas particularly in more rural parts of the Borough.

Health and Wellbeing

- 8.19 Health has been defined by the World Health Organisation as ‘*a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity*’⁶⁴. It is generally recognised that social, environmental and economic factors can influence health. Some examples of this have been provided above.
- 8.20 Generally the health of residents in the Borough is good and in some regards better than the average for England; however there are variations within Test Valley. Public Health England provides health profiles for local authorities⁶⁵ – the most recent profile (2019) has informed the majority of baseline data within this section.
- 8.21 Life expectancy (at birth) for residents of Test Valley is 81 years for males and 84.9 years for females (both based on data from 2016-18). In both cases these figures are above the average for England (at 79.6 years for males and 83.2 years for females). The health profile highlights that there are differences in life expectancy across the Borough associated with deprivation levels – the difference in life expectancy between the most and least deprived areas in the Borough is approximately 8.5 years for males and 7.5 years for females.
- 8.22 Data is available on certain causes of death based on 2016-18, using figures per 100,000 people to enable comparison. The mortality rate from all cardiovascular diseases for the under 75 year olds was 54.2 per 100,000 people, compared to 71.7 for England. The mortality rate from cancer for the under 75 year olds was 120.8 for Test Valley, with the equivalent rate for England being 132.3. The mortality rates for Test Valley in relation to both cardiovascular disease and cancer have generally been reducing over time, reflecting the national trend.
- 8.23 The excess winter death index (based on 2017-2018 data) for Test Valley was 28.1, compared to 30.1 for England.
- 8.24 In terms of other health indicators, the data for Test Valley was reported to be significantly worse than that for England on a number of indicators. These comprise – the killed or seriously injured rate on roads; emergency hospital admission rates for intentional self-harm; estimated diabetes diagnosis rate; estimated dementia diagnosis rate; and new sexually transmitted infection diagnosis rate.

⁶⁴ As set out in Constitution, available: <https://www.who.int/about/who-we-are/constitution>

⁶⁵ Available: <http://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles>

- 8.25 Approximately 17% of (year 6) children were classed as obese, which is lower than the national figure; however the percentage of adults classified as overweight or obese (at 63.6%) is slightly worse than the national position. Smoking prevalence amongst adults is below the national average. In all cases, the position is not significantly different to the national picture.
- 8.26 The 2011 Census provides information on perceptions on people's health – just under 85% of people within the Borough described themselves as being in very good or good health. Just under 4% of people described themselves as being in bad or very bad health. These figures are slightly more positive than the position for England as a whole. There are inevitably variations including in different areas and between communities within the Borough. For example, for those in Test Valley who identified themselves as Gypsy or Irish Traveller within the 2011 Census⁶⁶, 63% described themselves as in good or very good health.
- 8.27 The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for Hampshire⁶⁷ provides information on current and future health and wellbeing needs. It highlights that whilst people are living longer, increasingly the extra years are lived in poorer health. With an ageing population this may put additional pressures on health and social care resources and infrastructure.
- 8.28 A previous version of the JSNA (dated 2013) for Hampshire provided some additional information in relation to the Gypsy and Traveller population of Hampshire. Whilst there are challenges with the availability of robust data, it was indicated that key health issues experienced by these ethnic groups reflect those identified nationally, which includes a higher prevalence of long term conditions, such as heart disease and mental health problems; higher levels of dental health problems; and increased risk of preventable childhood infectious diseases (e.g. measles) due to lower levels of vaccinations.⁶⁸ A national review of inequalities faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities highlighted that health outcomes for these communities are very poor relative to other ethnic groups.⁶⁹
- 8.29 The latest JSNA recognises that dementia is a growing issue – the proportion of people in Hampshire with dementia is significantly higher than England, and is increasing.
- 8.30 Data is available on personal wellbeing, based on surveys undertaken of those aged 16 years and over. This includes consideration of how satisfied people are with their life and how happy they feel, with a rating system from 0 (not at all) to 10 (completely). In terms of life satisfaction, the average rating was most

⁶⁶ This group is unlikely to include people who identify as 'Roma'. Similarly, it will not cover those who identify themselves as Travelling Showpeople.

⁶⁷ Available: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/publichealth/jsna>

⁶⁸ Available: <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/public-health/jsna-2013/GypsiesandTravellersJSNA2013.pdf>

⁶⁹ Tackling inequalities faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, House of Commons Women and Equalities Committee, 2019 (available: <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmwomeq/360/full-report.html>).

recently 7.65 (for 2019/20) which is slightly lower than for the previous year at 7.92, although there is year to year variation. For happiness, the average rating was most recently 7.66, which is broadly the same as the previous year's average (at 7.68).⁷⁰

- 8.31 Hampshire County Council has published information on mental health and wellbeing using an index that draws on a range of datasets.⁷¹ This indicates a variation in mental health and wellbeing across the Borough and in comparison to the county. Areas estimated to have better mental health and wellbeing include the Wards of Valley Park, Ampfield and Braishfield, and Over Wallop. Areas estimated to have a worse mental health and wellbeing are the Wards of Alamein and St Mary's in Andover, and Abbey in Romsey.
- 8.32 The 2011 Census also provided information on the provision of unpaid care. Just over 10% of people within the Borough provided some unpaid care, which is broadly comparable to the position for the South East region and England.
- 8.33 It is difficult to project the likely health trends for the future as they depend on a number of inter-related factors. As set out above, life expectancy has generally been increasing, although the extra years tend to be lived in poorer health. Changes in the age structure of the area may also have implications on the types of healthcare and associated infrastructure that would be required.
- 8.34 Implications of health and wellbeing for those in the Borough, may also depend on changes linked to other matters, including air and noise pollution and physical activity levels (noting higher activity levels in the Borough but also higher obesity rates), as well as opportunities to access green space and sustainable modes of travel (particularly walking and cycling). Improvements in relation to such matters could have knock on effects in terms of health and wellbeing.

Community Safety

- 8.35 Recorded crime figures from the police are available for local authority areas.⁷² In the year ending December 2019, a total of just under 7,640 offences (excluding fraud) were reported to the police in the Borough. Of this figure, around 15% related to incidents of violence without injury, about 13% were incidents of violence with injury, and about 10% relating to criminal damage and arson. The total recorded crime figure is broadly the same as the position for the previous year.

⁷⁰ Annual personal well-being estimates, ONS, 2020 (available: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/wellbeing/datasets/headlineestimatesofpersonawellbeing>)

⁷¹ Available: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/publichealth/mentalhealthwellbeing>

⁷² Recorded crime data by Community Safety Partnership, ONS, 2020 (available: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/recordedcrimedatabycommunitysafetypartnershiparea>)

- 8.36 Table 13 sets out the recorded crime rates per 100,000 population for 2019, enabling comparison between the figures for Test Valley and the Hampshire Police Force Area for headline offences.

Table 13: Recorded Crime Rates per 100,000 population for year ending December 2019

| Recorded Crime Offences | Borough of Test Valley | Hampshire Police Force Area |
|--|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Total recorded crime (excluding fraud) | 61 | 82 |
| Violence against the person | 22 | 30 |
| <i>Violence with injury</i> | 8 | 11 |
| <i>Violence without injury</i> | 9 | 12 |
| Sexual offences | 2 | 3 |
| Theft offences | 20 | 27 |
| Criminal damage and arson | 6 | 9 |

- 8.37 As set out within the section on deprivation, one of the indices of deprivation relates to crime, which is assessed against recorded rates of crime for violence, theft, burglary and criminal damage. Within the Borough, there are 6 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) within Test Valley that fall within the 20% most deprived within England for this matter. These are all located in the Andover area, 3 within Alamein Ward and 3 within St Mary's Ward. This also indicates that there is variation within the Borough that needs to be taken into account.
- 8.38 Hate crime relates to offences that are perceived to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on factors including race, religion, sexual orientation, and disability. National data sets indicate an increase in recorded hate crimes in recent years⁷³ – more local figures do not appear to be available. For information, hate incidents in relation to Gypsies and Travellers are recorded under the 'race' strand but break downs of the figures are not available.

⁷³ Hate crime, England and Wales, 2018 to 2019, Home Office, 2019 (available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2018-to-2019>).

9 Economy and Employment

9.1 Whilst there is overlap with other themes, this section focuses on the local economy (including employment), education and skills. There is also consideration of waste and recycling. Table 14 summarises some of the key messages and implications linked to these themes from relevant documents.

9.2 It is important to have regard to these matters in the context of the other priorities, for example in terms of a joined up approach to where people live and work. Equally, the environment around us can have economic benefits (often considered through a natural capital or ecosystem services approach) including supporting the local economy.

Table 14: Summary of Key Documents

| Key Messages | Source of Key Messages | Implications |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to support clean growth which means delivering economic growth, whilst decreasing emissions • Seek to support the viability and vitality of town centres • Promote the development of skills and innovation, supporting greater skilled employment opportunities • Appropriate infrastructure (including digital) needs to be available to support growth • Education systems should support lifelong learning and skills development, recognising the links to the economy and need for this to be responsive to skills needs / gaps • Appropriate provision for educational | <p>NPPF; Industrial Strategy; Clean Growth Strategy; LEP plans / strategies; TVBC Corporate Plan; Economic Development Strategy; School Places Plan.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need for, and availability of, space for economic development should be kept under review • Town centres should be the focus for retail development complemented by local centres / facilities (as part of a hierarchy of centres), with increased and easier access to them encouraged. • Appropriate provision should be made for infrastructure needs to support businesses, as well as education and skills development • Support opportunities to invest in skills development • Seek opportunities to work with partners to promote skills development, |

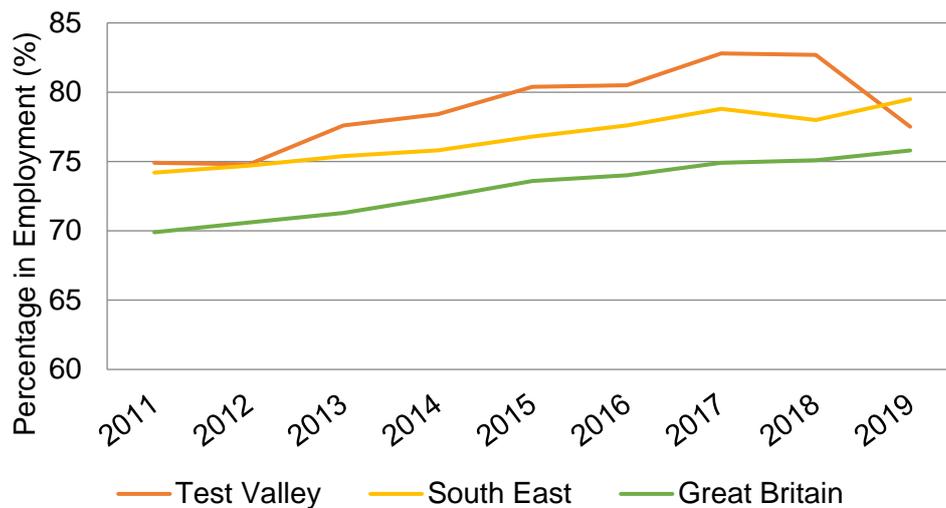
| Key Messages | Source of Key Messages | Implications |
|--|------------------------|--|
| infrastructure (including schools) should be made through the planning system, recognising existing capacity | | including where linked to economic development and employability |

Local Economy and Employment

- 9.3 Labour market profiles⁷⁴ available for local authority areas set out that labour supply consists of people who are employed, as well as those defined as unemployed or economically inactive, who can be potential labour supply.
- 9.4 Within Test Valley, 79.7% of the population were classed as economically active⁷⁵, of which 76.9% were in employment (67.7% employees, 9.3% self-employed) and around 2.7% were unemployed in 2019/20. For comparison, in the South East region 82.3% were economically active, with 79.6% in employment and 3.1% unemployed; while for Great Britain the figures were 79.1%, 76.0% and 3.9% respectively. This indicates that a higher proportion of the population within Test Valley are economically active, and in employment, than Great Britain as a whole, but the proportions for Test Valley are lower than that for the South East region.
- 9.5 Figure 4 shows how the proportion of people in employment has changed in recent years. This indicates that over the period 2011 to 2018, the proportion of the population in employment in Test Valley has generally been higher than for the region and Great Britain, however in 2019 this position changed. The drop in 2019 seemed to relate to the percentage of females in employment but the reason for this is not clear and could relate to the sampling used to generate the figures. More recent data (for 2019/20, rather than the 2019 calendar year) suggests it is employment levels in males that is now the reason for the lower figures.

⁷⁴ NOMIS Official Labour Market Statistics, ONS (available: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157309/report.aspx#>)

⁷⁵ Based on those with an age of 16 to 64 years.

Figure 4: Percentage of people aged 16 to 64 in employment⁷⁶

- 9.6 In terms of economic inactivity⁷⁷, 20.3% of the population⁷⁸ of Test Valley fall into this category, which is higher than the proportion for the South East region (17.7%), but lower than Great Britain (20.9%). Clarification for the cause of economic inactivity is not available for Test Valley, however approximately 82.2% of this group do not want a job (which is higher than the proportion for the South East and Great Britain).
- 9.7 The proportion of residents (aged 16 to 64 years) who receive out of work benefits in the Borough, as at August 2020, stood at 3.9%, this is lower than the position for the South East (at 5.4%) and Great Britain (at 6.6%).⁷⁹ When looking at the number of claimants by the age bands provided, the greatest proportion is found for those aged 18 to 21. For information, the proportion receiving out of work benefits has increased from the position at April 2020, which stood at 2.8% for Test Valley, 3.9% for the South East and 5.1% for Great Britain.
- 9.8 In considering those in employment, data is available in broad categories of occupation for 2019 – this is summarised in Figure 5, with comparable figures for the South East region and Great Britain. This is based on the ‘Standard Occupation Classification’ (2010), which uses the following groupings:
- Major group 1-3: managers, directors, senior officials, professional occupations, and associated professional and technical;
 - Major group 4-5: administrative, secretarial and skilled trades occupations;
 - Major group 6-7: caring, leisure and other service occupations, and sales and customer service occupations; and

⁷⁶ NOMIS Official Labour Market Statistics, ONS.

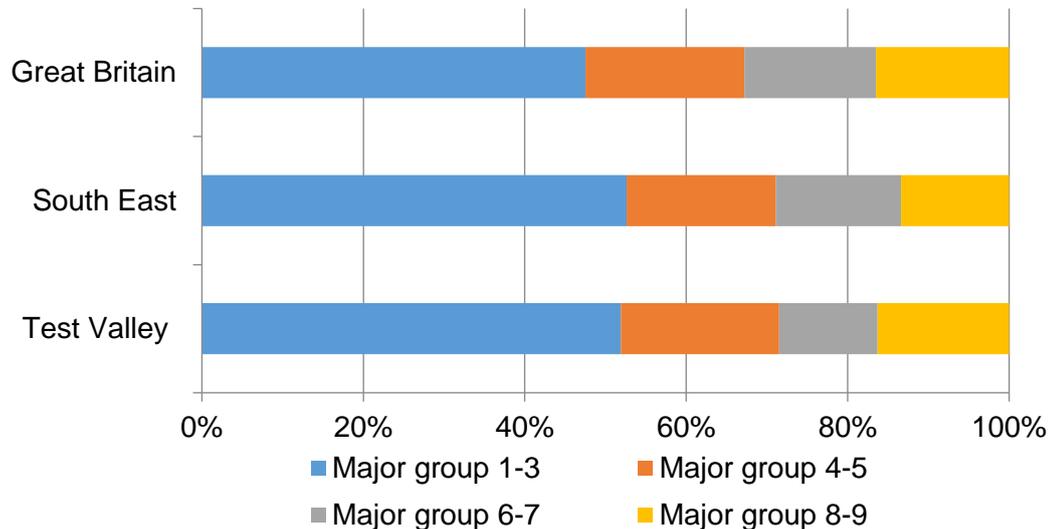
⁷⁷ Economic inactivity refers to people who are neither in employment or unemployed. For example, it includes those who are retired or are looking after a home. Definition from <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157309/report.aspx#defs>.

⁷⁸ Based on those with an age of 16 to 64 years.

⁷⁹ It is indicated that the claimant count that informs these proportions is likely to rise as the Universal Credit Full Service is rolled out; this is due to differences in the span of claimants that are required to look for work relative to the Job Seeker’s Allowance.

- Major group 8-9: process plant and machinery operatives, and elementary occupations.

Figure 5: Employment by occupation (by category) of those in employment (2019)⁸⁰



- 9.9 Figure 5 indicates that a higher proportion of those in employment in Test Valley are in higher category occupations, based on the major groups, relative to Great Britain, but a lower proportion relative to the South East.
- 9.10 Looking at future projections is challenging, particularly at present, taking account of the implications of exiting the European Union after the transition period and as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic (both now and in the longer term). The COVID-19 pandemic has led to the deepest recession ever experienced. National figures suggest there have been job losses with an increase in unemployment, reductions in hours worked, and fewer jobs available. This could result in increases in deprivation. Some sectors, communities, demographics (e.g. larger decrease in the number of younger people in employment) and areas have been affected more than others. There are also difficulties in understanding changes and their implications for areas below the district level due to the data availability, which can hide essential characteristics and trends.
- 9.11 While there are currently higher rates of employment in the Borough, changes in the demographics of the population, including an ageing population may have implications on the available work force and thus on the local economy.
- 9.12 Based on work published in 2016⁸¹, it was forecast that between 2015 and 2035, the number of people employed in Test Valley would increase by over 6,000, representing about an 11% increase. This is broadly comparable to the rise expected for England and Wales but below that for Hampshire. It was

⁸⁰ NOMIS Official Labour Market Statistics, ONS.

⁸¹ Test Valley Economic Assessment, PBA, 2016 (available: <https://testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/evidence-base/evidence-base-local-economy>)

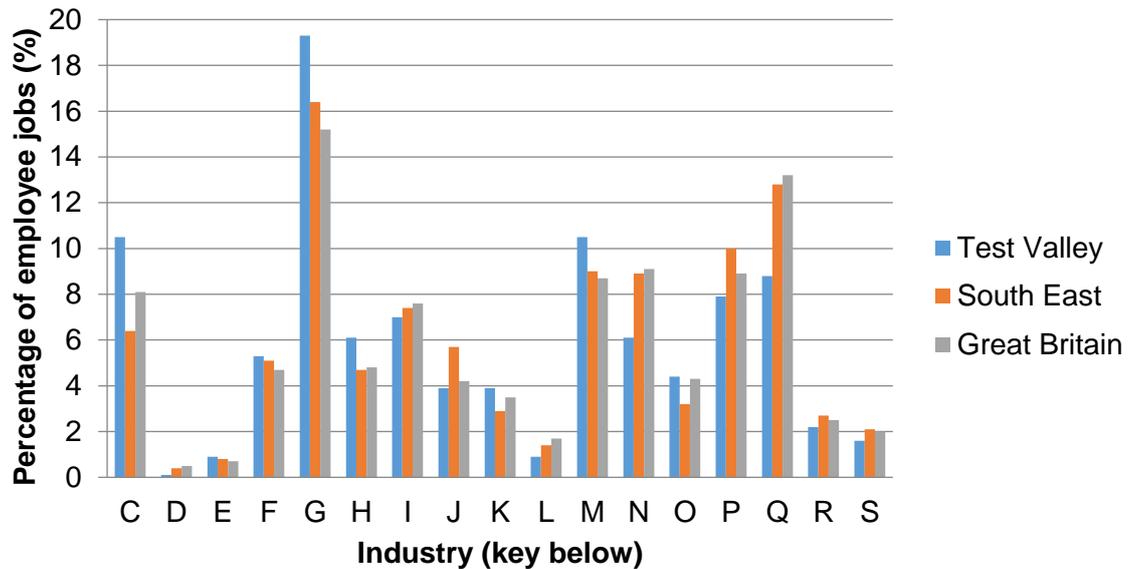
anticipated that this would be accompanied by more people working until an older age and more in-commuting into the Borough to fill jobs, as the size of the working age population stabilises.

- 9.13 In terms of median gross weekly pay for people residing in Test Valley, as at 2019 this stood at approximately £614 – the comparable figures for the South East region and Great Britain were £636 and £587 respectively. In comparison the median gross weekly pay for people working in Test Valley, as at 2019, stood at approximately £575, compared to £614 for the South East region.⁸² This suggests that those living in the Borough on average receive a higher wage than those working in the Borough and the difference between these categories is larger in comparison to the wider region. It also highlights the role of commuting for employment in the local area.
- 9.14 Job density is a measure of the ratio of total jobs in an area to the population aged between 16 and 64 years. Data for 2018 indicates that the job ratio for Test Valley was 0.95, which compares to 0.88 for the South East region and 0.86 for Great Britain. The job density figure for Test Valley has been variable in recent years, with the highest figure in 2015, dropping to 0.89 in 2017.
- 9.15 In terms of the number of jobs held by employees available within the Borough (as at 2018)⁸³, approximately 72% were full time. Regarding the types of jobs, the sectors with the greatest proportion of jobs in the Borough were 'wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles' (at 19.3%), 'manufacturing' (at 10.5%) and 'professional, scientific and technical activities' (at 10.5%). Relative to the South East region, the proportion of jobs in Test Valley was higher for 'Manufacturing' and 'Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles'. The proportion of jobs by sector is shown in Figure 6.

⁸² NOMIS Official Labour Market Statistics, ONS.

⁸³ NOMIS Official Labour Market Statistics, ONS.

Figure 6: Employee jobs by sector⁸⁴ (only includes sectors where at least 1% of jobs in this sector within Test Valley)



Key - C: Manufacturing; D: Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply; E: Water supply, sewerage, waste management & remediation activities; F: Construction; G: Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles; H: Transportation and storage; I: Accommodation and food service activities; J: Information and communication; K: Financial and insurance activities; L: Real estate activities; M: Professional, scientific and technical activities; N: Administrative and support service activities; O: Public administration and defence; compulsory social security; P: Education; Q: Human health and social work activities; R: Arts, entertainment and recreation; S: Other service activities.

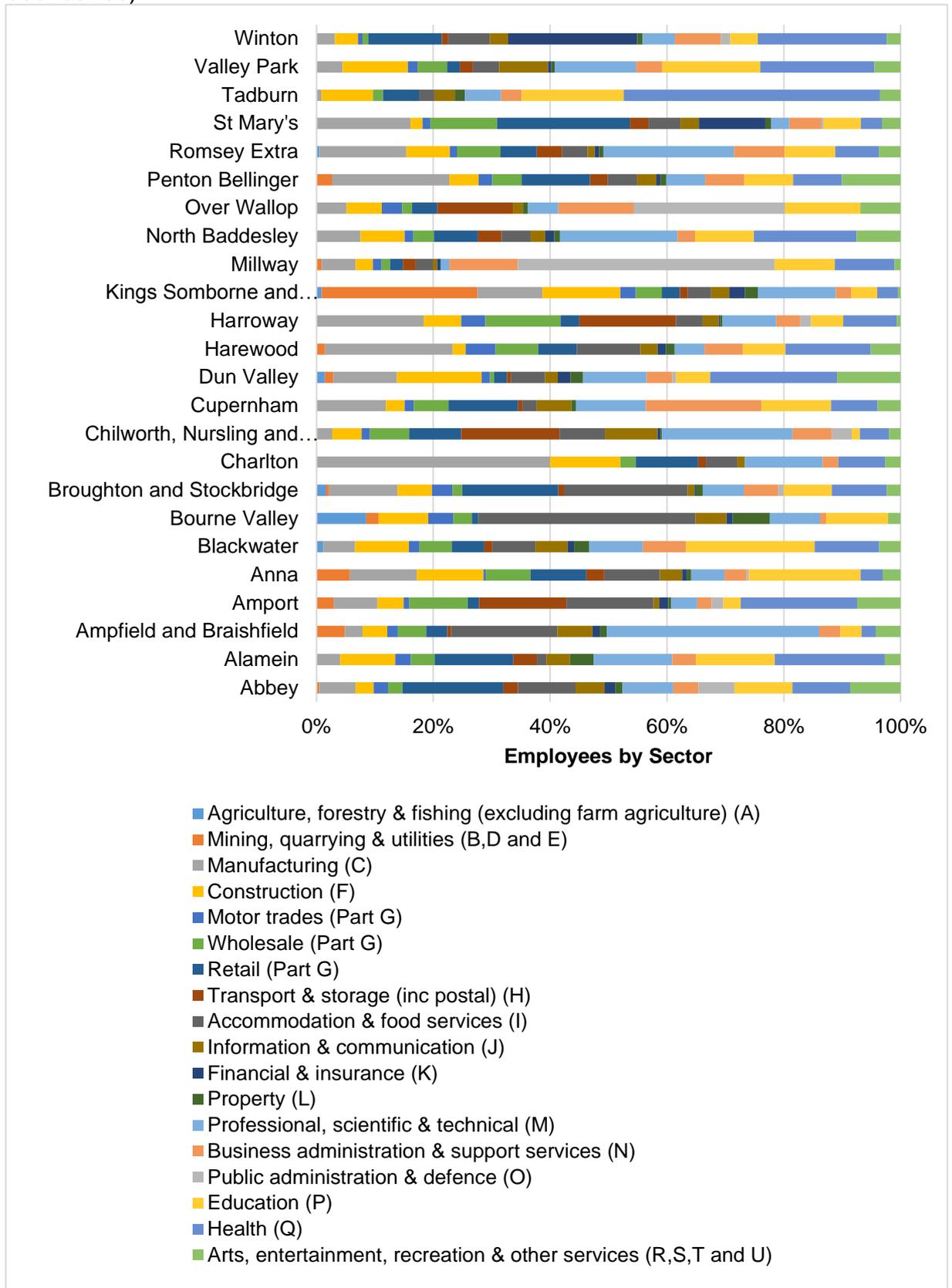
- 9.16 Data on employees by sector is also available on a smaller scale for Wards within the Borough (as they were defined in 2011). This information is presented in Figure 7. The scale of the graph means the specific split by sector is challenging to see for each Ward but it does highlight significant variations across the area.
- 9.17 A separate data source has indicated that employment within the knowledge based sector (which crosses a number of the categories considered above) is lower than for the county and national position for both 2009 and 2014.⁸⁵ This area of employment is generally associated with greater productivity and economic growth.
- 9.18 As at 2019, there were reported to be 6,745 enterprises operating in Test Valley, of which around 90% employed 9 people or less. This is comparable to the equivalent proportion for the South East region. Since 2010, the number of enterprises in the Borough has increased by around 35%, which is a greater increase than for the South East (at about 26%).⁸⁶

⁸⁴ Excludes farm based agriculture.

⁸⁵ Test Valley Economic Assessment, PBA, 2016.

⁸⁶ NOMIS Official Labour Market Statistics, ONS.

Figure 7: Employees by sector by Ward in Test Valley (based on 2011 boundaries)⁸⁷



⁸⁷ Business Register and Employment Survey (available: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/summary.asp?mode=construct&version=0&dataset=189>)

- 9.19 Gross Value Added (or GVA) is a measure of economic performance. As at 2015, the GVA for Test Valley was approximately £2,916 million, with a per person figure of £24,940 – this is slightly higher than the figure for Hampshire and for England and Wales.⁸⁸
- 9.20 An Economic Assessment of the Borough⁸⁹ indicated that Test Valley, and in particular Andover, is a favoured location for logistics as a result of the strategic links available.
- 9.21 The adopted Local Plan⁹⁰ identified a requirement of an additional 59,500sqm of floorspace in Southern Test Valley⁹¹, including separate figures for the provision of offices, manufacturing and warehousing. Allocations were made at Romsey, Chilworth and Nursling as a result of this, some of which have been delivered. It goes on to set out that evidence had indicated that there was not a requirement for further employment land allocations within Andover, beyond those already identified around the town.
- 9.22 The rural economy within the Borough also has an important role, including in supporting sustainable rural communities. This includes (but is not limited to) smaller businesses creating a demand for additional local services. There is limited data available looking specifically at this area and the contribution it plays.
- 9.23 A review of the socio-economic profile of rural Hampshire (2016) indicated that about 16% of the overall local economic output related to rural Hampshire, with the growth in the economy between 2010 and 2015 being at a faster pace in rural areas, compared to urban areas. The report also indicated that based on a business count in 2015 (using the rural-urban classification), just under 40% of businesses in Test Valley were located in rural areas. Similarly, estimates on employees from 2014 indicated that about 24% of employees were in rural areas.⁹²
- 9.24 The availability of appropriate infrastructure will continue to be important in supporting the local economy; this includes transport, utilities and broadband. A report in 2019 as part of the Hampshire 2050 Commission of Inquiry indicated that Test Valley was the district in Hampshire with the highest proportion of premises without access to superfast broadband (at 7-11%).⁹³ The challenges of availability of sufficient broadband access in homes has been emphasised with many additional people working from home as a result of the measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

⁸⁸ Test Valley Economic Assessment, PBA, 2016.

⁸⁹ Test Valley Economic Assessment, PBA, 2016.

⁹⁰ Test Valley Borough Revised Local Plan DPD 2011-2029, Test Valley Borough Council, 2016.

⁹¹ Representing the area within the Parishes of Ampfield, Chilworth, North Baddesley, Nursling & Rownhams, Romsey Town, Romsey Extra, and Valley Park.

⁹² Socio-economic profile of rural Hampshire 2016, Hampshire County Council, 2016 (available: <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/countryside/2016-Businessgrowthanddevelopment.pdf>)

⁹³ Commission of Inquiry – Vision for Hampshire 2050: Evidence summary report – Rural Hampshire, 2019 (available: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/visionforhampshire2050/evidence/theme-six>).

- 9.25 Looking forward, there will be a role for businesses, organisations and individuals to identify opportunities to innovate and support the changes necessary to deliver clean growth, as advocated in the national strategy (see Appendix 2). The impacts of a changing climate will also have different implications for different sectors of the economy, with a need to adapt, enhance resilience and potentially take advantage of new opportunities (as noted separately, there has been an increase in viticulture in Hampshire).
- 9.26 There may also need to be consideration given to changes in the spatial separation of commercial and other activities, influenced by changes in technology and resultant behaviours e.g. working from home and online retail. As indicated above, there are significant challenges to the economy at present as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic that are still unfolding, which is also having implications on the spatial separation of activities.

Town Centres

- 9.27 In terms of Andover and Romsey town centres, vacancy rates are one of the metrics used to consider the health of the town centres. As at August 2020, the vacancy rate for Andover (primary shopping area) was 15.1% and Romsey was 5.4%. Both figures are higher than the position in October 2019, at 11.5% and 4.8% respectively. The vacancy rates have varied in both town centres over the last few years, with different trends for the towns.⁹⁴ Footfall is also another metric that can be used as an indicator of the vibrancy of and activity within town centres.
- 9.28 Changes in retailing, such as increased online retail, and how we use our towns are affecting many centres across the country. This will continue to evolve in the future around how centres function and consideration will need to be given as to how best to manage such changes whilst supporting the vitality and viability of town centres. This will include consideration of the quality of the environment and making centres attractive places to visit.⁹⁵
- 9.29 A study undertaken in 2018 indicated that the market share for all forms of non-store retail, for example via the internet, for convenience goods was lower in the Borough than the national average, suggesting this may increase over time. However, the market share for non-store retailing of comparison goods in Test Valley was above the national average, particularly in the Andover area. The same study indicated that Andover may be vulnerable to impacts from online shopping and out of centre stores.⁹⁶
- 9.30 A masterplan for the redevelopment of Andover town centre, along with a masterplan for the south of the town centre in Romsey, have recently been approved by the Council. The delivery of these masterplans is likely to influence the centres in the future, particularly for Andover as the masterplan covers the whole of the town centre.

⁹⁴ Authority's Monitoring Report, Test Valley Borough Council, 2019.

⁹⁵ Economic Development Strategy 2017-2019 and beyond, Test Valley Borough Council, 2017.

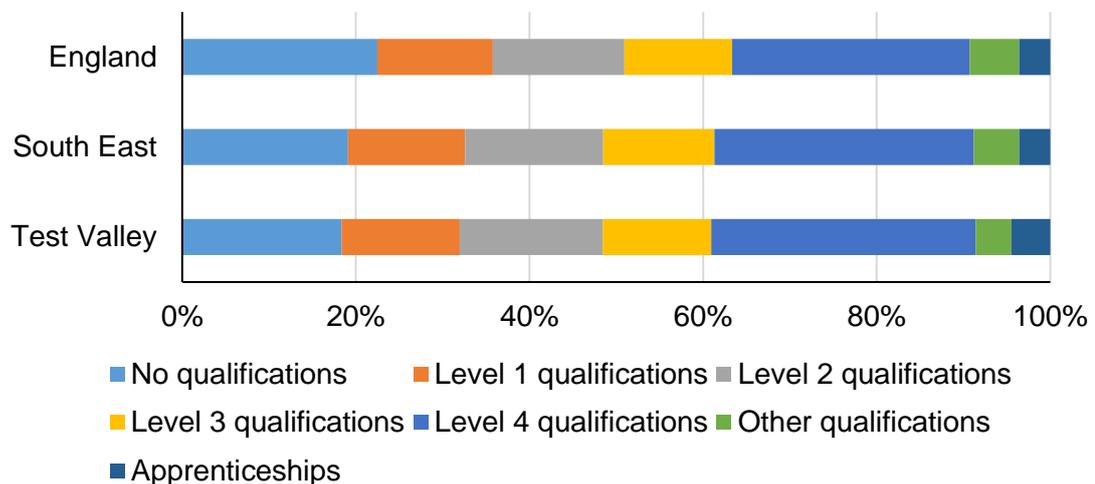
⁹⁶ Andover and Romsey Retail Capacity & Leisure Study, Carter Jonas, 2018.

- 9.31 As with the wider economy, town centres have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Data assessing national trends for footfall (considering high streets, retail parks and shopping centres) indicated that weekly average footfall was about 70% of its level in the same period for the last year.⁹⁷

Education and Skills

- 9.32 Education, skills and lifelong learning can have an impact on the local economy.
- 9.33 The 2011 Census provides information on the highest qualification attained by residents. This indicated that across the Borough approximately 18% of residents aged 16+ had no qualification – this is lower than the figure for the 2001 Census (which stood at 22.6%), it is also lower than the 2011 position for the region and England. This is indicated in Figure 8.

Figure 8: Highest qualification attained (based on 2011 Census)



Key: Level 1: 1-4 O Levels/CSE/GCSEs (any grades), Entry Level, Foundation Diploma, NVQ level 1, Foundation GNVQ, Basic/Essential Skills; Level 2: 5+ O Level (Passes)/CSEs (Grade 1)/GCSEs (Grades A*-C), School Certificate, 1 A Level/ 2-3 AS Levels/VCEs, Intermediate/Higher Diploma, NVQ level 2, Intermediate GNVQ, City and Guilds Craft, BTEC First/General Diploma, RSA Diploma 13 Apprenticeship; Level 3: 2+ A Levels/VCEs, 4+ AS Levels, Higher School Certificate, Progression/Advanced Diploma, NVQ Level 3; Advanced GNVQ, City and Guilds Advanced Craft, ONC, OND, BTEC National, RSA Advanced Diploma; Level 4: Degree, Higher Degree (MA, PhD, PGCE), NVQ Level 4-5, HNC, HND, RSA Higher Diploma, BTEC Higher level, Professional Qualifications.

- 9.34 However, the position on qualifications attained is not consistent across the Borough. For example, in 2011, for the Ward of St Mary's (in Andover) the proportion with no qualifications stood at just over 26%, whilst the comparable figure for Valley Park stood at 7.6%. In terms of the highest level of

⁹⁷ Coronavirus and the latest indicators for the UK economy and society: 1 October 2020, ONS, 2020 (<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/bulletins/coronavirustheukeconomyandsocietyfasterindicators/1october2020#footfall>).

qualifications (level 4) the greatest proportion attaining this level was found in Ampfield and Braishfield, at 45%, with the lowest proportion in Alamein (in Andover). A map in Appendix 3 indicates the breakdown of the highest qualification attained by Ward within the Borough as at 2011.

- 9.35 In addition, qualification levels also vary between the communities within the Borough. For example, based on the same Census data, of those identifying themselves as Gypsy or Irish Traveller within Test Valley, 67% had no qualification, which is significantly above the overall position for the Borough (at 18%).⁹⁸ In this context, it is noted that the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites seeks to ensure that children can attend school on a regular basis and to enable provision of suitable accommodation from which Travellers can access education infrastructure.
- 9.36 More recent data is available on qualifications for those aged 16 to 64 for Test Valley. This indicates that for 2019, 41% have an NVQ level 4 or above, which is slightly lower than the position for the South East (at 43.4%). No data is available for the proportion with no qualifications as the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.⁹⁹
- 9.37 The Indices of Deprivation (2019) includes a specific index in relation to education, skills and training. The extent of deprivation based on this index also greatly varies across the Borough, with some areas around Andover in the 10% most deprived areas in England, with other areas across the Borough in the 10% least deprived.¹⁰⁰
- 9.38 The Test Valley Economic Development Strategy indicates that Andover has a legacy of lower skilled employment and as these sectors become increasingly automated, there is a need to improve educational and skills attainment, focusing on skills required for sectors of the economy that are expected to grow.¹⁰¹ The strategy also refers to the role of the Future Skills and Technology Centre in Andover (opened in 2016) as a mechanism to seek to try to address this circumstance.
- 9.39 The Economic Assessment of the Borough indicated that in 2014/15, the estimated proportion of 16 to 18 year olds not in employment, education or training (NEETs) was 4.5%, which was broadly in line with the national average.¹⁰²
- 9.40 Based on a business survey undertaken, the same report indicated that 13% of respondents identified a gap between skills of their current staff and the needs for the organisation to work effectively as possible – this was particularly

⁹⁸ Highest level of qualification by ethnic group (DC5209EW1a), ONS.

⁹⁹ NOMIS Official Labour Market Statistics, ONS.

¹⁰⁰ Indicated in a map prepared by Hampshire County Council at: <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/Economy/EducationandTraining.pdf>

¹⁰¹ Economic Development Strategy 2017-2019 and beyond, Test Valley Borough Council, 2017.

¹⁰² Test Valley Economic Assessment, PBA, 2016.

related to engineering, construction, logistics and health / social work sectors.¹⁰³

- 9.41 The Council's Corporate Plan highlights the need to invest in addressing barriers within the current and future workforce, including in relation to raising aspirations, skills and access to opportunities. An opportunity to work in partnership with businesses and education providers is highlighted.¹⁰⁴
- 9.42 Hampshire County Council is the local education authority covering Test Valley. It has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for Hampshire children. It has prepared a School Places Plan¹⁰⁵, which includes forecasts of needs for school places at both primary and secondary schools. Table 15 summarises the position in terms of surplus capacity at the reception (for primary schools) and year 7 (for secondary schools) cohorts within Test Valley at 2019 and 2024 based on education planning areas.

Table 15: School Places Plan Forecasts on Percentage Surplus Places in Test Valley

| Planning Area | Percentage Surplus Places (October 2019) | Percentage Surplus Places (October 2024) |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Primary School – Year R | | |
| Andover Town | 2% | 3% |
| Andover Rural | 4% | -2% |
| Romsey Town & North Baddesley | 13% | 1% |
| Romsey Rural | 12% | -12% |
| Stockbridge | 10% | 23% |
| Secondary Schools – Year 7 | | |
| Andover | -10% | -11% |
| Test Valley | 40% | 31% |
| Romsey / Stockbridge | -5% | 1% |

- 9.43 This information on school places is used to help planning for the appropriate school places provision. It is indicated within the School Places Plan that the figure for Romsey Rural in primary provision for 2024 is due to the forecast including children from outside of the catchment area but it is noted that the schools can cope with their own catchment numbers.

Waste and Recycling

- 9.44 It is recognised that this topic does not directly link with the wider economy but forms part of the consideration of material assets. Hampshire County Council has a responsibility to ensure that there is adequate infrastructure in place to facilitate the processing of waste, as well as being responsible for the disposal of waste. Test Valley Borough Council is the collection authority. National

¹⁰³ Test Valley Economic Assessment, PBA, 2016 (page 35).

¹⁰⁴ Test Valley Borough Council Corporate Plan 2019 – 2023: Growing Our Potential, Test Valley Borough Council, 2019.

¹⁰⁵ Available: <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/education/HampshireSchoolPlacePlan.pdf>

policy highlights the importance of moving towards a circular economy in the use of resources and minimising waste.

- 9.45 In terms of domestic recycling rates, for 2018/19 34.5% of domestic waste collected was recycled. The figure is higher than the position in 2015/16 (at 32.7%) however this has decreased by 0.5% since 2017/18.¹⁰⁶ For England, the recycling rate for 2018/19 was 45.1%.¹⁰⁷ This indicates that average recycling rates in Test Valley are lower than the national average.
- 9.46 Government collated data available for 2018/19 indicates that in Test Valley the recycling rate was 36%, compared to 41.3% for Hampshire. The residual household waste per household in Test Valley for the same period was 496kg, compared to 602kg for Hampshire. Therefore whilst the recycling rate was lower than for Hampshire, the residual waste produced was lower per household.¹⁰⁸
- 9.47 In its disposal role, for 2018/19 just over 40% of waste was recycled or composted, with around 53% incinerated (with energy from waste generation) and about 5% landfilled by Hampshire County Council.¹⁰⁹
- 9.48 Additional development has the potential to increase the use of resources (some of which are referred to in other themes) and the generation of waste (including through construction and operational phases). This in turn could put pressure on the environment. As indicated above, Hampshire County Council has a responsibility for ensuring adequate infrastructure is in place for processing waste.

¹⁰⁶ Authority's Monitoring Report 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019, Test Valley Borough Council, 2019 (available: <https://testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/amr>).

¹⁰⁷ Local authority collected waste statistics, DEFRA, 2019 (available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/env18-local-authority-collected-waste-annual-results-tables>)

¹⁰⁸ Local authority collected waste statistics, DEFRA, 2019 (available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/env18-local-authority-collected-waste-annual-results-tables>).

¹⁰⁹ Local authority collected waste statistics, DEFRA, 2019 (available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/env18-local-authority-collected-waste-annual-results-tables>).

10 Historic Environment

- 10.1 The Borough has a rich heritage which contributes to the character and landscape of Test Valley. Table 16 identifies some of the key documents linked to the historic environment. This does not include reference to treaties, conventions or legislation¹¹⁰, which would also be relevant in establishing the approach to the historic environment. In addition, other sources of information would be available, for example from the Hampshire Records Office (in terms of Hampshire archives) and other publications.

Table 16: Summary of Key Documents

| Key Messages | Source of Key Messages | Implications |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is important (reflecting national interests) to conserve and enhance both designated and non-designated heritage assets and their setting, incorporating statutorily protected heritage assets (such as listed buildings) In order to successfully manage change, it is important to understand the significance of assets The historic environment can have links to economic and social matters (including benefits) | <p>NPPF; Conservation Area Character Appraisals; Listed Building entries and descriptions; Hampshire Historic Environment Record; Heritage at Risk Registers; Village and Town Design Statements; Scheduled Ancient Monument records; Historic Park and Garden Registers; Landscape & Townscape Assessments; Historic England Advice Notes¹¹¹.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to ensure any development is sensitive to the historic environment, not just designated assets, including opportunities for enhancement Regard should be had to the wider importance of the historic environment (e.g. on the economy, including tourism) |

- 10.2 The Landscape Character Assessment undertaken for the Borough, includes consideration of the historic landscape character and human influences over time. The Hampshire Integrated Character Assessment¹¹² also provides a source of information on the historic environment across the Borough. In

¹¹⁰ Including the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, Protection of Wrecks Act 1973, Marine and Coastal Areas Access Act 2009.

¹¹¹ This includes matters such as local heritage listings, tall buildings, setting of heritage assets.

¹¹² Integrated Character Assessment, Hampshire County Council, 2010.

addition, a Hampshire Historic Landscape Character Assessment was prepared prior to this.¹¹³ For those parts of the Borough that fall within the North Wessex Downs AONB, a historic landscape characterisation is available.¹¹⁴ This identifies special qualities and features of significance for the character areas.

- 10.3 The National Heritage List for England¹¹⁵ indicates that there are 2,096 listed building entries within the Borough, this comprises 21 at Grade I, 99 at Grade II*, and 1,976 at Grade II – this is a slight increase in the number of listed buildings since 2017. These figures will not include those buildings that are listed by virtue of being within the curtilage of a listed building.
- 10.4 A search of the Heritage at Risk Register maintained by Historic England did not include any listed buildings within Test Valley (note this register only considers Grade I and Grade II* listings¹¹⁶), which has remained the case in recent years. There is a data gap in relation to Grade II listed buildings that may be at risk, such a document would be collated by the Council. The Council has identified ways through which it will seek to conserve and enhance the historic environment in the adopted Local Plan (paragraph 7.72); this includes those buildings at risk.
- 10.5 There are opportunities to put forward additional buildings and structures for listing, along with powers to serve building preservation notices. In some instances these powers are used when appropriate sites are identified through the submission of planning applications or proposals.
- 10.6 There is not an available comprehensive up-to-date list of locally important (including locally listed) buildings, although some are identified in Conservation Area Character Appraisals and as part of the development management process (e.g. through the submission of planning applications). Non-designated heritage assets (which would normally be of local importance) should also be considered, taking account of their significance.
- 10.7 There are 36 Conservation Areas within the Borough (locations shown on map in Appendix 3), some of which relate to more than one settlement. A number of the Conservation Areas have been subject to review and the completion of character area appraisals. A list of the current Conservation Areas is provided in Table 17, this identifies those which have been subject to a character appraisal, and the year the document was published. The Conservation Area for Romsey is currently being reviewed, incorporating the preparation of a character appraisal. Without appropriate consideration through the planning process, it is anticipated that the quality of these areas would decline. The absence of a character appraisal (or where such a document is out of date) has the potential to increase the risk of harm through inappropriate development.

¹¹³ Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment, Lambrick and Bramhill, 1999 (available: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/historicenvironment/landscape>).

