

4. Sustainability objectives, baseline and context

4.1 Link to other strategies, plans and programmes and sustainability objectives

The SEA Regulation 2004 requires an analysis of the plan's "relationship with other relevant plans and programmes" (Schedule 2 (1)) and of "the environmental protection objectives... which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation (Schedule 2 (5)).

In order to document other factors, a list of policies plans and programmes and environmental objectives relevant to the Local Plan has been compiled and analysed by Entec. **Appendix A** contains a full list of the relevant plans and programmes. This has been summarised to consider how the objectives and requirements of other plans and policies will be considered in the SEA. The key points are summarised in **Table 4.1** below.

Table 4.1 Summary of relevant plans and policies

Policy/ plan	Key objectives or requirements	How this affects the appraisal
PPG 1	Promote high density, mixed use development in sustainable locations	Ensure urban regeneration is included in objectives
PPG3/ PPS3	Meet Government target: 60% housing development on previously developed land. Affordable housing provision should be in line with national requirements	Include housing objectives in appraisal framework
PPG6	Seek to improve the vitality of and access to, town centres	Ensure objectives reflect policy for mixed-use development
PPG9	Ensure that development does not destroy/ damage biodiversity but conserves and enhances it. In line with 95% SSSIs in good condition.	Biodiversity to be included in appraisal objectives
PPG13	Promote sustainable transport options in new development that reduces the need to travel, especially by private car and promotes suitable sustainable transport choices.	Include objectives to reflect aim of sustainable transport choices and reduction in car use
PPG15	Ensure that objectives reflect protection and enhancement of historic environment.	Ensure objectives reflect conservation of historic environment
PPS22	Ensure that new development incorporates energy efficiency and encourages renewable energy schemes.	Include energy conservation and use of renewable energy in objectives

Policy/ plan	Key objectives or requirements	How this affects the appraisal
PPG25	Should be aware of implications of climate change with regard to development in flood risk areas and follow sequential test with regard to potential development on flood risk site selection	Include flood risk in objectives
RPG 11 / Warwickshire Structure Plan	Leamington, Kenilworth and Warwick should be the focus of housing developments since they fulfil the structure plan and regional plan policy regarding new development in towns of 8,000 or more.	This is not reflected in a specific objective or question, but is reflected in housing and location objectives
Warwickshire Structure Plan	Development in the green belt should be avoided	Include objective on development in greenfield and green belt areas
Warwickshire Structure Plan	Housing and industry development should be developed with supporting integrated transport, education, leisure, sport and other necessary facilities.	This should be reflected in objectives for mixed use, as above.
Warwick Crime and Disorder Strategy	Well designed development should help reduce crime and fear of crime.	Include objective on reducing crime and fear of crime.
RPG 11. T11	Warwick District should include policies for the assessment of proposals for the expansion of Coventry Airport.	This is not included in a specific objective.

4.2 Description of the social, environmental and economic baseline characteristics and the predicted future baseline

The SEA Directives requires an analysis of the “relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan” (Annex 1b) and “the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected” (Annex 1c).

Appendix B lists the environmental and sustainability baseline data, highlights any applicable comparisons and targets (i.e. at a national or regional level), and identifies trends where information is available.

The data was collected from a wide range of sources, including the 2001 Census, Warwickshire County Council monitoring information, Warwick Local Plan monitoring, and other Warwick District Council reports and departments. A detailed list of the sources of information is included in **Appendix C**.

The baseline information and assessment of other plans and policies was also used to identify the key sustainability issues relevant to the development of the Local Plan. There are a number of sustainability pressures in Warwick District, covering economic, social and environmental issues, and some of the key issues are described in this section.

In terms of jobs, the number of jobs in Warwick District has remained fairly stable since 1998, and unemployment in the District is relatively low (1.3% claimant count, compared to 1.6% at county level and 2.9% at regional level) (Quality of Life in Warwickshire- November 2004). In addition, Warwick District has the highest number of jobs per 1000 people in the county, providing an indication of the health of the labour market. The main sectors of employment are

distribution, hotels and restaurants (29.3%), finance and business services (23.3%), and public administration, education and health (21%) (Quality of Life in Warwickshire- November 2004).

