

**PUBLICATION SALFORD LOCAL
PLAN: DEVELOPMENT
MANAGEMENT POLICIES AND
DESIGNATIONS DOCUMENT**

Sustainability Appraisal Report

January 2020

PUBLICATION SALFORD LOCAL PLAN: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES AND DESIGNATIONS DOCUMENT

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL REPORT

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Components that constitute the Environmental Report

This Sustainability Appraisal report incorporates the requirements for an Environmental Report under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. These Regulations transpose the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (European Directive 2001/42/EC) into English law.

Those elements of the Sustainability Appraisal Report that constitute the Environmental Report for the purposes of the SEA Directive are signposted in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Required information under the SEA Regulations

Information to be included in an Environmental Report under the SEA Regulations	Relevant Sections in the Publication SLP:DMP SA Report
An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan and its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes	Chapter 1 Para 5.11-5.29
The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan	Chapter 3 Appendix 3
The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected	Chapter 3 Appendix 3
Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan, including in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC	Chapter 4 Chapter 6
The environmental protection objectives, established at international, community or national level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation	Chapter 2 Chapter 4 Appendix 2
The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soils, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage, landscape, and the interrelationship between the above factors	Chapter 8 Chapter 10 Appendix 5 Appendix 6
The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan	Chapter 8 Chapter 10 Appendix 5 Appendix 6

An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties	Chapter 5 Chapter 7 Chapter 8 Chapter 9 Chapter 10 Appendix 5 Appendix 6
A description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring	Chapter 12
A non-technical summary of the information provided above	Executive summary

Executive Summary

- E1 This section provides a non-technical summary of the Sustainability Appraisal Report.
- E2 This sustainability report is focused on the Publication Salford Local Plan: Development Management Policies and Designations document (SLP:DMP). The sustainability appraisal process has however continued throughout the plans development including specific appraisals of the Draft Salford Local Plan (November 2016) and the Revised Draft Salford Local Plan, (January 2019) that preceded the current version.
- E3 Since the publication of a Revised Draft Local Plan in January 2019 a decision has been taken to progress Salford's Local Plan in two parts. Part one, the SLP:DMP, includes development management policies and designations.
- E4 Issues of overarching spatial strategy, the appropriate scale of development and land allocations to provide for it, will now be addressed through the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) and part two of Salford's Local Plan (Salford Local Plan: Core Strategy and Site Allocations document).
- E5 The scope of the SLP:DMP is therefore narrowed from that of the Draft and Revised Draft Salford Local Plans and this is reflected in this sustainability appraisal.
- E6 The purpose of the sustainability appraisal (SA) is to promote sustainable development through the integration of sustainability considerations into the preparation, adoption and implementation of Salford's Local Plan. The SA considers the Local Plan's potential implications, from a social, economic and environmental perspective, by assessing options, in terms of overarching approach and individual sites, against available baseline data and sustainability objectives.
- E7 SA is mandatory for Local Plans under the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004). The SA of the Local Plan should also fully incorporate the requirements of the European Directive 2001/42/EC, known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive. This Directive is transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 – the SEA Regulations.

Appraisal methodology

- E8 The approach being adopted to undertake the SA is based on various government guidance, and takes an iterative approach with sustainability considerations informing options and proposals as they

are being developed as well as there being a more formal sustainability appraisal towards the end of each stage.

- E9 The level of detail and the scope that the SA is covering was agreed through the SA Scoping Report, which was published for consultation in February 2013.

Relationship to other plans, programmes and objectives

- E10 The purpose of reviewing other plans and programmes and sustainability objectives is to ensure that their relationship with the proposed Local Plan has been fully explored, to highlight any potential inconsistencies, and to identify opportunities for the Local Plan to support those various plans and programmes.
- E11 A range of international, national, regional and local strategies were reviewed as part of the SA process and no major inconsistencies were found between policies.

Baseline characteristics

- E12 The collection and assessment of information and data about the current and likely future state of Salford (and nearby and larger geographical areas where appropriate) is being used within the SA to help identify sustainability problems and predict the effects of the Revised Draft Local Plan and the other strategic, allocation and policy options identified. Appendix 3 of this report gives full details, including the range of data sources.
- E13 The key baseline characteristics identified for Salford included:
- A very high concentration of deprivation in Central Salford
 - Very significant population decline over the last century, but continuous and accelerating growth since 2002
 - Below average healthy life expectancy, with some neighbourhoods having mortality rates twice the national average
 - Significant reductions in crime levels but higher concentrations in deprived areas
 - A very high proportion of social-rented housing, and above average numbers of semi-detached, terraced and flatted accommodation
 - Increasing housing affordability issues, despite low average house prices
 - Above average economic productivity growth, but with an increasingly strong reliance on the service sector
 - Below average educational attainment despite improvements in GCSE performance