¹¹⁴ Available: <http://www.historicnorthwessexdowns.org.uk/>

¹¹⁵ Available: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/>

¹¹⁶ Outside London

Table 17: Conservation Areas in Test Valley

| Conservation Area | When Designated | Character Appraisal Available? |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Abbotts Ann | 1981 (amended 2005) | Yes, 2005 |
| Ampfield | 1989 | No |
| Amport, Monxton and East Cholderton | 1980 (amended 2005) | Yes, 2005 |
| Andover | 1969 (extended 1984) | No |
| Appleshaw | 1985 | No |
| Barton Stacey | 1984 (amended 2008) | Yes, 2008 |
| Braishfield | 1981 | No |
| Broughton | 1972 (amended 2008) | Yes, 2008 |
| Chilbolton | 1984 (amended 2008) | Yes, 2008 |
| Chilworth Old Village | 1989 | No |
| Fyfield | 1985 | No |
| Goodworth and Upper Clatford | 1987 (amended 2009) | Yes, 2009 |
| Grateley | 1991 | No |
| Houghton and Bossington | 1990 | No |
| Hurstbourne Tarrant and Ibthorpe | 1976 (amended 2009) | Yes, 2009 |
| Kimpton | 1985 | No |
| King's Somborne | 1971 (amended 1987) | No |
| Leckford | 1989 | No |
| Linkenholt | 2010 | No |
| Longparish | 1983 (amended 2009) | Yes, 2009 |
| Longstock and Leckford | 1989 | No |
| Michelpersh | 1987 | No |
| Mottisfont | 1987 | No |
| Nether, Over and Middle Wallop | 1981 (amended 2008) | Yes, 2008 |
| Quarley | 1991 | No |
| Romsey | 1970 (extended 1983) | No (currently underway) |
| Stockbridge | 1971 (extended 1992) | No |
| The Pentons | 1982 (amended 2009) | Yes, 2009 |
| Thruxton | 1985 | No |
| Upton | 1983 | No |
| Vernham Dean | 1983 (amended 2009) | Yes, 2009 |
| West Dean ¹¹⁷ | 1990 | No |
| West Tytherley | 1991 | No |
| Wherwell | 1970 (amended 2004) | Yes, 2004 |

- 10.8 The National Heritage List for England indicates there are 8 registered Historic Parks and Garden entries wholly within the Borough (3 Grade II*, 5 Grade II), with an additional 2 entries either partly within the Borough or on the boundary

¹¹⁷ Part of West Dean Conservation Area lies within Wiltshire.

of Test Valley (both Grade II). A map in Appendix 3 shows the location of the site that fall either wholly or partly within the Borough.

- 10.9 The registered Historic Parks and Gardens are non-statutory designations, but they gain protection through the planning system. Embley Park Historic Park and Garden is included on the Heritage at Risk Register. This has been identified on the Register for a number of years.¹¹⁸ Concerns identified within the Heritage at Risk Register include incremental development pressures and co-ordination of management for the whole area (which has multiple owners).¹¹⁹
- 10.10 Additional historic parks and gardens within Hampshire have been identified by Hampshire County Council and the Hampshire Gardens Trust¹²⁰ - 89 sites are referred to within the Borough (which includes those sites on the National Heritage List).
- 10.11 A variety of archaeology exists within the Borough from a range of time periods, with parts of the Borough being rich in archaeology, or having high archaeological potential. Based on the National Heritage List for England, there are 96 scheduled entries (known as Scheduled Monuments) within Test Valley (a map in Appendix 3 shows the location of these sites). These represent sites of national importance.
- 10.12 The Heritage at Risk Register refers to 12 Scheduled Monuments within the Borough. This is the same as the position in 2017. Issues identified through the latest iteration of the Register include animal burrowing, management issues (e.g. scrub/tree growth) and arable ploughing.
- 10.13 Hampshire County Council has published additional information on archaeology within the County based around the different time period that they relate to, from the Mesolithic period to Roman times.¹²¹ This includes information on finds, features and settlements within Test Valley derived from the Historic Environment Record.
- 10.14 There are indications of Mesolithic (10,000 BC to 4,000 BC) occupations within Test Valley along the main waterways within the Borough. A small number of Neolithic (4,000 BC to 2,200 BC) occupations and settlements have also been identified within the Borough, along with a series of long barrows (communal burial grounds) in central and northern parts of the Borough – this period represented the time when farming and the farmed landscape started to develop. Multiple Bronze Age (2,200 BC to 801 BC) burial mounds have been found, along with several settlement sites in the central and northern parts of the Borough. The Iron Age (400 BC to 43 AD) saw a period of cultural change and technological advancement, with hill forts a characteristic of this period – there are a number of these across Test Valley, including the Danebury Hill

¹¹⁸ The 2010 Heritage at Risk Register included Embley Park.

¹¹⁹ Available at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/heritage-at-risk/search-register/list-entry/26117>

¹²⁰ Available: <http://research.hgt.org.uk/>

¹²¹ The Atlas of Hampshire's Archaeology, Hampshire County Council (available: <http://documents.hants.gov.uk/archaeology/TheAtlasofHampshiresArchaeology.pdf>).

Fort¹²². There are also a number of Iron Age settlements within the Borough, often located close to waterways or the chalk areas. In the Roman period (43 AD to 450 AD) a hierarchy of settlements within Hampshire started to become more apparent, also linked to the Roman road network. A number of Roman settlements were located within Test Valley, with the greatest proportion of Roman villas being located in the mid-sections of the Borough and to the west of Andover.¹²³

- 10.15 The historic landscape of the Borough is recorded as including two largely distinct areas, with the northern and central parts of the Borough (largely associated with the chalk areas) generally influenced through formal enclosure during the 18th and 19th centuries, with the southern areas including historic woodland and large areas of informal field development.¹²⁴
- 10.16 The evolution of settlements¹²⁵ within the Borough is also noted to be linked to the geology and geography (e.g. valley or hilltop location) of the area, in some cases links to estates were also an important factor (e.g. Hatherden and The Pentons).¹²⁶
- 10.17 In terms of the development of Andover, there is evidence of settlements within the vicinity during the Iron Age and Roman period, however the town is understood to be linked to the Anglo-Saxon period. The main high street is noted to have been recorded for the first time just before 1300 AD, with the area around it appearing to be the focus of a medieval settlement. During the 18th and 19th centuries the town centre was largely redeveloped, with the growth of the town predominantly occurring from the second half of the 19th century. By 1960, Andover had a population of around 17,000.¹²⁷ In 1960, Andover was designated as an overspill town for London, which resulted in a substantial population increase (population nearly trebling by the early 1980s).¹²⁸
- 10.18 Romsey's heritage is understood to have developed from the founding of a monastery in 907AD. It is suggested that during the Saxon and early medieval periods, Romsey was in effect a rural settlement linked with a 'substantial ecclesiastical centre'.¹²⁹ By 1300 it is suggested that the plan form of the settlement core was largely well defined and similar to that present today. By 1801 the population of the town was around 4,300, one hundred years later it was recorded at approximately 5,600.

¹²² Designated as a scheduled monument.

¹²³ All paragraph derived from The Atlas of Hampshire's Archaeology, Hampshire County Council.

¹²⁴ Test Valley Landscape Character Assessment, terrafirma, 2018.

¹²⁵ Historic settlement surveys are available at:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/historicenvironment/historicsettlement/historicsettlementsurveys>

¹²⁶ Test Valley Landscape Character Assessment, terrafirma, 2018.

¹²⁷ Test Valley Landscape Character Assessment, terrafirma, 2018.

¹²⁸ Andover Townscape Assessment, Hampshire County Integrated Character Assessment, 2010 (available:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/landscape/integratedcharacterassessment/townscapeassessments>)

¹²⁹ Test Valley Landscape Character Assessment, terrafirma, 2018.

- 10.19 Overall, there is a variety of heritage assets (designated and non-designated) across the Borough, a number of which have links to the settlement character and evolution of the landscape.
- 10.20 As noted elsewhere within this report, masterplans have been prepared for Andover town centre as well as the south of Romsey town centre. It will be essential that potential risks and opportunities in relation to the historic environment are considered.
- 10.21 It is challenging to project how the historic environment is likely to evolve in the future, with a number of factors (including those outside the planning system) influencing the historic environment. Without appropriate consideration of these assets (including their conservation, management and enhancement) there is a risk of harm to them in the future. However, some assets are subject to legal protection which reduces the likelihood of this happening. The planning system has a role to play in the conservation of such assets. There are also opportunities through the planning system to record aspects of the historic environment, to improve our understanding.
- 10.22 There is a need to take account of potential implications on heritage assets and their setting. There are a number of heritage assets known to be at risk (of those identified, most relate to archaeology), for a variety of reasons – with one historic park and garden being subject to pressures from incremental development. There may be opportunities going forward to conserve and enhance these and other assets.
- 10.23 The heritage of the Borough has important links to community identity and the local economy in some cases. For example, a number of heritage assets within the Borough also provide tourism and leisure opportunities such as; the Broadlands Estate, Mottisfont Abbey, Romsey Abbey, the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens and Houghton Lodge. Parish churches (some of which have associated historic interests) play a role in village life, including in terms of community identity and cohesion (e.g. through social activities for all the local community) as well as being considered of interest from a tourism perspective.

11 Homes and Accommodation

11.1 This theme considers local housing and accommodation. It needs to be read in the context of information provided under other sections, for example in relation to population and demographics, which are interrelated. Table 18 identifies some of the key documents linked to this theme.

Table 18: Summary of Key Documents

| Key Messages | Source of Key Messages | Implications |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should plan for housing need in the area, including market and affordable housing, along with needs of different groups within the community • Meet the need for sites for travellers, that facilitate the traditional and nomadic way of life • Consider integration and co-existence between communities • Ensure new homes are in a quality environment in which to live • In rural areas, housing should be located where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities • Local priorities for housing include enabling delivery of homes that people can afford, meeting needs within the community and meeting the challenge of an ageing population. | <p>NPPF; Planning Policy for Traveller Sites; TVBC Corporate Plan, TVBC Housing Strategy; TVBC Preventing Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure that sufficient provision is made to meet local housing needs (including different tenures and types of accommodation) |

- 11.2 The 2011 Census identified that there were approximately 49,100 dwellings within the Borough. In comparison the figure was approximately 45,160 dwellings at the time of the 2001 Census (just over a 9% increase in dwelling stock between 2001 and 2011).
- 11.3 Table 19 sets out net housing completions for 2011/12 to 2019/20 (excluding the part of the Borough that is within the New Forest National Park (NFNP)). As can be seen, the rate of completion has varied over time. The geographical distribution of these gains in dwellings is also not evenly spread across the Borough, with their distribution broadly reflecting the approach set out in local planning policies.

Table 19: Net housing completions within Test Valley (excluding NFNP area)

| Year | Net Housing Completions |
|---------|-------------------------|
| 2011/12 | 523 |
| 2012/13 | 670 |
| 2013/14 | 542 |
| 2014/15 | 880 |
| 2015/16 | 1,004 |
| 2016/17 | 891 |
| 2017/18 | 793 |
| 2018/19 | 809 |
| 2019/20 | 948 |

- 11.4 Hampshire County Council's Small Area Population Forecast (SAPF) data¹³⁰ also provides information on the number of dwellings; this takes account of housing supply information based on planning permissions. SAPF projected that for 2020 there would be 56,382 dwellings within Test Valley, with this projected to rise to 60,439 dwellings by 2026 – this equates to about a 7% increase in the dwelling stock between 2020 and 2026 in the Borough.
- 11.5 The Council's adopted Local Plan (policy COM1) proposes the provision of at least 10,584 dwellings across the Borough between 2011 and 2029 (equating to an annualised average of 588 dwellings). The Authority Monitoring Reports (AMR) provide the latest trajectories for how this housing will be delivered.¹³¹
- 11.6 The government has provided a standard methodology for identifying the minimum number of homes expected to be planned for in each local authority area. This accounts for projected household growth and the affordability of housing. Based on this methodology, and the latest data, this indicates that the starting point for Test Valley would be 550 homes per year. The government is reviewing this methodology, which creates some uncertainty for future changes in the number of homes that should be planned for in the Borough. Based on the consultation documentation on changes to the methodology, the

¹³⁰ Small Area Population Forecasts, Hampshire County Council, 2019. Available: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/facts-figures/population/estimates-forecasts>

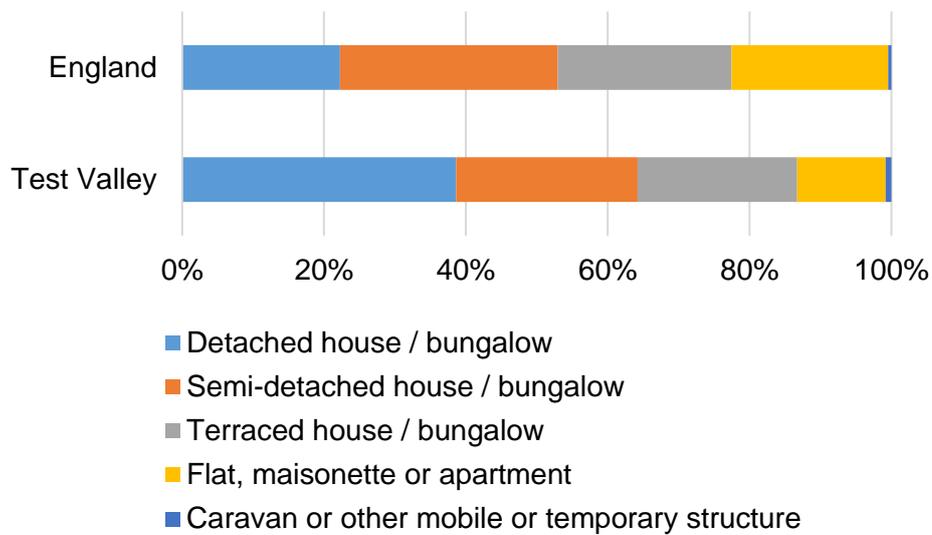
¹³¹ Available: <https://testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/amr>

number of homes that would need to be provided in Test Valley could potentially increase significantly.

- 11.7 As at the 2011 Census, just under 85% of dwellings in Test Valley were either owner occupied or privately rented (approximately 82% for England), with about 14% being Registered Social Landlord stock. This dataset indicated that there is not any local authority housing stock, with the remaining approximately 1% being other public sector housing stock.
- 11.8 Linked to this, as at 2011, approximately 70% of households in Test Valley own their own houses (outright, with mortgage or shared ownership), which compares to about 64% for England. From the same source, approximately 14% of households in the Borough are in social rented accommodation, with about 13% in private rented accommodation (the comparable figures for England are about 18% and 17% respectively). For information, of those who identified themselves as Gypsy or Irish Traveller¹³² within Test Valley, 39% of households owned their home, while 56% of households were in socially rented accommodation and 5% of households in private rent accommodation.
- 11.9 When looking at the figures for Test Valley relative to the position in 2001, the proportion owning a home has decreased (from around 74%), the proportion of socially rented accommodation has remained broadly the same, and the proportion in private rented accommodation has increased (from about 9%). The reduction in the proportion of households owning their home between 2001 and 2011 is broadly the same as the increased proportion in those privately renting their home.
- 11.10 Figure 9 indicates the accommodation type by household space (accommodation used or available for use by an individual household) from the 2011 Census, with data for Test Valley and England. Within Test Valley, about 39% of the accommodation was detached homes or bungalows (compared to 22% for England), while around 13% were flats, maisonettes or apartments (compared to 22% for England) and 0.8% were caravans or other mobile or temporary structures (compared to 0.4% for England).

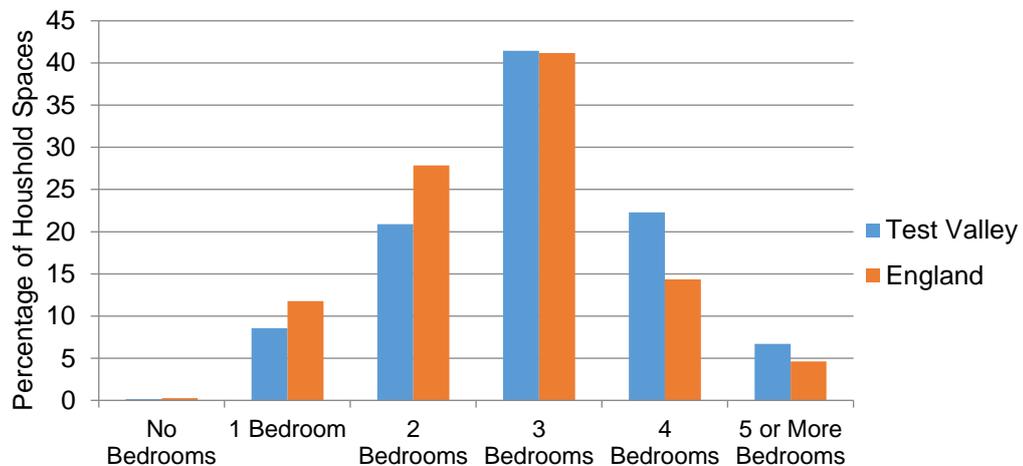
¹³² This group is unlikely to include people who identify as 'Roma'. Similarly, it will not cover those who identify themselves as Travelling Showpeople.

Figure 9: Accommodation type by household space as at 2011



11.11 Figure 10 provides details of the number of bedrooms found in household spaces as at 2011 for the Borough and England. In broad terms this indicates that the mix of homes in the Borough includes a greater proportion with a larger number of bedrooms than for England.

Figure 10: Number of bedrooms per household space as at 2011



11.12 Using Census data for population of the Borough and number of dwellings, the average number of people per dwelling in 2011 was 2.37 persons per dwelling. In comparison, the figure for 2001 was 2.43 persons per dwelling. For reference, the equivalent figures for England were 2.31 persons per dwelling in 2011 and 2.32 persons per dwelling in 2001. Therefore, the average persons per dwelling figure has decreased for both areas, but the figures for Test Valley remain higher than the national average. This perhaps links with the size of dwellings (based on number of bedrooms) within the Borough. The reduction in number of persons per dwelling appears to reflect projected trends regarding persons per household (see Figure 17). The implication may be that

more dwellings would be required in order to house the same number of people.

- 11.13 The Test Valley Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA)¹³³ provides information on the likely future mix of dwellings needed, along with the need for specific groups of the population (see sections 8 and 9 of the SHMA). Projections indicate that the size of dwellings for market housing will reflect the existing stock profile but with a slight shift towards smaller dwellings. For affordable homes, the demand is likely to focus on smaller homes. There is also a continuing need for specialist housing for older persons, including sheltered housing, extra care and registered care accommodation, as well as adaptations to properties. Adaptation of properties is also identified as being likely to be required to support those living with disabilities. There is a gap in data available on the extent to which the existing stock provides for these needs. The SHMA is due to be reviewed, including in relation to the likely future mix of dwellings needed.
- 11.14 One of the four themes in the Council's Housing Strategy¹³⁴ relates to meeting the challenges of an ageing population. It includes a priority to understand the housing aspirations of people aged 55+, who may be eligible for older persons housing, as well as developing a range of alternative housing options for older persons, for example encouraging downsizing.
- 11.15 The average (median) price paid for all dwelling types in 2019 (year ending December 2019)¹³⁵ for Test Valley was approximately £310,000, compared to about £244,000 for England and £325,000 in the South East. Within Test Valley, the same data indicates detached properties averaged £427,250 and flats / maisonettes were £170,000. For comparison, the equivalent figure for all dwelling types in 2011 was £234,500. Data available from the Land Registry indicated that for 2019, the average sale price for all dwelling types was approximately £359,958 based on just over 2,100 sales.¹³⁶
- 11.16 Data is also available¹³⁷ for average (median) price paid by Ward, which shows variation within the Borough. However, the number of transactions these figures are based on are smaller, which increases the influence a particularly high or low price could have on the average.
- 11.17 When considering house prices relative to earnings, the housing affordability ratio using median figures for Test Valley was 9.95 in 2019; this compares to 9.91 for Hampshire and 7.83 for England. When looking at the same comparison, but using lower quartile figures, the position is 10.33, 10.51, and

¹³³ 2013 Strategic Housing Market Assessment, JG Consulting, 2014.

¹³⁴ Housing Strategy 2020 – 2025, Test Valley Borough Council, 2020.

¹³⁵ Median house prices for administrative geographies, ONS, 2020 (available:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/datasets/medianhousepriceforationalandsubnationalgeographiesquarterlyrollingyearhpssadataset09>)

¹³⁶ Data from <http://landregistry.data.gov.uk/app/standard-reports> (all transactions in 2016).

¹³⁷ See:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/datasets/medianpricepaidbywardhpssadataset37>

7.27 respectively.¹³⁸ This indicates that homes in Test Valley are about as affordable (relative to income) as the position across Hampshire but are less affordable than for England. The Council's Housing Strategy also highlighted that the local rented housing market has become increasingly expensive. The issue of affordability of housing within the Borough is not new, but remains a challenge to try to address.

- 11.18 The number of homeless applications and acceptances in Test Valley for recent years are set out below (Table 20); this indicates variable figures year to year in terms of applications. Since April 2018 a change in legislation has altered the approach to preventing homelessness and the reporting on it.

Table 20: Homelessness Applications and Homelessness Prevention in Test Valley¹³⁹

| Year | Homelessness applications | Households prevented from becoming homeless | Total |
|---------|---------------------------|---|-------|
| 2015/16 | 88 | 369 | 457 |
| 2016/17 | 62 | 427 | 489 |
| 2017/18 | 69 | 290 | 359 |

- 11.19 As at 1 April 2019, there were just under 2,100 households on the Housing Register, the majority of whom had a need for accommodation with 1 bedroom. While the number of households on the Housing Register does vary, since 2016 it has been in the order of 2,000 households.¹⁴⁰
- 11.20 The Test Valley Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA)¹⁴¹ includes consideration of the need for affordable housing, accounting for both existing and newly arising need. This indicates that the need for the period 2013 to 2031 would be approximately 5,260 affordable homes, this equates to an average of 292 affordable homes per year. The SHMA is due to be reviewed, including in relation to the need for affordable homes.
- 11.21 Looking forward, the Council's Housing Strategy has identified a priority to deliver 1,000 affordable homes throughout the Borough between 2020 and 2025.¹⁴²
- 11.22 There is also a need to provide appropriate accommodation for gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople reflecting the different needs of these communities. A Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation

¹³⁸ House price to work place-based earnings ratio, ONS, 2020 (available: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/datasets/ratioofhousepricetoworkplacebasedearningslowerquartileandmedian>).

¹³⁹ Housing Strategy Evidence Base & Review of Homelessness, Test Valley Borough Council, 2019 (available: <https://testvalley.gov.uk/housingandenvironmentalhealth/housing/housing-strategies/housing-strategy-evidence-base-review-of-homelessness>).

¹⁴⁰ Housing Strategy Evidence Base & Review of Homelessness, Test Valley Borough Council, 2019.

¹⁴¹ 2013 Strategic Housing Market Assessment, JG Consulting, 2014.

¹⁴² Housing Strategy 2020 – 2025, Test Valley Borough Council, 2020.

Assessment¹⁴³ (GTAA) assessed the accommodation need for the period 2016 – 2036. This indicated that as at September 2016 there were 13 pitches with permanent permission for Gypsies and Travellers and 20 authorised plots (on 5 yards) for Travelling Showpeople. There are no public sites within the Borough.

- 11.23 The Government publishes a biannual traveller and travelling showpeople caravan count, based on data provided by local authorities.¹⁴⁴ The most recent data is from January 2020. This recorded that for Traveller caravans, there were 26 private caravans with permanent planning permission and an additional 16 caravans on unauthorised sites in Test Valley. The latter figure was one lower than that of July 2019. No caravans were reported in Test Valley for Travelling Showpeople in Test Valley for January 2020.¹⁴⁵
- 11.24 Through the 2011 Census, data was available on accommodation type by ethnic group. Of those who identified themselves as Gypsy or Irish Traveller within Test Valley, 38% identified that they lived in a flat, maisonette / apartment, or mobile / temporary accommodation, with 62% identifying their accommodation type as a house or bungalow type. This indicated that the majority of Gypsy or Irish Traveller population in Test Valley lived within bricks and mortar accommodation at that point in time.
- 11.25 In looking at future need, Table 21 sets out the identified needs for the period 2016 to 2036 from the GTAA.

Table 21: Additional need for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople households in Test Valley for 2016 to 2036¹⁴⁶

| | Household status | | |
|----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | Meet planning definition ¹⁴⁷ | Unknown if meet planning definition | Do not meet planning definition |
| Gypsy and Traveller households | 3 pitches | Up to 11 pitches | 6 pitches |
| Travelling Showpeople households | 14 plots | Up to 1 plot | 0 plots |

- 11.26 Since the GTAA was completed, planning permission has been granted for 2 permanent pitches and 5 plots. The GTAA is currently being reviewed to update the assessment of accommodation needs now and into the future.

¹⁴³ Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment 2016-2036, Opinion Research Services, 2017 (available: http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/assets/attach/5010/pt6_8%20170509%20GTAA%20Report%20for%20Publication.pdf).

¹⁴⁴ Available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/traveller-caravan-count>

¹⁴⁵ Count of Traveller Caravans: January 2020 (Winter) Count, MHCLG, 2020.

¹⁴⁶ Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment 2016-2036, Opinion Research Services, 2017 (based on Figures 6 & 13).

¹⁴⁷ As defined in Planning Policy for traveller sites, DCLG, 2015 (available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-policy-for-traveller-sites>).

Should insufficient accommodation be made available, this may increase the likelihood of unauthorised development and encampments in locations that may not be suitable, which could have negative impacts on communities and the environment.

12 Land and Soil

- 12.1 Geology and soil have an impact on a wide range of matters, from influencing the landscape of the Borough, to implications on water quality, biodiversity and health. Table 22 summarises the key messages and implications from key documents on this theme.

Table 22: Summary of Key Documents

| Key Messages | Source of Key Messages | Implications |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil is a natural resource that provides a range of services and needs to be managed sustainably • Risks to soil health including pollution should be avoided (including to avoid contamination of soils) • The effective use of land should be encouraged, including through the use of previously developed land • Regard should be given to the suitability of sites in terms of ground conditions and land stability | <p>NPPF; Safeguarding our Soils Strategy; A Green Future; Minerals and Waste Plan; Contaminated Land Strategy.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure measures are in place to avoid the risk of pollution and degradation of soil • Regard should be had to the quality of soil and opportunities to re-use previously developed land • Need to consider the potential for mineral resources when identifying development opportunities to avoid sterilisation |

- 12.2 The Landscape Character Assessment¹⁴⁸ for the Borough provides an overview of the geology. It sets out that the basic underlying geology of Test Valley is chalk. There are some localised deposits of clay with flints across the chalk area, which are likely to have been laid down during the interglacial period. Towards the south of the Borough the chalk layers dip towards the sea and are buried by deposits of sands, gravels and clays.
- 12.3 Hampshire County Council is responsible for planning for mineral resources. There are safeguarded areas within the Borough for sand and gravel deposits

¹⁴⁸ Test Valley Landscape Character Assessment 2018 (available: <https://testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/treesandlandscape/landscape-character-assessment-documents>).

through the Minerals and Waste Plan¹⁴⁹ – these tend to be associated with the river courses.

- 12.4 The Landscape Character Assessment also provides information on soils within the Borough. The soils on the chalk tend to be well drained and, due to their qualities, are often farmed. However, soil depth and relief can be a limiting factor in some locations. The more complex geology towards the south of the Borough has resulted in a mixed pattern of soils and their resultant quality. In some cases these soils can be subject to seasonal waterlogging. The mix in soil types supports a mix of agricultural uses, however as a result of poor drainage, some areas are less productive.
- 12.5 Data available via Soilscape on Magic Map¹⁵⁰ indicates that towards the north and central areas of the Borough, types include shallow lime-rich soils and freely draining slightly acid loamy soils, while further south soil types include slowly permeable seasonally wet loamy and clayey soils, and pockets of freely draining sandy and loamy soils. Mainly associated with the river networks within the Borough, there are also areas of fen peat soils and loamy and clayey floodplain soils.
- 12.6 Better quality soils are found on the deposits of gravel, which tend to be located along the river valleys. More peaty soils can also be found in the river valleys. Within most of the southern areas of the Borough, the valley floor is occupied by alluvial soils; in many cases these have been drained to increase their productivity.
- 12.7 Agricultural Land Classification provides a means of identifying the potential for areas to be 'best and most versatile' agricultural land. The main classifications are grades 1 to 5 (grade 3 is sub-divided into 3a and 3b) with grade 1 being excellent quality and grade 5 being very poor quality.¹⁵¹ The best and most versatile agricultural land is taken to be those areas classified as grades 1 to 3a.¹⁵²
- 12.8 One of the maps provided in Appendix 3 indicates the broad patterns of the Agricultural Land Classification (this pre-dates the sub-division of grade 3 into 3a and 3b). This is not to be used for specific sites, as there will be more localised variations in quality of land which are not identified on this map. More detailed site surveys would be required to provide this information and such surveys are not available for the majority of the Borough. Based on general trends, most of the Borough is indicated to be grade 3 agricultural land, with a greater proportion of the south of the Borough appearing as lower grade or non-agricultural land.
- 12.9 In terms of contamination of soils, as at 2017 there were no areas formally designated as 'contaminated land' within the Borough (as defined in

¹⁴⁹ Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan, Hampshire County Council (and other partners), 2013.

¹⁵⁰ Available: <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/magicmap.aspx>

¹⁵¹ Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales, MAFF, 1988.

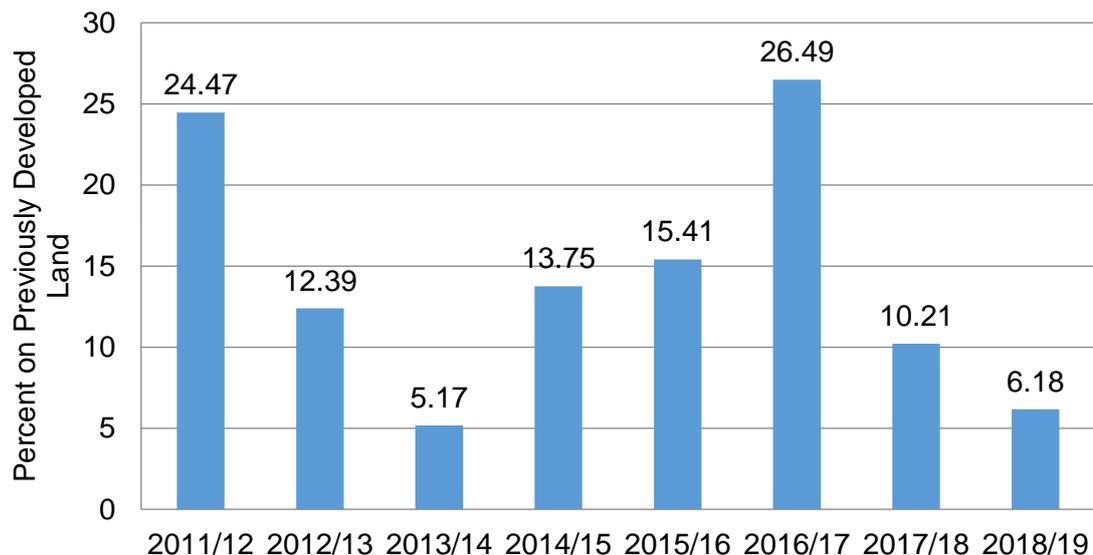
¹⁵² NPPF Glossary.

legislation¹⁵³).¹⁵⁴ It remains the case that there are no sites in Test Valley that are designated as contaminated land. There is a wide range of potential sources of contamination within the Borough, including current and former industrial / commercial sites, mineral extraction / waste disposal sites, and sites occupied (currently or previously) by Defence Agencies. Proposals for redevelopment of such sites (through the planning process) give an opportunity to review potential contamination and make provision for appropriate remediation.

12.10 National planning policy promotes the use of previously developed land, the effective use of land, and to seek opportunities to address land contamination.

12.11 Given the predominantly rural nature of the Borough, the amount of previously developed land available for redevelopment is low, relative to more urban areas. The Council monitors the proportion of new dwellings that have been built on previously developed land, this is set out in Figure 11.

Figure 11: Percentage of new and converted dwellings on previously developed land (based on net completion figures)



12.12 The trend shown in the above graph largely reflects the extent to which housing delivery is coming forward from large greenfield allocations. Years with a higher proportion of housing from previously developed land generally reflect when there was less development associated with the larger residential allocations.

12.13 It is difficult to predict how the soil environment will change in the future. There will be continuing pressure on land resources from additional development, with limited opportunities to use previously developed land. Additional greenfield development could include higher grade agricultural land. Additional development is likely to have a direct impact on soil resources through the

¹⁵³ The Contaminated Land (England) Regulations 2006.

¹⁵⁴ Contaminated Land Strategy, Test Valley Borough Council, 2017 (available: <https://testvalley.gov.uk/housingandenvironmentalhealth/environmentalprotection/land-contamination>).

development itself and associated changes (e.g. systems to manage the movement / drainage of water). Changes in climate may also have an effect on the condition / quality of soil. This includes in relation to soil moisture levels (which in turn may affect the use of land and economic activities such as agriculture), whilst other uses of the land may equally have an effect (e.g. through agricultural and other land management activities / operations).

- 12.14 Public water supplies in the area are largely dependent on groundwater either directly or from the groundwater-fed watercourses. Therefore changes to soil and geology (including land use changes, changes in climate, or pollution events) could have implications for the water supplies of the Borough, as well as for biodiversity.

13 Landscape, Townscape and Character

- 13.1 The landscape and townscapes in Test Valley are valued locally, with parts of the Borough (and surrounding areas) subject to landscape designation of national importance. These matters, along with others such as the historic and natural environment influence the character of the area, including that of specific settlements. Table 23 identifies some of the key documents relevant to this theme.

Table 23: Summary of Key Documents

| Key Messages | Source of Key Messages | Implications |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal duties in relation to the National Park and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) • Need to have regard to the local landscape, townscape and settlement character | NPPF; A Green Future; New Forest National Park Management Plan; North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan; Landscape Character Assessments; Village and Town Design Statements. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure development has regard to the purpose of designated landscapes, including potential impact on the setting of such designations • Development should respect the landscape, townscape and settlement character |

- 13.2 The landscape of Test Valley has been influenced by both physical and human factors, including underlying geology, landforms, hydrology, ecology and vegetation. The geology in the north of the Borough has contributed to a more pronounced landform including high chalk ridges which are dissected by steeply sloping, predominantly dry valleys and escarpments. Towards the south of the Borough the landform is generally flatter.¹⁵⁵
- 13.3 Some landscapes receive protection through designation, which can be at an international, national or local scale. In this context, much of the northern part of the Borough, beyond Andover, is designated as part of the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (extent shown on a map in Appendix 3). The Council is a member of the Council of Partners in relation to this designation.¹⁵⁶
- 13.4 The New Forest National Park has also been recognised for its landscape value. Legislation identifies the purpose of national parks, including the New Forest, *'of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural*

¹⁵⁵ Test Valley Landscape Character Assessment, terrafirma, 2018 (Available: <https://testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/treesandlandscape/landscape-character-assessment-documents>).

¹⁵⁶ Further information about the designation and a detailed map of its extent are available at: <http://www.northwessexdowns.org.uk/>.

heritage and *'promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of those areas by the public'*.¹⁵⁷ As set out above, for planning purposes the New Forest National Park Authority has responsibility for the section of Test Valley that lies within the National Park boundary. However, the setting of the National Park is also important, along with a need to protect areas outside of the National Park for 'back-up' commoning land. The extent of the National Park within the Borough boundary is shown in Figure 2, as well as in Appendix 3.

- 13.5 A series of character assessments are available that cover the Borough, including national character areas¹⁵⁸, the Hampshire Character Assessment¹⁵⁹ and Test Valley Borough Landscape Character Assessment¹⁶⁰.
- 13.6 A Landscape Character Assessment for the North Wessex Downs AONB¹⁶¹ is available which considers the AONB as a whole, with information available in relation to those parts of the Borough falling within this designation (classified within 'downland with woodland' and 'river valleys').
- 13.7 A seascape assessment¹⁶² was produced as part of the preparation of the South Marine Plans. This includes a marine character area for 'The Solent', with details provided incorporating a description of the character area, details on where it can be seen from (land with sea views), and key characteristics.
- 13.8 The Landscape Character Assessment for Test Valley provides a comprehensive assessment of the landscape within the Borough.¹⁶³ It identifies 12 Landscape Character Types and 40 Landscape Character Areas. A map showing the distribution of these Character Areas is provided in Appendix 3. For each Character Area, this document provides a general description and identifies physical influences, local biodiversity and vegetation patterns, historical influences, settlement pattern and the key natural and cultural landscape issues affecting it. In addition, guidelines are also provided for each Character Area.
- 13.9 A summary is provided for each of the Landscape Character Types (LCT) within the Borough based on the Landscape Character Assessment – more information can be found within the document itself.

¹⁵⁷ See Section 11A of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, as inserted by the Environment Act 1995.

¹⁵⁸ Relevant character areas include numbers 128, 130, 131, 132. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making/national-character-area-profiles#ncas-in-south-east-england-and-london>.

¹⁵⁹ Integrated Character Assessment, Hampshire County Council, 2010 (available: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/landscape/integratedcharacterassessment>).

¹⁶⁰ Available: <https://testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/treesandlandscape/landscape-character-assessment-documents>

¹⁶¹ Available: <http://www.northwessexdowns.org.uk/publications-resources/landscape-2.html>

¹⁶² Seascape Assessment for the South Marine Plan Areas, 2014 (Available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/seascape-assessment-for-the-south-marine-plan-areas-mmo-1037>).

¹⁶³ Test Valley Landscape Character Assessment, terrafirma, 2018.

- LCT1 - Heathland: There is a small area of this landscape type within the south west of the Borough. It is comprised of a mosaic of wet mire, bracken, gorse and tracts of heather and acid grassland. Issues include coniferous plantations on the heathlands and loss of tranquility. Maintaining this resource is dependent on active commoning, with land management measures including continuity of commons grazing, controlling the invasion of pine and scrub and limiting changes to drainage.
- LCT2 - Pasture and Woodland Associated with Heathland: This occurs in two distinct areas towards the south of the Borough. It tends to comprise of an enclosed landscape within pockets of low intensity grazed pasture in a well-wooded setting. Key issues include the fragmentation of hedgerows and loss of parkland features. The overall strategy and guidelines for this type varies by Character Area. Land management guidelines include restoring hedgerows and avoid the use of coniferous plantations.
- LCT3 - Mixed Farmland and Woodland – Medium Scale: This is found towards the south and west of the Borough and comprises a pattern of small to medium areas of pasture, with arable farmland, woodland, shelterbelts and hedgerows. The dominance of these features varies. Poor woodland management and potential changes in farming practices are among the issues identified. The land management guidelines focus on managing agricultural landscapes for biodiversity, maintaining existing woodland cover and restoration of hedgerow boundaries.
- LCT4 - Mixed Farmland and Woodland – Small Scale: Two areas are found within the Borough, one to the west and one to the east. In general it includes a small scale and intimate mosaic of grazing land, arable land with some woodland and areas of uncultivated land. Loss of woodland and unimproved grassland are identified as issues. For this Character Type guidelines include, protecting levels of tranquility, encouraging the replanting of former hedgerows and conserving / enhancing remnant heathland and unimproved grasslands.
- LCT5 - River Valley Floor: This is noted to be a prominent feature of the Borough's landscape, extending through the Borough and linking other landscapes. It is comprised of two main forms, namely the narrower valleys and the wider, flat-bottomed valleys. The maintenance of water quality and flows are highlighted as issues. Land management guidelines include encouraging the traditional management of water meadows, conserving / enhancing riparian habitats and avoiding changes from pastoral to arable land.
- LCT6 - Enclosed Chalk and Clay Woodland: This Character Type is scattered in the central and northern areas of the Borough. It comprises of woodland with associated fields of mixed sizes. Scarps are also characteristic of this type. Issues identified include the appropriate management of woodland, erosion from access and isolation of small patches of habitat. The guidelines for this Character Type include conserving the sense of seclusion and tranquility.
- LCT7 - Semi Enclosed and Clay Farmland: This is found in both the central and northern areas of the Borough. Whilst there are similarities to the Open

Chalklands landscape, it has a greater incidence of hedgerows and tree cover. This area includes large and medium scale arable fields; it is a sparsely settled area. Issues include the intensification of farming and scrub encroachment on the scarps. Land management guidelines include maintaining the sense of remoteness and tranquility, discouraging the amalgamation of fields and loss of hedgerows and conservation / restoration of chalk grasslands.

- LCT8 - Enclosed Clay Plateau Farmland: This is located to the north of Andover and is characterised by large tracts of woodland and plantation with large open arable fields and hedged arable fields with some pasture. Issues include intensification of farming and fragmentation of hedgerows. Land management guidelines include discouraging the amalgamation of fields, maintaining and restoring hedgerows and promoting the good management of woodlands.
- LCT9 - Semi Enclosed Clay Plateau Farmland: Located to the north of the Borough, encompassing the north western edge of Andover, this Character Type includes a mix of medium and open tracts of large scale arable fields, with smaller fields of pasture associated with the settlements and dry river valleys. Issues include the loss of contrast between landscapes and intensification of farming. Land management guidelines include restoring and providing new hedgerows and conserving / enhancing parkland and other historic features.
- LCT10 - Open Chalkland: This covers a large proportion of the central areas of the Borough; it comprises of a large scale arable landscape in which the hedgerow structure is fragmented. There are infrequent blocks of woodland. Settlements are scattered. Issues include loss of chalk downland and unimproved grassland, as well as intensification of agriculture. Land management guidelines include maintaining a sense of remoteness and tranquility, restoring hedgerows and conserving / restoring unimproved chalk grassland.
- LCT11 - Chalk Downland Ridges: This Character Type is located to the west of the Borough and is characterised by a series of small hills forming a ridgeline. It includes a mix of arable and pasture, with woodland predominantly on the more inaccessible slopes. Issues identified include; intensification of farming, isolation of unimproved chalk grassland and hedgerow fragmentation. Land management guidelines include encouraging replanting of hedgerows and maintaining existing patterns of woodland cover.
- LCT12 - Bourne Valleys: These comprise of winterbournes, with a mix of pasture and contrasting open areas of arable land. Field sizes vary and there are thick hedgerows with occasional small woodlands. Issues include loss of small fields and hedgerows and erosion of quiet seclusion. Land management guidelines include safeguarding the valley floor wetland character and conserving riparian habitats.

13.10 The Test Valley Landscape Character Assessment also identified a series of forces of change¹⁶⁴, these are summarised below:

- Climatic – this includes climate change with issues including summer water shortages; flooding, changes in crops, and increased storms.
- Agricultural and land management – the landscape continues to be affected by changes in farming, including intensification of arable farming, expansion of equestrian facilities, introduction of new farming infrastructure and the introduction of vineyards.
- Built development and urbanisation – there is continued pressure for additional development in many settlements with additional greenfield development likely to be necessary; the implications of urbanisation can include more demand for lighting that can negatively impact darker skies; homogenous building materials and styles affecting local distinctiveness; conversion of agricultural buildings to dwellings as well as suburban influences such as fences and gateways cumulatively urbanising rural character.
- Traffic, transport and lighting – higher traffic levels and needs for safety and accessibility have resulted in more lighting, signage, and other engineering works, as well as additional requirements for parking provision and some impacts on tranquillity¹⁶⁵ through increased traffic and congestion.
- Recreation and tourism – the landscape, ecological and historical resources of the Borough are key economic assets for tourism and recreation. The government is supportive of rural tourism and leisure, including greater access to the countryside. This has increased pressure on the countryside for recreation purposes, including from increases in holiday accommodation.
- Telecommunications and overhead transmission lines – it is indicated to be difficult to predict whether new development of this type will continue to be a significant force for change as the technology is constantly being updated. Additional such infrastructure can be intrusive and have cumulative effects.
- Renewable energy, energy generation and energy storage facilities – greater use of sustainable and renewable energy sources is being encouraged by the government. In recent years there have been a large number of ‘solar farms’ coming forward across the Borough. Cumulative effects will need to be considered.
- Mineral extraction and waste management – Test Valley is rich in sand and gravel deposits, with it only being possible to work minerals where they are found. Waste recycling, composting and energy recovery are increasing in waste management. Changes in waste management may see new forms of development.
- Military - there are a number of military sites in the Borough, some of which are active. Many military sites are on the open chalklands landscape. Restricted access may have enabled wider biodiversity to establish. Any future uses of such sites would need to be managed carefully.

¹⁶⁴ Test Valley Landscape Character Assessment, terrafirma, 2018.

¹⁶⁵ This relates to a sense of lack of disturbance from visual and / or noise intrusion.

- 13.11 The combination of the above factors suggests that there are a number of potential sources of change to the landscape of the Borough – it is difficult to predict their combined effect. However, without careful management, the quality of the landscape of the Borough could be reduced.
- 13.12 As part of the Hampshire Integrated Character Assessment, townscape assessments have been undertaken for some of the larger settlements within the County, this includes Romsey and Andover.¹⁶⁶ Each townscape assessment provides contextual information, identifies the townscape types and character areas and then provides a description of the character areas.
- 13.13 The South East of the Borough is the most urbanised area, along with Andover towards the north of the Borough. There are a number of small towns, villages and hamlets scattered throughout the Borough. Their arrangement is variable including linear and more nuclear settlements. The Test Valley Landscape Character Assessment includes consideration of settlement types for the villages within the Borough, providing detail on settlement character and giving some historical context.¹⁶⁷
- 13.14 Village and town design statements¹⁶⁸ also consider matters relating to settlement pattern, landscape and design (including architecture) considerations. Table 24 identifies the Village and Town Design Statements that have been adopted to date.

Table 24: Adopted Village and Town Design Statements in Test Valley

| Area | When Adopted |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Abbotts Ann | April 2000 |
| Ampfield | September 2019 |
| Amport | January 2008 |
| Appleshaw and Redenham | April 2015 |
| Barton Stacey | June 2016 |
| Braishfield | April 2002 |
| Broughton | July 2004 |
| Chilbolton | January 2003 |
| Chilworth | February 2006 |
| Enham Alamein | January 2009 |
| Goodworth Clatford | April 2000 |
| Longparish | April 2003 |
| Longstock | June 2010 |
| Michelmersh and Timsbury | July 2001 |
| Monxton | May 2004 |
| Romsey and Romsey Extra | January 2008 |
| Sherfield English | April 2015 |
| Stockbridge | April 2003 |

¹⁶⁶ Available at:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/landscape/integratedcharacterassessment/townscapeassessments>

¹⁶⁷ Test Valley Landscape Character Assessment, terrafirma, 2018.

¹⁶⁸ Available: <https://testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/village-design-statements>

| Area | When Adopted |
|--|----------------|
| The Pentons (Penton Mewsey and Penton Grafton) | April 2000 |
| The Wallops (Over Wallop and Nether Wallop) | February 2004 |
| Thrupton | February 2006 |
| Upper Clatford and Anna Valley | February 2002 |
| Vernham Dean | January 2003 |
| Wellow | September 2010 |
| West Dean | February 2010 |

- 13.15 Given the level of additional development (including additional housing) that is planned for and likely to continue to come forward in the future, there is the potential for changes to the landscape, townscapes, and settlement character and identity in the future.
- 13.16 In this context, masterplans have recently been prepared for Andover town centre as well as the area to the south of Romsey town centre. These masterplans proposed a number of changes which could have significant implications for the appearance of the areas that they relate to and potentially a wider area. They may also have knock on effects such as the local economy.
- 13.17 More generally, without careful consideration there is the potential for adverse effects – there may be greater risk of this through unplanned / speculative proposals. Guidance documents referred to above seek to provide an indication of how development can be planned and designed to be more sensitive to the landscape character, townscapes and settlement character. There may be other factors that can also result in cumulative impacts on landscapes, townscapes and settlement character, such as those forces for change identified above.