Although not capturing all businesses, the number of businesses registering and de-registering for VAT purposes provides an indication of business viability, and indications suggest that there are an increasing number in the district. The Coventry and Warwickshire Employers Survey also found an increased number of businesses rating the county as a good or excellent place to do business, with 20% identifying Warwick District as an excellent location and 57% stating it is good (Quality of Life in Warwickshire- November 2004, and Coventry and Warwickshire Survey of Employers). There are also economic opportunities at particular sites within or adjacent to Warwick District, including opportunities at the University of Warwick Science Park.

Tourism is also a significant economic sector, with both business and leisure tourists visiting Warwickshire. Warwick Castle attracted 793,000 visitors in 2000, and the number of tourists in the county has benefits for those providing accommodation, food or other services. The number of visitors to the county (data is not available at district level) has fluctuated, and there are signs that although the number of international visitors and their spending is recovering after a dip, the number of domestic tourists is lower (Quality of Life in Warwickshire- November 2004).

Average household income is high and has grown above the county and national average, with the current mean income of £35,200. The number of households earning less than £10,000 is also lower than average and has fallen since 2000, although there are still 10.6% of households in this category. However, five wards in the county are amongst the 30% lowest wards nationally based on the index of multiple deprivation (Quality of Life in Warwickshire- November 2004).

House prices in Warwickshire have risen in line with national trends, although there are significant differences within the county. For the period July to September 2004, the average house price ranged from £370,018 for a detached house to £154,761 for a flat/maisonette (Land Registry information). High house prices mean that it is hard for people looking to buy a house in the district, particularly first time buyers (Quality of Life in Warwickshire- November 2004). In addition, there is an ongoing need for provision of affordable housing, with a gap between the affordable housing requirement identified in the Warwickshire Structure Plan and the number of affordable homes provided (Warwick District Local Plan). The demand for housing is also putting pressure on greenfield sites. However, there are a number of restrictions to such development in the district, including designated green belt, seven sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs), and nine local nature reserves (Warwick District Local Plan). There is also concern that targets for building on brownfield land are threatening some sites where traditional buildings occupy a relatively large site.

In a survey of residents, people living in the district felt that levels of crime and traffic congestion were the top two issues needing to be improved (the third was affordable decent housing). Concern over crime is an issue despite a lower crime rate in the district compared to county levels (2003/4) and a fall in the number of people expressing fear of crime (Quality of Life in Warwickshire- November 2004).

Households in the district also have environmental impacts, and use of gas and electricity per person is higher than the regional average. Households have also been producing an increasing amount of waste (from 310kg to 362kg per person over the four years to 2003/4), although the percentage recycled and composted has also increased to 23.4% in 2003/4. There has also been

a rise in the average water use of households in the Severn Trent Water region, with an 8.8% increase in the two years to 2003/4, although these figures are not adjusted for the warm summer in 2003 (Quality of Life in Warwickshire- November 2004).

Warwick District has a pleasant natural environment, although it also suffers pressure from human influences. There are currently nine local nature reserves in the district, although this provides only 0.68 hectares per 1000 people, in comparison to the English Nature target of 1 hectare per 1000 people. For water quality, the picture in the District is mixed, with chemical quality higher than the county average and improving, but poorer biological quality, while air quality also shows some mixed results.

Overall, the district performs well, but the differences between different social, economic and environmental issues do result in some tensions. More information on the baseline situation is given in **Table 4.1** and Appendix B.

4.3 Difficulties in collecting data and limitations of the data

The baseline information has been used to develop indicators for each of the sustainability objectives. The indicators show how Warwick District is currently performing for each of the objectives. This information is used to help support the assessment of the potential impacts of the Local Plan. The indicators, which use much of the same information presented in Appendix B, are shown in **Table 4.1**, which brings together objectives, indicators and the framework for assessing potential impacts.