- Approximately 17,500 dwellings subject to a medium or high risk of flooding

Key sustainability issues

E14 The review of plans, programmes and objectives, the analysis of the baseline data, and consultation with the public and statutory bodies enabled the following key sustainability issues to be identified (see chapter 4 of this report for further details):

- Population decline within the inner city areas coupled with an increasing proportion of single person households, affecting service provision and community diversity
- Health inequalities and poor average health affecting life chances
- Crime levels impacting on health and perceptions of the city
- Good transport connections, particularly within areas around the city centre, but issues of congestion and limited orbital routes affecting accessibility levels
- Lack of diversity of new residential accommodation in some parts of the city and increasing problems of affordability, affecting the ability of the city to attract and retain families
- Low average skill levels limiting the ability for Salford residents to access the new employment opportunities that are increasingly focused in knowledge-based industries, reflected in relatively low mean pay levels
- Success in capturing new employment in the growth sectors is supporting productivity increases but potentially at the expense of economic diversity
- Scale of development potentially placing pressure on the limited biodiversity resources within the urban area, but large area of readily restorable degraded lowland raised bog offers potential to make a major contribution to national biodiversity objectives
- High proportion of Greater Manchester's high grade agricultural land
- Significant supply of previously-developed land
- Large number of households at risk of flooding, and potential for flood events to become more frequent due to climate change
- Poor air quality around the strategic highway network
- Salford has a rich cultural heritage
- More than one third of the city is currently Green Belt

E15 The establishment of SA objectives and criteria is central to the SA process and provides a way in which sustainability effects can be described, assessed and compared. The sustainability objectives used for the SA of the Local Plan options have been drawn from the sustainability issues identified through analysis of the baseline data and the review of other plans and strategies.

- E16 21 sustainability objectives have been identified, covering a broad range of issues, for example relating to health, biodiversity, air, water, climate, heritage, landscape, prosperity, housing, accessibility, and community cohesion. A range of questions have been identified for each objective to assist with the assessment against them.

Appraisal of the plan-level/ strategic options

- E17 A key requirement of the SA is to consider reasonable alternatives as part of the assessment process. Given the narrowed scope of the SLP:DMP, and the need to be consistent with the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework and national guidance, at a plan level the only alternative option available is considered to be a no plan/ business as usual option comprising the Saved Policies of Salford's Unitary Plan, associated supplementary guidance, and the National Planning Policy Framework.
- E18 The two options for the SLP:DMP have been assessed against each of the 21 sustainability objectives. The overall impact in the short, medium and long-term has been identified using a five-point scale (with one additional "uncertain" category) as follows: ++ major positive; + minor positive; 0 neutral; - minor negative; - - major negative. The scale, certainty and permanence of the effect has also been assessed, together with any secondary, cumulative and synergistic impacts, and opportunities for additional mitigation beyond that already proposed.
- E19 In terms of a comparative assessment of options, both would be expected to have similar outcomes overall, however the updated policy framework, reflecting the latest priorities and additional detail and requirements in a number of areas would be expected to bring greater benefits in relation to a number of sustainability appraisal objectives.

Appraisal of sites

- E20 Site allocations fall outside of the scope of the SLP:DMP and therefore have not formed part of this sustainability appraisal.

Appraisal of policies

- E21 Policies proposed for inclusion within the SLP:DMP along with other reasonable alternatives have been assessed against the 21 sustainability objectives. The appraisals identify potential mitigation and explain whether and how this has shaped the policy wording taken forward in the final SLP:DMP document.

Implementation and monitoring

- E22 The scale and nature of the impacts of the SLP:DMP options would depend very much on how development proposals are implemented. Other plans and strategies, particularly supplementary planning documents linked to the SLP:DMP, and the details of the development management process will be very important in this regard. Co-ordination with other investment programmes, and working in partnerships with other organisations, will also be essential.
- E23 A series of indicators have been identified which have been chosen to strike a balance between providing a comprehensive assessment of sustainability effects and being manageable in terms of their number and data requirements. The emphasis is on direct, primary outcomes rather than inputs, outputs or indirect outcomes that affect the primary outcomes. They are intended to be “headline” indicators, and as a result there are not indicators relating to all objectives. It is therefore inevitable that other information will need to be collected in order to supplement the sustainability indicators and inform future policy development.