14 Population and Demographics

- 14.1 The demographics of an area can influence a range of other matters, including health and wellbeing, as well as the economy. Within this theme consideration has been given to the size and structure of the population, its density, and potential population growth.
- 14.2 Most of the relevant plans, policies and programmes do not directly relate to this theme, although demographics may be relevant. The table below summarises the key messages and implications linked to key documents on this theme. However, it should be recognised that it will need to be considered alongside the related messages for other themes.

Table 25: Summary of Key Documents

| Key Messages | Source of Key Messages | Implications |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take account of current and future demographic trends in assessing housing need Have regard to the ageing population Be mindful of different needs of different groups within the community | NPPF; Planning Policy for Traveller Sites; TVBC Corporate Plan; TVBC Housing Strategy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure growing population and changes in demographics are accounted for in planning for new housing and accommodation, layout and accessibility of spaces and provision of supporting infrastructure. |

- 14.3 A variety of sources of data have been used within this theme, many of which are collated using different methodologies and assumptions. Therefore, information from different sources is unlikely to be directly comparable.

Population

- 14.4 The 2011 Census identified the population of the Borough to be 116,398 people, giving a population density of 1.85 persons per hectare. At the time of the Census this was lower than the county, regional and national averages (of 3.58, 4.53 and 4.07 persons per hectare respectively).¹⁶⁹ The Small Area Population Forecast (SAPF) data produced by Hampshire County Council forecast the population of the Borough in 2020 to be 132,452 people¹⁷⁰, this would give a population density of 2.11 persons per hectare. For reference, the 2018-based sub-national population projections (prepared by the Office for

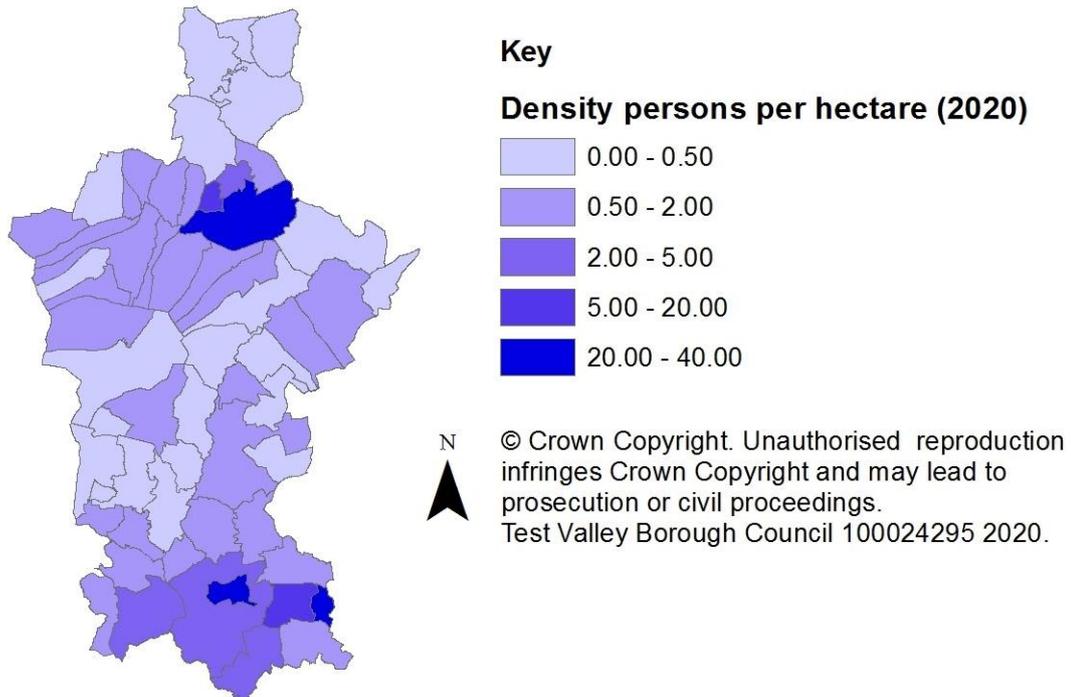
¹⁶⁹ Available from: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/facts-figures/population/2011-census>

¹⁷⁰ Small Area Population Forecasts, Hampshire County Council, 2019 (<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/facts-figures/population/estimates-forecasts>)

National Statistics (ONS)) suggest the population of the Borough for 2020 to be 127,425.¹⁷¹

- 14.5 The population density is varied across the Borough, reflecting the more urban and rural areas within Test Valley. This can be seen in Figure 12, which summarises the population density for each parish within the Borough as at 2020.

Figure 12: Population density (persons per hectare) by parish in Test Valley¹⁷² (please note, the classes are not split evenly)



- 14.6 It is likely that future changes in population density would broadly continue to reflect the patterns shown in Figure 12, when accounting for known planned housing development.
- 14.7 Figure 13 provides details on changes in the total population of the Borough over time. The figures looking back are derived from the Census, with the projected figures taken from the 2018-based sub-national population projections. This indicates a continuing rise in the population of the Borough projected into the future. This change will arise through a combination of both natural change (i.e. trends in births and deaths) and net migration. Based on the 2018-based sub-national projections for 2020 to 2041, the majority of this change in population within the Borough would arise from migration (within the

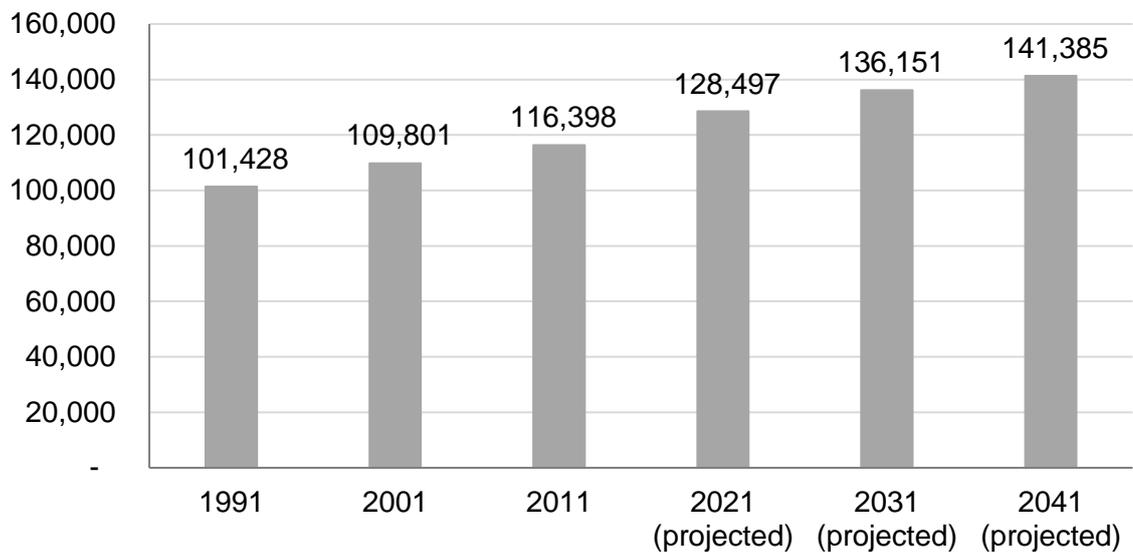
¹⁷¹Available from:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/datasets/localauthoritiesinenglandtable2>

¹⁷² Based on Small Area Population Forecasts for 2020, Hampshire County Council, 2019.

UK), with a reduction in population from natural change alone (i.e. comparing births and deaths).¹⁷³

Figure 13: Total Population of Test Valley over time

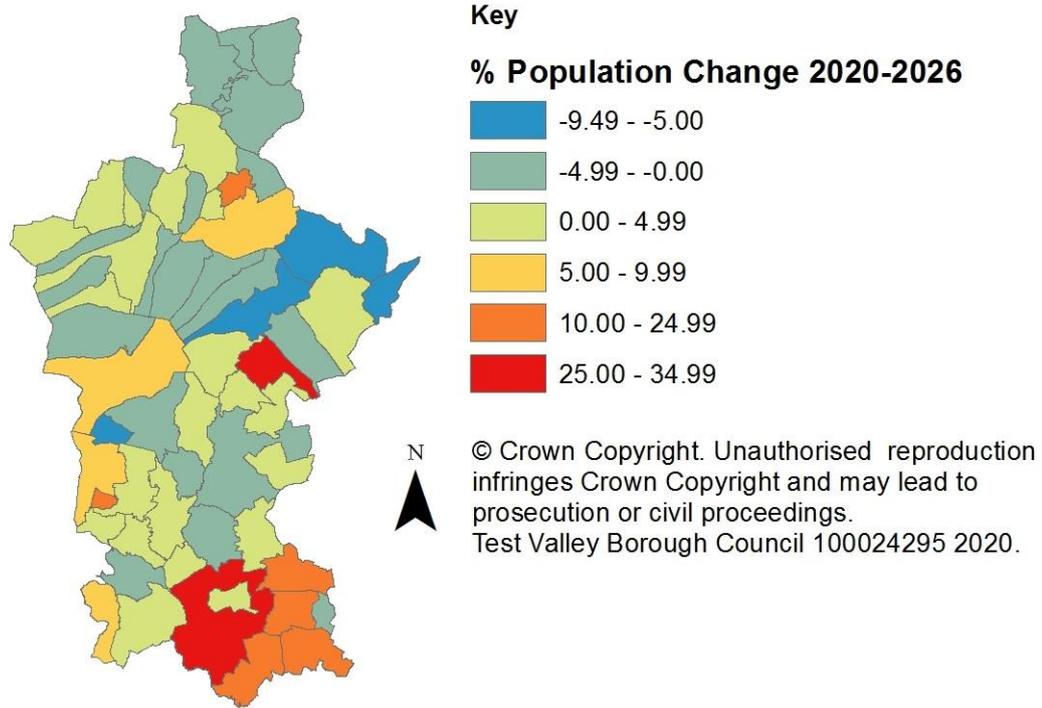


- 14.8 Additional population within the Borough and surrounding areas has the potential to put increasing pressure on infrastructure, services and facilities that support these communities (this may be within or outside the Borough). Therefore it will be important to ensure appropriate infrastructure and services are available alongside additional development (which may support both existing and new communities), with consideration also given to the balance of homes and jobs within the area.
- 14.9 This projected change in population would not be distributed evenly across the Borough. The sub-national population projections are not available at a more localised scale. Although it is derived in a different way, population changes for a shorter time period are available from the Small Area Population Forecast (SAPF) dataset. Figure 14 indicates the projected population change for 2020 to 2026 by parish from this source. It needs to be taken into account that the actual change in population will be of a very different scale in different parishes, reflecting the population at the start of the indicated period.

¹⁷³ Available from:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/datasets/componentsofchangebirthsdeathsandmigrationforregionsandlocalauthoritiesinenglandtable5>

Figure 14: Percentage change in projected population for 2020 to 2026 by parish¹⁷⁴ (please note, classes are not evenly split)



14.10 The parishes showing the greatest percentage increase in population generally represent those with more significant residential development under construction or planned relative to the existing population. Some parishes indicate a projected decrease in population, this is likely to result from limited additional residential development combined with less people living in each dwelling (i.e. a reduction in household size).

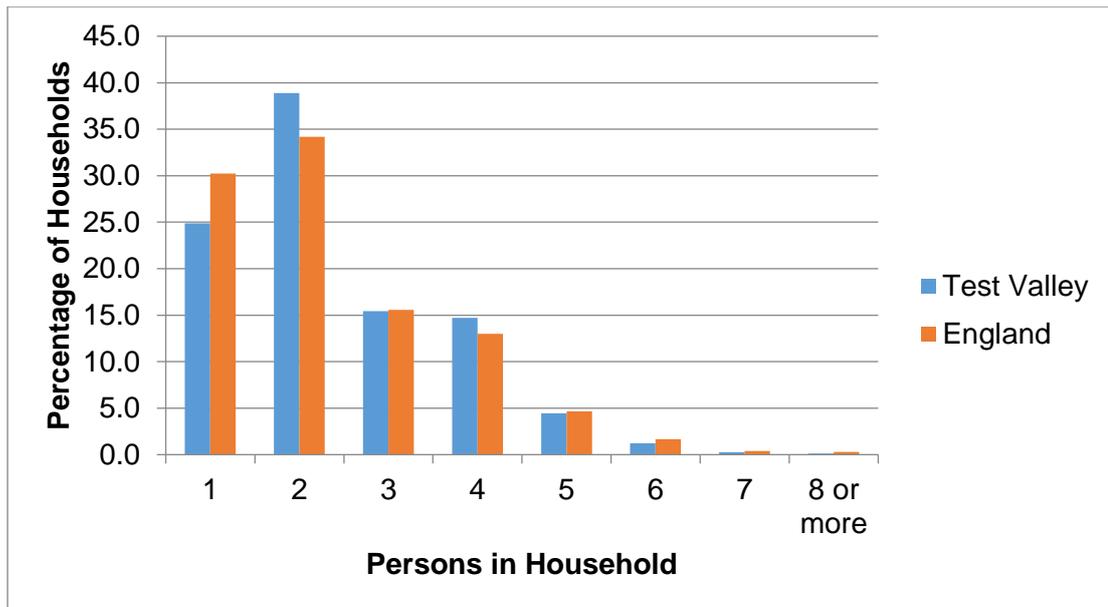
14.11 The changes in population within the Borough, with the potential for reductions in the population in some communities, may have implications for the viability of local services, especially in rural communities. Similarly, other changes to demographics in communities may also influence the viability of local services.

Households

14.12 There a range of household compositions within the Borough. Figure 15 indicates the size of households based on the 2011 Census, compared to the position for England. Based on this data, whilst the general trends for Test Valley and England are similar, there are a smaller proportion of 1 person households and a larger proportion of 2 person households within the Borough than indicated for the national position. This dataset indicates that as at 2011 there were approximately 47,600 households within the Borough.

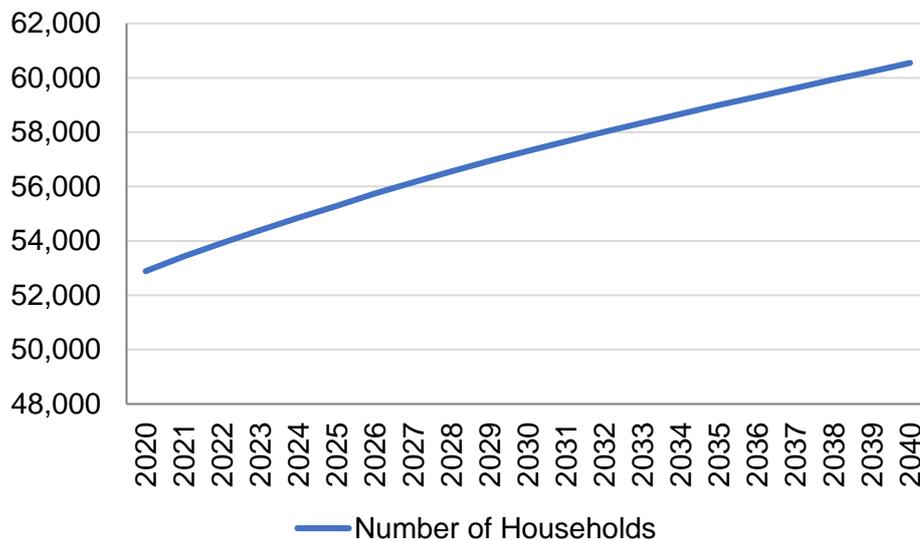
Figure 15: Household size for Test Valley and England (2011 Census)

¹⁷⁴ Based on Small Area Population Forecasts, Hampshire County Council, 2019



14.13 Household projections (2018-based) have been prepared by the Office for National Statistics (ONS)¹⁷⁵ and are based on the 2018-sub-national population projections. They assume the continuation of recent trends in population change and household formation. Figure 16 provides the outputs of the household projections for Test Valley, which indicates an increase of about 15.5% over the period shown. For comparison, the percentage increase in the number of households for England over the same timeframe was around 13.41%.

Figure 16: Projections on number of households in Test Valley (2018-based projections)

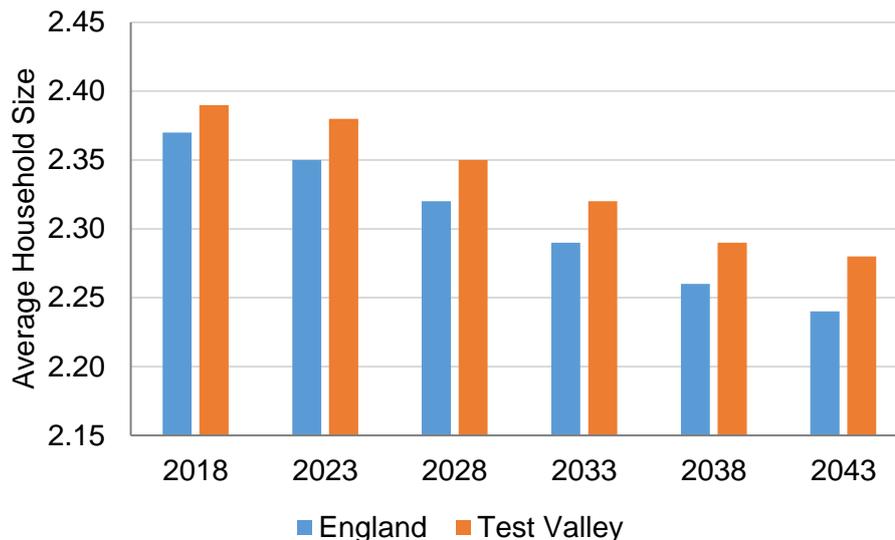


¹⁷⁵ Available:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/datasets/householdprojectionsforengland>

- 14.14 Figure 17 draws on both the sub-national population and household projections based on 2018 data to enable consideration of average household sizes (i.e. the average number of people in each household). The graph indicates that the average household size is projected to continue to reduce in Test Valley, from 2.39 in 2018 to 2.28 in 2043. As can be seen in the graph, the average household sizes remain above those for England across the period.

Figure 17: Projected average household size (comparing 2018-based sub-national population and sub-national household projections)¹⁷⁶



- 14.15 In summary, the population of the Borough is projected to continue to increase, alongside a projected reduction in average household size. As a result, proportionally more additional homes are likely to be needed to house the increasing population.

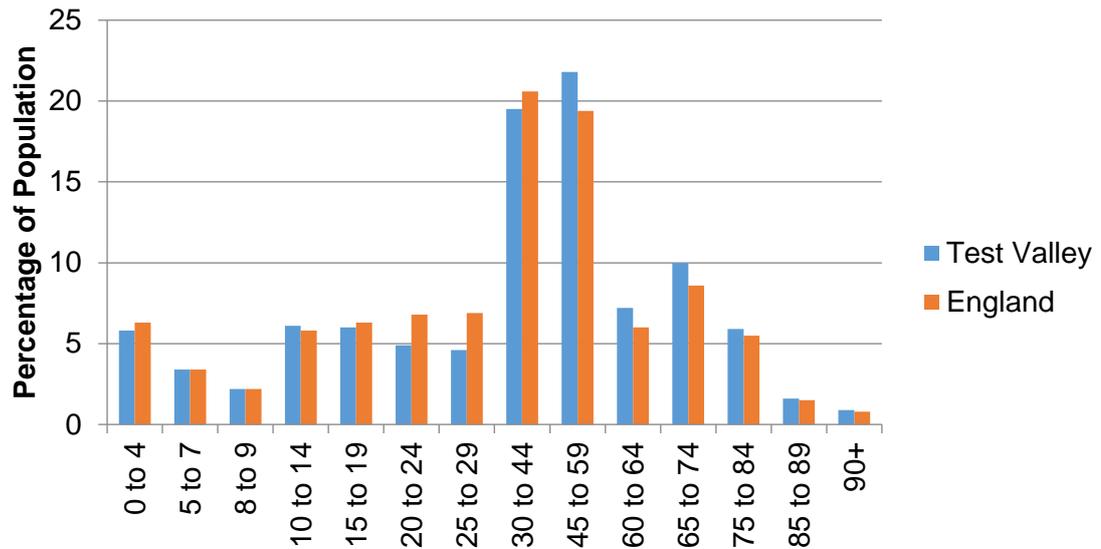
Age Profile

- 14.16 Data is available from the 2011 Census on the age profile of residents. It indicated that the mean age in Test Valley was approximately 41 years, compared to 39 years for England; in comparison the median ages were 43 years and 39 years respectively. Figure 18 indicates the age profile for the Borough relative to that for England based on the 2011 Census results. It should be noted that the age bands are not all of the same size. In broad terms, the age profile of the Borough is similar to that for England.¹⁷⁷

Figure 18: Age profile (by percentage of population) for Test Valley and England from the 2011 Census

¹⁷⁶ Table 427, 2018-based household projections (principal projection), ONS, 2020 (Available: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/datasets/householdprojectionsforengland>)

¹⁷⁷ Available: <http://documents.hants.gov.uk/facts-figures/AgestructureKS102EW.xls>



14.17 There are some variations in the age profile of different communities within the Borough. For example, based on the 2011 Census data, those who identifying themselves as 'Gypsy or Irish Traveller' tended to include a higher proportion of people in the younger ages and a lower proportion in the older age groups. For example, across the whole Borough population 21.5% were aged 0 to 17, while for those identifying themselves as 'Gypsy or Irish Traveller' the figure was 26.1%; and for age 65+ the figures were 18.4% and 11.8% respectively.

14.18 The 2018-based sub-national population projections provide information on age profiles. Table 26 displays the projected age profiles (age band as a percentage of the population) for 2021, 2031 and 2041, against the same banding with data from the 2011 Census. Please note, the two sources are not directly comparable but seek to indicate general trends. Table 26 indicates an ageing of the population of the Borough. By 2041, the projections show that approximately 28% of the population would be aged 65+ (for comparison the figure using the 2011 Census data was approximately 18%).

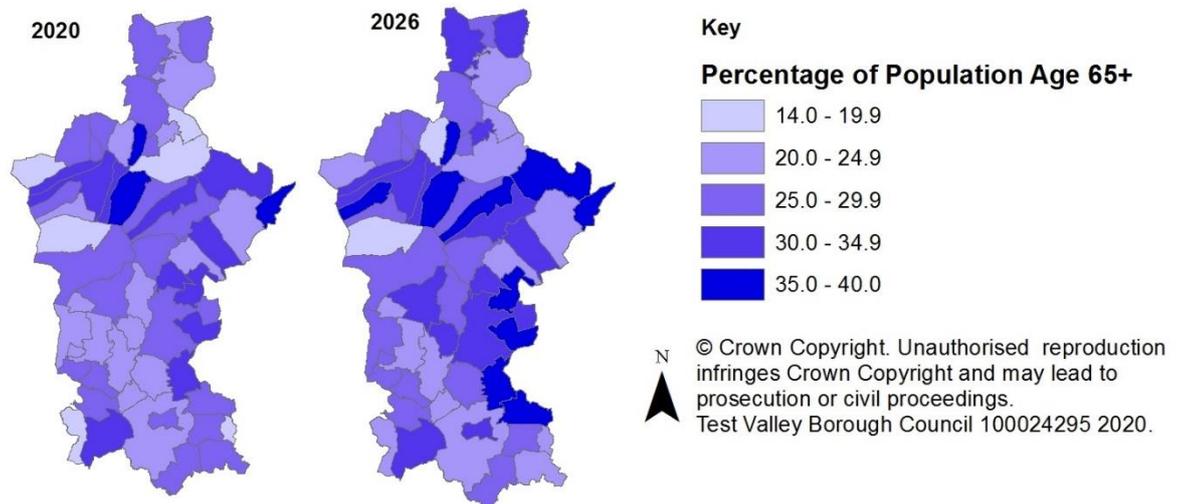
Table 26: Age profile for 2011, 2021, 2031 and 2039 by percentage of population – note the two data sources used are not directly comparable

| Age Band | 2011 Census | 2021 Projection | 2031 Projection | 2041 Projection |
|----------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 0-4 | 5.8 | 5.4 | 5.1 | 5.3 |
| 5-9 | 5.7 | 6.2 | 5.5 | 5.5 |
| 10-14 | 6.1 | 6.0 | 5.6 | 5.4 |
| 15-19 | 6.1 | 5.1 | 5.6 | 5.0 |
| 20-24 | 4.9 | 4.0 | 4.2 | 3.9 |
| 25-29 | 4.6 | 5.1 | 4.6 | 5.1 |
| 30-34 | 5.1 | 5.8 | 5.1 | 5.5 |
| 35-39 | 6.6 | 6.0 | 6.1 | 5.5 |
| 40-44 | 7.7 | 6.1 | 6.7 | 6.0 |
| 45-49 | 8.3 | 6.8 | 6.5 | 6.5 |
| 50-54 | 7.2 | 7.3 | 6.2 | 6.6 |
| 55-59 | 6.3 | 7.5 | 6.4 | 6.2 |

| Age Band | 2011 Census | 2021 Projection | 2031 Projection | 2041 Projection |
|----------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 60-64 | 7.2 | 6.4 | 6.7 | 5.8 |
| 65-69 | 5.7 | 5.4 | 6.7 | 5.8 |
| 70-74 | 4.3 | 5.9 | 5.6 | 6.1 |
| 75-79 | 3.4 | 4.7 | 4.6 | 5.8 |
| 80-84 | 2.5 | 3.0 | 4.5 | 4.5 |
| 85-89 | 1.6 | 2.0 | 2.8 | 3.0 |
| 90+ | 0.9 | 1.2 | 1.6 | 2.5 |

14.19 Figure 19 specifically considers the proportion of the population aged 65 years plus. This uses a different data source to the Borough wide position, therefore is not directly comparable. It indicates variation across the Borough. In most parishes the proportion of the population aged 65+ is anticipated to increase between 2020 and 2026, however the degree of change is variable.

Figure 19: Percentage of the population age 65+ for 2020 and 2026¹⁷⁸



14.20 Profiles¹⁷⁹ prepared for the Wards of the Borough also provide population profiles for each of these sub-areas of the Borough. They indicate that the age profile of communities in the Borough varies.

14.21 The trend towards an ageing population may have implications on the type of accommodation that will be required to meet needs, but also on other factors, such as the economic activity of residents, the use of local facilities and services and potentially different facilities and service that may be needed.

Ethnicity

14.22 The 2011 Census provided information on ethnicity. This indicated that 92.6% of usual residents of the Borough considered themselves to be 'White British'¹⁸⁰, the equivalent for England was 79.8%. The split between other

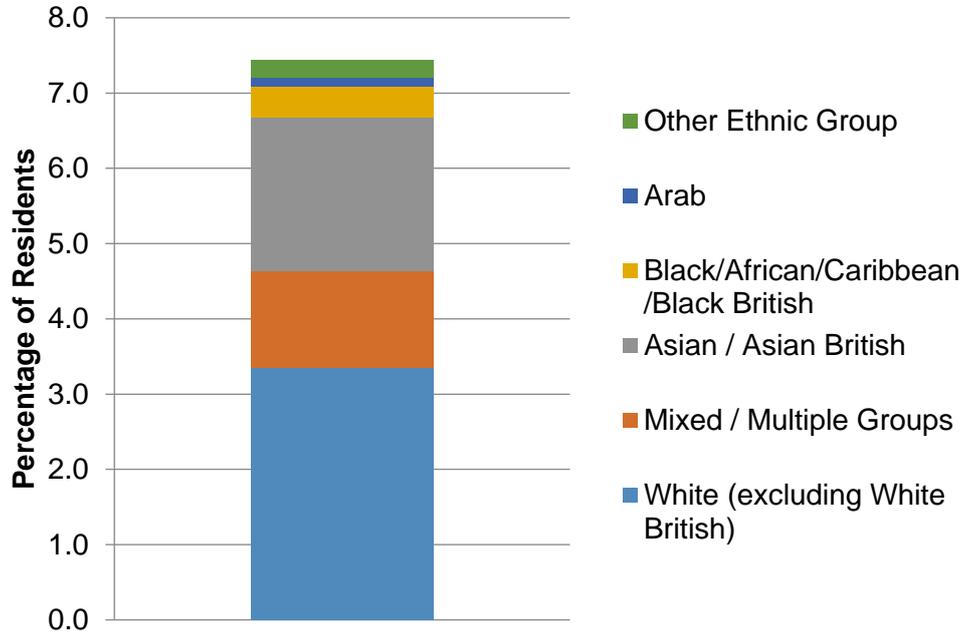
¹⁷⁸ Based on Small Area Population Forecasts, Hampshire County Council, 2019

¹⁷⁹ Available: <https://testvalley.gov.uk/communityandleisure/my-local-area-new>

¹⁸⁰ Including those describing their ethnicity as English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British.

ethnic groups for Test Valley is provided in Figure 20 based on the Census outputs.

Figure 20: Percentage of residents considering themselves of specified ethnic groups in 2011 Census (excluding 'White British')



14.23 For information, the 'White (excluding White British)' group includes approximately 0.1% of the Test Valley residents identifying themselves as 'Gypsy or Irish Traveller'. This is unlikely to include people who identify as 'Roma'. Similarly, it will not cover those who identify themselves as Travelling Showpeople.

15 Travel and Transport

- 15.1 This theme focuses on transport and travel within the Borough, including main transport links, car ownership, modes of travel and accessibility.
- 15.2 There are links between this and other themes considered. For example, supporting sustainable communities and the economy requires consideration of access to employment opportunities, town / local centre facilities and other facilities, services, and infrastructure (including via non-car modes). Also, emissions from vehicles can contribute to air and noise pollution, with implications for health and biodiversity¹⁸¹, and greenhouse gas emissions influencing climatic conditions (when considered cumulatively).
- 15.3 Table 27 sets out some of the key documents directly linked to this theme.

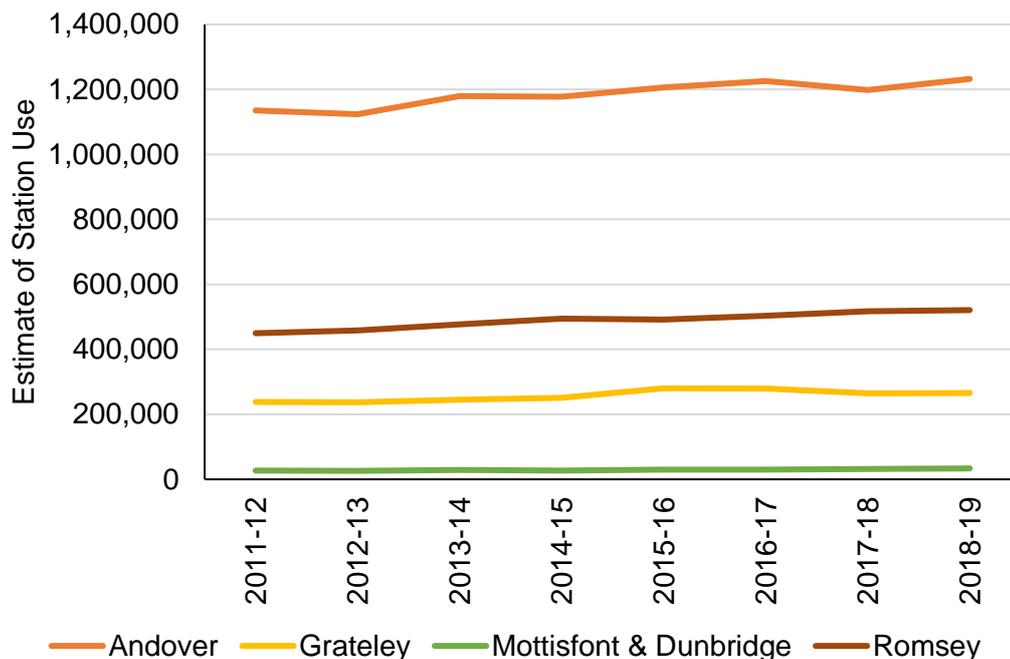
Table 27: Summary of Key Documents

| Key Messages | Source of Key Messages | Implications |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim to increase accessibility, reduce the need to travel and support more sustainable modes of travel • Need to move towards cleaner road transport, including zero emissions vehicles • Promote a safer transport network • Seek to ease congestion including through promoting car sharing and non-car modes of travel • Recognise that travel options and measures will vary from urban to rural areas | <p>NPPF; Clean Growth Strategy; The Road to Zero; Gear Change (Vision for Cycling and Walking); Local Transport Plan; Hampshire Walking & Cycling Strategy; Hampshire Countryside Access Plan; Access Plans and Cycle Strategy.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Account for accessibility and opportunities for sustainable travel, including the potential for improving the opportunities available for new and existing users • Improvements should be sought to the sustainable transport network where possible, including providing supporting infrastructure • Need to take account of likely traffic generation associated with additional development, including on the existing highway network (not restricted to authority boundaries) |

¹⁸¹ For example through adding nutrients to habitats that can be harmful.

- 15.4 There are two main railway lines passing through the Borough, namely London to Exeter, with stations at Andover and Grateley; and Bristol to Southampton, with stations at Romsey, Dunbridge and Dean (latter on the boundary with Wiltshire). There is also a local passenger service from Romsey to Southampton via Chandler's Ford and Eastleigh. Both Andover and Romsey have good connections by rail to Salisbury. There are bus stations in Andover and Romsey, which provide the focus for bus services within the Borough. Public transport provision within the rural areas is limited and infrequent, with some reliance upon demand responsive services and community transport.
- 15.5 Data is available on the use of train stations that are situated wholly within the Borough, based on those travelling to or from the stations. This is provided in Figure 21. As can be seen, Andover station gets the greatest usage, with all stations indicating a general trend for a gradual increase in use over the period shown. The greatest proportional change in usage over the period was seen at Mottisfont and Dunbridge station.

Figure 21: Estimated Rail Station Use based on those travelling to or from stations¹⁸²



- 15.6 There is approximately 2,800 miles of Public Rights of Way in Hampshire.¹⁸³ The total for Test Valley is approximately 460 miles. The Borough is crossed by a variety of footpaths and bridleways, including long distance routes such as the Test Way and Clarendon Way. There are also a number of additional footpaths and cycleways across the Borough, with future improvements to these routes identified through the Council's Access Plans and Cycle Strategy

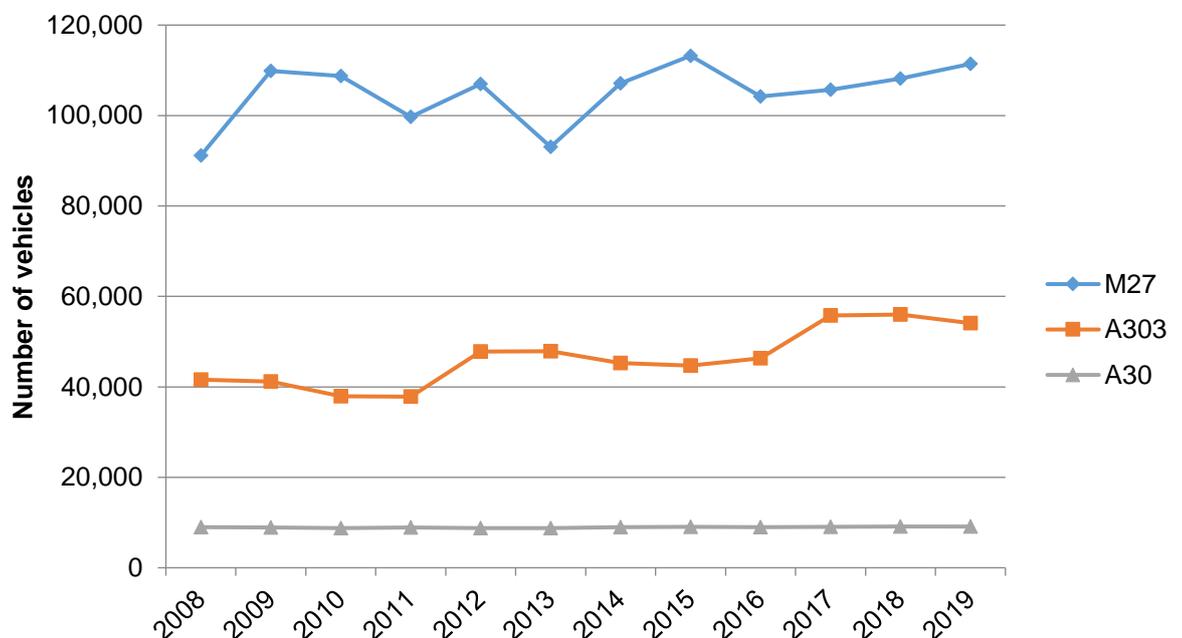
¹⁸² Estimates of station usage, Office of Rail and Road, 2020 (available: <https://dataportal.orr.gov.uk/statistics/usage/estimates-of-station-usage>).

¹⁸³ Hampshire Countryside Access Plan 2015-2025, Hampshire County Council, 2015 (available: <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/countryside/HampshireCountrysideAccessPlan2015-2025.pdf>).

and Network Supplementary Planning Documents. National Cycle Route 24 (from Eastleigh to Bath) runs through the south of the Borough, with route 246 running from Timsbury through Andover and into Berkshire.¹⁸⁴ The availability of such routes supports access to nature and the countryside, as well as health and wellbeing of the population.

- 15.7 Test Valley is dissected by a number of main roads, including the M27 to the south of the Borough; A303 to the south of Andover; the A30 passing through Stockbridge, and the A3057 from the south of the Borough towards Andover.
- 15.8 The Department for Transport undertakes monitoring on traffic flows on certain key routes¹⁸⁵; this is measured based on the annual average daily flows (AADF). Figure 22 displays the trends in such traffic flows for the M27 (between junctions 2 and 3), the A303 (between junctions with A3093 and A3057) and the A30 (where it meets the A3057 to the east of Stockbridge). Some of the figures used are based on actual counts, whilst others are estimates.
- 15.9 None of these roads show a consistent trend in traffic flow levels. Broadly speaking, traffic flows on the A30 have been more consistent over time. The A303 has seen a series of stepped increases, with slight reductions between the steps. This is mainly influenced by cars and taxis, which are the largest component of the number of vehicles. Traffic flows on the M27 have included peaks and troughs, with a gradual increase in the most recent years.

Figure 22: Annual Average Daily Flows for All Motor Vehicles¹⁸⁶



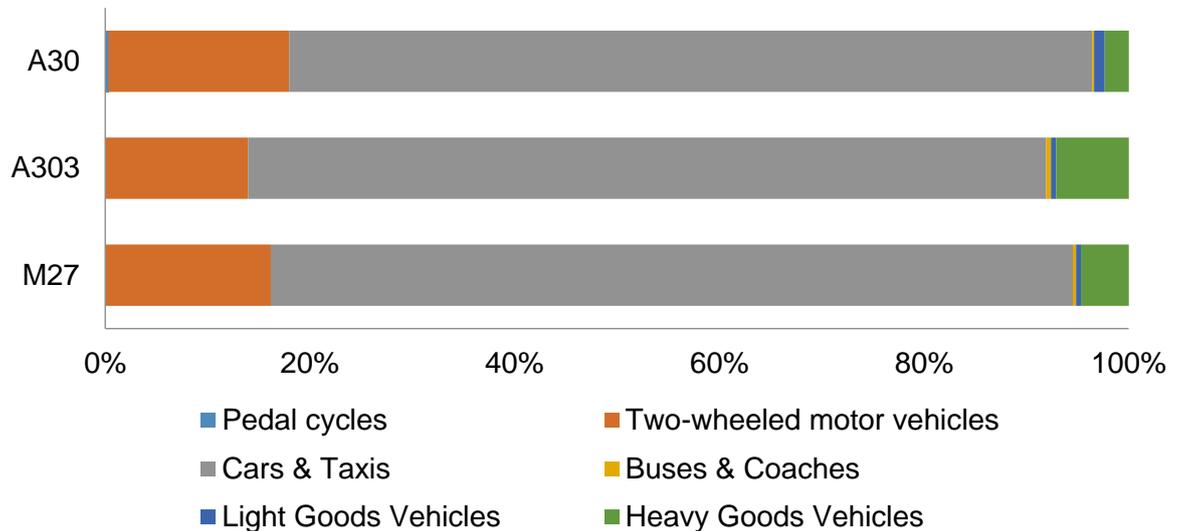
¹⁸⁴ For more information see: <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map/national-cycle-network>

¹⁸⁵ Available: <https://roadtraffic.dft.gov.uk/>

¹⁸⁶ Road Traffic Statistics, Department for Transport

15.10 In terms of the composition of traffic making up the above flows, Figure 23 provides a comparison for data from 2019. As indicated above, the actual numbers of vehicles on these routes varies quite substantially, however in all cases most of the flow is from cars and taxis, with the A303 having the higher proportion of heavy goods vehicles (HGVs).

Figure 23: Motor vehicle types making up traffic flows for 2019¹⁸⁷



15.11 Car ownership within the Borough has been increasing over time, with the average number of cars / vans per household in the last three Censuses rising from 1.27 in 1991, to 1.45 in 2001 and 1.52 in 2011. The latest figure is higher than the regional and national position (at 1.35 and 1.16 cars / vans per household respectively).

15.12 The percentage of households without a car has also fallen over this period, from 18.4% in 1991, to 14.5% in 2001, to 13.5% in 2011. In comparison, nationally for the 2011 Census, the position was 25.8% of households not having a car / van. This may in part be reflective of the relatively rural nature of the Borough.

15.13 However, it should be noted that there is variation in car ownership across the Borough, for example, in the Alamein Ward (north east Andover and villages to the north east of the town) approximately 27% of households did not have access to a car / van, with an average ownership of 1.11 cars / vans per household. There are also variations by community, with 20.3% of those identifying themselves as Gypsy or Irish Traveller not having a car / van in the household.

15.14 Data is also available from the 2011 Census on the method of travel to work (based on all usual residents aged 16 to 74). This is summarised in Table 28. This indicates that a greater proportion of residents work from home than for England, whilst a lower proportion travel by train and bus. This may be linked

¹⁸⁷ Traffic Counts, Department for Transport. Note: M27 and A303 based on manual count, A30 is estimates.

to the availability of services. A higher proportion of people in Test Valley travel to work by car, in particularly as a driver of a car. There is a similar proportion that walk or cycle to work as for the South East and England. For information, at a national level¹⁸⁸ it is noted that there are higher rates of home workers found in rural areas, in comparison to urban areas, in particular those living in rural hamlets and dispersed areas. To some extent this reflects the greater proportion of people working in agriculture, forestry and fishing industries in rural areas.

- 15.15 More recently, there has been a move towards much higher rates of home working across the country as a result of measures intended to reduce the spread of COVID-19. It was indicated that in April 2020, 46.6% of people in employment in the UK did some work from home, and of these 86% did so as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁸⁹ It has been indicated that there may be longer term increases in home working as systems to enable this are have been put in place and people adapt to this approach to working.

Table 28: Proportion of Usual Resident Population (aged 16 to 74, in employment) Travelling to Work by Specified Method (2011 Census)

| | Test Valley | South East | England |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|------------|---------|
| Work Mainly at or From Home | 6.8% | 6.6% | 5.4% |
| Underground, Metro, Light Rail, Tram | 0.1% | 0.4% | 4.1% |
| Train | 3.3% | 7.3% | 5.3% |
| Bus, Minibus or Coach | 2.3% | 4.5% | 7.5% |
| Taxi | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.5% |
| Motorcycle, Scooter or Moped | 0.8% | 0.9% | 0.8% |
| Driving a Car or Van | 67.2% | 60.8% | 57.0% |
| Passenger in a Car or Van | 5.2% | 4.7% | 5.0% |
| Bicycle | 2.9% | 3.0% | 3.0% |
| On Foot | 10.3% | 10.9% | 10.7% |
| Other Method of Travel to Work | 0.7% | 0.7% | 0.6% |

- 15.16 The Census also provides details on where people travel to for work purposes; this has been collated by Hampshire County Council for local authorities within Hampshire.¹⁹⁰ Figures 24 and 25 provide summary maps indicating the in-commuting and out-commuting patterns to and from Test Valley. Based on the 2011 Census, the top five destinations for out-commuting from Test Valley were Southampton, Winchester, Eastleigh, Wiltshire and Basingstoke and Deane. Using the same data source, the top five origin locations for in-commuters were Wiltshire, Southampton, the New Forest, Eastleigh and Winchester.

¹⁸⁸ Rural home working statistics, DEFRA, 2019 (available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/rural-home-working>).

¹⁸⁹ Coronavirus and homeworking in the UK: April 2020, ONS, 2020 (available: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/bulletins/coronavirusandhomeworkingintheuk/april2020#homeworking-by-region>).