The main problems encountered in collecting the baseline information and developing the indicators were focussed around the following:

- data not available at the local level. It was considered that using county or regional data would not have given a clear indication of the main issues affecting the District (this was a particular problem with the environmental indicators);
- information is only available on specific issues, and does not necessarily match the ideal set of information;
- unable to identify trends for a number of the indicators due to the monitoring data only being available over the past year; and
- a number of the social indicators utilised information from the 2001 census, however some of this information was collected for the first time in 2001, therefore trends are not available.

This means that in some cases the indicators presented do not fully reflect the objectives, but provide the information that is currently available. However, it is hoped that as the plan is developed and the sustainability appraisal process continues, more information will become available so that the indicators are more relevant and more accurate.

4.4 The SA framework, including objectives, targets and indicators

Objectives are not a requirement of the SEA Directive, but are a way in which to identify and monitor changes in environmental effects. Objectives help to identify what is desirable or intended, while indicators help to monitor progress towards objectives.

4.4.1 Developing the Objectives

Table 4.2 lists the draft sustainability objectives for the Warwick Local Plan. These have been produced by analysing objectives from the following documents:

- UK Sustainable Development Strategy “A Better Quality of Life” (DETR, 1999);
- Regional Planning Guidance for the North West;
- a sustainability appraisal for the West Midlands;
- Warwickshire Structure Plan;
- Emerging Regional Spatial Strategy;
- Warwick District Local Plan (2003) and the accompanying sustainability appraisal;
- Warwick District Corporate strategy; and
- SEA Directive requirements.

The SEA Directive requires that the assessment should include “the likely significant effects on the environment, which also includes issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage (including architectural and archaeological heritage), landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors” (Annex 1f). The final column of **Table 4.2** indicates the main SEA topics relevant to each objective, although as the Directive itself recognises, there are many areas of overlap.

For each objective, a number of key questions are also presented, to help identify the different issues to be considered and provide more detail on the purpose of the objective.

The objectives were discussed between members of Warwick District Council, Local Agenda 21 representatives, and members of the Entec project team. They will also be reviewed in light of any comments raised during subsequent consultation.

Table 4.2 Objectives and key questions

Objectives	Key questions	Source of objectives	SEA topics
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth			
To maintain high levels of economic growth	Will it meet the employment needs of the local community? Will it help diversify the economy? Will it enhance the vitality of urban centres? Will it support small businesses?	Aim 1 - Warwick District LP TC4 Warwickshire Structure Plan	Population
To promote and enhance vibrant rural communities	Will it assist with the diversification of the rural economy? Will it retain / enhance village services?	Objective 1C - Warwick District LP A sustainability strategy for the West Midlands	Population
To enhance the vitality of town centres	Will it improve the economic viability of town centres? Will it maintain a balanced mix of development?	Objective 1E - Warwick District LP Policy TC1 + TC4 - Warwickshire Structure Plan	Population
To promote sustainable tourism	Will it promote sustainable tourism?	Objective 1G - Warwick District LP Policy PA10 RPG for the West Midlands	Population
To meet the housing needs of the whole community	Will it reduce homelessness? Will it increase the level of affordability of housing for all social groups?	Added at project inception meeting	Population
Effective protection of the environment			
To protect and enhance the natural environment, including habitats, species, landscapes and inland waters	Will it improve the landscape and ecological quality of the countryside? Will it protect and enhance species, habitats and sites at risk? Will it protect and enhance sites designated for their nature conservation interest? Will it minimise adverse effects on ground and surface water quality?	A sustainability strategy for the West Midlands Objective 2B - Warwick District SEA Directive requirement	Biodiversity Flora Fauna Water
To promote the use of sustainable transport options (i.e. cycling, walking, public transport)	Will it encourage the use of public transport, walking or cycling? Will it help to reduce traffic congestion and improve road safety?	Objective 3B - Warwick District LP A sustainability strategy for the West Midlands Policy T1 Warwickshire Structure Plan	Population Human health Air