1.0 Introduction

The Local Plan

- 1.1 Salford City Council is bringing forward a new Local Plan for the City. The Local Plan will form part of Salford’s “development plan”, providing a central part of strategic planning framework that will be used to manage development proposals in the city over the period to 2037.
- 1.2 Government guidance describes that the planning system should be genuinely plan-led. Succinct and up-to-date plans should provide a positive vision for the future of each are; a framework addressing housing needs and other economic, social and environmental priorities; and a platform for local people to shape their surroundings.¹ Local Plans are to be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development.²
- 1.3 Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 states that, “if regard is to be had to the development plan for the purpose of any determination to be made under the planning Acts the determination must be made in accordance with the plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise”. The development plan currently consists of the saved policies of the city of Salford Unitary Development Plan (UDP) and the Greater Manchester Joint Waste Development Plan Document and Joint Minerals Plan. The Local Plan will replace large parts of the UDP.
- 1.4 The initial stage of consultation on Salford’s Local Plan took place in 2013 around a call for sites exercise. This was followed shortly after in 2014 by a further consultation on the sites identified through this process and assessed as to their suitability for development or protection in their current use. An initial Draft Local Plan was published in 2016 and a Revised Draft Local Plan in 2019. These consultations were based around the intention to bring forward a Local Plan that would set out the overarching planning strategy for the city up to 2037, identify the overall level and broad distribution of development, allocate certain sites for specific uses, and include a range of policies and proposals addressing a range of economic, social and environmental issues.
- 1.5 Through these stages of plan development, Salford’s Local Plan was being progressed alongside the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF), with which it must be in conformity. However, due

¹ HM Government (2018) National Planning Policy Framework, paragraph, paragraph 15

² HM Government (2018) National Planning Policy Framework, paragraph 16

to delays in the GMSF process, following consultation on a Revised Draft Local Plan the decision was taken to progress the Local Plan in two parts.

- 1.6 The first part, the Publication Salford Local Plan: Development Management Policies and Designations document (SLP:DMP), contains development management policies and protective designations. It is this first part that is the focus of this sustainability appraisal.
- 1.7 The second, the Salford Local Plan: Core Strategy and Allocations document (SLP:CS), will address issues of overarching strategy, development scale and distribution, and will include site allocations. This second part will therefore take forward parts of the original local plan which could not be advanced in the absence of an agreed overarching framework at the Greater Manchester level. The timetable for the second part of the Local Plan is therefore dependent on progress on the GMSF.
- 1.8 Splitting the Local Plan in this way means that the City Council is able to progress elements of their proposed Local Plan ahead of the GMSF. This will ensure that it is only those specific elements of the updated local policy framework that rely on the GMSF that are further delayed.

The Greater Manchester Spatial Framework

- 1.9 A Greater Manchester Spatial Framework is currently also being prepared and, once adopted, will also form a part of the city's development plan.
- 1.10 The Framework will identify the land Greater Manchester needs to meet demand for housing and business development and will help manage the supply of land across the city-region. This will include:
 - determining how many new homes and how much land we need for new jobs over the next 20 years,
 - the allocation of sites central to its vision and the definition of new Green Belt boundaries,
 - identifying infrastructure (things like transport links and public services) required to support development
 - identifying ways to protect the city-region's green space alongside development so that we develop great places where people want to live, work and visit.
- 1.11 The Greater Manchester Spatial Framework will set an overarching vision and strategy which the Local Plan will complement and contribute towards the implementation of. The Integrated Appraisal of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework, which will address

Sustainability and Strategic Environment Assessment requirements, provides a complementary assessment of that document.

Sustainable development

- 1.7 Section 39 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 places the concept of “sustainable development” at the heart of the planning system. The most commonly used definition of sustainable development is:

Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs³

- 1.8 The UK Government is committed to the delivery of 17 Sustainable development goals that have been identified by the United Nations⁴:



5

Sustainability appraisal

- 1.9 Under Section 19(5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, the Core Strategy must be subject to a sustainability appraisal.
- 1.10 Government guidance describes that local plans should be informed throughout their preparation by a sustainability appraisal which should demonstrate how the plan has addressed relevant economic, social and environmental objectives (including opportunities for net gains).