¹⁹⁰ Available: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/business/ebis/reports>

Figure 24: Commuter Flows – Out-commuting from Test Valley based on 2011 Census (collated by Hampshire County Council)¹⁹¹

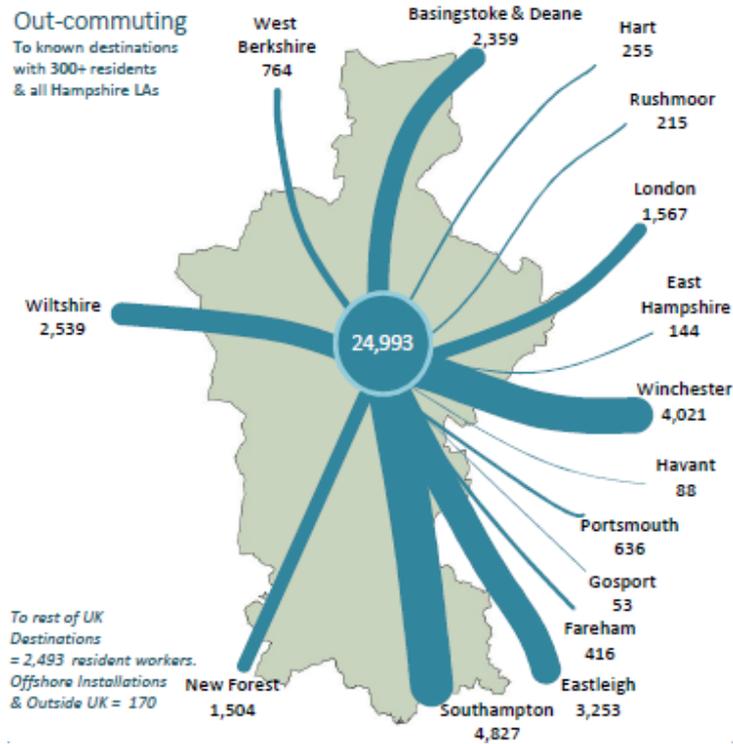
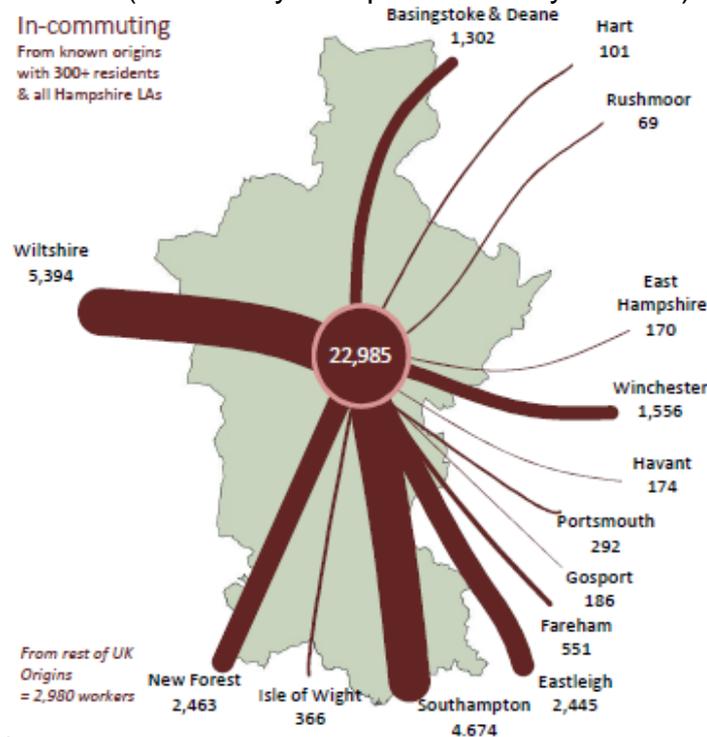


Figure 25: Commuter Flows – In-commuting from Test Valley based on 2011 Census (collated by Hampshire County Council)¹⁹²



¹⁹¹ Test Valley 2011 Commuter Flows, Hampshire County Council (available: <http://documents.hants.gov.uk/Economy/TestValleyCommuterFlows.pdf>)

¹⁹² Test Valley 2011 Commuter Flows, Hampshire County Council (available: <http://documents.hants.gov.uk/Economy/TestValleyCommuterFlows.pdf>)

- 15.17 The level of self-containment for Andover is higher than that of the southern parts of the Borough¹⁹³, this may reflect proximity and access to main towns and cities within the vicinity.¹⁹⁴ Looking specifically at the nationally identified travel to work area for Andover¹⁹⁵ (based on the 2011 Census outputs), approximately 67% of employed residents worked locally, while around 70% of local jobs were taken by local residents. The southern parts of the Borough fall within the Southampton travel to work area¹⁹⁶, for which just over 83% of employed residents work locally and just over 82% of local jobs are filled by local residents. The latter area includes a much higher working population than the former, at over 332,000 relative to around 42,000.
- 15.18 Information is also available from the 2011 Census on distance travelled to work, this has been collated by Hampshire County Council.¹⁹⁷ It indicates that of those travelling to work (excluding those whom mainly work from home and those with no fixed place of work), just over 40% travel less than 5km, while around 4% travel 60km or more.
- 15.19 Key facilities within the Borough tend to be focused around Andover and Romsey, with fewer facilities available in the more rural areas. There are primary schools in many of the settlements within the Borough, with secondary schools located in Andover, Romsey and Stockbridge. The only college within the Borough is in Andover. Doctor surgeries are also located in Andover, Stockbridge, Romsey, North Baddesley and Valley Park. There are hospitals in Andover and Romsey, although the nearest A&E facilities are all outside of Test Valley.
- 15.20 Parts of the Borough also look to facilities and services outside the Borough, for example in Southampton, Eastleigh, Chandler's Ford, Winchester and Salisbury. In the future, it is unlikely that this distribution of facilities will change significantly, with rural areas continuing to have reduced access to facilities and services.
- 15.21 The 2019 English Indices of Deprivation provide a mechanism for comparing a variety of factors across the country. This includes the 'index of barriers', part of which relates to 'geographical barriers' on physical proximity of local services. The performance of Test Valley on this indicator is highly variable, with the more rural parts of the Borough generally performing less well, and with the best performing parts of the Borough being found within Romsey. For the assessment of Lower Super Output Area (LSOA)¹⁹⁸, in terms of the 'geographical barriers', 39 of the 71 LSOAs within the Borough fall within the 20% most deprived in England for this sub-domain.

¹⁹³ Test Valley Economic Assessment, PBA, 2016.

¹⁹⁴ Please note the way this data and data provided by Hampshire County Council has been collated may result in the figures not being directly comparable.

¹⁹⁵ Covers approximately the northern half of the Borough, including Andover and Stockbridge.

¹⁹⁶ Also includes Southampton, Eastleigh Borough, part of Fareham Borough and large parts of the New Forest and Winchester districts.

¹⁹⁷ Available: <http://documents.hants.gov.uk/Economy/TestValleyWorkdayPopulationFactsheet.pdf>

¹⁹⁸ Represent census based population areas of between 1,000 and 3,000 residents.

- 15.22 It is challenging to project future traffic flows and travel patterns as there are a number of factors that will influence trends, including additional development across the area (residential and economic, and their relative proximity), and changes in national policy for transport including linked to climate change mitigation and air quality. A number of projects are underway in the vicinity that may also have implications, such as parts of the M27 becoming a smart motorway, and proposals¹⁹⁹ to increase cycle routes within and towards Southampton (including from Test Valley). Recent lockdown measures associated with the COVID-19 pandemic saw significant changes in travel and the extent to which people were working from home.
- 15.23 Changes in the way we work and access services could also have longer term implications, including the amount and way we travel, as well as the types of vehicles undertaking journeys. This includes changes in the extent people work from home (potentially reducing commuting) and use online shopping (with implications for logistics / distribution of goods).
- 15.24 There are changes already occurring in terms of the fuels used by vehicles, including a move towards greater uptake of hybrid and electric vehicles. The Government has announced plans to end the sale of all new petrol and diesel cars and vans in 2035. As at the end of quarter 2 of 2020, there were 694 plug-in cars and light goods vehicles licensed in Test Valley (with the comparable figure for 2019 being 530 vehicles).²⁰⁰ In terms of ultra low emission vehicles²⁰¹ (which may overlap with the plug in vehicles total), as at the end of quarter 2 of 2020, there were 714 licensed vehicles in Test Valley (with the comparable figure for 2019 being 547 vehicles).²⁰²
- 15.25 Appropriate infrastructure needs to be in place to support the transition in fuel types for vehicles. As at October 2019, there were 20 publicly available electric vehicle charging devices in Test Valley, of which 9 were rapid charging devices. This equates to 16 charging devices per 100,000 population in Test Valley, in comparison the figure for England was 22.²⁰³ It is noted that since this data was collated, additional charging points have been installed in public car parks in Romsey and Andover.
- 15.26 Additional traffic flows have the potential to increase the risk of congestion (particularly at pinch points / junctions). This in turn can have knock on effects, for example on air quality (also see section 5) and noise pollution levels. Increased opportunities to utilise sustainable modes of travel could help to ameliorate such effects.

¹⁹⁹ More information at: <https://transport.southampton.gov.uk/>

²⁰⁰ Table VEH0131, DfT, 2020 (available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/all-vehicles-veh01#ultra-low-emissions-vehicles-ulevs>).

²⁰¹ Taken as being vehicles that are reported to emit less than 75g of carbon dioxide from the tailpipe for every kilometre travelled; it includes battery electric vehicles and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles.

²⁰² Table VEH0132a, DfT, 2020 (available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/all-vehicles-veh01#ultra-low-emissions-vehicles-ulevs>).

²⁰³ Electric vehicle charging device statistics, Department for Transport, 2019 (available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/electric-vehicle-charging-device-statistics-october-2019>)

- 15.27 Noise can arise from transport (including road, rail and air) as well as other sources, which in turn can have implications for health and wellbeing, biodiversity and tranquillity (latter referred to in section 13). There are legal provisions in relation to certain types of noise nuisance²⁰⁴, however this does not cover all sources of noise²⁰⁵. There are some ways of mitigating issues associated with noise, for example considering the relative location of noise source and receptors and design solutions to minimise adverse effects when they cannot be avoided.
- 15.28 It will be important to take account of accessibility (including the relationship between homes, jobs and other key facilities and services), opportunities to link to and maximise the use of sustainable modes of travel, and opportunities to enhance digital infrastructure to support home or remote working where practical. This is likely to need to recognise that opportunities may vary between more urban and rural areas.
- 15.29 In summary, there is variability in the accessibility of facilities and services across the Borough, with access generally reduced in the more rural parts of the Borough. There is higher car ownership within the Borough, with most journeys to work via this mode. It is anticipated that many rural communities may potentially be dependent on private vehicles to access key services / facilities. Reflecting the above, additional in-commuting to support jobs within the Borough may also affect traffic flows.

²⁰⁴ For more information, see:

<https://testvalley.gov.uk/housingandenvironmentalhealth/environmentalprotection/noisenuisance>

²⁰⁵ For example, transport related noise is generally not covered by these legal provisions.

16 Water Resources and Water Quality

- 16.1 The water environment has an important role within the Borough, with links to biodiversity and the local economy (e.g. through fishing²⁰⁶, tourism and agriculture). There are a number of plans, policies and programmes on the water environment, therefore only the key documents have been referred to below.

Table 29: Summary of Key Documents

| Key Messages | Source of Key Messages | Implications |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure water abstraction takes account of the needs of the environment (including biodiversity), as well as the demands of people, and how both may change in the future • Obligations through the Water Framework Directive set out certain quality standards for water bodies, including groundwater • Need to follow the flood risk hierarchy and associated tests (i.e. avoid risk first) | <p>NPPF; A Green Future; Meeting our Future Water Needs; River Basin Management Plan; Water Resource Management Plans; Marine Plan; Abstraction Licensing Strategy; Catchment Action Plan; Flood Risk Management Plans and Strategies; Flood Risk Assessments; SuDS Manual.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek opportunities to promote water efficiency • Think about implications of development on availability and quality of water, including ensuring infrastructure capacity is available • Account for national guidance on flood risk (including allowances for how this may change in the future) • Promote opportunities for appropriate sustainable drainage systems, in relation to managing flood risk and water quality |

Water Resources and Quality

- 16.2 The River Test, which is a chalk fed river, dominates the geography of the Borough (along with its tributaries, including the Anton, Dever, Dun and Wallop Brook) and is the key river system within the Borough. Its source is located outside of the Borough at Overton and it discharges into Southampton Water. The river system also includes winterbournes when groundwater levels are high (i.e. streams / watercourses that are not always present). Along with the River Test, the River Itchen (to the east of the Borough) form important catchments within the area, with the rivers tending to be considered together through Environment Agency publications. A small part of Test Valley falls

²⁰⁶ It is understood that the River Test has a worldwide reputation in relation to fishing interests.

within the River Avon catchment, including the area around Shipton Bellinger in the west of the Borough.

- 16.3 A significant proportion of the Borough is underlain by chalk, which is a principal aquifer. There are a large number of public and private²⁰⁷ water supplies drawing from this aquifer, while the groundwater also provides the base flow to the River Test. Therefore, the protection of groundwater, including through pollution prevention and enabling appropriate groundwater recharge (avoiding over-abstraction), is essential. The Environment Agency has designated groundwater source protection zones, including a number within Test Valley. In these areas it is particularly important to avoid risks of pollution.²⁰⁸
- 16.4 Monitoring of water quality is primarily considered through assessing compliance with the Water Framework Directive (WFD), which includes chemical and biological considerations²⁰⁹. The latest information on the classification of water bodies is available from 2016 which shows a mix in the quality of water bodies, which includes some water bodies that are classified as 'poor' status.²¹⁰
- 16.5 The River Basin Management Plan provides a framework for how to try and achieve the Directive's objectives of 'no deterioration' and progressing towards 'good' status. With this in mind, the water quality of the Borough should generally improve or at least be maintained in the future. This will depend on a range of stakeholders delivering on the identified action points and risks to delivering the actions (including resources available to deliver them). For example, diffuse sources of pollutants can be challenging to deal with and take a long time between actions being taken and changes in water quality (e.g. through reducing nutrients entering the system from application of fertilisers on land). As noted in the biodiversity theme, nutrient enrichment can also have implications on ecology.
- 16.6 There are current challenges in relation to nutrient enrichment, which generally relate to phosphates in rivers and nitrogen in coastal waters. This includes implications on designated nature conservation sites within and beyond the Borough, including in the catchments of the Avon, Itchen and Test as well as the Solent coast. There are a range of sources of the nutrients that are contributing to this issue. Natural England has advised that development in the relevant catchments should be nutrient neutral (in relation to the relevant nutrient that is the limiting factor for that catchment) in light of legal obligations for specific nature conservation designations.

²⁰⁷ There are several private (non-mains) water supplies in the Borough that serve hundreds of properties between them.

²⁰⁸ Are available to view via Magic Maps at: <http://www.magic.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>

²⁰⁹ There are also separate provisions in relation to certain nature conservation designations, such as internationally and nationally designated sites, where water quality may be relevant in assessment against the conservation objectives or condition status of SSSIs respectfully (through the Habitat Regulations and Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981).

²¹⁰ Based on data available from the Environment Agency's catchment explorer: <https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/>

- 16.7 The main urban areas of the Borough, and some of the more rural areas of Test Valley, are served by waste water treatment works. However, there are large areas of the Borough for which there are no mains sewers. Some of Test Valley is served by waste water treatment works that are located outside the Borough, including those that go to ground.
- 16.8 Possible risks to water quality, including through pollution and contamination (direct and indirect), will need to be taken into account. Not doing so could also have knock on effects on public health, biodiversity and the economy. It will be important to ensure that appropriate and adequate infrastructure is in place to support additional development, including the management of sewage and waste water.
- 16.9 The amount of water available for additional abstraction within the catchments of the Rivers Test and Itchen is documented through abstraction licensing strategies. The most recent abstraction licensing strategy²¹¹ indicated that at low flows there would be either restricted water available for licensing or that water would not be available for licensing for the majority of the catchment. In relation to the River Anton and Pilhill catchments, it is noted that there may be a need for licence changes. This arises when accounting for the major public water abstraction for Andover with the waste water discharge that exports water from the catchment at Fullerton. There were changes to abstraction licenses in 2019 at the lower River Test to aid in protecting the flow.
- 16.10 The availability of water resources is taken into account through Water Resource Management Plans prepared by water companies. These long term plans set out how water supplies will be managed. For parts of the Borough, sufficient water resources are already available accounting for changes in population, water demand and availability of water supplies in the future. However, additional provisions will need to be planned for in water supply areas serving part of the Borough (within Southern Water's western area). This has mainly arisen as a result of a review for the needs of the environment, in terms of the flow levels, including on the Rivers Itchen and Test.
- 16.11 Southern Water's Water Resource Management Plan (WRMP)²¹² includes proposals for how sufficient water resources will be made available in this area, however uncertainties remain on this point as further work is being done to explore the options available. Therefore the future availability of water resources is an issue, potentially with a reliance on drought interventions in some southern parts of the Borough in the short to medium term.

Water Consumption

- 16.12 Southern Water's Water Resource Management Plan indicates that since privatisation, a number of factors have resulted in a general trend towards a

²¹¹ Test and Itchen Abstraction Licensing Strategy, Environment Agency, 2019 (available: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/793438/Test_and_Itchen_Abstraction_Licence_Strategy.pdf).

²¹² Available: <https://www.southernwater.co.uk/our-story/water-resources-planning/water-resources-management-plan-2020-70>

reducing supply of water being required (at the same time as the population being served has increased).²¹³

- 16.13 For 2019/20, the average daily water use in litres per person was 142 for England and Wales – the averages vary between those that are metered (129 litres / person / day) and unmetered (171 litres / person / day). Figures reported for Southern Water, which serves most of the Borough (along with other parts of the south east of England), indicate an average water consumption of 127 litres per person per day. Southern Water customers who are metered on average used around 118 litres per person, per day, whilst unmetered customers used an average of around 183 litres per person, per day.²¹⁴ Data for water consumption in Test Valley is not available.
- 16.14 It is difficult to forecast the future implications within the Borough of water consumption as there are drivers that are likely to decrease water consumption (e.g. use of more water efficient appliances, changes in commercial demands and other means of promoting greater water efficiency²¹⁵), whilst there may be others that increase demand (e.g. as a result of changing climate patterns and a rising population). The availability of water can have knock on effects, including biodiversity, health and potentially the local economy. The more efficient use of water can also have other implications, such as consequential carbon savings. It will remain important to continue to promote the efficient use of water resources.

Flood Risk

- 16.15 There are a variety of sources of flood risk that could affect Test Valley, with the main risks being from groundwater and river (fluvial) flooding. While the Borough does not have a coastline, a small area to the south of the Borough is vulnerable to tidal flood risk. Surface run-off can also be an issue, including in the more urban areas of the Borough. Each of the different types of flood risk would have different impacts, should they occur, in terms of both spatial distribution and duration. The most recent significant flooding incidents in the Borough occurred in 2014, with flooding in Romsey and a number of the rural communities across the Borough. This had social and economic implications, including as a result of flooding of residential and commercial properties (up to 96 properties affected in Romsey²¹⁶), and some blocking of roads.
- 16.16 A map is provided in Appendix 3 indicating the extent of current flood risk zones 2 and 3 (equated to areas of moderate and high probability of flooding) that are mapped in relation to risk of flooding from rivers and the sea. This does not illustrate the extent of flood risk associated with other types of flooding that may be experienced within the Borough, nor do they account for implications of a changing climate. This is a current data gap that could be

²¹³ See Figure 5.1 of the Technical Overview.

²¹⁴ Data available from Discover Water at <http://discoverwater.co.uk/amount-we-use> .

²¹⁵ This includes Southern Water's 'Target 100' scheme (more information at: <https://www.southernwater.co.uk/water-for-life/target-100>)

²¹⁶ See Section 19 Report on Flooding Incident Investigation Romsey, CH2MHILL, 2014 (available at: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/flooding/reportingflooding>)

considered through the preparation of a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. An interactive map is available from Hampshire County Council's website²¹⁷ that shows areas at risk of surface water flooding. Mapping is also available from the Environment Agency on areas where flood alerts apply, which includes a number of areas within the Borough.

- 16.17 The Flood Risk Management Plan for the South East includes information for the catchments of the Rivers Test and Itchen. This indicates that across this whole catchment (includes areas outside Test Valley), approximately 3,950 people live in areas at high risk of flooding from rivers or the sea, with an additional 8,300 people in areas of medium risk (out of approximately 578,450 people living in the catchment as a whole).²¹⁸ There are also around 850 non-residential properties in areas of high risk from flooding from rivers or the sea. A series of measures are identified to seek to prevent and prepare for risk, as well as protect from risk. This includes proposals for the Romsey area in the form of a fluvial flood alleviation scheme, which is in the process of being put in place.²¹⁹
- 16.18 Future changes in climate will influence the areas at risk of flooding (from differing sources). Also, the frequency and magnitude of flood events could change, for example as a result of changes in rainfall patterns (including total amount, seasonality and intensity). This is referred to in the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (see Appendix 2), which indicates that the impacts of flooding and coastal change are already significant and expected to increase.
- 16.19 The North Solent Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) considers risk of tidal flooding and coastal erosion; it goes on to provide strategic policy approaches to manage these issues. This document covers a small area of Test Valley, within its unit 5c13 (Lower Test Valley), which identifies an approach of no active intervention.²²⁰ It highlights that in the future there is likely to be a wider area at risk of tidal flooding, although in relation to Test Valley this may not result in a substantial number of additional buildings at risk.²²¹
- 16.20 It will be important to ensure that vulnerability to flood risk, both now and how this may change in the future, are taken into account. This includes avoiding inappropriate development in areas of risk.

²¹⁷ Available:

<https://hantscc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=dbb9ad010dcf47d794be5eed84045038>

²¹⁸ South East River Basin District: Flood Risk Management Plan 2015-2021, Environment Agency, 2016 (available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/south-east-river-basin-district-flood-risk-management-plan>).

²¹⁹ More information available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/romsey-flood-alleviation-scheme/romsey-flood-alleviation-scheme>

²²⁰ North Solent Shoreline Management Plan, New Forest District Council, 2010 (available: <http://www.northsolentsmp.co.uk/>).

²²¹ The North Solent Shoreline Management Plan suggests there would be no additional buildings with address points attached at risk of tidal flooding.

- 16.21 The use of sustainable drainage systems is advocated as a way to try and manage flood risk, whilst also potentially having opportunities to maintain and improve water quality and biodiversity. Such systems need to be tailored to the specific area and circumstance, for example, accounting for geology, soil types and topography.

17 Likely Changes in the Future

17.1 As part of considering the baseline position there is a need to consider the likely evolution of the environment without the implementation of the emerging plans / programmes that will be subject to an assessment. This falls within the remit of Task A2 and can also help inform the identification of sustainability issues.

17.2 Sections 5 to 16 have given consideration to future trends (in the absence of new plans); therefore this section seeks to collate some of the key points, drawing from information that has been provided under the various themes. A summary is provided below, this does not cover all matters that have been discussed:

- The population of the Borough will continue to increase, with a national dataset projecting the population to be just under 141,400 in 2041 (about a 11% increase from the 2020 population) – this growth will not be evenly distributed across the Borough, with some communities potentially seeing a decrease in population.
- There will also be changes in the demographics of the population, including trends towards reductions in average household size (i.e. number of persons per household) and an ageing population – by 2041 it is projected that around 28% of the population of the Borough would be aged 65+ (relative to 18% in 2011). These changes may have knock on effects, including on the local economy, needs for health infrastructure, and on local services.
- The current Local Plan indicates that there would be at least 10,584 additional dwellings provided across the Borough between 2011 and 2029, the scale of growth is being reviewed so this may alter.
- In the absence of additional provisions, there is the potential for unauthorised development and encampments associated with Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople communities.
- The number of people employed within the Borough was forecast to increase by about 11% between 2015 and 2035 (over 6,000 more people employed); however this may be subject to change.
- Through the Water Framework Directive obligations, water quality should be improved or at least not deteriorate – this is dependent on necessary actions being delivered and any changes to legislation in light of withdrawal from the European Union.
- Aspects of the environment that receive statutory protection should be conserved, through the legal controls / protections.
- Additional development is anticipated to result in the increased use of resources, the extent to which this is moderated by any improved efficiencies in existing and new development is not certain.
- Changes to the climate are anticipated, with a general trend towards warmer and wetter winters, warmer and drier summers, and a greater risk of extreme weather events. This is likely to have knock on effects, for example on biodiversity and areas vulnerable to flood risk.

- 17.3 It is not always straight forward to establish likely changes in the future, particularly where there are a number of factors that may pull in different directions or there can be step changes (e.g. associated with economic cycles). Equally, a number of the forecasts / projections that are available include assumptions that may change. This could include potential changes to legislation that may have implications for the future state of the environment (positive or negative) and implications of the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g. on the economy).
- 17.4 As well as considering changes to the environment in the future, it is also appropriate to recognise that as plans / programmes become older and perhaps more disconnected from other strategies there may be implications on the certainty of direction being provided by plans and the degree of co-ordination on related themes.

18 Identifying Sustainability Issues

- 18.1 This section represents Task A3 of the scoping process, namely the identification of sustainability issues and problems. The identification of issues provides a guide for future plans to consider and supports the development of sustainability objectives.
- 18.2 Previous sections of this report have identified some of the sustainability issues / problems by theme – this section aims to draw together this information. Throughout the report there has been reference to the likely significant implications on a range of themes as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic – these have not been repeated at this stage but should be taken into account.
- 18.3 Table 30 sets out the issues that have been identified, the relevant SEA topic(s) and considers the potential ways that future plans could address them. The table has been grouped using the themes of sections 5 to 16 of this report.
- 18.4 It should be noted that specific plans or strategies may not be able to address all the issues identified; however, it would be important to have regard to such issues even if a solution is not available. Ongoing consultation and engagement (not just linked to planning processes) may provide another route to further consider the sustainability issues (especially relating to localised / community specific matters) and in order to identify / consider alternative ways of addressing them.

Table 30: Summary of Sustainability Issues

| Sustainability Issue / Problem | How plans could address this? | SEA Topic(s) |
|--|---|--|
| Air Quality | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> While air quality within the Borough is generally good, there are areas nearby that are failing to achieve air quality objectives Potential increases in traffic / congestion could affect air quality within and outside of the Borough. This could have knock on effects on biodiversity and human health. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take account of risks to air quality from point and diffuse sources (in particular in relation to sensitive receptors), including through seeking to reduce air pollution from traffic (by promoting opportunities for sustainable travel, including through where development is located, and seeking to reduce congestion) | Air Biodiversity Flora Human Health |
| Biodiversity and Geodiversity | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct and indirect risks to biodiversity (as well as flora and fauna), including through cumulative impacts (e.g. as already identified for recreational pressures on the New Forest SPA and Solent SPAs, and nutrient inputs for the River Avon SAC and Solent SPAs and SACs) Some biodiversity assets (including SSSIs) are in unfavourable condition There is a need to consider the connectivity of habitats and issues relating to fragmentation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek to conserve and where possible enhance / restore biodiversity (including protected habitats and species) Take account of the Hampshire ecological network and the connectivity of habitats (avoiding fragmentation) Work towards biodiversity net gain | Biodiversity Fauna Flora |
| Climate Change | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The climate is forecast to change with a move towards warmer, wetter winters, and warmer, drier summers; along with changes in the frequency of extreme weather events (e.g. heatwaves and storms) and changes in sea levels. Changing climate may have implications on the natural and built environment, as well as other factors including human health. There is a need | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to national targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, which will require significant reductions in emissions, for example through the design and operation of new development (including energy use), the way energy is produced (e.g. renewable and low carbon sources) and consideration of the way people are likely to travel | Air Climatic Factors Human Health Water |

| Sustainability Issue / Problem | How plans could address this? | SEA Topic(s) |
|---|---|--|
| <p>to consider both mitigation and adaptation options.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Per person carbon dioxide emissions in the Borough are higher than regional and national averages, with transport being a key source of emissions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek opportunities to ensure communities (new and existing) and the environment are able to adapt to a changing climate and increase resilience to risks associated with change (including from rising temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, potential increases in occurrences / severity of extreme weather events) | |
| Communities and Wellbeing | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are pockets of deprivation within the Borough, particularly in parts of Andover Potential for increased pressure on existing leisure, recreation and cultural facilities – should they not be adequately available and accessible, this may have health and wellbeing effects Whilst health in the Borough is generally good, there may be issues around years of ill health, changing health and care needs with an ageing population and lifestyle choices (e.g. levels of obesity) – there are also variations in health (including by area and different communities for example) Some areas within Andover are within the 20% most deprived in relation to crime There is a need to promote peaceful and integrated co-existence between communities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure new development accounts for opportunities to enable healthy lifestyle choices, e.g. through health infrastructure availability, walking and cycling routes, and provision of green spaces / recreation areas Support the retention and enhancement of existing facilities and services where practical to do so In conjunction with additional development, seek opportunities to enhance the availability and accessibility of leisure and cultural facilities, including green infrastructure and access to the natural environment Consider opportunities to reduce deprivation levels, such as through the availability of appropriate employment opportunities, education and skills infrastructure and appropriate community facilities / services Ensure new development is located, planned and designed to reduce the risk of crime and fear of crime, as well as to reduce the risk of social | <p>Human Health Material Assets Population</p> |

| Sustainability Issue / Problem | How plans could address this? | SEA Topic(s) |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| | exclusion. This could include through appropriate master planning of developments. | |
| Economy and Employment | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trend towards an ageing population may influence the available work force, which may result in a need for people to work until an older age and / or result in additional in-commuting • Those living in the Borough earn more (on average) than those working in the Borough • Recognising the role of the rural economy • Variability in the education / skills levels in the Borough, with higher proportions of the population with no qualifications in parts of Andover – there is a legacy of lower skilled employment in the town • Changes in retailing and how we use town centres • Additional development could increase demand for use of resources and generation of waste (including through construction and operation phases), which could also put pressure on the environment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support a mix of employment opportunities within the Borough, including the retention of existing employment sites (where appropriate) • Seek to ensure there is an appropriate balance between job creation within the Borough and housing for the work force • Ensure appropriate infrastructure (including broadband) is in place to support the local economy and economic growth, including opportunities to support the availability of an appropriately skilled workforce (through access to education and training facilities) • Consider ways of maintaining the vitality and viability of town centres, whilst accounting for changing retail trends • Seek opportunities to promote the more efficient use of resources (including materials) | Material Assets |
| Historic Environment | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are data gaps including the absence of a comprehensive list of locally important (including locally listed) buildings, the absence of a local list of buildings at risk and not all designated conservation areas having character appraisals; the absence of such information has the potential to increase the risk that heritage assets could be harmed through inappropriate development. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek to ensure up to date evidence is available to inform consideration of potential effects on heritage assets • Ensure new development (and in particular strategic scale development) and other changes conserves and where possible enhances heritage assets (including their setting). | Cultural Heritage Material Assets |

| Sustainability Issue / Problem | How plans could address this? | SEA Topic(s) |
|--|--|-------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some designated heritage assets within the Borough are noted to be at risk (primarily relating to archaeology) Additional development or other changes, if not planned sensitively, could risk adverse effects on heritage assets, particularly in relation to designated assets and their setting. In this context, strategic scale development has the potential to affect the historic environment to a higher order of magnitude. | | |
| Homes and Accommodation | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implications of changes in population and demographics in terms of the type of accommodation needed Issues of affordability of housing, including the ratio of house prices to wages Ensuring accommodation needs of different groups within the community are appropriately met | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to plan for an appropriate quantity and mix of homes based on the needs of the population, including planning for the needs of an ageing population, changing household sizes and those whose needs are not met by traditional housing stock (e.g. ensuring sufficient provision for gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople), also need to account for different ways of providing housing (e.g. self-build) Seek to encourage new housing to be adaptable for meeting changing needs of occupants Seek to deliver additional affordable homes to meet needs | Material Assets Population |
| Land and Soil | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing pressure on land resources from additional development, with limited opportunities to use previously developed land Additional greenfield development could include higher grade (best and most versatile) agricultural land | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where available and appropriate in other regards, seek to use previously developed land and promote the more efficient use of resources, including land Where possible, avoid the loss or sterilisation of best and most versatile agricultural land | Soil |

| Sustainability Issue / Problem | How plans could address this? | SEA Topic(s) |
|--|--|---|
| Landscape, Townscape and Character | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional development and other changes, if not planned sensitively, could risk adverse effects on the landscape, townscapes, settlement character and identity. There is a need to manage changes, particularly in relation to designated assets and their setting. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure new development conserves and where possible enhances the landscape, townscapes, settlement character and identity | Cultural Heritage Landscape Material Assets |
| Population and Demographics | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projected increases in the population size along with reductions in household size may result in a need for proportionately more homes to house the increasing population Potential for reduction in population size in some communities along with changes to local demographics, which may have implications on local services, including in rural communities Trends towards an ageing population may affect the type of accommodation needed, as well as implications for the availability of services and their accessibility | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure demographic changes are taken into account when planning for future housing requirements Review mechanism / opportunities to support the sustainability of communities and viability of local services – including whether additional residential development would be a means of supporting long term sustainability of communities | Population |
| Travel and Transport | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Variability in access to services / facilities across the Borough (generally lower in rural areas), with some areas more dependent on private vehicles for travel Higher proportion of people travelling to work by car in Test Valley Additional traffic flows / congestion can have adverse impacts on a range of factors, including productivity and noise & air quality (the latter potentially affecting health and biodiversity) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the accessibility to facilities and services when planning for future development, along with the availability of non-car modes of travel Support the retention of existing facilities and services where practical | Air Flora Human Health Material Assets Population |

| Sustainability Issue / Problem | How plans could address this? | SEA Topic(s) |
|--|--|---|
| Water Resources and Water Quality | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In relation to water quality (including of groundwater), ensure that development (including construction) and other changes do not lead to deterioration and where possible improvements are achieved • There are current challenges associated with excess nutrient levels in water bodies within and close to the Borough, which are understood to be having adverse effects including on ecological interests • There are limits on water available for abstraction, with some challenges and uncertainties in the short term for parts of the Borough in providing adequate water supplies • Parts of the Borough are at risk of a variety of types of flooding (which may increase as a result of a changing climate, although there is a gap in data on this risk at present) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek opportunities to promote the more efficient use of resources (including water) • Ensure adequate infrastructure, including appropriate management of waste water • Ensure new development and other changes do not result in deterioration of water quality • Prepare and then have regard to a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment • Follow guidance on avoiding flood risk and the flood risk management hierarchy, whilst promoting the use of appropriate sustainable drainage system solutions (including in relation to water quality considerations) | Biodiversity Climatic Factors Fauna Flora Human Health Landscape Material Assets Water |

19 Sustainability Objectives and Appraisal Framework

- 19.1 This section represents Task A4, which relates to the preparation of the sustainability appraisal framework (including identification of sustainability objectives). This part of the process draws on all the information gathered in previous sections of the report. The sustainability objectives provide the basis for appraising future plans.
- 19.2 The proposed sustainability objectives are provided in Table 31. These have been prepared accounting for the sustainability (including environmental) issues that have been identified in the preceding tasks and to take account of relevant plans, policies and programmes. The order of the objectives does not indicate any priority or relative importance.
- 19.3 Sustainability objectives are different in purpose from plan objectives. Whilst there may be overlap between the two sets of objectives.
- 19.4 The sustainability appraisal framework includes 12 objectives which will be used to test options contained within DPDs²²² and SPDs, as well as other Council strategies to which the SEA Regulations apply. In relation to some of these documents, it may be appropriate to review whether all of the objectives are relevant to the assessment of their sustainability (i.e. scope out certain objectives). Equally, the framework may need to be refined to enable it to be more effectively applied in certain circumstances, this may include the assessment of options for site specific allocations for local plans. The Sustainability Appraisal reports for each plan or strategy will explain which objectives have been used and, if applicable, why some objectives have been omitted or applied differently.
- 19.5 For each of the objectives (see Table 31), a series of indicative tests has been identified that will help apply the objective to which they relate. Indicators are also identified for each objective to help monitor their effectiveness (where information is provided in brackets, this is the source of the information). The sustainability appraisal framework also identifies which of the SEA topics and UN Sustainable Development Goals (see Figure 1) each objective relates to.
- 19.6 The sustainability appraisal framework will be kept under review. It may be necessary to amend or supplement the objectives depending on the particular plans, strategies and policies being appraised, or where other factors may make an update necessary.

²²² As noted within section 1 of this report, there may be exceptions where separate Scoping Reports are prepared, for example in relation to specialised topics or localised geographical areas. Such Scoping Reports may have different sustainability objectives.

Table 31: Sustainability Appraisal Framework

| Indicative Test | Indicators | SEA Topic(s) | Relevant SDGs ²²³ |
|--|---|---|---------------------------------|
| Objective 1: Ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in an appropriate and affordable home that meets their needs. | | | |
| <i>The cost of homes relative to income is an issue within the Borough, along with meeting needs as a result of population growth. There is also a need to provide an appropriate mix of accommodation, including accounting for changes in the demographics and needs of different communities within the Borough (including Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.</i> | | | |
| a) Will it support the delivery of an appropriate level of accommodation relative to identified need? b) Will it support the delivery of affordable homes to help meet identified need? c) Will it provide an appropriate mix of homes and accommodation to meet local need? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net additional homes completed (AMR) • Net additional gypsy, traveller and travelling showpeople plots / pitches (AMR) • Housing trajectory (looking at projected housing completions) (AMR) • Number of affordable homes delivered (AMR) • House price to income ratio (ONS) | Population Material Assets Human Health | 11 |
| Objective 2: Ensure the local economy is thriving with high and stable levels of growth, whilst supporting productivity and the promotion of a diverse economy, with the availability of a skilled workforce. | | | |
| <i>The Borough has a relatively high level of employment. There are lower employment levels in the knowledge based economy, any changes in this sector are likely to arise in the longer term. Consideration should be given to support for the rural economy. Appropriate infrastructure will need to be in place to support the economy, along with an appropriately skilled workforce able to fill jobs within the Borough. Consideration also needs to be given to balancing homes and jobs available.</i> | | | |
| a) Will it support a prosperous economy in the Borough? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unemployment and employment rates (NOMIS) • Employee jobs by sector (NOMIS) | Population Material Assets | 1, 4, 8, 9, 10 |

²²³ See Figure 1 for more information.

| Indicative Test | Indicators | SEA Topic(s) | Relevant SDGs ²²³ |
|---|---|--|------------------------------|
| b) Will it help maintain rates of employment? c) Will it support job creation, including more high skilled jobs? d) Does it support the vitality and viability of town centres? e) Will it provide appropriate access to education, skills and training? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job density (NOMIS) • Weekly pay (for those living and working within the Borough) (NOMIS) • Vacancy rates in town centres (AMR) • Footfall levels within town centres • Percentage of people with higher level qualifications (NOMIS) | | |
| <p>Objective 3: Maintain and improve access to services, facilities, and other infrastructure, whilst improving the efficiency and integration of transport networks and the availability and utilisation of sustainable modes of travel.</p> | | | |
| <p><i>Ensuring there is appropriate access to facilities, services and infrastructure is important to support communities and new developments (including between homes, employment opportunities, retail provisions, community buildings, leisure / recreation spaces and cultural facilities). This is already a challenge in some parts of the Borough, particularly the more rural areas. Ensuring key facilities and services are accessible, ideally via sustainable modes of travel, is important for a variety of reasons and can provide benefits in terms of reducing the need to travel by car and supporting opportunities for walking and cycling (which may have health and wellbeing benefits). It will also be important to consider digital and communication infrastructure as well as traditional utilities.</i></p> | | | |
| a) Will it retain / sustain / support existing facilities and services (including community, leisure / recreation and cultural facilities, services and assets ²²⁴)? b) Will it provide appropriate facilities, services and infrastructure ²²⁵ to meet needs and will such provisions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indices of Deprivation (MHCLG) • Availability and accessibility of facilities and services within communities • Provision of public open space (Public Open Space Audit) • Availability of accessible open space, including green space • Traffic flows on key routes (DfT) | Population Material Assets Climatic Factors Air Human Health | 1, 3,7, 9, 11 |

²²⁴ Includes consideration of access to the natural environment and green space (including through public right of way networks).

²²⁵ This includes enhancing and providing new green infrastructure, which should be managed for people and nature.

| Indicative Test | Indicators | SEA Topic(s) | Relevant SDGs ²²³ |
|--|--|--|------------------------------|
| <p>be located close to those they serve?</p> <p>c) Will it make it easier / quicker to access key services and facilities (ideally via sustainable modes of travel)?</p> <p>d) Will it support the retention / enhancement of sustainable modes of travel and maximise opportunities to use these modes?</p> <p>e) Will it integrate with existing transport networks?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average number of cars / vans per household (Census, ONS) • Extent of the Public Right of Way network | | |
| <p>Objective 4: Encourage the efficient use of land and conserve soil resources.</p> | | | |
| <p><i>There are limited opportunities for the use of previously developed land within the Borough; however there is an opportunity to promote the use of this resource and the efficient use of land as far as possible.</i></p> | | | |
| <p>a) Will it encourage the re-use of previously developed land, or the re-use of buildings?</p> <p>b) Will it encourage the efficient use of land?</p> <p>c) Will it conserve soil resources (including best and most versatile agricultural land)?</p> <p>d) Will it avoid the risk of land contamination, and / or provide opportunities to address potential historic contamination?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of new development on previously developed land (AMR) • Density of new residential development (AMR) | <p>Soil Biodiversity Flora Fauna Landscape Material Assets</p> | <p>2, 3, 12, 15</p> |

| Indicative Test | Indicators | SEA Topic(s) | Relevant SDGs ²²³ |
|--|--|--|------------------------------|
| Objective 5: Conserve and, where possible, enhance the water environment and ensure the sustainable management of water resources. | | | |
| <i>The water environment has an important role within the Borough, with links to biodiversity and the local economy. There is a need to balance the demands for water with the needs of the environment, whilst seeking to achieve water quality standards. There are current challenges with the availability of adequate water resources and water quality (including excess nutrient levels).</i> | | | |
| a) Will it conserve (and enhance) the quality of the water environment? b) Will it safeguard groundwater resources? c) Will it avoid increases in demand for water and ideally reduce demand? d) Will sufficient water infrastructure be available (in time to avoid adverse effects)? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance of water bodies relative to Water Framework Directive objectives (RBMP) • Per capita water consumption • Supply / demand balances in water resources (WRMPs) | Water Biodiversity Flora Fauna Human Health Material Assets Soil | 3, 6, 12, 13 |
| Objective 6: Seek to avoid and reduce vulnerability to the risk of flooding and the resulting detrimental effects to the public, economy and environment. | | | |
| <i>Flood risk, from a variety of sources, has been identified as an issue within the Borough with a number of communities having been adversely affected by flooding in the recent past. Flood risk should be taken into account in future plans, including how risks might alter when allowing for changes in climate.</i> | | | |
| a) Will it involve inappropriate development or other proposals within an area of moderate or high flood risk? b) Will it help to reduce the risk of flooding (e.g. through the provision of sustainable drainage systems)? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of people living in areas at risk of flooding (Flood Risk Management Plan) • Planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency (AMR) | Water Population Human Health Soil Biodiversity Flora Fauna Landscape Material Assets Cultural Heritage | 11, 13 |

| Indicative Test | Indicators | SEA Topic(s) | Relevant SDGs ²²³ |
|--|--|---|------------------------------|
| Objective 7: Maintain and, where possible, enhance air quality. | | | |
| <i>Air quality within the Borough is generally good and it is important to maintain this position. There are areas outside (but in close proximity) to the Borough where air quality is less favourable, but could be influenced by traffic arising from within the Borough. In these cases, measures within the Borough may have wider effects that should be taken into account.</i> | | | |
| a) Will it support the attainment of air quality targets? b) Will it help minimise air pollution? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National air quality targets (including through designation of AQMAs) Critical loads for nutrients for habitats | Air Human Health Climatic Factors Biodiversity Flora Fauna | 3, 11 |
| Objective 8: Conserve and, where possible, enhance the Borough's landscape, townscapes and settlement character. | | | |
| <i>The Borough has a predominantly rural character, which includes areas of protected landscape (which need to be considered in the context of level of protection given by their designation). There are a variety of factors that are likely to influence the landscape, townscapes and settlements over time, including additional development. It will be important to conserve the landscape character, settlement character (and identity), townscapes and the character of the countryside as these all contribute to the sense of place and local distinctiveness. These factors are also important in keeping the Borough an attractive place to visit (with links to tourism).</i> | | | |
| a) Will it respect the purpose / objectives of statutory designations? b) Will it conserve or enhance landscape character? c) Will it conserve or enhance townscapes and settlement character? d) Will it conserve or enhance settlement identity and sense of place? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of management plan actions for statutory designations Consistency with design guidance (from town / village design statements) Type and extent of new development within the AONB | Landscape Cultural Heritage Material Assets Biodiversity Flora Fauna Soil | 11 |

| Indicative Test | Indicators | SEA Topic(s) | Relevant SDGs ²²³ |
|--|---|---|---------------------------------|
| e) Will any new development be appropriately integrated with existing development and the surrounding environment? | | | |
| Objective 9: Conserve and, where possible, enhance the historic environment and the significance of heritage assets. | | | |
| <i>Heritage assets (designated and non-designated) and the evolution of the built and natural environment form a key part of the character of the Borough. This should be conserved and where possible enhanced, having regard to the assets themselves and their setting.</i> | | | |
| a) Will it conserve or enhance the heritage assets (including designated and locally important assets), their significance, and their setting? b) Will it conserve the historic built environment and its setting? c) Will it provide for increased access to and enjoyment of the historic environment? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled monuments and registered historic parks and gardens (National Heritage List, Historic England) • Number of locally listed heritage assets • Number of heritage assets on the 'at risk' register (Heritage at Risk Register, Historic England) • Number of conservation areas with and without a character appraisal, and date of approval or last review | Cultural Heritage Landscape Material Assets | 11 |
| Objective 10: Conserve and, where possible, enhance biodiversity and habitat connectivity. | | | |
| <i>The Borough has a high quality natural environment that includes a range of habitats and species of nature conservation importance. The conservation and enhancement of biodiversity should be supported, along with fulfilling legal obligations in relation to habitats and species which receive statutory protection. In recognising such protection, regard needs to be had to the distinction between international, national and local sites. It will be essential to consider the connectivity of</i> | | | |

| Indicative Test | Indicators | SEA Topic(s) | Relevant SDGs ²²³ |
|--|---|--|------------------------------|
| <i>habitats and wider ecosystem services. Opportunities to secure net gains in biodiversity should also be pursued, taking account of emerging requirements.</i> | | | |
| a) Will it help avoid loss, deterioration or harm to habitats / species of importance? b) Will it conserve current biodiversity and habitat connectivity and ecological networks? c) Does it deliver opportunities to restore or enhance biodiversity, including net gains for biodiversity? d) Does it promote the connectivity of habitats and / or the enhancement / establishment of ecological networks and avoid compromising or prejudicing future connectivity? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation objectives of international nature conservation designations • Condition status of SSSIs (AMR) • Number / amount of BAP priority species and habitats within the Borough (AMR) • Number / amount of local important nature conservation sites (SINCs) within the Borough (AMR) • Hectares of biodiversity habitat delivered through strategic allocations • Habitat connectivity (updates of HBIC Ecological Network) | Biodiversity Flora Fauna Landscape Soil Water Air Climatic Factors Material Assets | 6, 11, 12, 14, 15 |
| Objective 11: Support the delivery of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. | | | |
| <i>Climate change is an issue that will affect all of us and the environment around us, with per person carbon dioxide emissions in the Borough being relatively high. There is a need to work towards national targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, whilst ensuring we are prepared for the forecast impacts of climate change.</i> | | | |
| a) Will it help reduce greenhouse gas emissions (including per person demand for energy)? b) Will it help reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change? c) Will it restrict the adaptation options / evolution of the environment to climate change (e.g. habitat migration)? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbon dioxide emissions per person (BEIS) • Energy use (gas / electricity) per consumer (BEIS) • Installed renewable energy capacity (BEIS) | Climatic Factors Air Material Assets Population Landscape Water Human Health Soil Biodiversity | 1, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13 |

| Indicative Test | Indicators | SEA Topic(s) | Relevant SDGs ²²³ |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National performance against Climate Change Act 2008 (as amended) targets | Flora Fauna Cultural Heritage | |
| Objective 12: Seek to maintain and improve the health and wellbeing of the population. | | | |
| <i>While health is generally good within the Borough, there is variation in part associated with deprivation levels. There may also be changing needs for health and wellbeing, taking account of the ageing population and lifestyle factors. To help communities and the individuals within them, places should be inclusive, safe and enable healthy lifestyles.</i> | | | |
| a) Will it encourage opportunities for healthy lifestyle choices? b) Will it provide appropriate infrastructure to support the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities? c) Will it support cohesive and integrated communities? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indices of Deprivation (MHCLG) Life expectancy and years of good health (Public Health England) Death rates from circulatory diseases and cancer (Public Health England) Excess weight in adults and children (Public Health England) Perceptions of health (Census) Activity Levels (Active Lives Survey, Sport England) | Population Human Health | 1, 3, 10, 11, 16 |

Testing Compatibility of Sustainability Objectives

- 19.7 Figure 26 provides a matrix that tests the internal compatibility of the sustainability objectives. The matrix has been designed to help appreciate the complexity of the sustainability appraisal framework. It should be read by selecting one objective and cross-referencing it to any of the other of the objectives. The matrix has been developed using three options, namely:
- Compatible: pursuing one objective may help meet the other objective or the objectives are unlikely to conflict, so potentially both could be achieved
 - Potential conflict: it is likely that if one objective is achieved, it will prevent the other objective being achieved
 - No relationship: one objective has no direct influence on the other
- 19.8 Where the potential conflicts or tensions are apparent it will help prompt consideration of potential mitigation measures and highlight where decisions may need to be made as to whether certain objectives should take precedent over others, perhaps because of the theme or purpose of the plan. However, in all such cases, the sustainability appraisal report should justify why such a decision has been taken.
- 19.9 As can be seen in Figure 26, the majority of the objectives are compatible or have no direct relationship; however there are some examples of potential conflict. This is considered to be inevitable given that sustainable development can involve balancing competing priorities. In some cases, the potential conflicts relate to certain aspects of the objectives, whilst other aspects of the same objectives may be compatible.