Objectives	Key questions	Source of objectives	SEA topics
To reduce the need to travel	Will it reduce the movement of goods and people by private car / lorry? Will it minimise the need to travel?	Objective 3A - Warwick District LP	Population Air
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes.	Will it reduce the amount of derelict and underused land? Will it improve the landscape and ecological quality and character of the countryside? Will it provide a sense of identity and local distinctiveness?	Annex 5 Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks - Consultation paper.	Cultural heritage Landscape
To limit, and reduce the impacts of climate change	Will it reduce or minimise greenhouse gas emissions? Will it minimise the risk of flooding? Will it minimise the need for energy? Will it help to increase the share of energy generated from renewable sources?	Annex 1, SEA Directive EN1 & EN2 RSS for the West Midlands	Climatic factors Air Water Material assets
To protect and enhance the historic environment	Will it protect and enhance sites, features and areas of historical, archaeological and cultural value? Will it protect and enhance the character and settings of towns and villages? Will it improve access to buildings and landscapes of historical/cultural value?	Objective 2C - Warwick District LP	Cultural heritage Landscape
To protect and improve air quality	Will it maintain and improve local air quality?	SEA Directive requirement	Air
Prudent use of natural resources			
To protect and improve land quality	Will it minimise development on greenfield land? Will it reduce the amount of derelict, degraded and underused land? Will it retain the best quality agricultural land?	Objective 2A - Warwick District LP	Soil Landscape
To reduce the generation and disposal of waste	Will it reduce the amount of waste generated? Will it encourage recycling? Will it promote the re use of resources? Will it ensure the management of wastes consistent with the waste management hierarchy (avoid, reduce, reuse, recycle and residual disposal in the least environmentally detrimental manner)?	A sustainability strategy for the West Midlands Policy ER9 Warwickshire Structure Plan	Material assets

Objectives	Key questions	Source of objectives	SEA topics
To promote sustainable design and enhance the built environment	Will it promote design that enhances townscapes, streetscapes and/or landscapes? Will it improve the quality of the built environment through high standards of sustainable design and construction of new and existing buildings?	Objective 2E - Warwick District LP Policy UR3 RPG West Midlands	Cultural heritage
To ensure the prudent use of natural resources	Will it minimise the use of water? Will it minimise the demand for raw materials?	A sustainability strategy for the West Midlands	Water Material assets
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone			
To make housing available and affordable to everyone	Will it reduce the number of unfit and empty homes?	Objective 4A - Warwick District LP	Population
To protect, enhance and improve accessibility to local services and community facilities	Will it maintain and enhance existing community facilities? Will it put unacceptable pressure on existing services and community facilities? Will it improve access to local services and facilities?	Objective 4E - Warwick District LP	Population
To improve the health and well being	Will it promote healthy lifestyles? Will it provide and improve access to health and social care services? Will it reduce health inequalities among different groups in the community? Will it provide and/or enhance the provision of open space?	Objective 4C - Warwick District LP	Human health Population
To reduce poverty and social exclusion	Will it reduce poverty and social exclusion in those areas most effected?	A sustainability strategy for the West Midland Annex 5 Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks - Consultation paper.	Population
To reduce crime and anti-social behaviour	Will it reduce actual levels of crime? Will it reduce the fear of crime? Will it reduce noise levels?	Objective 4B - Warwick District LP Annex 5 Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks - Consultation paper	Population

4.4.2 Assessing the Compatibility of the Objectives

The sustainability objectives were selected to reflect the remit of the Local Plan whilst ensuring a balance between social, economic and environmental consideration. **Table 4.3** shows that the majority of objectives are compatible with each other. However, for some combinations of

objectives it is not certain whether they are compatible, or there is a risk that they may not be compatible. This is particularly the case for objectives requiring changes or increased development to meet social and economic aims that may result in pressure on the natural environment. For any set of objectives, it would be expected that such tensions might arise, and one of the purposes of sustainability appraisal is to highlight potential positive and negative impacts. However, in order that these do not pose problems, it will be necessary to consider the conflicts between objectives during development of the Local Plan. In particular, consideration should be given to the following issues:

- Any further development to meet housing needs should not adversely affect the natural or historic environment and should ensure that sustainable design methods are incorporated.
- Development or activities relating to employment and the economy should ensure it protects and enhances the natural environment, uses natural resources effectively, maintains quality landscapes and townscapes, and protects the historic environment.
- Development in rural areas should not have a negative impact on the natural environment or affect the quality of land.
- Means to revitalise town centres should not have a negative impact on air quality or the historic environment.