³ World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/implementing-the-sustainable-development-goals/implementing-the-sustainable-development-goals>

⁵ Courtesy of <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

Significant adverse impacts on these objectives should be avoided and, wherever possible, alternative options which reduce or eliminate such impacts should be pursued. Where significant adverse impacts are unavoidable, suitable mitigation measures should be proposed (or, where this is not possible, compensatory measures should be considered).⁶

Strategic environmental assessment

- 1.11 The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 identifies that during the preparation of certain plans and programmes an environmental assessment should be carried out.
- 1.12 As a town and country planning document setting a framework for future development and concerned with a variety of issues including land use, transport, industry, waste, water and tourism the SLP:DMP is a relevant document in these terms.⁷
- 1.13 Having regard to the criteria in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations and following consultation with the consultation bodies specified in European Directive 2001/42/EC (the SEA Directive)⁸, see section 8 below, the city council has determined that the Local Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects and must therefore be subject to a strategic environmental assessment in accordance with the requirements of the aforementioned regulations. The sustainability appraisal of the SLP:DMP therefore incorporates a strategic environmental assessment.

Sustainability appraisal process

- 1.14 The sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan has been an iterative process, and has followed Government guidance.
- 1.15 The sustainability appraisal at each stage has been undertaken by officers of the city council. This has helped to ensure that sustainability considerations have been at the forefront of the development of the Local Plan, with mitigation measures incorporated throughout the process rather than simply identified at the end following an isolated sustainability appraisal exercise.
- 1.16 The stages of Local Plan production and its sustainability appraisal are summarised in table 2 below.

⁶ HM Government (2018) National Planning Policy Framework, paragraph 32

⁷ Regulation 5 of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

⁸ In accordance with Regulation 9 of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

Table 2: Sustainability appraisal process

Date	Local Plan stage	Appraisal stage	Main outputs
February 2013	Sustainability appraisal scoping report	Set the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding the scope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability appraisal scoping report
July 2013	Revised sustainability appraisal scoping report	Set the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding the scope. Formal determination of requirement to include a strategic environmental assessment;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised sustainability appraisal scoping report
November 2016	Draft Local Plan	Review the Draft Local Plan against the identified sustainability objectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Local Plan • Full sustainability appraisal report
January 2019	Revised Draft Local Plan	Review the Revised Draft Local Plan against the identified sustainability objectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised Draft Local Plan • Full sustainability appraisal report
January 2020	Publication Local Plan ⁹	Review the Publication Salford Local Plan: Development Management Policies and Designations document (SLP:DMP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SLP:DMP • Full sustainability appraisal report
TBC	Public examination ¹⁰	Changes proposed to the SLP:DMP during this process, either by the city council or by other parties should be accompanied by an assessment of their relative sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written statements to the examination • Inspector's report identifying how the SLP:DMP should be amended

⁹ Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) England Regulations 2012

¹⁰ Regulation 20 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) England Regulations 2012

Date	Local Plan stage	Appraisal stage	Main outputs
TBC	Adoption of the Local Plan	Ensure any changes to the SLP:DMP recommended by the Inspector's report have been properly appraised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopted SLP:DMP • Final sustainability appraisal report
TBC	Monitoring the implementation of the Local Plan	Monitor the sustainability effects of the SLP:DMP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Plan annual monitoring report(s)

Scoping stage of the sustainability appraisal

1.17 In February 2013, the city council published a Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, which was used as a vehicle for consulting on the proposed scope of the sustainability appraisal. This process also met the requirements of Regulations 12(5) and 12(6) of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, in terms of consulting on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the environmental report required by European Directive 2001/42/EC (the SEA Directive). The environmental report will be contained wholly within the final Sustainability Appraisal Report.

1.18 The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report set out:

- A summary of other relevant policies, plans and programmes;
- A series of sustainability objectives and indicators;
- Key baseline information;
- A summary of the main sustainability issues and problems; and
- A proposed appraisal framework.

1.19 The consultation on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report took place between 8 February and 12 April 2013. As part of the consultation, the Scoping Report was published on the city council's website and was sent to the following organisations:

- Natural England
- Environment Agency
- English Heritage
- Design Council CABE
- Greater Manchester Planning and Housing Team
- Greater Manchester Ecology Unit
- Greater Manchester Geological Unit
- Transport for Greater Manchester

- Bolton MBC
- Bury MBC
- Manchester City Council
- Oldham MBC
- Rochdale MBC
- Stockport MBC
- Tameside MBC
- Trafford MBC
- Warrington BC
- Wigan MBC

1.20 The publication of the scoping report for a period of consultation was also publicised in a letter sent to all those on the city council's spatial planning consultation database.

1.21 Following this period of consultation the scoping report was updated, having regard to comments received.

Draft Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal

1.22 A Draft Local Plan was published for a period of consultation between November 2016 and January 2017. A sustainability appraisal was published alongside the Draft Plan. A number of comments were received to the sustainability appraisal and have been taken into account in the drafting of the sustainability appraisal of the Revised Draft Local Plan.