Figure 26: Internal compatibility matrix for the sustainability objectives

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|----|----|
| 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | X | X | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | X | X | | ✓ | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | X | X | | X | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| 7 | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | X | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | | | | | | | | | ✓ | | | |
| 10 | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| 11 | X | X | ✓ | X | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | ✓ | |
| 12 | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | ✓ |
| Objective | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |

Key to matrix: ✓ = compatible; X = potential conflict; blank = no relationship

- 19.10 The matrix reveals the main clashes are between objectives promoting development and the conservation of the environment. However, this needs to be balanced with the compatibility with other objectives.

- 19.11 It is unlikely that a single policy document would be able to achieve all of the sustainability objectives. However, the sustainability appraisal framework is intended to promote consideration of each objective throughout plan production.
- 19.12 Table 32 indicates the links between the sustainability objectives and the topics specifically listed within the SEA Regulations. The table illustrates that each of the topics is covered by at least one of the sustainability objectives. This exercise also highlights that each of the sustainability objectives has relevance to at least one of the topics in the SEA Regulations, reflecting on the interrelation between these matters. The objective numbers that are shown in bold text are considered to be particularly relevant to the SEA topic.

Table 32: Compatibility of SEA Directive topics and sustainability objectives

| SEA Directive Topic | Relevant Sustainability Objective(s) |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna ²²⁶ | 4,5,6,7,8, 10 ,11 |
| Population | 1 ,2,3,6,11,12 |
| Human Health | 1,3,5,6,7, 11, 12 |
| Soil | 4 ,5,6,8,10,11 |
| Water | 5 ,6,10,11 |
| Air | 3, 7 ,10,11 |
| Climatic Factors | 3, 7 ,10, 11 |
| Material Assets | 1, 2 ,3,4,5,6,8,9,10,11 |
| Cultural Heritage | 6, 8 ,9,11 |
| Landscape | 4,6, 8 ,9,10,11 |

²²⁶ Whilst these topics are identified separately in the Directive, as the same sustainability objectives are relevant to all three, they have been grouped for the purpose of this table.

Test Valley Borough Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

2020

Appendices



Appendix 1: Summary of Consultation Responses and Resultant Amendments to the Scoping Report

| Respondent | Summary of Representation ¹ | Response / Change |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| Abbotts Ann Parish Council | Would like to see assurances that adequate groundwater drainage and new sewage capacity would be essential in all future development considerations. | Additional text has been included in the water resources and quality sub-section, as well as in the key issues, to highlight the need to ensure appropriate infrastructure is available. The availability of sufficient water infrastructure is one of the indicative tests for objective 5. |
| Barton Stacey Parish Council | Recognise there are many variables and unknowns, as well as the challenge for local government when it has little control over these influences but must ensure negative effects on residents are mitigated and minimised. | Noted. The sustainability appraisal objectives seek to provide a framework to achieve this as far as possible. |
| | Biodiversity (paragraph 6.3): Is it possible to extend the number / size of designated statutory nature conservation areas to afford a further degree of protection? | The Scoping Report is not able to make such changes, therefore no amendments have been made. Processes and guidance are in place, administered by other organisations (such as Natural England), to designate nature conservation areas where they comply with the necessary criteria. This could include amendments to existing sites. |
| | Climate Change: Challenges of the way this is calculated with central Government excluding waste incinerators from emissions targets, which could undermine local efforts. | Noting the concerns with way emissions are assessed national, the Scoping Report has sought to set out baseline data and the available emissions information. |
| | Climate Change: Some boroughs are raising money from their own residents to fund green projects (e.g. solar panels on municipal | The suggestion is noted. This proposal is one option the Council could consider in funding measures to deliver green projects in the future. |

¹ Note: References to paragraph numbers / tables / figures refer to the draft Scoping Report subject to consultation.

| Respondent | Summary of Representation ¹ | Response / Change |
|------------|---|---|
| | buildings) – is this a way forward for the Council? | However, given the purpose of the Scoping Report, no changes have been made. |
| | Climate Change: Have noticed the trend to warmer, wetter and stormier winters, with enhanced flood defences becoming inadequate. Need to re-think what land is suitable for development. | The comments are noted. The sub-section on flood risk also highlights this matter and the need to take account of vulnerability to flood risk, both now and how this may change in the future, to avoid inappropriate development. |
| | Paragraph 7.15 – exhaust emission from vehicles is a key factor for air quality. Concern of mission creep of increasing throughput at the A303 Enviropark is a concern. If the proposed incinerator near Alton is approved by the County Council, is it not likely that additional material will be processed in Barton Stacey, with a further increase in HGV movements on the A303? | The comments are noted in relation to the contribution of vehicle emissions to air pollution. The Scoping Report would not be used in considering specific planning proposals, which would need to assess air quality factors including in the context of relevant local plan policies. The sustainability objectives include consideration of air quality. |
| | Paragraph 8.2. Would be helpful to add examples of how empowerment of communities can be achieved and what it means in practice. | The priorities are taken from the Council's Corporate Plan, which sets out more information about what is going to happen as a result. Additional text has been added to this section of the Scoping Report to include some examples. Over a number of year the Council has put in place practical support and resources to help communities to address issues that matter most to them, including through having community engagement officers, preparing ward and parish profiles with local data, and putting in place flexible funding pots such as the Community Asset Fund. |

| Respondent | Summary of Representation ¹ | Response / Change |
|------------|--|---|
| | <p>Economy and Employment: Is a breakdown of employment by private sector and public sector available? To what extent is the Borough's low unemployment due to the public purse or private enterprise? Where is the growth in employment? How do the percentages compare to Hampshire and the South East?</p> | <p>Data² from 2015 indicated that about 14% of employees in Test Valley were in the public sector. The figure for Hampshire was 14%, for the South East was 15% and for England was 17%. More recent data is not available at a local level. The relationship between the location of jobs and employment levels by area is not straight forward, such as when accounting for commuting. For example there may be some areas where there are small numbers of jobs available but high levels of employment of those living there (as they work elsewhere).</p> |
| | <p>Paragraph 9.23: A small area of the Parish has excellent and consistent broadband speed but most of the Parish does not. Whilst recognising that broadband infrastructure is outside the control of Test Valley Borough Council, much of the sustainability plan depends on modern infrastructure being in place.</p> | <p>The comments are noted. Some additional text has been included to highlight the increased awareness of the challenges with access to broadband with increased home working.</p> |
| | <p>The Parish Council believes many residents would welcome both food waste collections and the possibility of putting glass in their recycling bin, many other authorities do this.</p> | <p>The comments are noted. The Council's approach to this matter is set out in its Waste Strategy (2018-23), with the approach to waste and recycling services kept under review. There is a review taking place within Hampshire of the materials collected at the kerbside. In addition, the Environment Bill may result in changes to the materials to be collected at the kerbside, including in relation to food waste. However the</p> |

² Business Register and Employment Survey (excluding units registered for PAYE only) – public / private sector (available: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/summary.asp?mode=construct&version=0&dataset=190>)

| Respondent | Summary of Representation ¹ | Response / Change |
|------------|---|---|
| | | content of the final legislation and the timescales for this are not yet certain. |
| | Paragraph 10.23: It is important to emphasise more strongly the role that a local church plays in village life, at present it is downplayed. In Barton Stacey the church is the hub and catalyst for many social activities for all members of the community. | The comments are noted. The paragraph has been amended to reflect on the role in village life including through social activities for all the local community. |
| | Is there evidence in Test Valley that developers are sitting on planning approvals? Without central government intervention it is assumed nothing can be done to force a developer to build. Perhaps the Council needs powers to tackle this housing backlog and step in where a site with planning permission lies dormant, especially if the provision of affordable housing is affected. | There are multiple factors that can influence the delivery of sites with planning permission for development. Local authorities can work with developers to seek to overcome challenges with delivery, however the scope to require a developer to build is very limited. |
| | Landscape of the Borough is perhaps its defining characteristic and treasured by residents. Paragraphs 13.15 and 13.16 identify the potential for negative impacts, with latest central government planning proposals potentially increasing the negative impact risk. | The comments are noted on the importance of the landscape of the Borough. Objective 8 seeks to ensure that the landscape is conserved. |
| | Paragraph 16.2: Perhaps the River Dever should be added to the list of tributaries. | The River Dever has been added to the list of tributaries. |
| | Calculating future flood risk is key in order to avoid inappropriate development on at risk land. | The comments are noted. Additional text has been added to highlight the current data gap in relation to understanding of future flood risk. Explanation of Objective 6 highlights that the consideration of flood risk needs to consider |

| Respondent | Summary of Representation ¹ | Response / Change |
|--------------------|--|---|
| | | how this may alter when accounting for changes in the climate. |
| Environment Agency | There is a need to prepare a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment to inform the Sustainability Appraisal going forward. | The comment is noted. An amendment to the Scoping Report has been made to highlight the current data gap, which could be addressed through a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. |
| Historic England | Strongly advise conservation team of your authority and archaeological advisors are involved throughout the preparation of the SA of this Plan. | Noted. The conservation team input into the preparation of the Scoping Report and it would be intended to ensure input and advice continues throughout the preparation of the sustainability appraisal. |
| | Table 13 – additional key documents have been identified for inclusion, including legislation and treaties. | A reference to Historic England Advice Notes has been added (now Table 16), with a clarification that the table does not include specific reference to treaties, conventions or legislation. The focus is generally on key plans, policies and programmes although it is recognised that in some cases other sources of information and advice are included. The footnote that refers to legislation has been updated to include reference to the Protection of Wrecks Act and Marine and Coastal Areas Access Act. |
| | Table 14 – this should also identify which conservation areas have appraisals, including the date of last review. Where such documents are absent or out of date, this can increase harm through inappropriate development. This should be identified as a key sustainability issue. | This table (now Table 17) denoted whether an appraisal was available through an asterisk. This has been amended to include an additional column indicating if an appraisal is in place, and if so the date of it. The absence of such documents for some conservation areas has been added as a sustainability issue. |

| Respondent | Summary of Representation ¹ | Response / Change |
|------------|--|--|
| | Table 27 – absence of a local list of buildings at risk should be identified as a key sustainability issue. | This has been added to the list of sustainability issues (now Table 30). |
| | Table 27 – the absence of a list of locally important buildings increases the likelihood that heritage assets are harmed through inappropriate development – this should be identified as a key sustainability issue. | This has been added to the list of sustainability issues (now Table 30). |
| | Table 27 – support references to ‘additional development’ and ‘ensure new development’ but additional reference should be made to areas that will undergo significant change, as they have the potential to affect the historic environment to a higher order of magnitude. This warrants specific mention and should be identified as a key sustainability issue. | This table (now Table 30) has been amended to include reference to the potential for higher order magnitude effects from strategic sites, and therefore particular consideration will need to be given to them in the context of the historic environment. |
| | Objective 8 – support the inclusion of the objective. | Noted. No change necessary. |
| | Objective 9 – support inclusion of the objective. Suggest amend indicator to read ‘Number of conservations areas with <u>and without</u> a character appraisal, <u>and date of last review or adoption</u> ’ to help identify gaps and out of date information. May wish to consider an additional indicator in relation to applications permitted where there would be substantial or less than substantial harm to a heritage asset – depending on the ability to monitor such an indicator. | The indicator regarding conservation areas has been amended taking account of the suggested changes. Currently, the Council is not in a position to be able to monitor applications in terms of whether there would be substantial or less than substantial harm to heritage assets. |
| | Section 19 - Where a plan will allocate sites for development, would expect to see an additional | The comments are noted. It would be anticipated that the sustainability framework |

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| | framework for testing site allocations. Note that it may be the intention to develop such a framework. Happy to work with you to develop such a framework if this would assist. | would benefit from being refined for the assessment of specific sites, which may lead to allocations. As this would need to be done in the context of what is being appraised, a site specific assessment framework has not been included as part of the Scoping Report. Some text has been added to section 19 to reflect this. |
| Natural England | To align with paragraphs 32 & 175 of the NPPF it is recommended that reference to the mitigation hierarchy is included in relation to development impacts to biodiversity. | Additional text has been added to Table 4 in the biodiversity & geodiversity section to reference the mitigation hierarchy. |
| | Biodiversity: SA objectives should recognise protection for biodiversity/geodiversity sites or landscape designations, distinguishing between international, national and local sites. | Noted. Additional text has been added within sections 6 and 13, as well as within the sustainability appraisal framework to reflect this point. |
| | If there is a potential to affect European designated sites, then a Habitat Regulations Assessment may be necessary. The outcomes would need to inform future versions of the sustainability appraisal. | Noted. Within section 3 it is recognised that there are links between the requirements for sustainability appraisal and Habitat Regulations Assessment. Additional text has been added to clarify this includes consideration of the likely significant effects on certain internationally designated nature conservation designations. |
| | Recommend reference is made to European sites outside the Borough that may be affected by the Local Plan. | Within section 6, reference was made to there being designations beyond the Borough with a map provided in the appendices. The wording has been updated to also refer to the River Avon and that proposals within the Borough could affect designations outside the Borough. As the Scoping Report has the potential to relate to a number of plans / strategies it is not appropriate to speculate on which designations |

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| | | may be affected, this can be covered in the later stages of the sustainability appraisal. The maps in the appendices have been updated to include the names of the designations for the international sites. |
| | Recommend reference is made to the Council's mitigation strategy for recreational disturbance on the New Forest. | A reference to the interim mitigation framework has been added as a footnote, to reflect the approach taken for the Solent SPAs. |
| | Recommend refer to the NPPF requirement to demonstrate net gain for biodiversity and the Environment Bill which will make it mandatory for development to provide at least 10% net gain. Objectives should include consideration of net gain for biodiversity for all aspects of the plan and development types. | Additional text has been added to section 6 in relation to net gains for biodiversity, this includes reference to the Environment Bill proposals. Objective 10 has been amended to include specific reference to net gains for biodiversity. |
| | Welcome reference to ecological networks and avoiding fragmentation. Suggest expanding this to include enhancing and establishing ecological networks. HBIC's Ecological Network can be used as a baseline. | Noted. Wording in section 6 has been updated to include reference to enhancing and establishing ecological networks. A copy of HBIC's ecological network, as it relates to Test Valley, is provided within the appendices. |
| | Suggest adding an objective to ensure current ecological networks are not compromised and future improvements in habitat connectivity are not prejudiced. | The indicative tests associated with objective 10 have been amended to reflect these points. |
| | Welcome recognition that climate change is likely to affect the natural environment within the Borough; recommend this also includes impacts to the landscape and agriculture from increased flooding and drought events. | The comments are noted. Section 7 referred to effects on biodiversity, the landscape, health and the economy (with a reference to viticulture). The text has been amended to include reference to agriculture and specifically reference the potential for increased flood and drought events. Section 13 identifies climatic |

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| | | factors as a force of change in relation to the landscape. Additional text has been included in section 9 on the economy to reaffirm that the impacts of climate change will have different implications for different sectors of the economy. |
| | Suggest the climate change section refers to opportunities for nature based solutions for adaptation, such as green infrastructure, restoring natural processes within river systems and building ecological resilience. The objective should refer to the importance of multi-functional green space in contributing to resilient ecological networks and the nature recovery network. | Additional text has been included in section 7 to refer to the opportunity of nature based solutions, the examples referred to have already been mentioned in the context of the national adaptation programme. Text has been added to section 6 to highlight the potential of multi-functional greenspaces. This has not been added to the objective as it is only one way that could contribute to supporting resilient networks. Objective 10 seeks to conserve and where possible enhance biodiversity and habitat connectivity, with the indicative tests covering current and potential future connectivity and ecological networks. |
| | Would encourage consideration to be given to the Climate Change Adaptation Manual and the approach to identifying the climate resilience of habitats in the Borough. Also suggest reference to the Climate Change Committee's Net Zero Report to inform the process of developing an action plan. | The resources to help inform the approach to adaptation are noted. No amendments have been made to the Scoping Report. |
| | We recommend a consideration of ecosystem services and natural capital. You may wish to undertake ecosystems services mapping for the | The comments are noted. Section 6 of the Scoping Report makes reference to ecosystems services and natural capital. No |

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| | Borough, which could also inform policies for climate change adaptation. | changes have been made to the Scoping Report. |
| | Given the scale of issues in relation to nitrogen and phosphate enrichment (mentioned under biodiversity) would expect this to be given its own section. This should also be expanded to cover impacts on the River Test SSSI and River Avon & Solent international designated sites from nutrient enrichment. | Additional text has been included in section 16 on water quality to highlight nutrient enrichment matters, which includes reference to the catchments of the Test, Itchen and Avon, as well as the Solent coast. There is an existing cross reference in section 16 to the biodiversity section on this matter. An additional bullet has been included in the sustainability issues (section 18) on this matter. |
| | Objective 5 should clearly outline that development coming through the local plan period must be compliant with the Habitats Regulations and Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and that assessment will be required against the condition status of SSSIs and conservation objectives of international sites. | The sustainability objectives seek to work together, trying to minimise overlap or duplication between them. Text associated with objective 5 (on the water environment) highlights the links with biodiversity. The summary associated with objective 10 (covering biodiversity) refers to the need to fulfil legal obligations. The Scoping Report is not intended to set out all legal requirement that would need to be considered as part of the preparation of a plan or strategy. The conservation objectives of international sites has been added as an indicator in relation to objective 10. |
| | For eutrophication, phosphates are currently a limiting factor within the River Test. The objectives should seek to preserve water quality and flows on the Test and to ensure that the local plan and windfall development will not increase the phosphorus loading on the River Test SSSI. | Additional text has been included in section 16 referring to nutrient enrichment matters and implications on nature conservation designations including within the catchment of the River Test. Objective 5 (water environment) includes indicative tests in relation to the quality of the water environment – this would |

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| | | incorporate all water bodies, therefore it is not considered necessary to highlight the River Test as it would be equally relevant to water bodies. |
| | Impacts on protected waterbodies outside the Borough will also require consideration. Objectives could be included that seek to deliver nitrogen neutrality via strategic offsetting as well as promoting substantial green infrastructure with new developments. | Comments are noted. Section 6 refers to nutrient enrichment in relation to the Solent and River Avon. Additional text has been added to section 16 on this matter, including reference to waterbodies outside the Borough. The objectives cover water quality and biodiversity considerations, which would be relevant to water bodies within or outside the Borough. In order to keep the number of objectives manageable, and ensure they are flexible enough to address changes in issues over time, it is not proposed to include a specific objective regarding nutrient neutrality. |
| | The local plan should recognise the current uncertainties with regard to water resources and the impacts of abstraction and drought on protected sites including the River Test SSSI. This issue should be considered and included in the objectives for policies to set strict requirements for water consumption and encourage greywater recycling and efficient appliances. | Section 16 of the Scoping Report recognises current uncertainties on proposals for how sufficient water resources will be available in the area. It also references the abstraction licencing strategy and possible licence changes, in addition to those that have already been implemented for the River Test. Additional text has been included in section 16 to refer to other ways of promoting water efficiency, with more water efficient appliances and changes in commercial demand already noted. The indicative tests for objective 5 include consideration of the demand for water. |

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| | Should set an objective to make provision for an appropriate quality and quantity of green space to meet identified local needs. Natural England's work on Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard may be of use in assessing current levels of accessible natural greenspace. | As the Scoping Report could relate to multiple plans / strategies, and to try and keep the number of objectives manageable, it is not considered appropriate to include a specific provision as indicated. Objective 3 refers to maintaining and improving access to infrastructure with leisure and recreation assets referred to. Additional text had been added to highlight green spaces in this context. |
| | SA should explore the links between public health and wellbeing and access to the natural environment, as well as the benefits of natural green space to the local economy. Objectives should be set that seek to enhance green infrastructure and ecological connectivity and that this is managed for people and nature. | Section 8 of the Scoping Report reflects on benefits of green infrastructure, including for health and the economy. An additional reference to wellbeing has been added as well as the access to the natural environment more broadly. An indicative test for Objective 12 has been adjusted to refer to infrastructure to support health and wellbeing, rather than just refer to health and care infrastructure. The indicative tests for objective 3 have also been amended to highlight that green infrastructure would be covered. Ecological connectivity is picked up as part of objective 10. |
| | SA objectives should protect and enhance public rights of way and access to recreation. This should include consideration of the value of local public rights of way to health and wellbeing, access to nature and the countryside. | Objective 3 includes an indicative test relating to retaining, sustaining and supporting existing facilities and services, which includes recreation facilities, with a footnote highlight that this also includes access to the natural environment including through the public rights of way network. Additional text has been provided in section 15 on the benefits that can arise from |

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| | <p>You should be monitoring the significant environmental effects of implementing the current local plan, including on biodiversity. Example of indicators are set out for biodiversity and green infrastructure.</p> | <p>the availability of public rights of way, along with other walking and cycling routes.</p> <p>The comments are noted. The sustainability appraisal framework sets out the identified indicators. There can be challenges in being able to monitor some of the suggested matters, due to limits in data availability. Additional indicators have been included based on the suggestions, including the availability of accessible open space and habitat connectivity.</p> |
| Romsey and District Society | <p>There is a need to establish what small settlements require in order to remain successful places to live. There is a need to research into this, which should be reflected in objective 1.</p> | <p>It is challenging to explicitly define what is required for a small settlement to remain successful. Section 14 of the Scoping Report reflects on the population changes in some communities with potential implications on the viability of local services. Objective 1 would need to be considered alongside other objectives, including those seeking to maintain access to facilities and services, as well as supporting the health and wellbeing of the population.</p> |
| | <p>Objective 2 needs to be altered to reflect 'demand-side' considerations, including encouraging footfall. The planning system can promote town centre vibrancy in ways other than its actual policies on land use there, for example ensuring major new residential development near the town centres are assessed according to how they contribute to town centre vibrancy as a specific objective, as well as considering ease of access. Indicators</p> | <p>The comments are noted. Table 14 (was Table 12) has been amended to reflect the additional wording suggested on increased and easier access to centres. Footfall levels has been added as an indicator in relation to objective 2 in Table 31 (previously Table 28), with the indicators for objective 3 amended to refer to the availability and additionally accessibility of facilities and services within communities. A reference to footfall as an indicator has also</p> |

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| | for the objective do not consider demand side aspects (e.g. encouraging or increasing footfall). Amendments proposed to Table 12 and Table 28 to address this. | been added to section 9 of the Scoping Report in relation to town centres. |
| | Objective 5 must recognise the need to manage the southern Hampshire nitrate run off problem, which will be a significant issue over the plan period. | The challenges associated with excess nutrient levels are set out within the Scoping Report. Amendments have been made to highlight this within the record of sustainability issues in section 18, as well as in the sustainability appraisal framework (linked to objective 5) in section 19. |
| Southern Water | Please to note the inclusion of reference to the importance of promoting water efficiency (paragraph 16.13) | Noted. |
| | Wish to highlight the added benefit of carbon savings that could be made through greater water efficiency. | Additional text has been included in this paragraph to refer to the carbon savings that can be made through greater water efficiency. |
| Upper Clatford Parish Council | No acknowledgement could be found that local sources of knowledge and issues could be used to great effect to supplement the information contained within the report. A wealth of information exists at the Parish level, including information gathered for neighbourhood plans. The report is not the place for such detailed information but a clear intent to consider the availability of more local sources of information should be added. | As noted within the representation, the scale of focus of the document results in it not being the appropriate place for the more detailed information referred to. Within section 1, additional text had been added to clarify that separate scoping reports may be needed in relation to plans that relate to a specific geographic area, which may need more locally specific information. Additional text has also been included in section 3 to pick up the point that local sources of knowledge can supplement the information provided. |
| | Higher level information than that contained within the report it is available, valid and useful. | The comments are noted. The Scoping Report has sought to find a balance in providing an |

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| | <p>The scope of the Scoping Report must be widened as indicated in relation to the comments on specific objectives.</p> | <p>appropriate amount and depth of information to understand the baseline, identify issues and problems and then establish sustainability objectives without becoming overwhelming. The Scoping Report is not intended to cover Neighbourhood Plans, which would require more locally specific information. Some cross references to other sources of data have been provided within the Scoping Report as a reference point. Additional sources of information, which may include local information, are likely to be used in preparing plans / strategies that the sustainability objectives will be used for.</p> |
| | <p>Objective 1: The report must contain a reference to Neighbourhood Plans. Development in accordance with the Upper Clatford NDP meets a need identified by local people that generally favoured smaller houses, and more low cost affordable homes or retirement dwellings.</p> | <p>Neighbourhood Plans are referred to within Appendix 2 (originally Appendix 1) as relevant plans, policies and programmes. Objective 1 seeks to ensure the mix of housing and its affordability are considered when assessing relevant options.</p> |
| | <p>Objective 2: The area offers access to a wide range of jobs, with older residents benefitting from rural living with relative proximity to local services and Andover as a town centre. Future development that fulfils a need for older residents indirectly supports job creation through use of local services. This must be considered when assessing job creation potential as the population aged 65+ continues to increase.</p> | <p>The comments are noted. There are a range of ways in which jobs are created and retained, including through local services as indicated. Text in section 14 of the Scoping Report has been adjusted to reflect that the use, as well as type of facilities and services needed, may need to be considered in the context of an ageing population. Objective 2 includes an indicative test on job creation, this would need to have regard to the range of ways that jobs</p> |

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| | | may be provided including through delivery of local services. |
| | Objective 3: The Parish Council would be keen to support or implement projects that promote this objective. Currently unable to reduce speed limits in some locations, which if implemented would increase safety. Little mention made of sustainable travel in a recent planning application that would have compelled car usage. Walking and cycling opportunities, if implemented, could reduce school run traffic, allow easier access for children to sports fields, and contribute to enjoyment of the countryside and open space by providing safe access to the Test Way. Implementation would be far more successful if a requirement to obtain key local information is added to the draft report. | The comments are noted. A number of the proposals referred to in terms of speed limits are beyond the control of the Borough Council. The Scoping Report would not be used to inform the consideration of planning applications or the assessment of specific initiatives to promote sustainable travel, which may also be informed by the local information referred to. The Scoping Report would influence the assessment of options for plans or strategies, including future planning policy documents. |
| | Objective 4: The Parish Council could support this in accordance with the principles in the draft Neighbourhood Plan. | Noted. |
| | Objective 5: Wetter winter seasons have led to major problems with the foul sewerage system throughout the Pillhill Brook catchment area. Without major investment, further housing or other development in the catchment would exacerbate the situation. The capacity of the system should therefore be a factor in considering any proposed development. Parish Councils, local environmental groups, and service providers can add a useful layer of data | The comments are noted. The sustainability appraisal framework includes an indicative test about whether there will be sufficient water infrastructure available in relation to objective 5. Investment in infrastructure to address existing issues would be likely to be secured by the relevant water company, with the potential for new development funding any additional infrastructure upgrades required to make them acceptable. Southern Water has commenced work on the preparation of a Drainage and |

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| | to that contained within the report if properly consulted. | Wastewater Management Plan for the Test and Itchen Catchment, which will help inform investment. |
| | Objective 6: The draft Neighbourhood Plan seeks to protect the water meadows through appropriate designations and thereby reduce its value for downstream flood alleviation. | Comments are noted. |
| | Objective 7: The Parish Council supports tree planting initiatives and any measures to increase the use of sustainable travel that would contribute to air quality and noise improvements. Traffic flows on the A303 are significant and nitrogen dioxide levels fail to meet air quality objectives. More statistics in areas immediately surrounding the A303 would be welcome. The Borough has excessive CO ₂ levels and may have high particulate levels around the A303. Noise pollution is not considered. | The comments are noted. The sustainability objectives (7 and 3) seek to ensure air quality and sustainable travel options are considered as part of the assessment of options. Additional text has been included within the Scoping Report to refer to noise pollution (including in section 15), including that arising from transport. The higher carbon emissions per person for the Borough is highlighted as a sustainability issue in section 18. |
| | Objective 8: Near unanimous support for these objectives was expressed by local residents in the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire. Policy that robustly protects local green spaces achieves these objectives, as does support for local green spaces. Proper consideration of ratified Neighbourhood Plans or the comprehensive evidence gathering that informs plans can assist in achieving this objective and should be considered as a useful addition to the report. | The comments are noted. The objective seeks to ensure such matters are taken into account when reviewing options for specific plans and strategies. |
| | Objective 9: Parish Councils would welcome support in seeking to protect heritage assets as | The comments are noted. As noted in response to other comments, current data gaps in relation |

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| | well as new designations of heritage assets based on considerable local knowledge and expertise. | to the historic environment has been noted within the Scoping Report. |
| | Objectives 10 & 11: Trees and wildlife habitats are very important. Large scale tree clearance has been observed in the parish on numerous occasions. These objectives would be more achievable if such action required permission or dialogue with agencies such as HBIC. Part of the Pillhill Brook river corridor has recently been designated as a SINC following action. | The comments are noted. Some designations (or the presence of specific species) have implications for changes to land that do not fall within the remit of the planning process, while other designations or habitats do not. For example, SINCs generally get their protection through the planning system and not through other mechanisms. |
| | Objective 12: Cycling and walking; clean air, trees and a sense of wellbeing provided by a rural feel all contribute positively to physical and mental health. | The comments are noted. Some of the matters identified are considered within other objectives, but the crossover and links between objectives is noted. |

Appendix 2: Relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives (Task A1)

The following tables list the plans, policies and programmes that have been identified as relevant to the plans / policies that are likely to be considered linked to this Scoping Report. It is not the intention to cover all policies, plans and programmes – the focus is on those most relevant to the scale under consideration. In general, legislation is not included within this Appendix.

These tables supplement the information provided within the main report in relation to Task A1.

| Relevant Policy / Plan / Programme | Summary of Objectives and Requirements of the Policy / Plan / Programme | Implications and how this might be taken on board |
|---|---|---|
| International | | |
| Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations (UN), 2015 [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs] | A series of 17 goals, on matters covering poverty, health and wellbeing, equality, and climate change, with a number of targets sitting behind the goals. This provides a framework looking towards 2030. | This provides a context for discussion of sustainable development at a national and local level, having regard to the topics identified through the goals. |
| Paris Agreement, UN, 2015 [http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9485.php] | Entered into force in 2016, this brings together nations in relation to efforts to combat climate change and adapt to its effects. The main aim centres on keeping global temperature rise this century below 2°C above pre-industrial levels. Frameworks are to be put in place to help achieve these goals. | While the commitments are likely to filter through national policy / strategies this indicates the direction of travel regarding climate change policy and the emphasis on mitigation and adaptation measures. Plans and strategies will need to consider how they can support delivery of these commitments. |

| Relevant Policy / Plan / Programme | Summary of Objectives and Requirements of the Policy / Plan / Programme | Implications and how this might be taken on board |
|---|---|---|
| Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, UNESCO, 1972 [https://whc.unesco.org/en/conventiontext/] | This convention defines cultural and natural heritage and states commit to identifying, protecting and conserving such heritage. It also sets out the types of sites that can be considered on the World Heritage List and the role for states in protecting and preserving such sites. | While the commitments filter through national legislation, policy and strategies, plans and strategies will need to ensure they consider heritage and how it can be identified and conserved. |
| European Landscape Convention, Council of Europe, 2000 [https://www.coe.int/en/web/landscape] | This seeks to encourage the protection, management and planning of landscapes. It covers all landscapes, with a definition of this term within the Convention. | While the commitments filter through national policy / strategies, all landscapes will need to be taken into account with consideration to how they should be managed. |
| Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe, Council of Europe, 1985 [https://www.coe.int/en/web/culture-and-heritage/granada-convention] | This promotes policies for the conservation and enhancement of architectural heritage (including monuments, sites, and groups of buildings). It includes provisions for adopting integrated conservation policies, including in a planning context. | While the commitments filter through national policy / strategies, objective of conservation architectural heritage should be taken into account. |
| European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage, Council of Europe, 1969 | The Convention seeks to ensure protection of archaeological objectives, including those that are hidden. It also seeks to ensure the | While the commitments filter through national policy / strategies, there will be a need to take account of the potential for archaeological |

| Relevant Policy / Plan / Programme | Summary of Objectives and Requirements of the Policy / Plan / Programme | Implications and how this might be taken on board |
|--|---|--|
| | sharing of information on archaeological finds. | heritage and the objectives to conserve them. |
| National | | |
| <p>National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), 2019 (and associated Planning Practice Guidance)</p> <p>[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2]</p> | <p>This provides national planning guidance and promotes sustainable development, recognising economic, social and environmental objectives that need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways. More detail is provided framed through a series of chapters, including on housing, the economy, communities, transport, as well as the natural, built and historic environment. Additional advice to support the NPPF is provided through the Planning Practice Guidance, it is regularly updated.</p> | <p>Planning documents need to be prepared so as to be consistent with the policy framework; therefore its approach to sustainable development needs be to follow through in policies / strategies.</p> |
| <p>Planning Policy for Traveller Sites, Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), 2015</p> <p>[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-policy-for-traveller-sites]</p> | <p>This sits below the NPPF, providing national planning policy in relation to traveller sites. It sets out a series of aims including assessing the local need for sites, then ensuring land is available in appropriate locations, and seek to reduce tensions between communities. As a result of this a series of policies are provided to aid in implementing these aims.</p> | <p>Planning documents need to have regard to this policy so as to ensure appropriate provision is made for gypsy and traveller communities.</p> |

| Relevant Policy / Plan / Programme | Summary of Objectives and Requirements of the Policy / Plan / Programme | Implications and how this might be taken on board |
|---|---|---|
| <p>A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment, HM Government, 2018</p> <p>[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan]</p> | <p>A series of goals were set out to be achieved over the 25 year period, this includes clean air; clean and plentiful water; thriving plants and wildlife; reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards; more sustainable and efficient use of resources; enhancing the natural environment; also managing pressures on the environment including mitigating and adapting to climate change, minimising waste, managing exposure to chemicals, and enhancing biosecurity.</p> | <p>Can support the goals through ensuring any proposals take account of environmental objectives.</p> |
| <p>Clean Growth Strategy, HM Government, 2017</p> <p>[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clean-growth-strategy]</p> | <p>Sets out a series of policies and proposals that aim to accelerate the pace of clean growth, namely delivering increased economic growth and decreased emissions. This includes proposals around energy efficiency, a shift to low carbon transport, and delivering cleaner, more flexible power.</p> | <p>There may be opportunities to support these objectives through the location and type of development considered and the approach to development.</p> |
| <p>UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017, HM Government, 2017</p> <p>[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-climate-change-risk-assessment-2017]</p> | <p>Links to the requirements of the Climate Change Act 2008 in terms of reporting on risks. 6 priority areas for action are identified, comprising flooding and coastal change, risks linked to higher temperatures,</p> | <p>Need to be aware of the priority areas identified and ensure that any plans / strategies help to address such matters, rather than increasing the risks.</p> |

| Relevant Policy / Plan / Programme | Summary of Objectives and Requirements of the Policy / Plan / Programme | Implications and how this might be taken on board |
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| | shortages in public water supply, risks to natural capital, risks to food production and trade, and new and emerging pests and diseases. This can inform reviews of the adaptation programme. | |
| <p>The National Adaptation Programme and Third Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting, HM Government, 2018</p> <p>[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/climate-change-second-national-adaptation-programme-2018-to-2023]</p> | <p>This document sets out actions required to help reduce risks associated with climate change, including regarding flooding and coastal change, risks associated with higher temperatures, shortages of water, risks to natural capital and food production, as well as risks associated with new pests and diseases. It sets out key actions for the next 5 years. The report also details how we will manage the third cycle of adaptation reporting. This report forms part of the five-yearly cycle of requirements laid down in the Climate Change Act 2008.</p> | <p>Need to be aware of the actions identified to ensure that plans / strategies can help to deliver on these where relevant, and avoid making things worse.</p> |
| <p>Clean Air Strategy, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), 2019</p> <p>[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clean-air-strategy-2019]</p> | <p>This strategy sets out the action that is required from across all parts of government and society to meet the identified goals. These will support the creation of Clean Air Zones to lower emissions from all sources of air pollution, backed up with clear</p> | <p>The strategy identifies parties that can have a role in improving air quality; regard should be had to this in preparing strategies / plans.</p> |

| Relevant Policy / Plan / Programme | Summary of Objectives and Requirements of the Policy / Plan / Programme | Implications and how this might be taken on board |
|---|---|---|
| | enforcement mechanisms. It recognises public health, economic and environmental benefits. Pollutant specific objectives for farming, industry and transport are identified, with the role for different parties identified in helping to achieve them. | |
| Air quality plan for nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂) in UK (2017) [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/air-quality-plan-for-nitrogen-dioxide-no2-in-uk-2017] | These documents set out the UK's plan for reducing roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations. This provides an action plan in order to see to achieve certain air quality standards linked to human health. | A small part of the area covered by this plan is within Test Valley, but it also needs to be considered in the context of vehicle journeys which may originate / end in the Borough but pass through this area. Opportunities to promote more sustainable travel should be considered, alongside other measures to reduce air pollutants. |
| Air quality plan for nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂) in UK, DEFRA & Department for Transport (DfT), 2017 [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/air-quality-plan-for-nitrogen-dioxide-no2-in-uk-2017] | This document sets out the UK's plan for reducing roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations including the approach to meeting air quality commitments, linking in relation to health impacts. It provides an overview document to be read alongside area specific plans. | The role of local partners in monitoring and managing air quality is identified, including through action with communities. Regard should be had to the legal drivers and opportunities to support the attainment of these standards. Consideration |

| Relevant Policy / Plan / Programme | Summary of Objectives and Requirements of the Policy / Plan / Programme | Implications and how this might be taken on board |
|---|--|--|
| | Action for nitrogen dioxide needs to be targeted by location and the main sources (particularly road vehicles) – this is to be led by local authorities in terms of identifying actions / measures. A series of additional actions are identified involving a range of organisations. | should be given to opportunities to address poor air quality, including through promotion of sustainable modes of travel and facilitating lower emission technologies and modes of travel. |
| <p>Noise Policy Statement for England, DEFRA, 2010</p> <p>[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/noise-policy-statement-for-england]</p> | This statement applies to all forms of noise beyond the workplace, with a vision to promote good health and quality of life through effective management of noise. This is supported by aims to avoid significant adverse impacts, mitigate and minimise adverse effects, and where possible contribute to improvements in health and quality of life. | Noise needs to be taken into account at the appropriate time, seeking to manage the potential issue and implications effectively, first seeking to avoid issues and then mitigating where this is not possible. |
| <p>Meeting our future water needs: a national framework for water resources, Environment Agency, 2020.</p> <p>[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/meeting-our-future-water-needs-a-national-framework-for-water-resources]</p> | This provides a long term direction in relation to regional water resource planning, taking account of the needs of the environment and improving resilience to drought. It is highlighted that without action many areas of England will face water shortages by 2050, with the south east facing the greatest pressures. | A number of these matters are pertinent in Test Valley. It will be important to ensure that appropriate consideration is given to the water environment, along with demands for water and the need for appropriate infrastructure. |

| Relevant Policy / Plan / Programme | Summary of Objectives and Requirements of the Policy / Plan / Programme | Implications and how this might be taken on board |
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| Groundwater Protection, Environment Agency and DEFRA, 2017 [https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/groundwater-protection] | Provides guidance to manage and protect groundwater. It considers risk of pollution (point sources and diffuse) as well as the vulnerability of groundwater to pollution. | Ensuring the availability of water resources, whilst not adversely affecting the environment will be an important consideration, along with avoiding risk of pollution. |
| Flood and coastal erosion risk management Policy Statement, HM Government, 2020 [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-policy-statement] | This provides the ambitions in relation to being more resilient to future flood and coastal erosion risks, in relation to people, the economy and environment. It focuses on 5 areas, including about flood defences and infrastructure; managing the flow of water more effectively; harnessing the power of nature; better preparing communities; and taking a catchment based approach. | Regard will need to be had to the increasing risks, as well as the proposed approaches for increasing resilience to them. Flood risk is more relevant to the Borough than coastal erosion. Regard should be had to the goals to reduce the likelihood of flooding as well as reducing the impacts when it does happen. |
| Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England, DEFRA, 2009 [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-our-soils-a-strategy-for-england] | Soil is a natural resource which provides a range of services. This strategy sets out a vision to safeguard soils through sustainable management and avoiding degradation. | There is a need to prevent pollution of soils and take account of soil quality when making decisions. This could include consideration of contamination and sustainable drainage systems. |
| Our Waste, Our Resource: A Strategy for England, HM Government, 2018 | This strategy sets out aims to preserve material resources by | Strategies / plans should consider opportunities to use |

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| [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/resources-and-waste-strategy-for-england] | minimising waste, using resources efficiently and moving towards a circular economy. At the same time waste needs to be managed in a less environmentally damaging way. A series of milestones and targets are included, including resource productivity. | resources more efficiently, reduce waste generate and ensure they do not impede the operation of waste management facilities and infrastructure. |
| 8-Point Plan for England's National Parks, 2016 [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-parks-8-point-plan-for-england-2016-to-2020] | This framework gives a guide on the intentions for how to protect, promote and enhance national parks up to 2020. It includes 8 key priorities linked to 3 key themes of inspiring natural environments, drivers of the rural economy and national treasures. | Many of these matters would be considered through national park management plans, although there may be factors to take into account on integrated management of the environment and taking a balanced approach to the promotion of national parks for outdoor recreation alongside other considerations. |
| Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services, DEFRA, 2011 [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/biodiversity-2020-a-strategy-for-england-s-wildlife-and-ecosystem-services] | The strategy aims to halt overall biodiversity loss, support ecosystems and coherent ecological networks. It is intended to take action through 4 areas, including a more integrated large-scale approach to conservation, putting people at the heart of biodiversity, | Biodiversity will need to be taken into consideration through relevant plans / strategies, including having regard to the aim of this strategy regarding loss of biodiversity and ecological networks. |

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| | reducing environmental pressures and improving knowledge. | |
| <p>The Culture White Paper, Department for Culture, Media and Sport, 2016</p> <p>[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/culture-white-paper]</p> | <p>This sets out how the government will support cultural sectors, including through increasing the access and opportunities culture offers, and see more partnerships to put culture at the heart of place making.</p> | <p>Regard should be had to the ways the objectives will be delivered, including through intermediate strategies to support relevant cultural considerations.</p> |
| <p>Towards a one nation economy: A 10-point plan for boosting productivity in rural areas, DEFRA, 2015</p> <p>[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/towards-a-one-nation-economy-a-10-point-plan-for-boosting-rural-productivity]</p> | <p>This recognises the importance of the rural areas to the economy and the need to look at specific priority areas to enhance productivity, this includes connectivity to the wider economy, skills, and making it easier to live and work in rural areas.</p> | <p>Strategies / plans may be able to support progress on the actions identified at a local level, including in relation to connectivity and opportunities to live and work in rural areas.</p> |
| <p>Industrial Strategy: building a Britain fit for the future, HM Government, 2017.</p> <p>[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/industrial-strategy-building-a-britain-fit-for-the-future]</p> | <p>Identifies 5 pillars of productivity, with policies in relation to each – they comprise: ideas, people, infrastructure, business environment and places. Policies include supporting the research and development sector, and investing in education and infrastructure (including digital infrastructure and electric vehicles).</p> | <p>Local policies and plans should have regard to the national objectives and seek opportunities to help contribute to their achievement.</p> |

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| <p>PHE Strategy 2020 to 2025, Public Health England (PHE), 2019</p> <p>[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/phe-strategy-2020-to-2025]</p> | <p>This sets out public health priorities for the next five years in order to protect people and help people live longer and in good health. Ten priorities are highlighted, including on cleaner air, better mental health, and better start in life. It is also indicated that reduction in health inequalities will be incorporated into these priorities.</p> | <p>Some aspects of the strategy can be taken on board locally including considering how local places take a whole systems approach, thinking about the environments being created and how this supports health objectives.</p> |
| <p>Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation, HM Government, 2015</p> <p>[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sporting-future-a-new-strategy-for-an-active-nation]</p> | <p>This strategy looks to encourage participation and active lifestyles – to do this it focuses on 5 key outcomes, namely physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing, individual development, social and community development and economic development. The strategy recognises a role for local authorities, particularly given their understanding of communities so as to enable targeting of opportunities and encourage mass participation.</p> | <p>This strategy filters down through other documents (including the Sport England strategy) but there may also be opportunities for plans / strategies to build on the outcome areas and support their delivery at a local level.</p> |
| <p>Towards an Active Nation Strategy 2016-2021, Sport England, 2016</p> <p>[https://direct.sportengland.org/active-nation/our-strategy/]</p> | <p>This strategy seeks to deliver on Government objectives, with key areas of change including investing in tackling inactivity, promoting positive attitudes to sport and activity for children and young</p> | <p>There may be opportunities to support the delivery of some of the areas of focus.</p> |