In order to undertake the appraisal it was necessary to have a framework in which to assess the potential impacts of the policies included in the Local Plan. The framework allowed the potential impacts of each policy in the Local Plan to be assessed against the sustainability objectives set out in **Table 4.2**. Therefore, a matrix has been developed that includes the objectives, baseline information against some indicators, and columns for carrying out the appraisal of potential impacts. This is included here as **Table 4.4**. For each objective, it was necessary to consider the potential impacts in terms of the following issues:

- **Direction of Effect** - is the policy moving towards or away from sustainability?
- **Severity of Effect** - will the effect be marginal or significant?
- **Cumulative and Synergistic Effects** - does the effect exceed some threshold that results in some significant impact?
- **Trans-boundary Effects** - does the effect impact on adjoining authorities or regions?
- **Urban/Rural impacts** - will the policy have different impacts on the core settlements and the outlying rural areas?
- **Timing of Effect** - does the effect occur immediately or later, and does it last indefinitely or only temporarily?

The matrices also highlight where there is uncertainty over the effect, and where different issues and options enhance or contradict the effect of others.

Some of these issues are included in separate columns, some in the symbols used in the columns, and some in the accompanying commentary.

Table 4.4 Appraisal framework to be used against plan policies

Plan Policy XXXX													
	Questions	Indicators	Baseline Information	Targets and trends	Timescale		Impact	Scale			Rural	Urban	Commentary
Sustainable Development Objectives					Short term	Long term	Severity	Cumulative	Local	Trans-boundary			
To maintain high levels of economic growth	Will it meet the employment needs of the local community?	Number of VAT registered businesses	4,965 in 2002 (2)	Increasing from 4,925 in 2001 and 4,855 in 2000									
	Will it help diversify the economy?	Number of business start-ups net of closures	11% new VAT registrations as a % of existing VAT registered businesses (2002) (2)	Favourable situation with numbers increasing after a decline in 2000									
	Will it enhance the vitality of urban centres?												
	Will it support small businesses?	Loss of employment uses within designated town centre employment areas	No applications permitted for the loss of employment space in 2004 (15)	Favourable situation, but no trend identified									
To promote and enhance vibrant rural communities	Will it assist with the diversification of the rural economy?	Number of planning permission granted for rural diversification proposals	8 in 2004 (15)	Unable to identify trend									
	Will it retain / enhance village services?	Number of service closures in rural areas	District level data not available	Unable to identify trend									
To enhance the vitality of town centres	Will it improve the economic viability of town centres?	Number of applications refused for change of use from A1 within primary and secondary shop frontages	One application refused change from A1 to A3 (2003/4) (15)	No trend available									
	Will it maintain a balanced mix of development?												
To promote sustainable tourism	Will it promote sustainable tourism?	Number of tourists	1.4 million people from the UK visited Warwickshire in 2003 (no data at district level or for international visitors) (17)	Number of UK tourists has fluctuated between 1.2 and 1.6 million since 2000									
To meet the housing needs of the whole community	Will it reduce homelessness?	Homeless households in need of temporary accommodation	46 in 2004 (13)	Numbers increasing from 2 in 2000/1, 31 in 2001/2 and 28 in 2002/3.									
	Will it increase the level of affordability of housing for all social groups?	Percentage of population living in affordable housing	10.6% renting from LA, 3.6% renting from housing association or other RSL (3)	No trend identified									
To protect and enhance the natural environment, including habitats, species, landscapes and inland waters	Will it improve the landscape and ecological quality of the countryside?	Percentage of land designated for particular quality or amenity value	Data unavailable	Unable to identify trend									
	Will it protect and enhance species, habitats and sites at risk?	Condition of protected species	Data unavailable	Unable to identify trend									
	Will it protect and enhance sites designated for their nature conservation interest?												
	Will it minimise adverse effects on ground and surface water quality?	Percentage of rivers of good or fair quality	74% graded good for chemical quality, 39% for biological quality in 2002 (2)	Chemical quality is improving and better than regional and national averages. Biological quality is below average.									