Revised Draft Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal

1.23 A Revised Draft Local Plan was published for a period of consultation between January and March 2019. A sustainability appraisal was published alongside the Revised Draft Plan. A number of comments were received to the sustainability appraisal and have been taken into account in the drafting of the sustainability appraisal of the SLP:DMP.

Publication Salford Local Plan: Development Management Policies and Designations Document Sustainability Appraisal

1.24 The purpose of this stage in the sustainability appraisal process, as per the previous stages, is to report on the likely significant effects of the SLP:DMP together with reasonable alternatives as required by the SEA Directive (Article 5.1).

1.25 The SLP:DMP, along with the alternatives identified, have been assessed against each of the 21 sustainability objectives, with the overall direction, scale, timing, likelihood and permanence of the impacts being estimated. A summary is provided for each objective,

together with the identification of any further opportunities for mitigation.

Future stages of the sustainability appraisal process

- 1.26 Following publication of the SLP:DMP the plan and all supporting documents, including this sustainability appraisal, will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for consideration at a public examination.
- 1.27 As identified in table 2 above, all changes to the plan proposed through that process should be accompanied by an assessment of their relative sustainability.
- 1.28 If the City Council is able to adopt the SLP:DMP following its examination by the Planning Inspectorate, the final plan will again be accompanied by an updated sustainability appraisal. The sustainability effects of the SLP:DMP will then be monitored on an ongoing basis against the objectives and indicators identified in this sustainability appraisal.

How do I make comments on the Publication plan and its sustainability appraisal?

- 1.29 This is the last opportunity to make comments on the ‘Salford Local Plan: Development Management Policies and Designations’ and associated documents before the public examination of it. The purpose of this Publication stage is to enable people to make any comments that they want to be taken into account at the public examination. It is not intended to be a ‘consultation’ stage that results in the city council producing another amended version of the document and instead all of the comments received at this stage will be submitted along with the plan for consideration at the public examination.
- 1.30 If you want to ensure that any previous comments that you have made are taken into account by the inspector overseeing the public examination then you will need to resubmit them at this stage.
- 1.31 Comments can be made in the following ways:
- By email to plans.consultation@salford.gov.uk
 - Online using the comments form at www.salford.gov.uk/publicationlocalplan
 - By post to: Publication Local Plan
Spatial Planning
Salford Civic Centre
Chorley Road
Swinton, M27 5BY
- 1.32 All comments should be received by the city council **no later than 4:30pm on Friday 20 March 2020.**
- 1.33 If you have any questions about the plan, please contact the city council’s spatial planning team on 0161 793 3782 or email plans.consultation@salford.gov.uk

Treatment of comments

- 1.34 All of the comments received, and the name of the individual or organization making them, will be matters of public record and open to public scrutiny. This information will be published on Salford City Council’s website following the consultation period. Those making comments will be entered onto the city council’s planning policy database so that they can be kept informed of the Local Plan and other planning policy documents in accordance with our privacy policy¹¹.

¹¹ <https://www.salford.gov.uk/your-council/council-and-decision-making/data-protection-legislation/> - see ‘Spatial planning privacy notice’ under the ‘Place’ sub-heading

2.0 Other relevant Policies, Plans and Programmes

Introduction

- 2.1 The SEA Directive specifically requires environmental objectives established at international, European community or national levels to be taken into account in developing the Local Plan. However, in order to maximise its effectiveness and sustainability, it will be important to consider how the Local Plan can support the full range of other plans, policies and programmes that already exist, taking into account their economic and social as well as environmental objectives.
- 2.2 This section summarises the key objectives of the relevant plans, policies and programmes, and identifies the potential synergies and inconsistencies with the Local Plan. A more detailed summary of those various objectives is contained in appendix 2 of this report.

Key objectives of other plans, policies and programmes

- 2.3 Table 3 below identifies the key conclusions from the review of other plans, policies and programmes, and identifies the implications for the Salford Local Plan Development Management Policies and Designations document and its sustainability appraisal. The implications identified reflect the narrowed scope of the SLP:DMP as discussed further in section 1 of this sustainability appraisal.