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| | people, promoting inclusiveness, and encouraging stronger local collaboration. In relation to these topics, actions and performance indicators are identified. | |
| <p>The Road to Zero, HM Government, 2018</p> <p>[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reducing-emissions-from-road-transport-road-to-zero-strategy]</p> | <p>This focuses on the steps needed towards cleaner road transport, including zero emissions vehicles. This includes ensuring the necessary infrastructure is in place to support such changes. There is a mission for all new cars and vans to be effectively zero emissions by 2040.</p> | <p>Regard will need to be had to the intentions set out within this paper to ensure any plans / strategies take account of the transition and opportunities to support it, including through infrastructure needs.</p> |
| <p>Gear Change: A bold vision for cycling and walking, DfT, 2020</p> <p>[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cycling-and-walking-plan-for-england]</p> | <p>Sets out proposals to increase walking and cycling across the country, focusing on four themes. These comprise better streets for cycling and people; cycling and walking at the heart of decision making; empowering and encouraging local authorities; and enabling people to cycle and protecting them when they do. There are ambitions to help create healthier, happier and greener communities; safer streets; and convenient and accessible travel.</p> | <p>There will be opportunities to facilitate walking and cycling through the location and design of new developments, including how they relate to existing facilities.</p> |

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| Sub-National and Local | | |
| <p>Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan 2013-2030, Hampshire County Council (and other partners), 2013</p> <p>[https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/strategic-planning/hampshire-minerals-waste-plan]</p> | <p>This plan seeks to promote sustainable development with a focus on minerals and waste development. This includes making provision for a reliable supply of minerals and appropriate waste infrastructure, whilst protecting the environment and local communities and supporting the local economy. A series of policies are provided in order to help achieve this.</p> | <p>This forms part of the Development Plan for the Borough, providing guidance on how planning proposals for minerals and waste matters should be considered. Other policy documents would need to have regard to such policies and allocations. This includes seeking to ensure that mineral resources are not sterilised and proposals do not impede the operation of mineral and waste infrastructure.</p> |
| <p>Hampshire Strategic Infrastructure Statement, Hampshire County Council, 2019</p> <p>[https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/strategic-planning/infrastructure-planning]</p> | <p>The document provides a snapshot of infrastructure needs that have been identified and is intended to contribute to engagement on funding delivery. Its objectives include maximising the available and planned infrastructure capacity and making better informed choices about the location of future growth.</p> | <p>There will be a need to ensure that any development is accompanied by appropriate infrastructure provision.</p> |
| <p>PUSH Spatial Position Statement, Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH), 2016</p> | <p>This strategy seeks to '<i>deliver sustainable, economic-led growth and regeneration to create a more prosperous, attractive South</i></p> | <p>Regard should be had to the position statement, including through working with other</p> |

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| [https://www.push.gov.uk/work/planning-and-infrastructure/push-position-statement/] | <i>Hampshire ... offering a better quality of life for everyone who lives, works and spends their leisure time here.</i> It focuses on matters including cities/urban areas first, promoting a modal shift and protecting the environment. A series of spatial principles are established, along with additional guidance on how the principles and approach can be achieved. | authorities that form part of the Partnership. |
| Growing our potential: Corporate Plan 2019-2023, Test Valley Borough Council, 2019 [https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/aboutyourcouncil/corporatedirection/corporate-plan-for-2019-to-2023] | This outlines the Council's vision and priorities for the four year period, which provides a focus for Council activities and services. It identifies 4 priorities for growing the potential of the Borough, comprising Town Centres, Communities, People and Local Environment. This is in order to build upon the strengths and improve the quality of life across the Borough. | Plans / strategies prepared by the Council should have regard to the role they play in helping to deliver these priorities and the vision for the Council. Some of the priorities may be more directly relevant than others depending on the remit of the document. |
| Test Valley Borough Revised Local Plan, Test Valley Borough Council, 2016 [https://testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/local-development-framework/dpd] | Forms part of the planning framework. Identifies 15 objectives, these relate to local communities, the local economy, environment, leisure, health and wellbeing, transport, community safety and education and learning. A series of policies | This forms part of the Development Plan for the Borough, with policy approaches on a range of issues that will need to be taken into account. |

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| | and allocations are set out in order to help deliver these objectives. | |
| <p>Neighbourhood Plans for areas within Test Valley Borough</p> <p>[https://testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/neighbourhood-planning]</p> | <p>Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP) allow parishes to consider the issues that are important to them, set out a vision for the area and provide planning policies relating to the use and development of land. Currently Goodworth Clatford is the only neighbourhood plan that has been made. Thruxton and Chilbolton neighbourhood plans are both post examination, awaiting referendums.</p> | <p>This will be reviewed in line with the Local Plan policies and SPDs to aid in decision making related to use and development of land. They will also aid in the identification of locally important objectives and issues.</p> |
| <p>Local Plans and associated documents for neighbouring and other local planning authorities</p> <p>[Available from local planning authority websites]</p> | <p>These documents provide a steer of the intentions and objectives for the relevant authorities (including neighbouring authorities) for how the local areas are proposed to be planned for in the future, including where development may be allocated. The progress of the documents varies by authority.</p> | <p>It would be important to take account of the objectives of these documents, particularly where there are opportunities for partnership working.</p> |
| <p>A Vision for Romsey 2015-2035, Romsey Future, 2015</p> <p>[http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/communityandleisure/romsey-future]</p> | <p>This establishes a vision for the town for the next 20 years, including as a place for people to come together, with the town thriving and growing with more people visiting the town centre, whilst retaining its character as a relatively compact</p> | <p>This gives an insight into the ambitions of the community for Romsey in the future and should be taken into account when preparing other strategies / plans.</p> |

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| | historic market town closely related to the countryside around it. A series of principles are set out along with ambitions to achieve the vision. This is currently being refreshed. | |
| <p>Andover Vision: Your aspirations, your future, your town, Andover Vision team, 2017</p> <p>[http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/communityandleisure/andover vision]</p> | <p>This sets out the vision for the community for the next 20 years. As part of this it sets out five themes, comprising, being part of a connected community; having a great green environment; being part of a thriving town centre; supporting businesses, jobs and skills in the town; and access to great health. Beneath each theme, a series of 'big ideas' are identified in relation to the next 20 years.</p> | <p>Provides an overview of the aspirations of the community of Andover for the future, which should be taken into account when preparing other strategies / plans.</p> |
| <p>Parish Plans for Parishes within the Borough</p> <p>[http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/communityandleisure/workingwithcommunities/communityplans/parish-plans]</p> | <p>The Parish Plans provide contextual information for the areas they cover, often identifying action points based on priorities highlighted by the local community. The objectives vary by document – many cover matters including leisure, biodiversity, housing and transport.</p> | <p>The Council is one of the organisations with the potential to support the delivery of the actions identified within these documents. Plans / strategies should have regard to objectives / actions identified and opportunities to support their delivery.</p> |
| <p>South Inshore and Offshore Marine Plan, Marine Management Organisation (MMO), 2018</p> | <p>This plan establishes a strategic approach to inshore and offshore</p> | <p>Plans / strategies should have regard to the objectives and</p> |

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| [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-south-marine-plans-documents] | waters within the plan area, including policies on where certain activities can take place, whilst taking account of a range of considerations including the needs of the environment. The plan includes 12 objectives with a series of policies to help deliver them. | policies seeking to deliver them to ensure they support the proposals for the management of the marine environment and landward links to such proposals. |
| River Basin Management Plan: South East River Basin District, Environment Agency, 2015 [https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/river-basin-management-plans-2015] | This document provides a framework for protecting and enhancing the benefits provided by the water environment – this is linked to the Water Framework Directive and its objectives. Measures to achieve objectives are identified and limitations for achieving these. | Regard will need to be had to the Water Framework Directive obligations and measures proposed to achieve them, particularly to ensure that any proposals do not counteract the measures envisaged. |
| Water Resource Management Plans (and associated Drought Plans), prepared by each water supply company [Available from water company websites for Southern Water, Bournemouth Water, Wessex Water, and Cholderton & District Water] | These documents set out the way that water companies will seek to ensure water supply resources are available to meet demands in their supply area, taking account of the needs of the environment and potential implications of climate change. It focuses on ensuring sufficient water for the first 5 year period, with provisions made for a further 20 years. | The availability of water resources and assumptions made on demand will need to be taken into account along with an understanding infrastructure needs (including the phasing of their availability). |

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| <p>Water Company Business Plans 2020-2025, prepared by water companies</p> <p>[Available from water company websites]</p> | <p>These set out the specific proposals expected to ensure sufficient water supply, waste water treatment and adherence to water quality standards over the five year period and investment required in the period as part of future planning. This links to the Water Resource Management Plans.</p> | <p>Need to be aware of the proposals in the Business Plans and the lead in times for delivering infrastructure.</p> |
| <p>Test & Itchen Abstraction Licensing Strategy, Environment Agency, 2019</p> <p>[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/test-and-itchen-catchment-abstraction-licensing-strategy]</p> | <p>This strategy sets out the approach to managing new and existing abstraction and impoundment within the Test and Itchen catchments. It is recognised that abstractions are managed to protect the environment.</p> | <p>There is a need to take account of the availability of water in terms of the location of development and the impacts on the environment.</p> |
| <p>Catchment Action Plan, Test and Itchen Catchment Partnership, 2019</p> <p>[http://www.ticp.org.uk/current-projects]</p> | <p>The purpose of this plan is to set out the actions that will deliver environmental improvements to achieving the vision of a healthy water environment that is valued and nurtured by residents, businesses and the wider community. Recognition of the role of ecosystems services is highlighted, with actions including the topics of water quality & quantity, channel and habitat, as</p> | <p>Regard should be had to the identified actions and opportunities to support environmental improvements.</p> |

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| | well as recreation and community engagement. | |
| <p>South East River Basin District: Flood Risk Management Plan 2015-2021, Environment Agency, 2016</p> <p>[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/south-east-river-basin-district-flood-risk-management-plan]</p> | <p>The plan explains flood risk and how the relevant authorities will work with communities to manage the risks over the plan period. General objectives are set out along with catchment specific objectives. The latter includes minimising the impact of flooding, considering environmental benefits as part of flood management, and support adaptation to climate change by making space for water.</p> | <p>Regard needs to be had to flood risk from the variety of sources identified and proposed measures to address this. It will be important to aim to avoid increasing risks.</p> |
| <p>Hampshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, Hampshire County Council, 2013</p> <p>[https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/flooding/strategies/Local-Flood-Risk-Management-Strategy]</p> | <p>A key aim of the document is to produce a plan to reduce and manage flood risk in a way that will benefit people, property and the environment. Objectives include improving knowledge and understanding, provide a strategy (and taking action) to manage risks, increasing public awareness, and improving response and recovery to flood risk.</p> | <p>It will be important to ensure that flood risk is considered as part of plan / strategy development, in terms of not increasing risks / vulnerabilities and where possibly play a role in helping to deliver solutions or benefits.</p> |
| <p>Hampshire Groundwater Management Plan, Hampshire County Council, 2013</p> | <p>This provides an overview of groundwater flooding risk, looking at contextual information and action plans for priority areas. It also seeks</p> | <p>Need to be aware of the areas at risk of groundwater flooding, including the identified priority areas and</p> |

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| [https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/flooding/strategies/groundwater-management-plan] | to collate information on actions being taken by different partners. The action plans include areas within Test Valley. | actions that had been identified. Plans / strategies should not increase risk and should have regard to actions identified. |
| North Solent Shoreline Management Plan, New Forest District Council, 2010 [http://www.northsolentsmp.co.uk/] | This sets the strategic policy approach for the management of the coastline and adjacent areas at risk of tidal flooding and coastal erosion. A small part of the Borough is covered by this document (unit 5c13) for which an approach of 'no active intervention' is identified. | Need to take account of the approach to managing future flood risk in the lower Test area to ensure no inappropriate development takes place. |
| Test Valley Borough Council Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020 [https://testvalley.gov.uk/aboutyourcouncil/corporatedirection/environmentandsustainability/climate-emergency-action-plan] | In line with the Government target to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, a climate emergency was declared by the Council in September 2019. A climate emergency action plan was created to identify steps to achieve carbon neutrality as soon as possible, certainly before the Government target of 2050. | Need to have regards to the six themes covered in the action plan and the role of strategies and plans in seeking to achieve the necessary reductions in carbon emissions. |
| A Clean Air Strategy for Southampton, Southampton City Council, 2019-2025 [http://www.southampton.gov.uk/images/clean-air-strategy-2019-2025_tcm63-389498.pdf] | This provides a framework for improving air quality (to reduce health impacts and meet legal obligations), recognising that this needs to be undertaken in partnership. It includes four priorities: improving air quality in the | Need to have regard to the actions proposed to ensure cross boundary approach to supporting activities, this will include promoting sustainable transport. |

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| | city, supporting businesses and organisations, collaborating with communities and residents and promoting sustainability. | |
| <p>North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan 2019-2024, 2019</p> <p>[http://www.northwessexdowns.org.uk/About-Us/aonb-management-plan.html]</p> | <p>This document provides detail on the context and landscape for the AONB. It focuses on 8 themes, including landscape, biodiversity, the historic environment, development and communities. Policies for the AONB are identified for each theme.</p> | <p>The management plan should be taken into account for any strategies / plans within or in close proximity to the AONB to help conserve the nationally important landscape.</p> |
| <p>Partnership Plan for the New Forest National Park, 2015</p> <p>[https://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/about-us/management-plan/]</p> | <p>This provides a guide to all activities aiming to support the delivery of the purpose and duty of the National Park. It identifies a series of priority areas with objectives linked to each – the priority areas include enhancing the landscapes and habitats, conserving local distinctiveness, enjoying the special qualities of the Park, and supporting local communities.</p> | <p>Whilst plans / strategies are unlikely to cover the National Park itself (the National Park Authority has responsibilities for planning functions) there will need to be consideration of the potential effects on the setting of this area (bearing in mind the priorities) and potential affects within the Park from changes within the Borough.</p> |
| <p>Solent European Marine Sites Draft Management Scheme and associated Review document, 2004 and 2011 [along with annual Delivery Plans]</p> <p>[http://www.solentems.org.uk/publications/]</p> | <p>These combined documents aim to ensure the sustainable management of the Solent coastline with a focus on the biodiversity and nature conservation designations. The aim</p> | <p>This links to legal obligations to manage European nature conservation designations. Regard should be had to the management considerations</p> |

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| | is to maintain favourable condition through the sustainable management of activities. | and the proposals in the delivery plans, to ensure any plan / strategy does not counteract any proposals and ideally supports them. |
| <p>Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy, Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership, 2017</p> <p>[https://solent.birdaware.org/strategy]</p> | Provides background information on the rationale for the mitigation package linked to recreational pressures on 3 Special Protection Area (SPA) designations within the Solent. It includes details of a mitigation package to address the identified issues and the need for this to be monitored and reviewed. | Plans / strategies will need to be aware of the recreational pressures and the mitigation package to ensure that they do not undermine the proposals and seek opportunities to support them. |
| <p>Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy, 2010 (and associated mitigation guidance)</p> <p>[https://solentwbgs.wordpress.com/]</p> | Considers areas of land that are ecologically linked to the Solent SPAs that are important to the designated bird species, so they can be properly considered when at risk. A series of policies is provided to help ensure such areas are appropriately considered, with additional advice available in relation to providing mitigation. | Plans / strategies will need to be mindful of the areas of land identified through this strategy and ensure full consideration is given to them so as not to undermine the areas supporting the SPA. |
| <p>Test Valley Biodiversity Action Plan, Test Valley Borough Council, 2008</p> <p>[http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/communityandleisure/naturereserves/biodiversity-action-plan]</p> | This draws on higher tier biodiversity action plans. It provides a baseline of the biodiversity within the Borough and action plans looking at the Borough as a whole and specific | This provides contextual information and an indication of actions that can support biodiversity in the Borough which should be taken into |

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| | areas. It includes a number of objectives such as ensuring protection and appropriate management of key habitats, ensuring biodiversity is taken into account in decision making, and reducing the effects of habitat fragmentation and isolation through restoration. | account when developing strategies / plans. |
| <p>Contaminated Land Strategy, Test Valley Borough Council, 2017</p> <p>[https://testvalley.gov.uk/housingandenvironmentalhealth/environmentalprotection/land-contamination]</p> | <p>This strategy is produced in line with legal requirements which seek to identify and remove unacceptable risks from land contamination, bring brownfield land back into beneficial use and ensure any costs are proportionate. Priorities include identifying contaminated land, monitoring private drinking water supplies to identify sources of contamination and work in partnership with other organisations as appropriate.</p> | <p>Plans / strategies should ensure that any opportunities to identify and remediate contaminated land are taken into account.</p> |
| <p>2020 Air Quality Annual Status Report, Test Valley Borough Council, 2020</p> <p>[http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/housingandenvironmentalhealth/environmentalprotection/air-quality]</p> | <p>This document includes results of air quality monitoring. It does not include any specific objectives but does summarise actions to improve air quality in the local area.</p> | <p>Development within the Borough has the potential for a range of implications on air quality, including through transport related emissions. Plans / strategies should note the latest local evidence on</p> |

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| | | air quality levels and consider this alongside national and sub-national plans to improve air quality. |
| <p>Town and Village Design Statements for settlements across the Borough, various dates</p> <p>[https://testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/village-design-statements]</p> | <p>While the content of these documents varies by settlement, they generally provide background to the settlement and a description of the features of importance within the settlement. The majority provide recommendations for any future development to ensure they respect the local character.</p> | <p>The Design Statements give further detail on features that help to establish the local character of areas. Having regard to this detail in plans / strategies can help to ensure that the character of settlements is retained.</p> |
| <p>Conservation Area Character Appraisals, various dates</p> <p>[https://testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/heritage/conservationarea]</p> | <p>This suite of documents provides contextual information on the Conservation Areas to which they relate, identifying specific character areas and the features which help to provide the historic character.</p> | <p>These documents provide a steer to the features of particular importance (from settlement pattern to materials used) within the Conservation Area, all of which should be taken into account should any plans/ strategies relate to these areas.</p> |
| <p>Andover Town Centre Masterplan, 2020</p> <p>[https://www.thinkandovertowncentre.co.uk/andovermasterplan]</p> | <p>The masterplan has been prepared in the context of engagement with the community. The vision for change seeks to ensure Andover town centre will be social & inclusive, green & ethical, creative &</p> | <p>This highlights one way that Andover town centre could be redeveloped whilst also providing key principles and actions to consider alongside this. The proposals could help</p> |

| Relevant Policy / Plan / Programme | Summary of Objectives and Requirements of the Policy / Plan / Programme | Implications and how this might be taken on board |
|---|---|--|
| | enterprising, and unique & independent. A spatial framework has been prepared for the town centre, along with more detailed masterplans for key areas of change. An action plan is also provided to supplement this. | to inform any approach to development as well as wider promotion and facilitating use of the town centre. |
| South of Romsey Town Centre Masterplan Report, 2020 | The masterplan has been prepared in the context of engagement with the community in particular through Romsey Future. As part of the vision, the masterplan includes recognition of its role in enhancing Romsey's resilience, using the centre in a sustainable way, creating greater footfall and enhancing Romsey's unique character. The masterplan sets out how proposals to the south of the town centre could be brought forward, accounting for design principles and guidelines, looking at the short, medium and long term. | The proposals could help to inform any approach to development of this area of the town centre, with opportunities to promote wider connections. |
| Hampshire Children and Young People's Plan 2019 to 2021, Hampshire County Council and Hampshire Children's Trust, 2019 [https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/cypp] | This document establishes the vision and priorities at a strategic level linked to a shared commitment to improve the lives of children and young people in Hampshire. It establishes actions in relation to the | Whilst many of the actions / priorities do not directly relate to the Council, there may be opportunities to ensure that plans / strategies can |

| Relevant Policy / Plan / Programme | Summary of Objectives and Requirements of the Policy / Plan / Programme | Implications and how this might be taken on board |
|---|--|--|
| | themes of health, staying safe, enjoyment and achievement, making a positive contribution and achieving economic wellbeing. | positively influence these areas. |
| <p>Housing Strategy 2020-2025, Test Valley Borough Council, 2020 (and associated delivery plan)</p> <p>[https://testvalley.gov.uk/housingandenvironmentalhealth/using/housing-strategies/test-valley-borough-council-s-housing-strategy-2020-2025]</p> | <p>Having regard to policy context and evidence, 4 priorities are identified, comprising enabling the delivery of new homes that people can afford and meeting different types of need in our communities; improving access to and quality of existing housing; meeting the challenge of an ageing population; and preventing and relieving homelessness and rough sleeping. The latter links to the below strategy. In relation to each priority, a series of actions are identified.</p> | <p>Regard should be had to the priority areas and associated actions within the delivery plan when preparing plans / strategies.</p> |
| <p>Preventing Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2023, Test Valley Borough Council, 2020 (and associated delivery plan)</p> <p>[https://testvalley.gov.uk/housingandenvironmentalhealth/using/housing-strategies/preventing-homelessness-rough-sleeping-strategy-2020-2023]</p> | <p>Four interdependent themes have been identified that form the basis for the strategy; namely improving health & wellbeing, building on skills, empowering communities to thrive; driving innovation across public services through partnership working; supporting people to remain in their homes or move into the right accommodation at the right time; and developing local</p> | <p>Regard should be had to the priority areas and associated actions within the delivery plan when preparing plans / strategies.</p> |

| Relevant Policy / Plan / Programme | Summary of Objectives and Requirements of the Policy / Plan / Programme | Implications and how this might be taken on board |
|---|--|--|
| | partnerships to ensure no-one has to sleep rough. A delivery plan supports the strategy to help achieve the themes. | |
| <p>A Strategic Economic Plan for the Enterprise M3 Area 2018 – 2030, Enterprise M3 LEP, 2018</p> <p>[https://www.enterprisem3.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-02/Strategic%20Economic%20Plan%202018.pdf]</p> | <p>This document includes a commitment to drive a clean, low carbon economy. It outlines 5 priorities in order to achieve growth, these include: high value sectors for a globally facing economy, enterprise and innovation for scaling up high productivity small and medium enterprises, skills for high value, high growth economy, connectivity for a 21st century advanced digital and low carbon economy and dynamic communities and sustainable growth corridors.</p> | <p>Regard should be had to the approach being taken by the LEP and opportunities to support the areas of focus and interventions identified.</p> |
| <p>World Class Skills: Developing a workforce for the future – Skills and Employment Strategy 2014- 2020, Enterprise M3 LEP, 2014</p> <p>[https://www.lepnetwork.net/media/1109/enterprise-m3-sep.pdf]</p> | <p>This strategy has taken an evidence led approach to review the demand for and supply of skills. As a result it has identified 3 work streams, relating to skills, employability, and collaboration & skills brokerage. An action plan accompanies this strategy.</p> | <p>Whilst many of the actions identified do not relate directly to Council activities, plans / strategies should consider whether there are opportunities to improve skills linked to the evidence identified.</p> |
| <p>Economic Development Strategy 2017-2019 and beyond, Test Valley Borough Council, 2017</p> | <p>This sits beneath the Council's Corporate Plan and establishes specific priority areas including</p> | <p>Plans / strategies should have regard to the priority areas identified and opportunities to</p> |

| Relevant Policy / Plan / Programme | Summary of Objectives and Requirements of the Policy / Plan / Programme | Implications and how this might be taken on board |
|--|---|---|
| [http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/business/businessgrantsandsupport/test-valley-economic-development-strategy-2016-19] | supporting vibrant businesses, securing the right scale of strategic infrastructure, skills, improving town centres, being open for business, and tourism. In relation to each area, consideration is given to the evidence base and actions that will be taken. | contribute towards their delivery. |
| Hampshire School Places Plan 2020 – 2024, Hampshire County Council, 2020 [https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schoolplacesplan] | This document sets out the level of need that has been identified for additional mainstream school places in primary and secondary sectors. This takes account of population changes and anticipated new development, then sets out the methodology for calculating the requirement for places. This helps to inform future needs. | The capacity of schools should be taken into account when developing any plans / strategies, also having regard to whether there is capacity for additional places to be provided. |
| Towards a Healthier Hampshire: A Strategy for Improving the Public's Health 2016-2021, Hampshire County Council, 2016 [http://documents.hants.gov.uk/public-health/TowardsahealthierHampshireastrategyforimprovingthepublicshealth2016-2021.pdf] | This Strategy aims to improve health across Hampshire, including helping people to look after their own health and wellbeing and ensuring the right services are delivered where they are needed. The 5 priorities for public health in Hampshire are healthy, happy, resilient, thriving communities, and protect. The strategy goes on to provide a high level review of the expected | Plans/strategies should have regard to the background information and proposed actions to seek opportunities to support their delivery. Areas of relative health inequality are identified in the Borough. Whilst many of the areas for further action may fall beyond the remit of the Council, there may be scope |

| Relevant Policy / Plan / Programme | Summary of Objectives and Requirements of the Policy / Plan / Programme | Implications and how this might be taken on board |
|---|---|--|
| | changes in services and proposed outcomes. | for plans / strategies to help achieve the objectives through other mechanisms e.g. availability of open space / recreational facilities, and other indirect measures that may promote healthy lifestyles. |
| <p>Hampshire Countryside Access Plan 2015-2025, Hampshire County Council, 2015</p> <p>[http://documents.hants.gov.uk/countryside/HampshireCountrysideAccessPlan2015-2025.pdf]</p> | <p>This plan primarily seeks to provide a mechanism to address issues including the condition of the rights of way network, their connectivity, information provision, accessing the countryside from urban areas and impacts on land management. Objectives include focusing resources on routes that provide the most benefit, enabling a greater response to local needs and ensuring information on finding paths and using them responsibly is widely available and easily understood. A series of actions are identified.</p> | <p>Plans / strategies can consider the issues identified and opportunities to help deliver them e.g. looking at access to the countryside and connectivity of routes.</p> |
| <p>Green Infrastructure Strategy for the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH), UE Associates for PUSH, 2017-2034 (and associated Implementation Framework, 2019)</p> | <p>The documents aim to recognise the existing access to green infrastructure within South Hampshire and the advantages</p> | <p>There is an opportunity to support the delivery of this strategy, through any emerging plans and</p> |

| Relevant Policy / Plan / Programme | Summary of Objectives and Requirements of the Policy / Plan / Programme | Implications and how this might be taken on board |
|---|--|--|
| [https://www.push.gov.uk/work/planning-and-infrastructure/green-infrastructure-flooding-water-management/] | such facilities can provide. They identify areas where improvements / enhancements can be made to the green infrastructure network, to include proposals within Test Valley, such as a forest park. | strategies. The importance of green infrastructure and the access to natural green spaces should be recognised. |
| Green Infrastructure Strategy for Test Valley 2014 - 2019, Test Valley Borough Council, 2014 [https://testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/planning-policy-guidance] | The aims of the strategy are to enhance biodiversity & the quality of the natural environment, maximise opportunities for the public to enjoy the environment, support the response to climate change, support the wellbeing of residents and the economic prosperity of the Borough. Contextual information is provided along with opportunities to support the delivery of the aims. | Plans / strategies have scope to support the delivery of these objectives and actions identified within the strategy. There should be consideration of such issues including in relation to biodiversity and enjoyment of the environment. Area based sections within the strategy can be used as a focus. |
| Green Spaces Strategy, Test Valley Borough Council, 2007 https://testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/evidence-base/evidence-base-leisure | This document aims to ensure that the green spaces of the Borough are of a high quality and to guide their improvement through management measures, This document identifies a range of strategic priorities. The document is in the process of being updated. | Plans / strategies can recognise the importance of existing open spaces and support their long term management, as well as trying to ensure appropriate access to open spaces serving different purposes. |
| Playing Pitch Strategy, Continuum on behalf of Test Valley Borough Council, 2020 | This reviews the availability of pitches relative to existing and forecast population to assess the level of need as well as changes | Plans / strategies should consider opportunities to support delivery on the identified actions and bear in |

| Relevant Policy / Plan / Programme | Summary of Objectives and Requirements of the Policy / Plan / Programme | Implications and how this might be taken on board |
|--|--|---|
| https://testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/evidence-base/evidence-base-leisure | required in relation to the quality of provision. As a result of this, a series of actions are identified. The strategy focuses on pitches for football, rugby, cricket and hockey. | mind the recommendations for existing sites, as well as the need for additional provisions. |
| Sport Facilities Strategy, Continuum on behalf of Test Valley Borough Council, 2020 https://testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/evidence-base/evidence-base-leisure | This reviews the supply and demand for a variety of sport and recreation provisions in relation to a range of indoor and outdoor sports including swimming, athletics, tennis, cycling and netball. It identified a series of actions to ensure needs are met, this includes through enhancements to existing sports facilities. | Plans / strategies should consider opportunities to support delivery on the strategic actions in relation to existing facilities and the need for enhancements to provisions. |
| Forest Park Implementation Framework, Test Valley Borough Council, 2014 [https://testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/planning-policy-guidance] | This document focuses on a specific project, identifying a series of objectives in relation to its delivery – these comprise providing accessible green infrastructure, reducing pressure on sensitive sites, and enhancing biodiversity. In addition a series of principles for delivery are identified. | Plans / strategies should consider opportunities to support the delivery of this project in line with the implementation framework. |
| River Anton Enhancement Scheme: A Partnership Strategy for Protecting and Improving the River Anton, 2008 http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/ | This strategy identifies key issues and identifies actions seeking to improve the River Anton and its associated environment. The document focuses on four broad | Regard should be given to the important features identified and the opportunities for improvement. |

| Relevant Policy / Plan / Programme | Summary of Objectives and Requirements of the Policy / Plan / Programme | Implications and how this might be taken on board |
|---|--|---|
| communityandleisure/parksandgreenspaces/river-anton-enhancement-scheme] | objectives, improve the river and its value for wildlife; improve public access along the river; involve the community in projects to improve the river; and ensure the full potential of the River Anton as a chalk river habitat is realised and secured for the future. | |
| Romsey Waterways and Wetlands Enhancement Strategy, 2013 [https://testvalley.gov.uk/communityandleisure/parksandgreenspaces/romsey-s-waterways-and-wetlands] | Provides contextual information on the waterways within Romsey and opportunities for improvements (with actions identified). The partners involved in the strategy identified 6 objectives, namely, improve public access; improve ecology of the rivers; improve the heritage features associated with the waterways; improve awareness and appreciation of the waterways; improve co-ordination of flood defences; and improve landscape setting of the waterways. | Regard should be given to the important features identified and the opportunities for improvement – plans may have scope to support the delivery of identified actions. |
| Hampshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2031, Hampshire County Council, 2013 [https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/strategies/transportstrategies] | This provides a long term strategy and shorter term implementation strategy to support delivery. The 3 main priorities identified are to support economic growth by ensuring the safety, soundness and efficiency of the transport network; | There may be a role in supporting the delivery of the priority areas identified, but also in terms of making sure that appropriate consideration is given to how any new development links with the |

| Relevant Policy / Plan / Programme | Summary of Objectives and Requirements of the Policy / Plan / Programme | Implications and how this might be taken on board |
|--|--|--|
| | providing a safe, well-maintained, and more resilient road network; and management of traffic to maximise the efficiency of existing network capacity, improving journey time reliability and reducing emissions. | existing network and its available capacity. |
| <p>Hampshire Walking Strategy, Hampshire County Council, 2016</p> <p>[https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/strategies/transportstrategies]</p> | <p>The strategy focuses on 4 key aims, namely providing a clear statement on aspirations for supporting walking in the short, medium and long term; providing a framework to support local walking strategies; provide a means to prioritise funding to the best value for money; and helping to realise additional funding opportunities. This links to a vision that by 2025, walking will be the travel mode of choice for short trips and the most popular & accessible means of recreation.</p> | <p>Plans / strategies may have a role in reflecting on the challenges identified and providing a means of encouraging walking e.g. through creating new links, making sure routes feel safe, and improving the usability of existing routes.</p> |
| <p>Hampshire Cycling Strategy, Hampshire County Council, 2015</p> <p>[https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/strategies/transportstrategies]</p> | <p>The vision for this strategy is that by 2025 cycling will be a convenient, safe, healthy, affordable and popular means of transportation and recreation. Linked to this, a series of challenges and related objectives are identified, including in relation to</p> | <p>Plans / strategies may have a role in reflecting on the challenges identified and providing a means of encouraging cycling e.g. improving connectivity of routes / links to key destinations, and considering</p> |

| Relevant Policy / Plan / Programme | Summary of Objectives and Requirements of the Policy / Plan / Programme | Implications and how this might be taken on board |
|--|--|---|
| | safety and encouraging regular cycling. | the availability of cycle storage. |
| <p>Cycle Strategy and Network Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), Test Valley Borough Council, 2015</p> <p>[https://testvalley.gov.uk/communityandleisure/cyclingwalking/cyclestrategyspd]</p> | <p>This aims to lay out how to deliver the opportunity for increased cycling routes and improve their safety. It also identifies how cycling should be considered in new developments.</p> | <p>This provides a framework as to how to improve the cycling network within the Borough. Strategies / plans should have regard to the routes identified and scope to support their delivery.</p> |
| <p>Andover Town Access Plan SPD, Test Valley Borough Council, 2015</p> <p>[https://testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/supplementary-planning-documents/atap]</p> | <p>This provides contextual information on accessibility in Andover and identifies a series of measures to improve accessibility (with some delivery mechanisms identified).</p> | <p>This identifies opportunities to improve accessibility in the town – plans / strategies should have regard to the improvements suggested to ensure they are not prejudiced and opportunities to support their delivery are taken on board.</p> |
| <p>Romsey Town Access Plan SPD, Test Valley Borough Council, 2015</p> <p>[https://testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/supplementary-planning-documents/romsey-town-access-plan-spd-rtap]</p> | <p>This provides contextual information on accessibility in and around Romsey and identifies a series of measures to improve accessibility (with some delivery mechanisms identified).</p> | <p>This identifies opportunities to improve accessibility in the town – plans / strategies should have regard to the improvements suggested to ensure they are not prejudiced and opportunities to support their delivery are taken on board.</p> |
| <p>Test Valley Access Plan SPD, Test Valley Borough Council, 2015</p> | <p>This provides contextual information on accessibility for the Borough in</p> | <p>This identifies opportunities to improve accessibility in the</p> |

| Relevant Policy / Plan / Programme | Summary of Objectives and Requirements of the Policy / Plan / Programme | Implications and how this might be taken on board |
|---|---|---|
| [https://testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/supplementary-planning-documents/test-valley-access-plan-spd] | the areas outside Romsey and Andover. It goes on to identify a series of issues, and in some cases measures to improve accessibility by Parish. | Borough – plans / strategies should have regard to the improvements suggested to ensure they are not prejudiced and opportunities to support their delivery are taken on board. |

Appendix 3: Maps to Support Baseline Information (Task A2)

Maps within this appendix –

- A. Location of international nature conservation designations – Special Protection Areas and Ramsar sites
- B. Location of international nature conservation designations – Special Areas of Conservation
- C. Location of SSSIs and SINCs
- D. Location of Ancient Woodland
- E. Local Ecological Network
- F. Index of Multiple Deprivation
- G. Highest Level of Qualification Attained
- H. Heritage Designations
- I. Agricultural Land Classification
- J. Location of North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and New Forest National Park
- K. Landscape Character Areas
- L. Flood Risk from Rivers and Sea

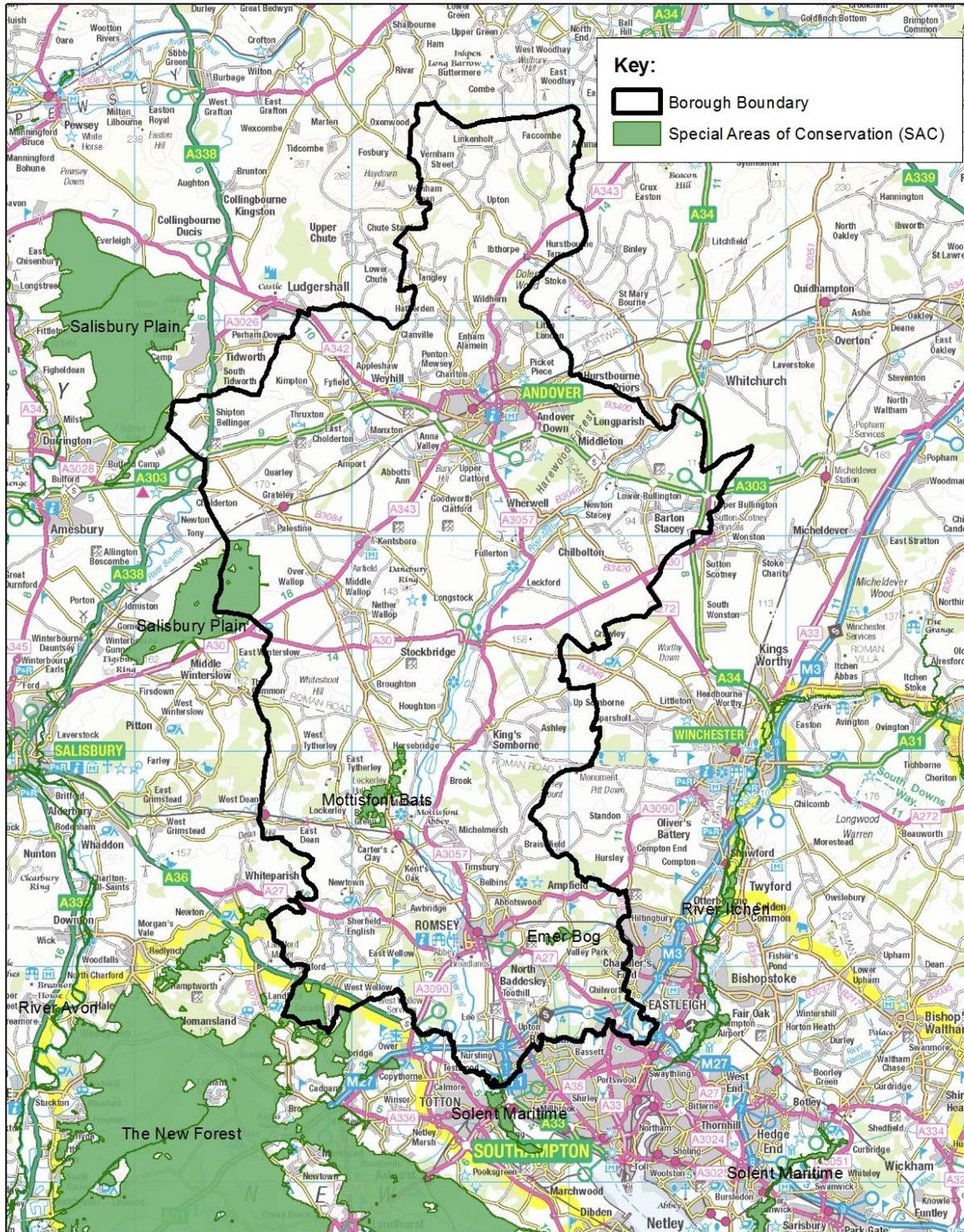
Please be aware, in many cases the data shown on maps is clipped to the Borough of Test Valley, so does not show for the wider area.



Location of international nature conservation designations - Special Protection Areas and Ramsar Sites

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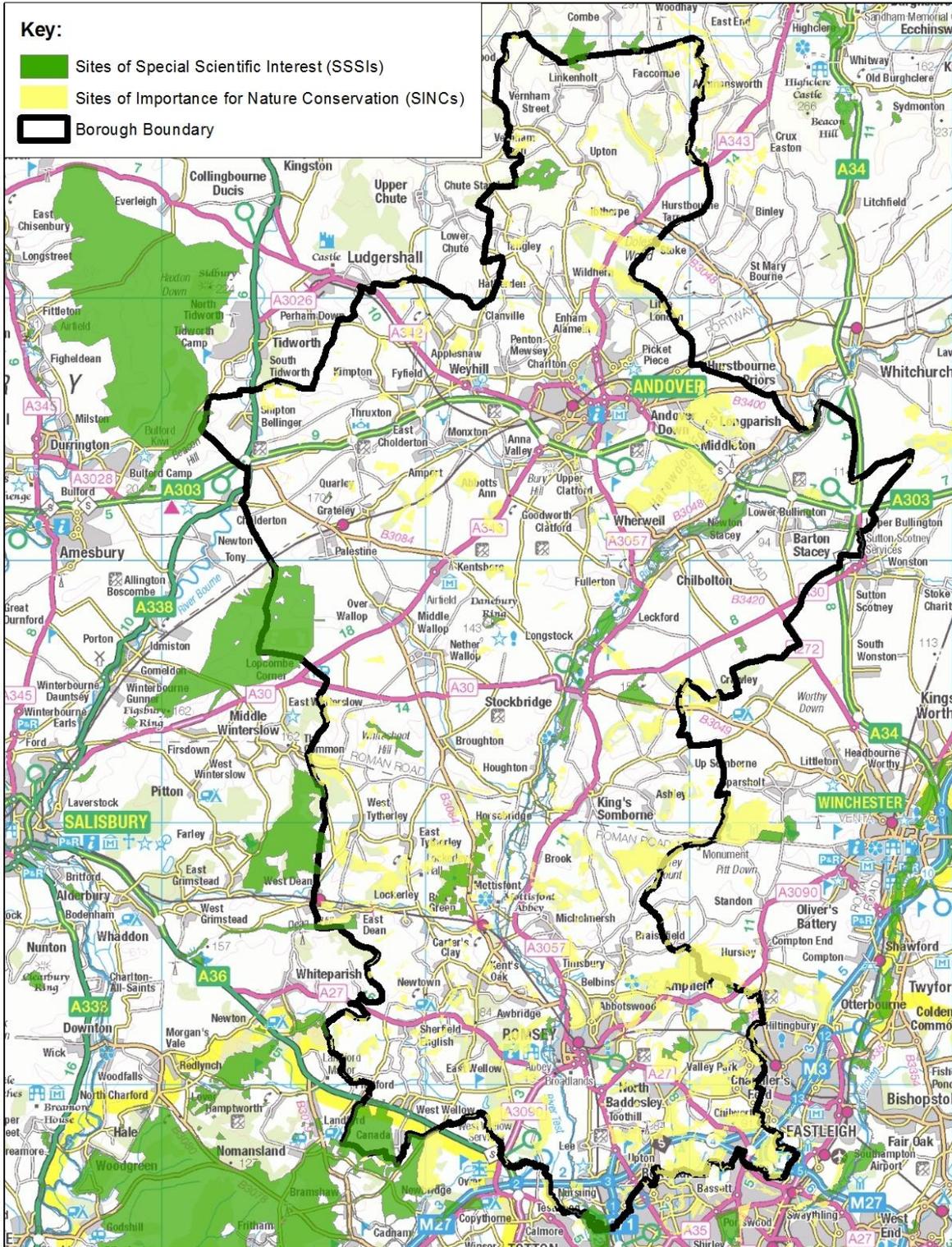




**Location of international nature conservation designations -
Special Areas of Conservation**

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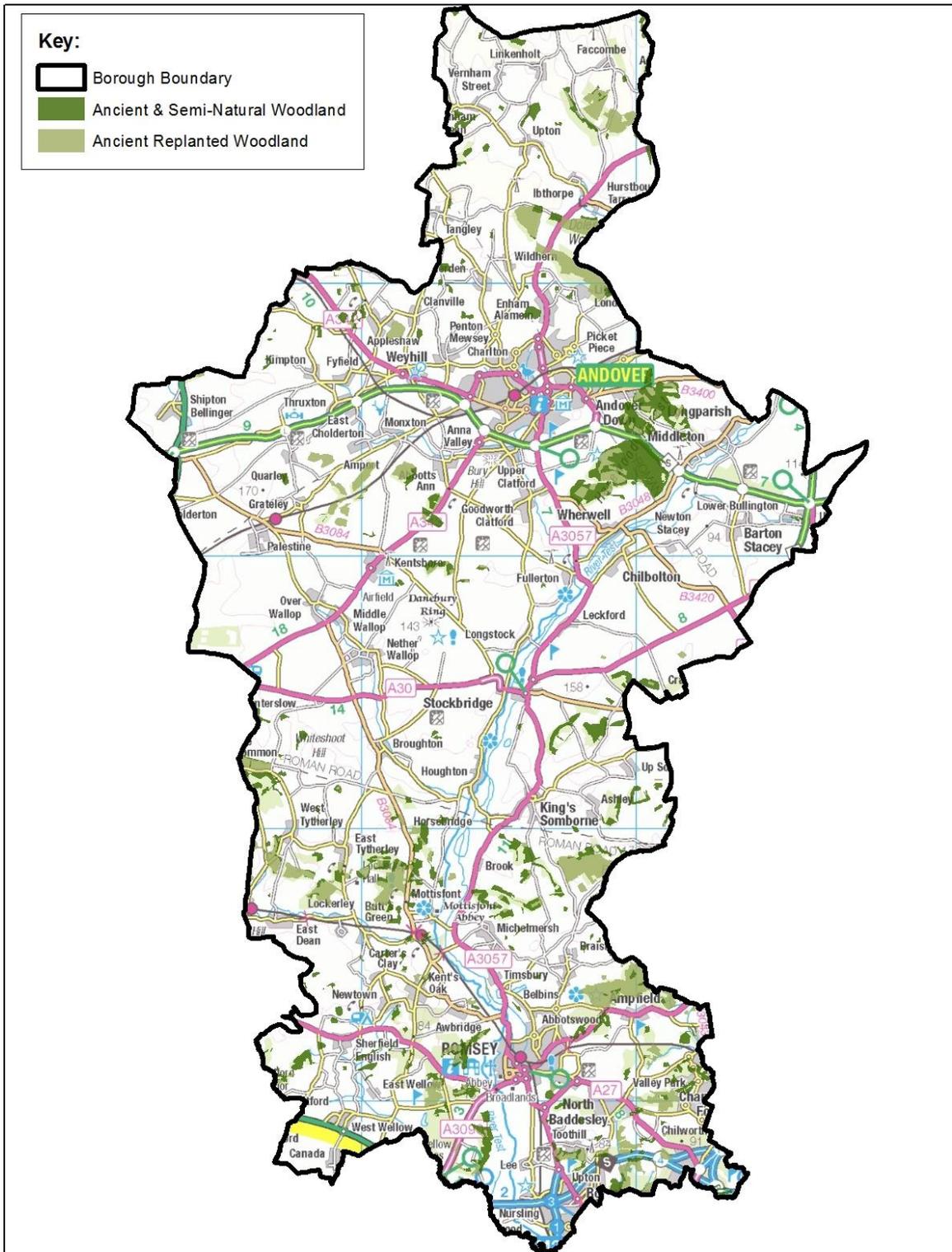