Plan Policy XXXX													
	Questions	Indicators	Baseline Information	Targets and trends	Timescale		Impact	Scale			Rural	Urban	Commentary
Sustainable Development Objectives					Short term	Long term	Severity	Cumulative	Local	Trans-boundary			
To promote the use of sustainable transport options (i.e. cycling, walking, public transport)	Will it encourage the use of public transport, walking or cycling? Will it help to reduce traffic congestion and improve road safety?	Local bus services- journeys per passenger kilometre	District level data unavailable	Unable to identify trend									
To reduce the need to travel	Will it reduce the movement of goods and people by private car / lorry? Will it minimise the need to travel?	Percentage of journeys to school by car Percentage of journeys to work by car	40% in 2003 (9) 62.8% in 2003 (3)	Slight reduction from 42% in 2002 No trend available									
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	Will it reduce the amount of derelict and underused land? Will it improve the landscape and ecological quality and character of the countryside? Will it provide a sense of identity and local distinctiveness?	Condition of landscape character areas	No data available	Unable to identify situation									
To limit, and reduce the impacts of climate change	Will it reduce or minimise greenhouse gas emissions? Will it minimise the risk of flooding? Will it minimise the need for energy? Will it help to increase the share of energy generated from renewable sources?	Per capita consumption of electricity Per capita consumption of gas Land at risk of flooding	Domestic consumption of 4981kWh/ person in 2003 (8) Domestic consumption of 20,428kWh in 2003 (8) Data unavailable	Higher than regional average (4717kWh), but no trend identified Higher than regional average (20,163kWh), but no trend identified No trend identified									
To protect and enhance the historic environment	Will it protect and enhance sites, features and areas of historical, archaeological and cultural value? Will it protect and enhance the character and settings of towns and villages? Will it improve access to buildings and landscapes of historical/ cultural value?	Percentage of listed buildings and archaeological sites at risk of decay Number of buildings of cultural or historic interest restored Percentage of residents that are satisfied with their neighbourhood	5% (January 2005) (11) 36% of listed buildings restored out of total stock since 1994 (11) 90.3% in December 2004 (12)	This has reduced from 10% in 1998. No trend available No trend identified									
To protect and improve air quality	Will it maintain and improve local air quality?	Number of days when air pollution is moderate or high Number of days when air pollution is moderate or high for PM ₁₀ , ozone, etc.	44 days (measured in Leamington Spa for 2002 and 2003) (2) PM ₁₀ - none, ozone- 144 days moderate in 2004 (10)	Higher than national average and getting worse Favourable situation getting better									

Plan Policy XXXX													
	Questions	Indicators	Baseline Information	Targets and trends	Timescale		Impact	Scale			Rural	Urban	Commentary
Sustainable Development Objectives					Short term	Long term	Severity	Cumulative	Local	Trans-boundary			
To protect and improve land quality	Will it minimise development on greenfield land? Will it reduce the amount of derelict, degraded and underused land? Will it retain the best quality agricultural land?	Percentage of development on greenfield sites Percentage and type of agricultural land affected by development	76% employment land on greenfield sites (2002/3)- no information available on housing sites (7) No information available at district level	Unfavourable situation for employment land, although no trend identified No trends identified									
To reduce the generation and disposal of waste	Will it reduce the amount of waste generated? Will it encourage recycling? Will it promote the re use of resources? Will it ensure the management of wastes consistent with the waste management hierarchy (avoid, reduce, reuse, recycle and residual disposal in the least environmentally detrimental manner)?	Amount of waste produced per capita Percentage of waste recycled and composted per capita	362kg (household waste collected) in 2003/4 (2) 23.4% (2003/4) (2)	Increasing, from 344kg in 2002/3 and 330kg in 2001/2 Increased from 11.1% in 2002/3 and 10.3% in 2001/2									
To promote sustainable design and enhance the built environment	Will it promote design that enhances townscapes, streetscapes and/or landscapes? Will it improve the quality of the built environment through high standards of sustainable design and construction of new and existing buildings?	Number of homes built to ecohome or other efficiency standard	No data available	No trend identified									
To ensure the prudent use of natural resources	Will it minimise the use of water? Will it minimise the demand for raw materials?	Use of water per capita	District level not available	No trend identified									
To make housing available and affordable to everyone	Will it reduce the number of unfit and empty homes?	Percentage of homes unfit for use	1.59% in 2004 (13)	Improved from 1.86% in 2001									
To protect, enhance and improve accessibility to local services and community facilities	Will it maintain and enhance existing community facilities? Will it put unacceptable pressure on existing services and community facilities? Will it improve access to local services and facilities?	Percentage of district-owned public buildings with access and facilities for people with disabilities Percentage of population within 10 minute walk of bus stop	77.3% (14) Data unavailable	Figure in top quartile of local authorities- no trend available Unable to identify trend									
To improve the heath and well being	Will it promote healthy lifestyles? Will it provide and improve access to health and social care services? Will it reduce health inequalities among different	Length of new cycleways created Percentage of population with a limiting long term illness	Data not available at district level 15.4% (3)	Unable to identify trend Lower than county and national averages, but unable to identify trends									