Table 3: Key conclusions and implications from the review of plans, policies and programmes

Key conclusions from review of plans, policies and programmes	Implications for the Local Plan and sustainability appraisal
General principles	
Ensure that sustainable development is the central policy objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure Local Plan reflects all aspects of sustainable development • Need to integrate the sustainability appraisal throughout the Local Plan production process • Need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change
Positively seek opportunities to meet the objectively assessed need for development with the flexibility to adapt to rapid change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure that the Local Plan is underpinned by an objective evidence base • Need to ensure the plan incorporates an appropriate level of flexibility • Need to ensure the Local Plan provides an appropriate policy framework to ensure that high quality residential development can be delivered whilst also providing an

Key conclusions from review of plans, policies and programmes	Implications for the Local Plan and sustainability appraisal
	appropriate level of protection for valued facilities and services.
Develop high quality sustainable communities that meet a variety of needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure that the Local Plan integrates consideration of all issues, rather than focusing on one or two priorities in isolation
Develop Greater Manchester as a world class city distinguished by its quality of life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure that the Local Plan is set in the context of the wider sub-region • Need to ensure good performance on all aspects of life to help improve international competitiveness
The city centre and Salford Quays have a key role in driving forward the sub-regional economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure an appropriate policy framework to enhance the role of key locations within the city • Need to maximise accessibility to the opportunities provided helping to reduce the need to travel and promote social inclusion
Central Salford (outside of the city centre/ Salford Quays) is the priority for regeneration and new housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to provide a supportive policy framework towards the regeneration of Central Salford • Need to maximise the sustainability benefits of such close proximity to the economic opportunities within the city centre and Salford Quays.
West Salford to be one of the most desirable and prosperous areas in Greater Manchester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to identify an appropriate balance between securing investment in business and housing in the area alongside the protection and improvement of environmental, leisure, heritage and other assets
Plan strategically across local authority boundaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure that there is cooperation with other local authorities in planning for sustainable development
Population	
Continue to increase Salford's population and attract more families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to provide conditions that will attract and retain people within the city, including families, such as high quality housing, schools, jobs and environments • Need to ensure that the pressures resulting from more people living in the city are minimised
Housing	

Key conclusions from review of plans, policies and programmes	Implications for the Local Plan and sustainability appraisal
Plan for new housing informed by a local housing need assessment, conducted using the standard national methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure that the Local Plan policy framework supports high quality residential development
Provide an appropriate mix of housing in terms of type, tenure and affordability to meet identified needs and secure mixed and integrated communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure the Local Plan supports the delivery of a mix of dwellings in terms of size, type and tenure • Need to take into account issues of function, form and character of neighbourhoods, and so different areas may need different mixes
Improve the condition of the existing housing stock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure the Local Plan focuses on existing as well as new development • Need to support the decent homes programme • Need to balance additional material assets required by replacement dwellings with potential for securing more energy and water efficient homes with lower flood risk
Economic health	
Positively and proactively encourage strong, stable and sustainable economy and provide for choice, flexibility and competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to provide a policy framework that supports business enterprise and will attract investment • Need to ensure that short-term imperatives do not undermine long-term growth prospects of the city and sub-region
Maximise the economic growth opportunities of Greater Manchester to help reduce regional disparities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure that the economic growth of the sub-region as well as the city is supported • Need to ensure this is balanced against environmental and social objectives to ensure economic growth can be sustained in the long-term
Support the economic growth sectors, the expansion of key clusters and increases in productivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure that employment land and premises meet modern needs, which may require some restructuring of land uses • Need to ensure that targeting growth sectors does not unbalance the economy, and diversity needs to be retained to promote a more stable economy • Need to support key clusters including MediaCityUK and the Salford Innovation Triangle

Key conclusions from review of plans, policies and programmes	Implications for the Local Plan and sustainability appraisal
Promote business start-ups, entrepreneurialism and innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure that appropriate and affordable premises are available • Supporting innovation and competition may require minimising the micromanagement of the economy
Deliver sites for strategic business investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the increased use of the Manchester Ship Canal and rail freight network to deliver sustainable freight distribution.
Prosperity	
Reduce worklessness and increase prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to promote access to employment as well as the generation of employment opportunities • Need to focus on the quality as well as the quantity of employment opportunities • Need to ensure that the benefits of economic growth are shared by all • Need to actively encourage investment in the local workforce
Retail and town centres	
Positively promote competitive town centre environment and set out policies for the management and growth of centres over the plan period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure that the role of each centre is clear and provide a clear policy framework for their future management and growth • May be a need for new centres to ensure appropriate levels of accessibility and to accommodate development needs, particularly as the population of some areas increases significantly
Develop a hierarchy of complementary centres that meet the needs of their catchments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to clarify the role of Salford's centres within a constantly evolving sub-region, ensuring that all residents have good access to a range of facilities • Need to ensure that the hierarchy reduces the need to travel
Focus new retail, leisure, office, culture and tourism development within existing centres, promoting their vitality and viability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure that the role of each centre is clear • May be a need for expanded/ new centres so as to promote the provision of local services and ensure appropriate levels of accessibility
Education	
Provide accessible and inclusive education opportunities in high quality learning environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to support the ongoing renewal of Salford's primary and secondary schools