Location of SSSIs and SINCs

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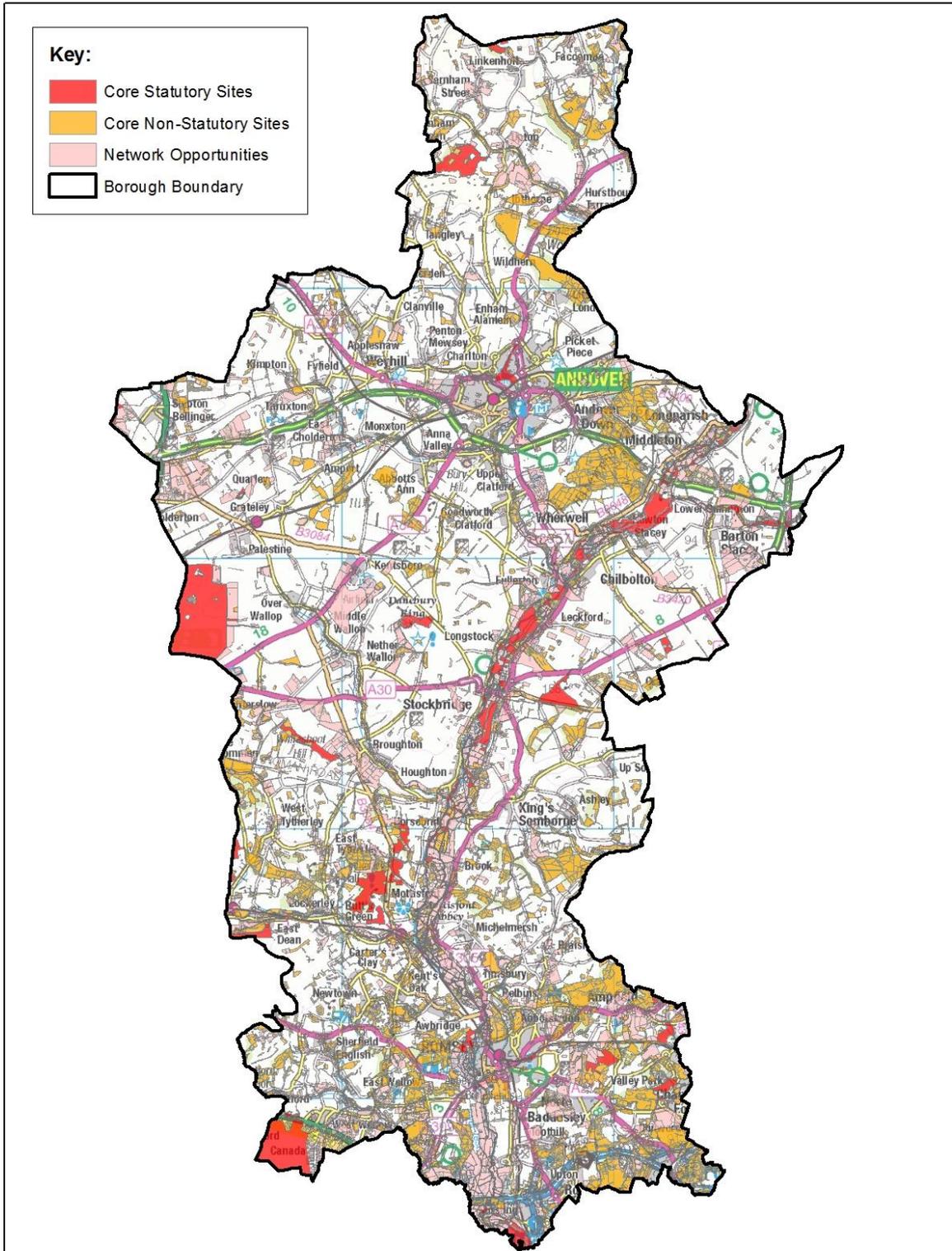




Location of Ancient Woodland

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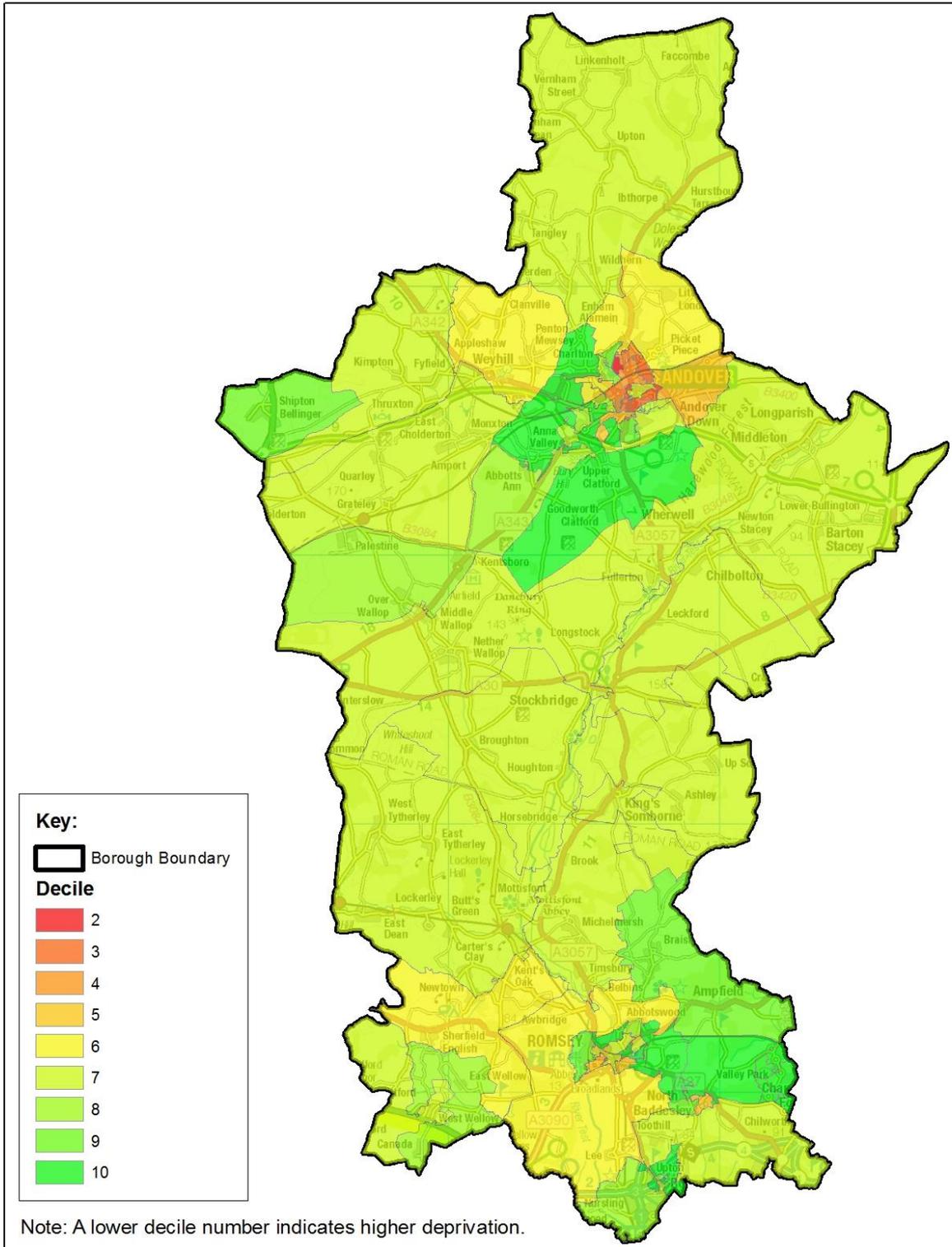




Local Ecological Network

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Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019

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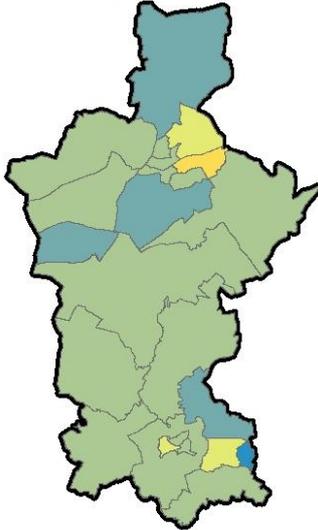


Highest Level of Qualification Attained - 2011 Census - People Age 16+

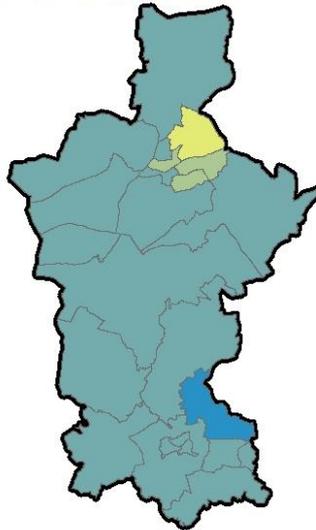
Overview of Qualification Levels -

Level 1: 1-4 O Levels/CSE/GCSEs (any grades), Entry Level, Foundation Diploma, NVQ level 1, Foundation GNVQ, Basic/Essential Skills;
 Level 2: 5+ O Level (Passes)/CSEs (Grade 1)/GCSEs (Grades A*-C), School Certificate, 1 A Level/ 2-3 AS Levels/VCEs, Intermediate/Higher Diploma, NVQ level 2, Intermediate GNVQ, City and Guilds Craft, BTEC First/General Diploma, RSA Diploma 13 Apprenticeship;
 Level 3: 2+ A Levels/VCEs, 4+ AS Levels, Higher School Certificate, Progression/Advanced Diploma, NVQ Level 3; Advanced GNVQ, City and Guilds Advanced Craft, ONC, OND, BTEC National, RSA Advanced Diploma;
 Level 4: Degree, Higher Degree (MA, PhD, PGCE), NVQ Level 4-5, HNC, HND, RSA Higher Diploma, BTEC Higher level, Professional Qualifications.

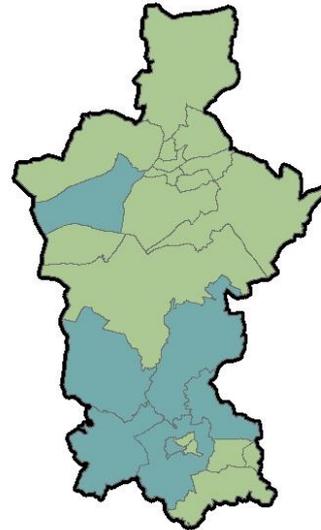
No Qualification



Level 1 Qualification



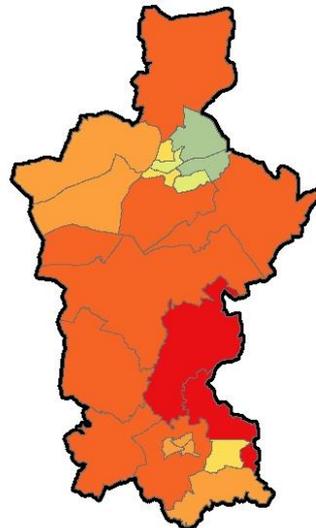
Level 2 Qualification



Level 3 Qualification



Level 4 Qualification

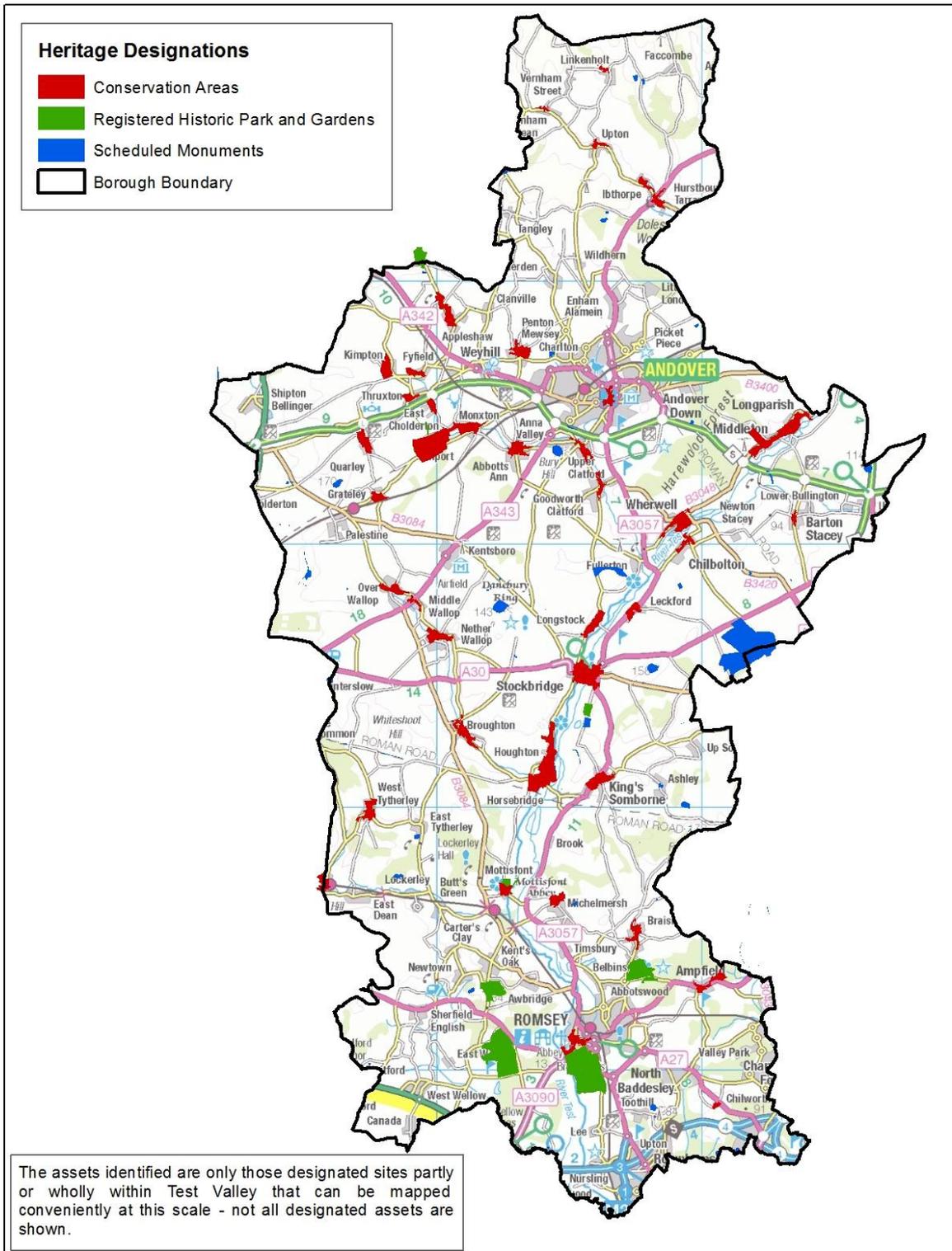


Key
Percent of Population
Attaining Specified Level

- 5.0 - 9.9
- 10.0 - 14.9
- 15.0 - 19.9
- 20.0 - 24.9
- 25.0 - 29.9
- 30.0 - 34.9
- 35.0 - 39.9
- 40.0 - 46.0

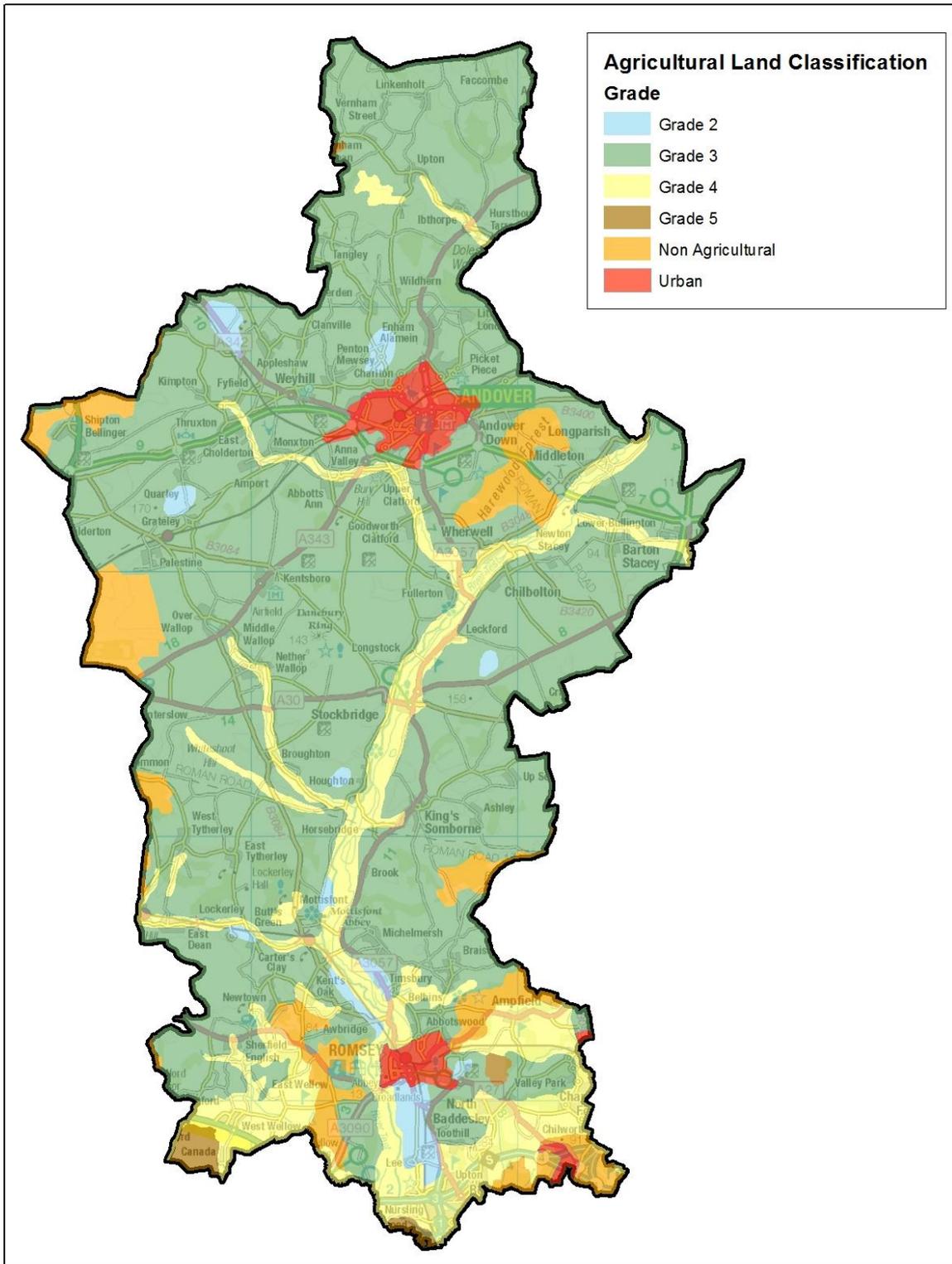
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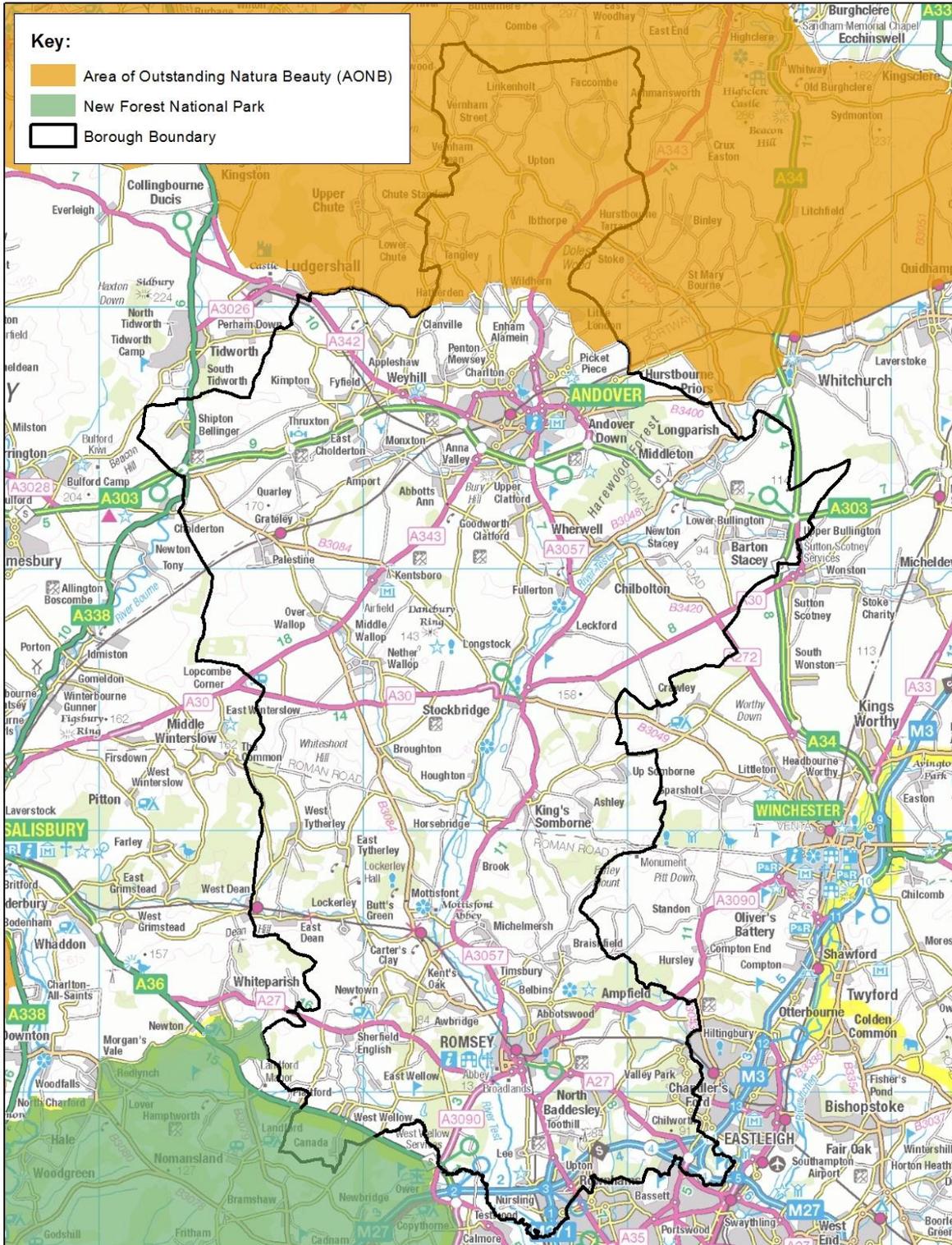
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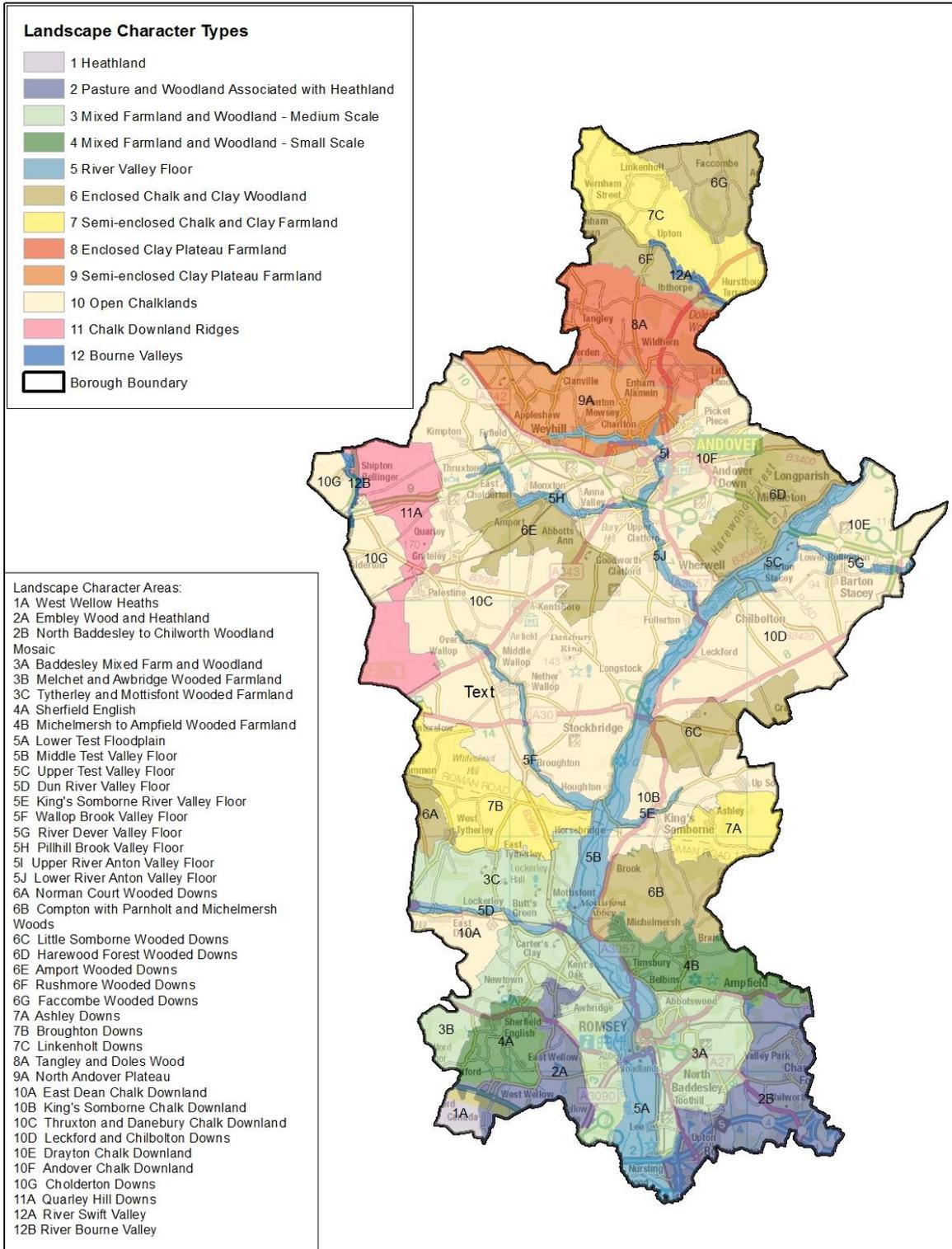




Location of AONB and New Forest National Park

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Landscape Character Areas

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Test Valley Borough Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report Summary

2020



Introduction

1. This document is a summary of the Scoping Report, which is the first part of the sustainability appraisal process (explained below). The Scoping Report gathers information on a range of themes to identify key issues and objectives that can be used as a basis for assessing future plans and policies in terms of their sustainability. This is intended to mainly be used for certain planning policy documents, but may also be used in relation to other Council strategies.¹

Why carry out Sustainability Appraisal?

2. Legislation² currently requires local authorities to undertake an appraisal of the sustainability (or sustainability appraisal) of certain planning policy documents, called Development Plan Documents (abbreviated to DPDs).
3. Sustainability appraisals are also used to satisfy the requirements of additional legislation that applies more widely than planning, namely the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (sometimes known as the SEA³ Regulations). Through this legislation, certain plans, policies and programmes need to be assessed for any significant effects on the environment.
4. National guidance is available to inform the production of sustainability appraisals. This guidance identifies 5 key stages of the process that are summarised below.

Table 1: Stages of the sustainability appraisal process⁴

| Stage | Brief Description |
|-------|---|
| A | Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope |
| B | Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects |
| C | Prepare the sustainability appraisal report |
| D | Seek representations on the sustainability appraisal report from consultation bodies and the public |
| E | Post adoption reporting and monitoring |

What is the Scoping Report?

5. A Scoping Report is one way of completing Stage A of the sustainability appraisal process (as set out in Table 1). In this case, a Scoping Report has been prepared to cover all emerging planning policy documents that need to

¹ The trigger for using these objectives would be if a plan / strategy / project needs to be assessed in terms of its environmental effects through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulation 2004.

² Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

³ SEA is an abbreviation of 'Strategic Environmental Assessment'.

⁴ Based on the Planning Practice Guidance flowchart of the sustainability appraisal process (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/580027/sea1_013.pdf)

be assessed through the above mentioned legislation, as well as any other Council strategies that may need to be assessed. However, there may be some plans that are more specialist or focused (e.g. on a specific topic or geographical area) where a view might be taken to prepare a separate Scoping Report.

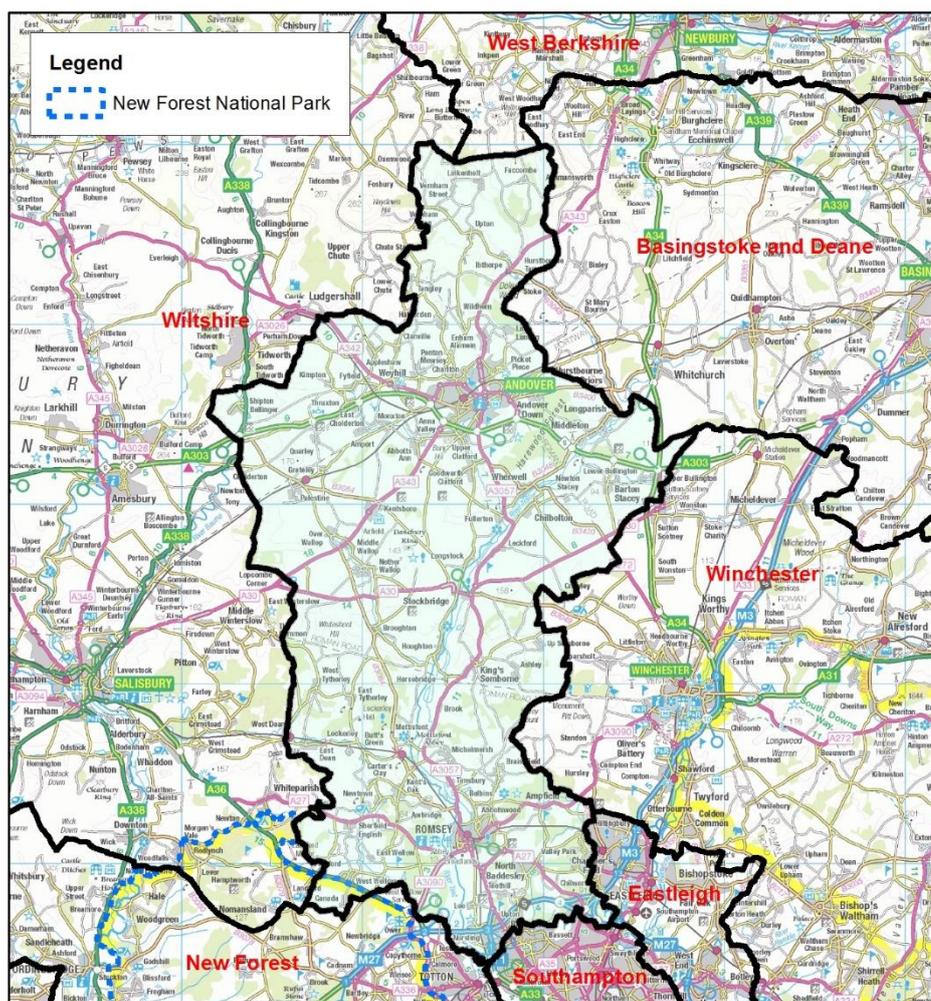
6. The Scoping Report collates background information on a range of themes (including social, environmental and economic matters), identifies key issues linked to these themes and then develops a list of objectives which are used to assess the sustainability of plans and policies.
7. The Scoping Report includes the following information:
 - A review of other plans and policies which are considered to be relevant (found in sections 5 to 16 and Appendix 2 of the Scoping Report)
 - Background information on the Borough, looking at the current / recent circumstances and how it is likely to change (found in sections 4 to 16 of the Scoping Report)
 - Sustainability issues arising from the background information and relevant plans and policies (found in sections 5 to 16, and summarised in section 18, of the Scoping Report)
 - A sustainability appraisal framework, which includes the sustainability objectives (found in section 19 of the Scoping Report)
8. This document provides a summary of the information contained within the main report and associated appendices. Within the main report, the information is grouped into themes, whilst in this summary the information is presented by the different tasks making up the scoping process.⁵

Borough of Test Valley

9. The Borough of Test Valley is located within west Hampshire. The main towns are Andover, towards the north, and Romsey, toward the south and Stockbridge which is located near the centre of the Borough. There are a number of other villages and hamlets across Test Valley. There are also a number of towns and cities nearby, including Southampton to the south; Basingstoke, Eastleigh, Chandler's Ford and Winchester to the east; and Salisbury to the west of the Borough. The location and extent of the Borough is shown in Figure 1.
10. Following the designation of the New Forest National Park, the National Park Authority has taken responsibility for planning functions (as at the 1 April 2006) for the area within Test Valley that falls within the national park boundary – this is the area to the south of the A36 in the south west of the Borough.

⁵ The task number is shown in square brackets in headings, this reflects the tasks identified in the Planning Practice Guidance flowchart, referred to in footnote 4.

Figure 1: Location of Test Valley (showing adjoining local authorities)



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Test Valley
Borough Council

Identifying other relevant plans, policies and programmes [Task A1]

11. A review of relevant plans, policies and programmes is provided within the main report and associated appendices. In general, the international and national documents provide legal requirements and contextual information. The documents providing the most direct influence (other than legal requirements) are national policy and documents produced at more local scales. There were some difficulties in identifying the most up to date documents. In addition, as the Scoping Report may be used in relation to a variety of plans / strategies prepared by the Council, it is more challenging to identify those other plans, policies and programmes that are relevant.
12. A summary of some of the key messages is provided below, this is based around the section headings used in the main report (for sections 5 to 16). Further details are provided within the main report and Appendix 2.

Table 2: Summary of key documents

| Key Messages | Sources |
|--|---|
| Air Quality | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor air quality can have negative impacts on health and the environment, as well as having economic implications. • There are national objectives on air quality, with some more localised action plans where issues have been identified. | A Green Future; Clean Air Strategy; UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations; National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF); Air Quality Plans; Air Quality Status Report. |
| Biodiversity and Geodiversity | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal obligations to protect certain designated species and habitats, as well as a duty to have regard to the purpose of conservation of biological diversity. • Follow the mitigation hierarchy (avoid, then mitigation and only as a last resort compensate). • Provide net gains for biodiversity, including through ecological networks to retain connectivity. | A Green Future; Biodiversity 2020; NPPF; Biodiversity Action Plans; designation citations; Green Infrastructure Strategies. |
| Climate Change | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The climate is forecast to get warmer and wetter in winter and warmer and drier in summers, with increased risk of extreme weather events. • International aim to keep global temperature rise this century well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C. • Action is needed in a range of fields to reduce emissions, improve resilience and allow adaptation. | Paris Agreement; A Green Future; Clean Growth Strategy; NPPF; Climate Change Risk Register; National Adaptation Programme; Climate Emergency Action Plan. |
| Communities and Wellbeing | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek opportunities for individuals to look after their own health and wellbeing and take action early. • Reduce health inequalities and promote a holistic approach to healthy lifestyles. • Places should be designed to be accessible and safe to reduce the | NPPF; Sporting Future; Public Health England Strategy; Towards an Active Nation Strategy; Noise Policy Statement for England; Hampshire's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment; Public Health Strategy; TVBC Corporate Plan; Andover Vision; Romsey Future Strategy; Parish Plans; Green Infrastructure |

| Key Messages | Sources |
|---|---|
| <p>risk that crime / fear of crime undermine community cohesion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider social, recreational and cultural facilities and services that meet community needs. | <p>Strategies; Playing Pitch Strategy; Sport Facilities Strategy..</p> |
| Economy and Employment | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to support clean growth (that delivers economic growth whilst reducing carbon emissions). Seek to support the viability and vitality of town centres. Promote the development of skills and innovation. Appropriate infrastructure (including digital) needs to be available to support growth. Education systems should support lifelong learning and skills development. | <p>NPPF; Industrial Strategy; Clean Growth Strategy; LEP plans / strategies; Economic Development Strategy; School Places Plan.</p> |
| Historic Environment | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is important to conserve and enhance both designated and non-designated heritage assets and their setting, incorporating statutorily protected heritage assets (such as listed buildings). In order to successfully manage change it is important to understand the significance of assets. | <p>NPPF; Conservation Area Character Appraisals; Listed Building entries and descriptions; Hampshire Historic Environment Record; Heritage at Risk Registers; Village and Town Design Statements; Scheduled Ancient Monument records; Historic Park and Garden Registers; Landscape & Townscape Assessments; Historic England Advice Notes.</p> |
| Homes and Accommodation | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should plan for housing need including market and affordable housing, along with needs of different groups within the community. Ensure new homes in a quality environment in which to live. Local priorities for housing include enabling delivery of homes that people can afford, meeting needs within the community and meeting the challenge of an ageing population. | <p>NPPF; Planning Policy for Traveller Sites; TVBC Corporate Plan, TVBC Housing Strategy and Preventing Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy.</p> |

| Key Messages | Sources |
|---|---|
| Land and Soil | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil is a natural resource that provides a range of services, and needs to be managed sustainably. • Risks to soil health including as a result of pollution should be avoided. • Effective use of land should be encouraged, including through the use of previously developed land. | NPPF; Safeguarding our Soils Strategy; A Green Future; Minerals and Waste Plan; Contaminated Land Strategy. |
| Landscape, Townscape and Character | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal duties in relation to the National Park and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). • Need to have regard to the local landscape, townscape and settlement character. | NPPF; A Green Future; New Forest National Park Management Plan; North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan; Landscape Character Assessments; Village and Town Design Statements |
| Population and Demographics | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take account of current and future demographic trends in assessing housing need • Have regard to the ageing population • Be mindful of specific needs for different groups within the community. | NPPF; Planning Policy for Traveller Sites; TVBC Corporate Plan; TVBC Housing Strategy |
| Travel and Transport | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim to increase accessibility, reduce the need to travel and support more sustainable modes of travel. • Need to move towards cleaner road transport, including zero emissions vehicles. • Promote safer transport network. | NPPF; Clean Growth Strategy; The Road to Zero; Gear Change (Vision for Cycling and Walking); Local Transport Plan; Hampshire Walking & Cycling Strategy; Hampshire Countryside Access Plan; Access Plans and Cycle Strategy |
| Water Resources and Quality | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure water abstraction takes account of the needs of the environment, as well as the demands of communities, and how both may change in the future. • Obligations through the Water Framework Directive set out certain quality standards for | NPPF; A Green Future; Meeting our Future Water Needs; River Basin Management Plan; Water Resource Management Plans; Marine Plan; Abstraction Licensing Strategy; Flood Risk Management Plans and Strategies; Flood Risk Assessments; Sustainable Drainage Systems Manual. |

| Key Messages | Sources |
|---|---------|
| <p>water bodies, including groundwater.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to follow the flood risk hierarchy and associated tests (i.e. avoid risk first). | |

Collecting baseline information [Task A2]

13. Baseline data was collected in relation to a range of themes (see sections 4 to 16 of the main report) that cover social, environmental and economic considerations. This section summarises the baseline information collected. Figure 2 provides some statistics referred to in the main report, including on the population size, housing affordability and employment rates. A number of maps are presented in Appendix 3 of the Scoping Report to support this information, with a map summarising some of this information provided as Figure 3 in this document.
14. The basic underlying geology of the Borough is chalk; towards the south of the Borough the chalk layers dip and are buried by deposits of sand, gravel and clay. The soils within the Borough are mixed, as a result the quality of soil within Test Valley also varies.
15. The River Test is the key river system within the Borough, which in conjunction with the geology, has influenced the landscape of Test Valley. A large number of public and private water sources are derived from groundwater resources (particularly linked to the chalk aquifer); with the groundwater also providing the base flow for the River Test. Different parts of the Borough are vulnerable to a variety of sources of flooding (groundwater, tidal, river based, and surface water sources).
16. Air quality within the Borough is generally good (there are no Air Quality Management Areas designated within the Borough), however there are areas of lower air quality in close proximity to the Borough, often associated with busier roads.
17. Much of the Borough to the north of Andover falls within the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), while a small area in the south west of the Borough lies within the New Forest National Park⁶. A Landscape Character Assessment for the Borough has identified twelve landscape character types, whilst also identifying a series of factors that may bring changes to the landscape over time such as climatic factors, built development and land management. The south east of the Borough and Andover are the most urban areas, with the majority of the rest of Test Valley being rural in nature.

⁶ The New Forest National Park Authority has planning responsibilities for the area within the National Park, including the area that falls within Test Valley Borough.

- 18. Test Valley has a rich built heritage, with just under 2,100 listed buildings, over 30 conservation areas and just fewer than 100 scheduled ancient monuments. There are also many heritage assets which are not subject to any statutory designation.
- 19. The Borough also has a range of biodiversity assets, including sites designated of international, national and local nature conservation importance as well as species of importance (including some that are protected by legislation). An ecological network has been identified across Hampshire which takes account of these designations, as well as important habitats, and opportunity areas.

Figure 2: Statistics for the Borough (more detail, including sources of information available in the main report)



- 20. While carbon dioxide emissions per person in Test Valley have generally been falling in recent years, they remain higher than the county, regional and national average.

21. It is challenging to forecast how the environment around us may change in the future, as there are a number of factors that may have different types of implications. A changing climate is anticipated to result in warmer wetter winters, with warmer and drier summers. Continuing development may also put additional pressure on the natural and built environment, particularly if not managed carefully. In this context, there are proposals to introduce requirements for some developments to achieve a net gain in biodiversity.
22. The environment within the Borough also provides opportunities for leisure and recreation. There are a range of leisure and cultural facilities within the Borough, some of which are also tourist attractions. Information collated by Sport England looking at activity levels of individuals suggests that the proportion of people that are active in the Borough is slightly higher than for Hampshire and England.
23. The population of the Borough is over 127,000 people, with this figure forecast to continue to rise (see Figure 2). The increase is not expected to be evenly distributed across the Borough. Forecasts suggest that some parts of the Borough may see a reduction in population size, it is assumed that this would be partly explained by a trend towards smaller household sizes. The age profile of the Borough (i.e. the age of people living within the Borough) is also changing, with a move towards an ageing population.
24. It is estimated that there are over 56,000 homes within the Borough. The adopted Local Plan⁷ for the Borough proposes at least 10,584 additional homes between 2011 and 2029 (equating to an annual average of 588). The price of housing relative to income is higher for Test Valley than the national average. There is a continuing need to provide affordable housing, as part of a wider mix of housing types, in the future. There is also a need to provide for other types of accommodation, including for the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople communities.
25. The proportion of the population in Test Valley that are in employment is higher than the national position but lower than the regional position, with 76.9% of those aged 16 to 64 in employment. The number of jobs available in the Borough is forecast to continue to grow. However, there are a number of uncertainties, particularly at present, for example taking account of the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic (both now and in the longer term).
26. In terms of education and qualifications, Test Valley is broadly performing more positively than the national picture. However, there is variation across the Borough, with parts of Andover performing less well. In some parts of the Borough there may be opportunities to address gaps in skills, which may also support the local economy. This is recognised within the priorities in the Council's Corporate Plan.
27. Health within the Borough is generally good and tends to be above the national averages in a range of measures (including life expectancy). There

⁷ Test Valley Borough Revised Local Plan DPD 2011-2029, Test Valley Borough Council, 2016.

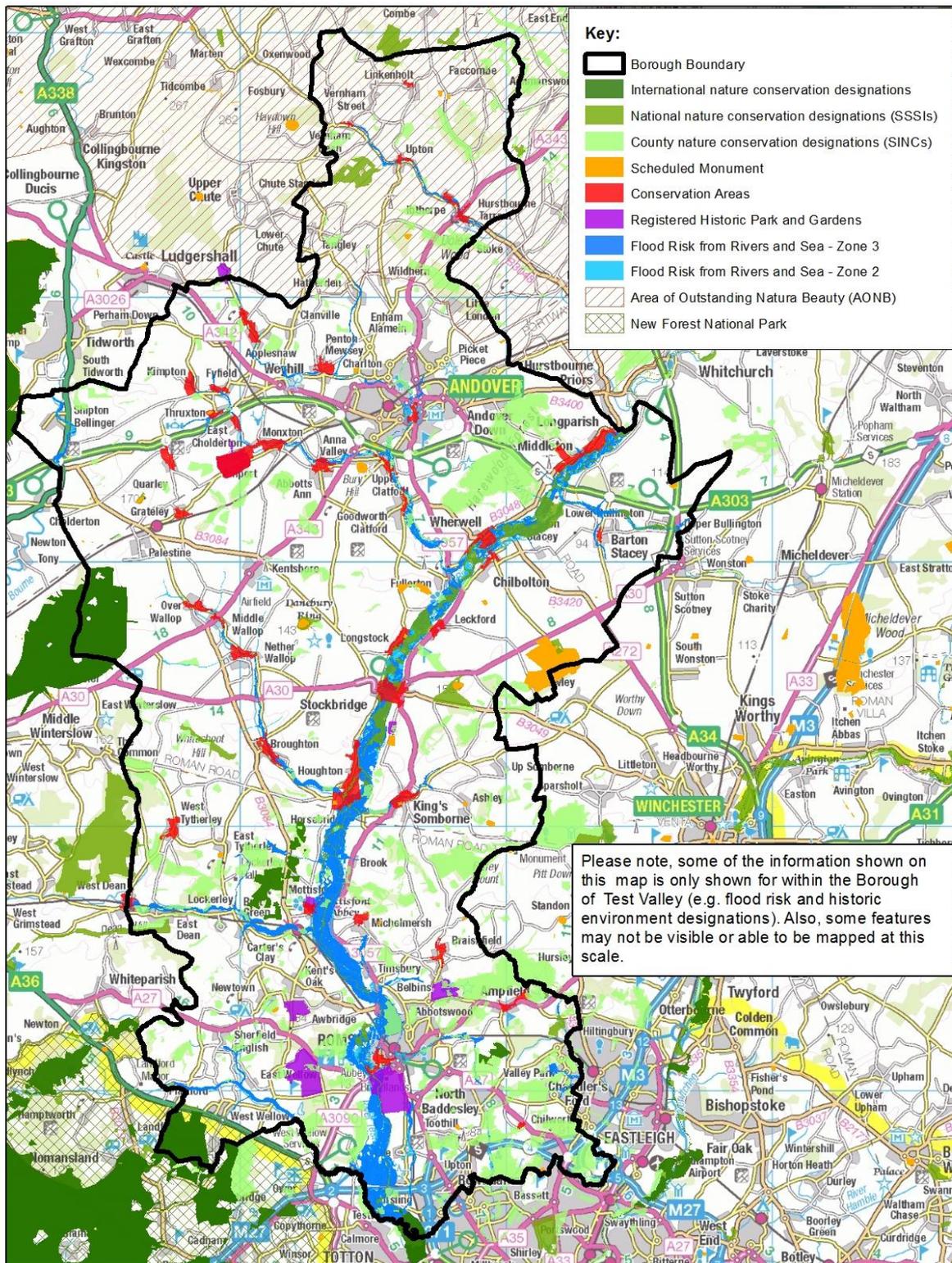
are however variations across the Borough. There are matters that will need further consideration including the gap between life expectancy and healthy life expectancy. The type of health facilities and services to be provided will need to be considered, alongside seeking to promote healthy lifestyle choices.