Plan Policy XXXX													
	Questions	Indicators	Baseline Information	Targets and trends	Timescale		Impact	Scale			Rural	Urban	Commentary
Sustainable Development Objectives					Short term	Long term	Severity	Cumulative	Local	Trans-boundary			
	groups in the community? Will it provide and/or enhance the provision of open space?	Percentage of population within 200m of parks and open spaces	Data not available	Unable to identify situation									
To reduce poverty and social exclusion	Will it reduce poverty and social exclusion in those areas most effected?	Percentage of adult population who have never worked or are long term unemployed Number of companies implementing flexible working schemes	1.2% have never worked, and 0.7% are long term unemployed (3) Data not available	Slightly lower than county averages, but no trend identified Unable to determine trends									
To reduce crime and anti-social behaviour	Will it reduce actual levels of crime? Will it reduce the fear of crime? Will it reduce noise levels?	Number of crimes reported per 1000 population Percentage of those very or fairly worried of being a victim of crime	41.2 2004/5 to date (4) Having home broken in to- 54%, having car stolen- 46%, being attacked by strangers- 44% (5)	Lower than county average (43). No trend available Better than county average and getting better									

Numbers in brackets refer to the source of the information as given in Appendix C.

KEY

↖ ↖	Move away significantly	↖	Move away marginally	➡	Move towards marginally	➡ ➡	Move towards significantly	✖	No Relationship	◇ ?	Uncertain	✓	Operates at this timescale
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4.5 Main social, environmental and economic issues and problems identified

The key social, environmental and economic issues that have been identified through the baseline data review are summarised in **Table 4.5**.

Table 4.5 Key issues

Air	Indicators of air quality in the District present a mixed picture, with some indicating a favourable situation improving, and others indicating lower than average air quality getting worse.
Landscape and Soil	Although the landscape of the district is generally good, it is under pressure from human influences, including pressure to develop on greenfield land.
Biodiversity (Fauna and Flora)	A number of species (26) and habitats (24) are identified for Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull in the Local Biodiversity Action Plan as needing support.
Climatic factors	Use of gas and electricity by households in the district is higher than the regional average. Issues of air pollution may also be linked to impacts on the climate.
Cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage	There are concerns over townscape impacts as a result of pressure to develop on brownfield sites leading to damage to the large town houses in a number of towns in the district.
Human health	The health of people in the district is generally good, with a higher than average life expectancy and lower numbers with limiting long term illnesses.
Material assets	There is a relatively high use of material assets by households, including gas and electricity. This is also reflected in production of waste, which has been increasing each year, although there has also been an increase in recycling.
Population	Although there are relatively high average earnings and low unemployment in the district, 10.6% of households earn less than £10,000 a year. This affluence is also associated with relatively high house prices, and there is a gap between provision of and need for affordable housing.