Key conclusions from review of plans, policies and programmes	Implications for the Local Plan and sustainability appraisal
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure that the sustainability benefits of new schools are maximised, in terms of location, construction, etc • Need to ensure that an increase in school pupils from household increases can be accommodated within the city's education network
Increase the skill levels of all sections of the community, so as to support economic growth and social inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to support key institutions including the University of Salford, Salford City College, and Salford Royal Hospital and promote access to them
Tourism	
Improve the quality and quantity of the tourism offer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to support tourism development and identify the main opportunities for it • Need to balance against other objectives given that tourism may be based on sensitive assets such as heritage and the countryside
Accessibility	
Reduce the need to travel, especially by car and prepare for zero emission vehicles to be the only vehicle available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus new development in accessible locations, and promote linked trips Need to take into account the sustainability implications if new development were located outside Salford, in potentially less accessible locations • Need to ensure that new and existing development makes sufficient provision for zero emission vehicles
Improve access by sustainable modes such as walking, cycling and public transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure that new development is integrated with sustainable transport systems rather than viewed in isolation • Need to promote integrated transport networks rather than individual routes • Need to encourage a modal shift to more sustainable forms of travel • Need to promote the more sustainable movement of freight, by rail and water
Ensure that transport infrastructure investment supports new development and economic growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to plan for major transport infrastructure investment, co-ordinating it with new development • May be potential conflicts with other sustainability objectives if new infrastructure has a significant land take, and need to

Key conclusions from review of plans, policies and programmes	Implications for the Local Plan and sustainability appraisal
	ensure it does not simply promote additional travel without wider benefits
Climatic Factors	
Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to secure a pattern and form of development that minimise emissions from transport, business and housing • Need to find innovative ways of achieving this whilst retaining competitiveness and recognising modern aspirations in terms of material possessions, mobility, etc • Need to identify, protect and enhance potential carbon sinks • Need to improve construction supply chains
Adapt to the likely impacts of climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to clarify what the impacts are, given the science available, and determine the extent to which a precautionary approach is required • Need to integrate throughout all aspects of the Local Plan, for example in terms of the impacts on wildlife, flood risk, environmental quality, agriculture, etc • Need to exploit changing employment patterns, e.g. tourism opportunities • Need to emphasise the benefits of the changes required to peoples lifestyles to help climate change eg promote the benefits of more sustainable forms of transport to health and wellbeing etc.
Countryside and landscape	
Strengthen the links between town and country, and promote a range of uses in the countryside and urban fringe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to find an appropriate balance between the various functions of the urban fringe in terms of landscape value, agriculture, biodiversity and recreation • May need to prioritise different objectives in different parts of the urban fringe
Protect and enhance the quality and character of the countryside, preserving the things that make it special	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to identify what makes Salford's countryside special, and plan for its protection • Different elements of its character may potentially be in conflict, and therefore some prioritisation may be necessary
Recreation and open space	

Key conclusions from review of plans, policies and programmes	Implications for the Local Plan and sustainability appraisal
Ensure that all households are within an appropriate distance of a full range of green spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to identify appropriate and realistic standards, which may require prioritisation where land resources are scarce • Need to ensure that the wider benefits of green spaces are maximised in terms of health, biodiversity, environmental quality, flood storage, etc • Need to ensure that green spaces are easily accessible via sustainable transport.
Recognise and reconcile the various functions of 'green infrastructure'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to maximise and balance the various functions of the city's open spaces rather than viewing individual issues such as biodiversity, landscape, etc, in isolation • Need to maximise links between different elements of green infrastructure, to support objectives relating to biodiversity and access to recreation facilities
Waste management	
Secure more sustainable waste management (in order of priority, reduction, reuse, recycling and composting, energy from waste, and final disposal as a last resort)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure that more sustainable waste management facilities are positively planned for • Need to integrate waste management and resource efficiency considerations into all aspects of the Local Plan, whilst recognising that there is a separate Greater Manchester Joint Waste Development Plan Document
Communities should take more responsibility for managing their own waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May need to accept more waste developments within the city in order to minimise the movement of waste
Water and flood risk	
Policy-making needs to recognise the impacts on water use and quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure that water pollution is minimised, both direct (discharges) and indirect (run-off) • Need to plan for more water-efficient developments
Reduce the risk of flooding and the severity of flood events on people, businesses, property and infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to locate new development and infrastructure outside the areas at risk of flooding wherever practicable, although this may need to be balanced against regeneration objectives • Need to ensure new development is designed to minimise the risk and impacts of flooding, both on itself and others