28. As a whole the Borough is not deprived, ranking in the 20% least deprived areas in the country (based on 2019 assessment). However, there are pockets of deprivation within the Borough, most notably in parts of Andover.
29. Crime rates in the Borough (for total recorded crime) are lower than the position across the Hampshire Police Force area, with the level of recorded crime broadly similar to the previous year. In terms of deprivation assessed in relation to crime, the Borough as a whole generally performs well (i.e. not deprived), however there are variations.
30. Test Valley is crossed by a number of main roads, including the M27 towards the south and the A303 just south of Andover. Car ownership levels in the Borough are relatively high when compared to regional and national averages – however there are variations across the Borough. The majority of residents travel to work by car, which may be partly linked to the rural nature of the Borough.
31. Access to facilities and services across the Borough varies, in part reflecting the mix of urban and rural areas (including relationships with surrounding urban areas). Key facilities within the Borough are generally located in Andover and Romsey. The national government collates data on Indices of Deprivation, part of which relates to ‘geographical barriers’ on physical proximity of local services. Using this measure, over half of the Lower Super Output Areas⁸ within Test Valley are within the 20% most deprived areas for England.
32. A number of communities within the Borough have come together to consider issues affecting them (now and in the future) and try to focus discussion on how to address them moving forward. This includes the Romsey Future and Andover Vision initiatives, as well as Parish Plans. Some communities have prepared / are preparing or are considering whether to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan⁹ – these documents may be accompanied by separate Scoping Reports.

⁸ These are areas used for monitoring purposes (linked to censuses) that include between 1,000 and 3,000 residents.

⁹ Neighbourhood Plans are one of the tools available for community planning – for more information see: <https://testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/neighbourhood-planning>

Figure 3: Location of some of the environmental designations and areas of flood risk



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Identifying sustainability issues [Task A3]

33. The identification of sustainability issues takes account of information gathered as part of the two previous tasks. A range of sustainability issues have been identified, which have been set out below in Table 3. Further information on suggestions of how these issues could be addressed are provided in section 18 of the main report. There are also likely to be significant implications on a range of themes as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the economy.

Table 3: Sustainability Issues

| |
|--|
| Air Quality |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While air quality within the Borough is generally good, there are areas nearby that are failing to achieve air quality objectives. • Potential increases in traffic / congestion could affect air quality within and outside of the Borough – this could have knock on effects to biodiversity and human health. |
| Biodiversity and Geodiversity |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct and indirect risks to biodiversity, including through cumulative impacts (e.g. recreational pressures, nutrient inputs) • Some biodiversity assets are in unfavourable condition • There is a need to consider the connectivity of habitats and issues relating to fragmentation |
| Climate Change |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The climate is forecast to change with a move towards warmer, wetter winters, and warmer, drier summers; along with changes in the frequency of extreme weather events and changes in sea levels. • Changing climate may have implications on the natural and built environment, as well as other factors including health. There is a need to consider both mitigation and adaptation options. • Per person carbon dioxide emissions in the Borough are higher than regional and national averages, with transport being a key source of emissions |
| Communities and Wellbeing |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are pockets of deprivation within the Borough, particularly in parts of Andover • Some areas within Andover are within the 20% most deprived in relation to crime • Potential for increased pressure on existing leisure, recreation and cultural facilities. Should they not be adequately available and accessible, may have health and wellbeing effects. • Whilst health in the Borough is generally good, there may be issues around years of ill health, changing health and care needs with an ageing population and lifestyle choices (e.g. levels of obesity) – there are also variations in health. |
| Economy and Employment |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The trend towards an ageing population may influence the available work force and may result in a need for people to work until an older age and / or need additional in-commuting. |

| |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those living in the Borough earn more (on average) than those working in the Borough. • Recognising the role of the rural economy • Variability in the education / skills levels within the Borough, with higher proportions of the population without qualifications in parts of Andover – there is a legacy of lower skilled employment in the town • Changes in retailing and how we use town centres • Additional development could increase demand for use of resources and the generation of waste (including through construction and operation phases) – this could also put pressure on the environment |
| Historic Environment |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some designated heritage assets within the Borough are noted to be at risk (primarily relating to archaeology) • Additional development and other changes, if not planned sensitively, could risk adverse effects on heritage assets, particularly in relation to designated assets and their setting |
| Homes and Accommodation |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implications of changes in population and demographics in terms of the type of accommodation needed • Issues of affordability of housing, including the ratio of house prices to wages • Ensuring accommodation needs of different groups within the community are appropriately met |
| Land and Soil |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing pressure on land resources from additional development, with limited opportunities to use previously developed land • Additional greenfield development could include higher grade (best and most versatile) agricultural land |
| Landscape, Townscape and Character |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional development and other changes, if not planned sensitively, could risk adverse effects on the landscape, townscapes, settlement character and identity. There is a need to manage changes, particularly in relation to designated assets and their setting. |
| Population and Demographics |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projected increases in the population size along with reductions in household size may result in a need for proportionately more homes to house the increasing population. • Potential for reduction in population size in some communities along with changes to local demographics, which may have implications on local services, especially in rural communities. • Trends towards an ageing population may affect the type of accommodation needed, as well as implications for the availability of services and their accessibility. |
| Travel and Transport |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variability in access to services / facilities across the Borough (generally lower in rural areas), with some areas more dependent on private vehicles for travel • Higher proportion of people travelling to work by car in Test Valley |

| |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional traffic flows / congestion can have adverse impacts on a range of factors, including productivity and noise & air quality (the latter potentially affecting health and biodiversity) |
| Water Resources and Water Quality |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In relation to water quality (including of groundwater), ensure that development (including construction) and other changes do not lead to deterioration and where possible improvements are achieved. • Limits on water available for abstraction, with some challenges and uncertainties in the short term for parts of the Borough in providing adequate water supplies • There are current challenges associated with high levels of nutrients in some water bodies (within and close to the Borough), which are understood to be having adverse effects including on ecology • Parts of the Borough are at risk of a variety of types of flooding (which may increase as a result of a changing climate) |

Developing the sustainability appraisal framework, including sustainability objectives [Task A4]

34. Taking account of the three previous tasks, twelve sustainability objectives have been identified. For each objective, indicative tests have been developed which will help inform the assessment of plans against the objectives. More detail is available in section 19 of the main report.
35. The sustainability objectives are:
1. Ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in an appropriate and affordable home that meets their needs.
 2. Ensure the local economy is thriving with high and stable levels of growth, whilst supporting productivity and the promotion of a diverse economy, with the availability of a skilled workforce.
 3. Maintain and improve access to services, facilities, and other infrastructure, whilst improving the efficiency and integration of transport networks and the availability and utilisation of sustainable modes of travel.
 4. Encourage the efficient use of land and conserve soil resources.
 5. Conserve and, where possible, enhance the water environment and ensure the sustainable management of water resources.
 6. Seek to avoid and reduce vulnerability to the risk of flooding and the resulting detrimental effects to the public, economy and environment.
 7. Maintain and, where possible, enhance air quality.
 8. Conserve and, where possible, enhance the Borough's landscape, townscapes and settlement character.
 9. Conserve and, where possible, enhance the historic environment and the significance of heritage assets.
 10. Conserve and, where possible, enhance biodiversity and habitat connectivity.
 11. Support the delivery of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.
 12. Seek to maintain and improve the health and wellbeing of the population.

Consulting on the scope [Task A5]

36. The Scoping Report was subject to consultation from Friday 24 July to Friday 4 September 2020. The consultation included but was not restricted to the three statutory consultees, namely Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency. The consultation documents were made available on the Council's website. All comments received were taken into consideration in preparing the final Scoping Report, with more detail within Appendix 1.

How to find out more

37. A copy of the Scoping Report is available on the Council's website at: <https://testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/evidence-base/sustainability-appraisal>
38. For more information please contact the Planning Policy and Economic Development Service using the details below.

Email: planningpolicy@testvalley.gov.uk
Telephone: 01264 368000
Address: Planning Policy and Economic Development Service
Test Valley Borough Council
Beech Hurst, Weyhill Road
Andover
SP10 3AJ

ITEM 10

Corporate Financial Monitoring

Report of the Finance Portfolio Holder

Recommended:

That the financial position for each Portfolio and the key revenue areas contained in the Annex to the report be noted.

SUMMARY:

- This report reviews the Council's revenue spending for the first six months of the 2020/21 financial year.
- It also examines the main differences between the original estimate for 2020/21 and actual spend to 30 September 2020 and provides explanations for significant variances.
- Overall, net expenditure to 30 September 2020 was £606,000 more than budgeted at this stage of the year. This adverse variance comprises additional expenditure of £508,000 due to service related expenditure and £98,000 less income from the Council's investing and borrowing activities.
- This report should be read in conjunction with the report that was presented to the Special Council meeting on 5 August, 2020, as there are a number of exempt contractual matters that are not included in this report, but which take the overall adverse variance to just over £2M for the first six months of the year to 30 September 2020.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 As part of responsible financial stewardship, it is recommended that the financial performance of the Council should be reviewed regularly.
- 1.2 Revenue budget monitoring is carried out every month for all Services and presented to Cabinet regularly throughout the year.
- 1.3 This report examines the income and expenditure of each portfolio over the first four months of the year. The Annex to the report shows the financial summaries of each portfolio to 30 September 2020 together with an explanation of any significant variances.
- 1.4 Several key areas of income and expenditure, not all apparent within individual portfolios have also been analysed and are also shown in the Annex to the report.

2 Background

Profiling of Income and Expenditure

- 2.1 Not all income and expenditure is incurred equally over the year. For example, some costs (e.g. lease costs) are allocated at the end of the year, and others are stepped throughout the year (e.g. rental income is invoiced quarterly in advance). The manner that income or expenditure is received or incurred over the course of the year is referred to as its profile.
- 2.2 In order to make the analysis more relevant, the actual income and expenditure to 30 September is being compared against its profiled position at this time.

Analysis of income and expenditure

- 2.3 The Annex to the report shows, by portfolio, an analysis of original budget, profiled budget to date, actual expenditure to date and the variance between profiled budget and actual income / expenditure.
- 2.4 The Annex to the report also shows an analysis of key areas of income and expenditure within the budget that are traditionally subject to variations in the year.

3 Analysis of Financial Performance

3.1 Leader's Portfolio

The Leader's portfolio shows net expenditure to the end of September of £907,000 against a profiled budget of £987,000. This represents a favourable variance of £80,000 to date.

This is due to government grants for Brexit brought forward from 2019/20 and savings from the new payroll service.

3.2 Deputy Leader & Planning Portfolio

The Deputy Leader & Planning Portfolio shows net expenditure of £1.315M compared with a profiled net expenditure estimate of £384,000 – an adverse variance of £931,000.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, free car parking was introduced across the Borough until 22 June, followed by two hours free for a further month. Since then, car park usage has remained lower than pre-pandemic. The estimated net loss of income from this after savings in collection costs is £763,000.

Covid-19 has also impacted on income from planning application fees and building control fees which are less than expected by an estimated £269,000.

These are partly offset by savings in employee costs due to vacancies.

3.3 Community & Leisure Portfolio

The Community & Leisure portfolio shows net expenditure to the end of September of £185,000 against a profiled estimate of £112,000. This is an adverse variance of £73,000.

This is mainly due to the impact of Covid-19 on income due to the closure of The Lights theatre and outdoor sports facilities, partly offset by savings on cleaning and promotional budgets.

3.4 Corporate Portfolio

The Corporate portfolio shows net expenditure to the end of September of £1.797M against a profiled budget of £1.804M. This represents a favourable adverse variance of £7,000 to date.

Covid-19 has impacted on income from land charges and licensing and there are additional costs in IT for three months of video conferencing required for home working.

There are savings which offset these from lower travel claims due to meetings being held remotely, no civic ceremonies and an unbudgeted government grant.

3.5 Economic Development & Tourism Portfolio

The Economic Development & Tourism Portfolio shows net expenditure of £162,000 against a profiled estimate of £196,000. This represents a favourable variance of £34,000.

This is mainly due to reductions in grant payments due to Covid-19.

3.6 Environmental Portfolio

The Environmental portfolio shows net expenditure of £1.870M against a profiled estimate to the end of September of £1.943M – a favourable variance of £73,000.

Additional net income from waste and increased subscriptions to the garden waste scheme is partially offset by a small net increase in employee costs due to covering for vacancies and sickness.

3.7 Finance Portfolio

The Finance portfolio has generated net income of £2.726M against a profiled estimate of £2.432M to the end of September. This is a favourable variance of £294,000.

This is due mainly to lower than expected staffing costs to date, prior year credits for the Chantry service charge and savings on office accommodation costs due to Covid-19.

3.8 Housing & Environmental Health Portfolio

- 3.9 The Housing & Environmental Health portfolio shows expenditure of £712,000 compared with the profiled estimate of £718,000. This is a favourable variance of £6,000.

Covid-19 has led to reductions in income from pest control, enabling fees and DFG administration fees and additional bed and breakfast charges. These are offset in part by savings in employee costs due to vacancies and supplies and services.

3.10 Key areas of income and expenditure

The Annex to the report also shows an analysis of significant items in the Council's budget. These can be spread across several Services or cost centres so may be included in more than one portfolio.

While not necessarily under the direct control of one budget manager it is important that these items are reviewed regularly in total as they provide a good indication of the overall variances within the budget.

3.11 Investment Funds and borrowing costs

Net investment income to 30 September 2020 was £215,000 compared with a profiled estimate of £313,000 – this represents an adverse variance of £98,000.

This is due to the reduction in the base rate to 0.10% in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

4 **Other Issues**

4.1 Bad and doubtful debts/ rent deferrals

As part of the budget setting process in February, 2020, the Council included a provision for bad debts based on historic evidence and data. The financial effects of the Covid-19 pandemic have been severe and unprecedented especially in relation to third parties' ability to pay amounts owed to the Council. It is not clear at this stage of the year how much of the accumulating bad debts and rents will actually be collected as we move into a recovery phase. However, it is almost certain that the bad debt provision in the 2020/21 budget will prove to be inadequate and will need to be reviewed later in the year. Any increase in the provision will add to the in-year budget gap shown in this report.

4.2 Mitigating factors

- (a) Furlough Scheme – The Council has received £152,000 in Furlough Grants for the period April to August 2020 and this is reflected in this report. A further claim for £11,000 has been submitted to HMRC for September, but this has not yet been approved and so is not included in this report.

- (b) Government Covid-19 Emergency Grants – The Council has received emergency funding from MHCLG totalling £1,680,855 to address coronavirus pressures. Currently, this is being held in reserves to offset cashflow impacts and is not included in the figures in this report. The Government has recently announced a further £1Bn in funding to support local authorities through the pandemic, but individual allocations have not yet been confirmed.
- (c) Income Compensation Scheme – The Government has introduced a new scheme that will “compensate councils for irrecoverable and unavoidable losses from sales, fees and charges income generated in the delivery of services, in the financial year 2020-21”. The key principle is that if councils budgeted for something as income (sales, fees and charges), and has suffered losses to that income, then compensation will be payable. Authorities will have to absorb the initial 5% of losses (the 5% deductible), with central government compensating 75% of losses above this threshold. A final version of the guidance was published on 24 August 2020: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-government-income-compensation-scheme-for-lost-sales-fees-and-charges>. A claim was submitted for the first four months of the year for the value of £805,000.
- (d) Losses in Council Tax and Business Rates Scheme - At September’s Communities and Local Government Select Committee, ministers indicated that they were considering a scheme to fund Collection Fund losses. The secretary of state said, “When information is clearer about the scale of the losses of income with respect to council tax and business rates, if necessary, we will implement a similar mechanism to the one we have seen with respect to income losses”. According to the local government minister, “the principle has been accepted by the Treasury and I think that should reassure authorities that are concerned about council tax or business rates losses that there is serious protection on offer and that will be becoming fully clear in short order”.

4.3 This report should be read in conjunction with the report that was presented to the Special Council meeting on 5 August, 2020, as there are a number of exempt contractual matters that are not included in this report, but which take the overall adverse variance to just over £2M for the first six months of the year to 30 September 2020. Further details will be reported back to Council as and when available.

5 Risk Management

5.1 This report is for information purposes so the Council’s Risk Management approach does not need to be applied.

6 Resource Implications

6.1 An adverse variance of £606,000 in the first six months of the year has been identified in this report. There is a mixture of adverse and favourable variances across the portfolios and these will continue to be monitored and reviewed as part of the Budget process.

7 Equality Issues

- 7.1 This report is for information purposes, so the Council's EQIA process does not need to be applied.

8 Conclusion and reasons for recommendation

- 8.1 Overall, net expenditure is £606,000 higher than forecast at 30 September. There are a number of areas with large variances between the profiled budget and the actual income / expenditure to date due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 8.2 The report does not make any recommendations for changes to budgets at this stage in the year and therefore the recommendation is that the current budget position be noted.

Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)

None

Confidentiality

It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and can be made public.

| | | | |
|----------------|---|-----------|-----|
| No of Annexes: | 1 | File Ref: | N/A |
|----------------|---|-----------|-----|

(Portfolio: Finance) Councillor M Flood

| | | | |
|----------|--------------|------|------|
| Officer: | Jenni Carter | Ext: | 8236 |
|----------|--------------|------|------|

| | | | |
|------------|---------|-------|-----------------|
| Report to: | Cabinet | Date: | 4 November 2020 |
|------------|---------|-------|-----------------|

PORTFOLIO REVENUE INFORMATION

| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | Updated Estimate 2020/21 | Profiled Estimate to 30/09/20 | Actual Expenditure to 30/09/20 | Adverse / (Favourable) Variance |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Leader & Corporate Management Portfolio | 1,943,824 | 987,389 | 907,238 | (80,151) |
| Deputy Leader & Planning Portfolio | 395,082 | 384,502 | 1,315,505 | 931,003 |
| Community & Leisure Portfolio | 230,297 | 112,403 | 184,983 | 72,580 |
| Corporate Portfolio | 3,558,037 | 1,804,445 | 1,797,095 | (7,350) |
| Economic Development & Tourism Portfolio | 309,940 | 195,650 | 161,441 | (34,209) |
| Environmental Portfolio | 3,775,323 | 1,942,863 | 1,870,315 | (72,548) |
| Finance Portfolio | (5,659,060) | (2,431,752) | (2,726,139) | (294,387) |
| Housing & Environmental Health Portfolio | 1,765,944 | 717,893 | 711,550 | (6,343) |
| Net Investment Income | (626,000) | (313,000) | (215,000) | 98,000 |
| Borrowing costs | 162,000 | 81,000 | 81,000 | 0 |
| Net Service Controlled Portfolio Expenditure | 5,855,387 | 3,481,393 | 4,087,988 | 606,595 |
| | | | | |

PORTFOLIO REVENUE INFORMATION

| LEADER & CORPORATE MANAGEMENT PORTFOLIO | Updated Estimate 2020/21 | Profiled Estimate to 30/09/20 | Actual Expenditure to 30/09/20 | Adverse / (Favourable) Variance |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| <u>Chief Executive's Office</u> | | | | |
| Chief Executive's Office | 1,210,435 | 605,152 | 593,829 | (11,323) |
| Human Resources Service | 462,783 | 226,175 | 206,347 | (19,828) |
| Net Expenditure | 1,673,218 | 831,327 | 800,176 | (31,151) |
| <u>Corporate & Democratic Core</u> | | | | |
| Andover Town Centre Rejuvenation | 83,526 | 83,526 | 83,526 | 0 |
| Corporate Subscriptions | 23,020 | 16,780 | 19,513 | 2,733 |
| Corporate Public Relations, Information & Consultation | 14,800 | 11,646 | 15,589 | 3,943 |
| Corporate Management | 134,560 | 32,762 | (21,566) | (54,328) |
| Delivering Public Services Electronically | 12,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 0 |
| Strategic Partnership | 2,700 | 1,348 | 0 | (1,348) |
| Net Expenditure | 270,606 | 156,062 | 107,062 | (49,000) |
| Net Service Controlled Portfolio Expenditure | 1,943,824 | 987,389 | 907,238 | (80,151) |
| | | | | |

PORTFOLIO FINANCIAL MONITORING INFORMATION**ANNEX****LEADER & CORPORATE MANAGEMENT PORTFOLIO****EXPLANATION OF KEY VARIANCES**

| | £ 000 |
|--|--------------------|
| Profiled Estimate to 30 September 2020 | 987 |
| Actual Spend to 30 September 2020 | <u>907</u> |
| Favourable Variance to 30 September 2020 | <u><u>(80)</u></u> |
| | |
| <u>Chief Executive's Office</u> | |
| Vacant post savings offset in part by recruitment costs | (14) |
| Savings from new payroll service | (17) |
| | |
| <u>Corporate Management</u> | |
| Unbudgeted government grants brought forward from prior year | (53) |
| | |
| Sundry variance | <u>4</u> |
| | <u><u>(80)</u></u> |

PORTFOLIO REVENUE INFORMATION

| DEPUTY LEADER & PLANNING PORTFOLIO | Updated Estimate 2020/21 | Profiled Estimate to 30/09/20 | Actual Expenditure to 30/09/20 | Adverse / (Favourable) Variance |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| <u>Planning Policy & Economic Development</u> | | | | |
| Planning Policy | 490,693 | 251,407 | 262,744 | 11,337 |
| Local Development Framework | 107,949 | 58,965 | 62,048 | 3,083 |
| Neighbourhood Planning | 0 | 20,404 | 20,404 | 0 |
| Net Expenditure | 598,642 | 330,776 | 345,196 | 14,420 |
| <u>Corporate & Democratic Core</u> | | | | |
| Romsey Future | 10,000 | 4,998 | 2,698 | (2,300) |
| South of Romsey Town Centre Project | | 42,277 | 42,277 | 0 |
| Net Expenditure | 10,000 | 47,275 | 44,975 | (2,300) |
| <u>Property & Asset Management</u> | | | | |
| Estates Support Unit | 28,040 | 14,020 | 13,065 | (955) |
| Engineers | 191,109 | 169,797 | 132,177 | (37,620) |
| Highways | 13,690 | 6,478 | 1,422 | (5,056) |
| Parking | (1,503,225) | (760,152) | (28,095) | 732,057 |
| Community Transport | 55,000 | 22,916 | 5,301 | (17,615) |
| Net Income | (1,215,386) | (546,941) | 123,870 | 670,811 |
| <u>Planning & Building</u> | | | | |
| Development Control & Enforcement | 1,030,419 | 566,606 | 780,405 | 213,799 |
| Building Control | (28,593) | (13,214) | 21,059 | 34,273 |
| Net Expenditure | 1,001,826 | 553,392 | 801,464 | 248,072 |
| Net Service Controlled Portfolio Expenditure | 395,082 | 384,502 | 1,315,505 | 931,003 |
| | | | | |

PORTFOLIO FINANCIAL MONITORING INFORMATION**ANNEX****DEPUTY LEADER & PLANNING PORTFOLIO****EXPLANATION OF KEY VARIANCES**

| | £ 000 |
|---|-------------------|
| Profiled Estimate to 30 September 2020 | 385 |
| Actual Spend to 30 September 2020 | <u>1,316</u> |
| Adverse Variance to 30 September 2020 | <u><u>931</u></u> |
| | |
| <u>Planning Policy & Economic Development</u> | |
| Higher than budgeted employee costs due to no vacancies and temporary staff | 18 |
| | |
| <u>Engineers</u> | |
| Salary savings due to vacancy and reduction in hours | (32) |
| | |
| <u>Parking</u> | |
| Adverse variance in car parking income and penalty charge notices due to free parking being in place to 22/06/20, then two hours parking remaining free for a further month and usage still lower due to the Covid-19 pandemic. | 822 |
| Savings on costs of collection of car parking income | (59) |
| Prior year credits in respect of the multi storey car park service charge | (16) |
| Furlough grant | (20) |
| | |
| <u>Concessionary Travel</u> | |
| Favourable variance for claims from Voluntary Organisations | (18) |
| | |
| <u>Development Control & Enforcement</u> | |
| Salary savings due to vacancies | (17) |
| Lower mileage claims due to vacancies / COVID | (8) |
| Lower than budgeted Pre Application Fees to date | 27 |
| Lower than budgeted Planning Application Fees to date | 198 |
| | |
| <u>Building Control</u> | |
| Salary savings due to vacancies | (5) |
| Lower than budgeted income to date | 43 |
| | |
| Sundry variance | <u>(2)</u> |
| | <u><u>931</u></u> |

PORTFOLIO REVENUE INFORMATION

| COMMUNITY & LEISURE PORTFOLIO | Updated Estimate 2020/21 | Profiled Estimate to 30/09/20 | Actual Expenditure to 30/09/20 | Adverse / (Favourable) Variance |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| <u>Community & Leisure</u> | | | | |
| Leisure Management | | | | |
| Leisure Management | 231,758 | 110,251 | 106,016 | (4,235) |
| Net Expenditure | 231,758 | 110,251 | 106,016 | (4,235) |
| Parks, Countryside & Sport | | | | |
| Managed Sports Facilities | (1,776,430) | (888,210) | (860,833) | 27,377 |
| Outdoor Sports Facilities | 112,511 | 83,698 | 89,810 | 6,112 |
| Playgrounds | 8,910 | 4,452 | 780 | (3,672) |
| Sports Development | 14,050 | 7,020 | 3,225 | (3,795) |
| Cemeteries | (100,790) | (32,278) | (22,321) | 9,957 |
| Grounds Maintenance | 77,190 | 42,218 | 44,169 | 1,951 |
| Nature Reserves | 124,410 | 39,223 | 38,276 | (947) |
| Urban Parks and Open Spaces | 281,792 | 195,615 | 172,641 | (22,974) |
| Net Expenditure | (1,258,357) | (548,262) | (534,253) | 14,009 |
| Community Development | | | | |
| Community Engagement | 962,224 | 478,446 | 456,586 | (21,860) |
| Net Expenditure | 962,224 | 478,446 | 456,586 | (21,860) |
| Arts & Culture | | | | |
| Andover Events Programme | 10,850 | 5,418 | 315 | (5,103) |
| Arts Function | 21,516 | 10,747 | 9,306 | (1,441) |
| The Lights | 262,306 | 55,803 | 147,013 | 91,210 |
| Net Expenditure | 294,672 | 71,968 | 156,634 | 84,666 |
| Net Service Controlled Portfolio Expenditure | 230,297 | 112,403 | 184,983 | 72,580 |

PORTFOLIO FINANCIAL MONITORING INFORMATION**ANNEX****COMMUNITY & LEISURE PORTFOLIO****EXPLANATION OF KEY VARIANCES**

| | £ 000 |
|---|------------------|
| Profiled Estimate to 30 September 2020 | 112 |
| Actual Spend to 30 September 2020 | <u>185</u> |
| Adverse Variance to 30 September 2020 | <u><u>73</u></u> |
| | |
| <u>Community & Leisure</u> | |
| Savings on cleaning services - site closures at the Lights and Outdoor Sporting facilities due to Covid-19 pandemic | (19) |
| Salary savings due to vacancies | (14) |
| | |
| <u>Parks, Countryside & Sport</u> | |
| Legal and contract support costs for the Managed Sports Facilities. | 27 |
| No income from outdoor sports facilities due to sites being closed due to Covid-19. | 19 |
| Limited spend within Sports Development and Playgrounds. | (7) |
| Cemeteries - Burial Fees income lower than budgeted | 11 |
| | |
| <u>Community Engagement</u> | |
| Councillor ward grants are lower than estimated at this point in the year | (18) |
| Savings on promotions budget | (9) |
| | |
| <u>Arts & Culture</u> | |
| Arts & Culture venues and facilities closed due to covid. | 84 |
| | |
| Sundry variance | <u>(1)</u> |
| | <u><u>73</u></u> |

PORTFOLIO REVENUE INFORMATION

| CORPORATE PORTFOLIO | Updated Estimate 2020/21 | Profiled Estimate to 30/09/20 | Actual Expenditure to 30/09/20 | Adverse / (Favourable) Variance |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| <u>Corporate & Democratic Core</u> | | | | |
| Emergency Planning | 33,763 | 7,355 | 6,648 | (707) |
| Councillors | 461,750 | 230,857 | 204,666 | (26,191) |
| Councillor Meetings | 21,250 | 15,081 | 18,705 | 3,624 |
| Mayoral Office | 37,860 | 17,934 | 8,359 | (9,575) |
| Civic Ceremonies | 7,500 | 5,000 | 633 | (4,367) |
| Allocated Central Overheads | 68,898 | 52,530 | 47,567 | (4,963) |
| Non-distributable Costs | 190,600 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Net Expenditure | 821,621 | 328,757 | 286,578 | (42,179) |
| <u>Information Technology</u> | | | | |
| Management | 152,372 | 89,872 | 83,833 | (6,039) |
| Service Desk | 71,080 | 77,428 | 86,138 | 8,710 |
| Infrastructure | 534,842 | 298,325 | 289,944 | (8,381) |
| Corporate Services | 400,600 | 194,975 | 215,318 | 20,343 |
| Net Expenditure | 1,158,894 | 660,600 | 675,233 | 14,633 |
| <u>Legal & Democratic</u> | | | | |
| Legal Service | 777,233 | 388,591 | 402,358 | 13,767 |
| Land Charges | (75,732) | (56,656) | (39,836) | 16,820 |
| Council Elections | 149,483 | 92,951 | 91,320 | (1,631) |
| Registration Of Electors | 81,090 | 21,463 | (1,596) | (23,059) |
| Lotteries, Amusements & Gaming Permits | (7,157) | (5,393) | (2,934) | 2,459 |
| Alcohol & Entertainment Licensing | (39,226) | 1,136 | 7,069 | 5,933 |
| Scrap Metal Dealers | 2,296 | 1,143 | 457 | (686) |
| Hackney Carriages & Private Hire Vehicles | 7,366 | 5,202 | 7,217 | 2,015 |
| Net Expenditure | 895,353 | 448,437 | 464,055 | 15,618 |
| <u>Revenues Service</u> | | | | |
| Customer Services Unit | 682,169 | 366,651 | 371,229 | 4,578 |
| Net Expenditure | 682,169 | 366,651 | 371,229 | 4,578 |
| Net Service Controlled Portfolio Expenditure | 3,558,037 | 1,804,445 | 1,797,095 | (7,350) |

PORTFOLIO FINANCIAL MONITORING INFORMATION**ANNEX****CORPORATE PORTFOLIO****EXPLANATION OF KEY VARIANCES**

| | £ 000 |
|---|-------------------|
| Profiled Estimate to 30 September 2020 | 1,804 |
| Actual Spend to 30 September 2020 | <u>1,797</u> |
| Favourable Variance to 30 September 2020 | <u><u>(7)</u></u> |
| | |
| <u>Corporate & Democratic Core</u> | |
| No claims for mileage due to COVID -19 as most meetings are remote | (6) |
| Lower spend in Supplies and Services with training in particular below profile, potentially due to COVID-19. Also Members Allowances currently showing a variance as increase has been budgeted but not yet applied | (19) |
| Favourable variance within Mayoral Office due to COVID-19 as no travel has been required and 2019/20 Mayor remained in post so no Past Mayor Badges were required | (10) |
| Favourable variance within Civic Ceremonies due to no Civic Events taking place | (4) |
| | |
| <u>Information Technology</u> | |
| Vacant posts in Service Desk and Infrastructure | (14) |
| Reduced Shared Service income due to vacant posts at TVBC. | 10 |
| StarLeaf subscription for 3 months Covid | 7 |
| Additional costs for Corporate Software | 14 |
| | |
| <u>Legal and Democratic</u> | |
| Additional costs within Supplies and Services within Legal for Professional Fees | 12 |
| Land Charges Fees for HCC lower than profile due to COVID-19 | (12) |
| Land Charges income is showing an adverse variance due to COVID-19, and is estimated to be a potential loss of 20% over the year. | 35 |
| Register of Electors - unbudgeted government grant brought forward from prior year | (23) |
| Furlough Grant Income received across the Service | (12) |
| Licencing Income has been impacted by COVID-19 so is currently showing an adverse variance | 17 |
| | |
| Sundry variance | <u>(3)</u> |
| | <u><u>(7)</u></u> |

PORTFOLIO REVENUE INFORMATION

| ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM PORTFOLIO | Updated Estimate 2020/21 | Profiled Estimate to 30/09/20 | Actual Expenditure to 30/09/20 | Adverse / (Favourable) Variance |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| <u>Community & Leisure</u> | | | | |
| Heritage | 45,830 | 22,233 | 22,233 | 0 |
| Net Expenditure | 45,830 | 22,233 | 22,233 | 0 |
| <u>Planning Policy & Economic Development</u> | | | | |
| Planning Policy | 97,770 | 52,216 | 53,349 | 1,133 |
| Economic Development & Promotion | 77,680 | 60,245 | 48,536 | (11,709) |
| Promotion of Tourism | 100,790 | 87,160 | 67,990 | (19,170) |
| Town Centre Management | 20,000 | 10,000 | 4,000 | (6,000) |
| Net Expenditure | 296,240 | 209,621 | 173,875 | (35,746) |
| <u>Property & Asset Management</u> | | | | |
| Andover Market | (29,690) | (34,986) | (35,032) | (46) |
| High Street Bookings | (2,440) | (1,218) | 365 | 1,583 |
| Net Expenditure | (32,130) | (36,204) | (34,667) | 1,537 |
| Net Service Controlled Portfolio Expenditure | 309,940 | 195,650 | 161,441 | (34,209) |

PORTFOLIO FINANCIAL MONITORING INFORMATION**ANNEX****ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM PORTFOLIO****EXPLANATION OF KEY VARIANCES**

£ 000

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Profiled Estimate to 30 September 2020 | 196 |
| Actual Spend to 30 September 2020 | <u>161</u> |
| Favourable Variance to 30 September 2020 | <u><u>(35)</u></u> |
| <u>Planning Policy & Economic Development</u> | |
| EM3 LEP payment higher than budgeted | 10 |
| Limited spend on grants within the Economic Development budget | (8) |
| Limited payments on the Business Incentive and Independent Retailer Grants | (7) |
| Reduced grant payment to Romsey Visitor Information Centre due to Covid-19 closure | (15) |
| Limited spend on Town Centre Management | (6) |
| Sundry variance | <u>(9)</u> |
| | <u><u>(35)</u></u> |

PORTFOLIO REVENUE INFORMATION

| ENVIRONMENTAL PORTFOLIO | Updated Estimate 2020/21 | Profiled Estimate to 30/09/20 | Actual Expenditure to 30/09/20 | Adverse / (Favourable) Variance |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| <u>Environmental Service</u> | | | | |
| Grounds Maintenance | 952,579 | 753,873 | 712,272 | (41,601) |
| Waste Collection | 1,928,780 | 888,894 | 959,483 | 70,589 |
| Garden Waste Collection | (208,710) | (392,412) | (460,906) | (68,494) |
| Street Cleansing | 825,570 | 370,678 | 322,524 | (48,154) |
| Vehicle Workshop | (31,929) | (39,847) | (33,430) | 6,417 |
| ES Technical | 291,037 | 144,793 | 151,129 | 6,336 |
| Service Overhead Account | 17,996 | 216,884 | 219,243 | 2,359 |
| Net Expenditure | 3,775,323 | 1,942,863 | 1,870,315 | (72,548) |
| <u>Planning Policy & Economic Development</u> | | | | |
| Sustainability | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Net Expenditure | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Net Service Controlled Portfolio Expenditure | 3,775,323 | 1,942,863 | 1,870,315 | (72,548) |
| | | | | |

PORTFOLIO FINANCIAL MONITORING INFORMATION**ANNEX****ENVIRONMENTAL PORTFOLIO****EXPLANATION OF KEY VARIANCES**

£ 000

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Profiled Estimate to 30 September 2020 | 1,943 |
| Actual Spend to 30 September 2020 | <u>1,870</u> |
| Favourable Variance to 30 September 2020 | <u><u>(73)</u></u> |
| | |
| <u>Grounds Maintenance</u> | |
| Salary savings due to vacancies | (25) |
| | |
| <u>Waste Collection</u> | |
| Increased employee costs due to covering vacancies/sickness/COVID cover | 31 |
| Purchase of equipment and materials (bins) | 20 |
| Additional income throughout waste | (34) |
| | |
| <u>Green Waste</u> | |
| Increased employee costs due to covering vacancies/sickness/COVID cover | 19 |
| Purchase of equipment and materials (bins/bags) | 32 |
| Additional income to date from subscriptions | (103) |
| | |
| <u>Street Cleansing</u> | |
| Salary savings due to vacancies | (11) |
| Less than expected spend on diesel due to COVID-19 work impact | (9) |
| Additional Shopping Trolley returns | (8) |
| | |
| <u>Vehicle Workshop</u> | |
| Less than expected income to date | 4 |
| | |
| <u>ES Technical</u> | |
| Bulk buy of glass banks and maintenance kits | 9 |
| | |
| Sundry variance | <u>2</u> |
| | <u><u>(73)</u></u> |

PORTFOLIO REVENUE INFORMATION

| FINANCE PORTFOLIO | Updated Estimate 2020/21 | Profiled Estimate to 30/09/20 | Actual Expenditure to 30/09/20 | Adverse / (Favourable) Variance |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| <u>Property & Asset Management</u> | | | | |
| Estates Support Unit | 914,981 | 450,064 | 373,353 | (76,711) |
| Business Park Development | (6,145,966) | (2,848,702) | (2,881,187) | (32,485) |
| Investment Properties | (1,287,696) | (598,202) | (579,795) | 18,407 |
| Corporate Properties | (615,415) | (249,027) | (231,625) | 17,402 |
| Union Street | (94,270) | (47,141) | (42,026) | 5,115 |
| Chantry Centre | (1,026,750) | (668,906) | (788,969) | (120,063) |
| Andover Bus Station | (2,050) | (2,236) | (6,021) | (3,785) |
| Andover Magistrates Court | 0 | 0 | 591 | 591 |
| Public Halls | (14,010) | (6,327) | 9,948 | 16,275 |
| Public Conveniences | 115,843 | 44,722 | 36,176 | (8,546) |
| Office Accommodation | 223,327 | 118,704 | 51,431 | (67,273) |
| Building Maintenance | 97,333 | 48,628 | 41,618 | (7,010) |
| Building Cleaning | 8,139 | 4,057 | 10,230 | 6,173 |
| Depot Costs | 57,680 | 24,600 | 15,707 | (8,893) |
| Leisure Facilities | 38,510 | 16,044 | 5,743 | (10,301) |
| Net Income | (7,730,344) | (3,713,722) | (3,984,826) | (271,104) |
| <u>Finance</u> | | | | |
| Finance Service | 919,667 | 465,405 | 428,937 | (36,468) |
| Net Expenditure | 919,667 | 465,405 | 428,937 | (36,468) |
| <u>Revenues</u> | | | | |
| Council Tax Support Administration | 345,421 | 175,348 | 178,830 | 3,482 |
| Housing Benefit | 249,621 | 174,988 | 200,546 | 25,558 |
| Local Taxation Services | 556,575 | 466,229 | 450,374 | (15,855) |
| Net Expenditure | 1,151,617 | 816,565 | 829,750 | 13,185 |
| Net Service Controlled Portfolio Income | (5,659,060) | (2,431,752) | (2,726,139) | (294,387) |

PORTFOLIO FINANCIAL MONITORING INFORMATION**ANNEX****FINANCE PORTFOLIO****EXPLANATION OF KEY VARIANCES**

| | £ 000 |
|--|----------------|
| Profiled Estimate to 30 September 2020 | (2,432) |
| Actual Spend to 30 September 2020 | <u>(2,726)</u> |
| Favourable Variance to 30 September 2020 | <u>(294)</u> |
| | |
| <u>Property & Asset Management</u> | |
| Salary savings across the service due to vacancies & furlough grant income | (119) |
| | |
| <u>Business Park Development</u> | |
| Lower than estimated utility and waste collection costs | (4) |
| Additional rent due to rent reviews | (18) |
| Supplies & services | (8) |
| | |
| <u>Investment Properties / Corporate Properties / Union Street</u> | |
| Lower than estimated rental income due to vacant properties | 39 |
| | |
| <u>Chantry Centre</u> | |
| Lower than estimated running costs at this point in the year including prior year credits for the service charge | (113) |
| Higher than estimated rental income | (6) |
| | |
| <u>Office Accommodation</u> | |
| Lower than estimated utility costs | (13) |
| Savings on Contract Catering due to Beech Hurst canteen being closed | (17) |
| Increase in rental income at Beech Hurst | (5) |
| | |
| <u>Public Halls</u> | |
| Minimal income due to closure of halls because of Covid | 16 |
| | |
| <u>Public Conveniences</u> | |
| Lower than estimated spend due to Covid | (9) |
| | |
| <u>Leisure Facilities</u> | |
| Lower than estimated utility costs | (10) |
| | |
| <u>Finance</u> | |
| Employee related cost savings due vacancies and shared services not being fulfilled | (24) |
| Various supplies and services not yet accessed Training, legal fees, professional fees. | (12) |
| | |
| <u>Revenues</u> | |
| Increased employee costs due to overtime / temporary staff | 14 |
| | |
| Sundry variance | <u>(6)</u> |
| | <u>(294)</u> |

PORTFOLIO REVENUE INFORMATION

| HOUSING & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PORTFOLIO | Updated Estimate 2020/21 | Profiled Estimate to 30/09/20 | Actual Expenditure to 30/09/20 | Adverse / (Favourable) variance |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| <u>Housing</u> | | | | |
| Housing Activities | | | | |
| General Management | 108,608 | 54,293 | 56,231 | 1,938 |
| Housing Development | 119,298 | 73,931 | 77,437 | 3,506 |
| Hampshire Home Choice | 1,714 | (30,117) | (29,830) | 287 |
| Housing Options | 538,247 | 140,436 | 155,754 | 15,318 |
| Net Expenditure | 767,867 | 238,543 | 259,592 | 21,049 |
| Health Activities | | | | |
| Business Support Team | 111,598 | 52,234 | 49,639 | (2,595) |
| Pollution | 254,817 | 116,979 | 99,408 | (17,571) |
| Health Protection | 329,710 | 162,332 | 141,526 | (20,806) |
| Animal Welfare | 72,349 | 33,666 | 29,892 | (3,774) |
| Pest Control | 55,943 | 27,976 | 32,175 | 4,199 |
| Housing Standards | 173,660 | 86,163 | 99,318 | 13,155 |
| Net Expenditure | 998,077 | 479,350 | 451,958 | (27,392) |
| Net Service Controlled Portfolio Expenditure | 1,765,944 | 717,893 | 711,550 | (6,343) |
| | | | | |

PORTFOLIO FINANCIAL MONITORING INFORMATION**ANNEX****HOUSING & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PORTFOLIO****EXPLANATION OF KEY VARIANCES**

£ 000

Profiled Estimate to 30 September 2020

718

Actual Spend to 30 September 2020

712

Favourable Variance to 30 September 2020

(6)Housing & Environmental Health

Salary savings across the service due to vacancies

(34)

Reduced mileage costs due to home working and Covid-19 restrictions

(8)

Reduction in Enabling fee and DFG administration income due to Covid-19 restrictions.

27

Supplies and services savings across the service

(17)

Housing options

Net additional Covid-19 related Bed & Breakfast costs

12

Pest control

Pest control income reduced due to Covid-19 restrictions.

14

Sundry variance

0(6)

KEY FINANCIAL AREAS

| | Updated Estimate 2020/21 £'000 | Profiled Estimate to 30/09/20 £'000 | Actual to 30/09/20 £'000 | Adverse / (Favourable) Variance £'000 | Comments |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|
| <u>Expenditure</u> | | | | | |
| Staff Costs | 20,056 | 9,923 | 9,562 | (361) | This includes all salary, recruitment, relocation and post entry training costs, net of the 4% vacancy management provision and income from the Covid-19 Job retention Scheme grant. |
| Borrowing Costs | 162 | 81 | 81 | 0 | This is the interest paid on external borrowing. |
| | 20,218 | 10,004 | 9,643 | (361) | |
| <u>Income</u> | | | | | |
| Investment Income | (626) | (313) | (215) | 98 | This is the net income generated by the management of the Council's cash investment portfolio. |
| Building Control Income | (428) | (214) | (171) | 43 | This is the income generated by fees in respect of Building Control work performed by the Council. |
| Car Parking Income | (2,325) | (1,177) | (355) | 822 | This includes season tickets and all on and off street parking income. |
| Development Control Income | (1,310) | (655) | (430) | 225 | This is income from Planning Applications and legal fees relating to the applications. |
| Investment Property Income | (8,194) | (3,676) | (3,658) | 18 | This includes the rental income for all the Council's industrial land and buildings, excluding those that have been purchased recently. |
| Investment Income from Property Purchases | (2,126) | (1,150) | (1,129) | 21 | This includes the rental income for investment properties that have been purchased recently and is expected to return a yield of 7.0% in the year on an investment of £30.2m. |
| Land Charges Income | (245) | (119) | (84) | 35 | This is income from Local Land Charge Search Fees. |
| Leisure Income | (2,543) | (1,277) | (999) | 278 | This includes all income from Community & Leisure services including indoor and outdoor leisure facilities, The Lights and cemeteries. |
| | (17,798) | (8,581) | (7,041) | 1,540 | |
| Total | 2,420 | 1,423 | 2,602 | 1,179 | |

PORTFOLIO FINANCIAL MONITORING INFORMATION

KEY AREAS OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

EXPLANATION OF KEY VARIANCES

£ 000

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Profiled Estimate to 30 September 2020 | 1,423 |
| Actual Spend to 30 September 2020 | <u>2,602</u> |
| Adverse Variance to 30 September 2020 | <u><u>1,179</u></u> |
| | |
| <u>Staff Costs</u> | |
| Staff costs are lower than anticipated at this point in the year, mainly due to vacancies | (361) |
| | |
| <u>Income</u> | |
| Investment income is lower than budgeted due to a reduction in interest rates | 98 |
| Building Control Income is lower than estimated in the year to date | 43 |
| Car Parking Income is lower than estimated due to COVID-19 and parking being free from 1st April to 22nd June and then first two hours remaining free until 22nd July, this also impacted on season tickets and Penalty Charge Notices | 822 |
| Development income is lower than estimated in the year to date | 225 |
| Income from investment properties is lower than expected | 39 |
| Land Charges income is lower than estimated due to COVID19 | 35 |
| Income across the Community & Leisure service is lower than anticipated due to Covid-19 closures | 278 |
| | |
| Sundry variance | <u>(0)</u> |
| | <u><u>1,179</u></u> |