Key conclusions from review of plans, policies and programmes	Implications for the Local Plan and sustainability appraisal
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to explore the potential for improving flood defences and promoting sustainable drainage systems • Need to take a coordinated approach at the river basin level
Air quality	
Need to address the reasons for the designation of an air quality management area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to take a coordinated approach to improving air quality, including reducing the need to travel especially by car, promoting more sustainable forms of transport, and targeting cleaner economic sectors
Need to minimise the impacts of poor air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to carefully consider the location and design of new developments, particularly sensitive uses such as housing, hospitals, schools, etc • This may create challenges in terms of other sustainability objectives given that such locations are often the most accessible
Biodiversity	
Promote the conservation, protection and enhancement of biological diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to identify and protect key habitats within the city, such as the degraded lowland raised bog within Chat Moss • Need to maximise the biodiversity benefits of open spaces and new developments • Multifunctional nature of many open spaces means that biodiversity considerations may need to be balanced against other objectives
Material Resources	
Encourage the use of more environment-friendly energy systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to identify and promote opportunities for renewable and low-carbon energy production • Need to promote reductions in energy use, for example through more efficient buildings and reducing the need to travel
Ensure energy security and reduce fuel poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to promote more energy-efficient buildings to reduce energy expenditure • Need to promote more localised energy generation to minimise potential disruption to supplies • Need to support the delivery of energy infrastructure to support new development

Key conclusions from review of plans, policies and programmes	Implications for the Local Plan and sustainability appraisal
Secure an adequate and steady supply of minerals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to safeguard mineral resources from being sterilised by new development • Need to identify where and the circumstances in which mineral development may be acceptable, and how this can take place in the most sustainable manner • May need to assess the relative impacts of mineral extraction in Salford compared to alternative sources, whilst recognising that there is a separate Greater Manchester Joint Minerals Development Plan Document
Prioritise a reduction of use and promotion of secondary resources over primary extraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to promote the reuse and recycling of materials, including through waste transfer stations • Need to promote waste minimisation
Soil and land	
Restore and remediate derelict, unstable and contaminated sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to promote the reuse of previously developed land, whilst recognising that national planning policy no longer prioritises its reuse over greenfield development • Need to ensure the risks to human health are minimised
Protect the best and most versatile agricultural land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct development towards land with poorer agricultural quality • The multifunctional nature of the urban fringe means that agricultural land quality will need to be balanced with other objectives such as nature conservation and recreation
Heritage	
Preserve and enhance the historic environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to identify the key heritage assets that need to be protected, and how this can be achieved whilst promoting new development • Need to explore the potential of the city's heritage for supporting the economy (e.g. through tourism) and enhancing local pride and local identity
Crime	
Aim to reduce crime and the fear of crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to reduce opportunities for crime through the design and location of new development

Key conclusions from review of plans, policies and programmes	Implications for the Local Plan and sustainability appraisal
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure that this does not compromise environmental quality (e.g. through hostile barriers) or accessibility (e.g. by reducing the ease with which people can move through the city by foot and cycle)
Health	
Reduce health inequalities, and deliver safe, healthy and attractive places to live	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to promote access to high quality health facilities, both in terms of primary and secondary care • Need to promote healthy lifestyles, in terms of access to recreation facilities, safe environments, access to fresh food, reductions in pollution, and encouraging walking and cycling as an alternative to the car
Minimise the risk and implications of major incidents involving hazardous substances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure that installations producing or storing such substances are appropriately located • Need to minimise development adjacent to such installations, although this may need to be balanced against other objectives such as the efficient use of land and the location of development on accessible sites
Design and construction	
New development should demonstrate good design quality and respect for its setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the character of Salford and its neighbourhoods is protected and enhanced through the design of new development • Need to identify the key elements of that character (including views and landmarks) • Ensure that tall buildings are located appropriately and are of a high design quality • Ensure that waterside development provides high quality frontages to the waterside whilst also enhancing the role of waterways within the green infrastructure network
Promote mixed-use developments that minimise the need to travel and enhance local character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to identify appropriate locations for mixed-use development • Need to recognise that a mix of uses can potentially conflict with other objectives such as minimising noise pollution and protecting amenity

Key conclusions from review of plans, policies and programmes	Implications for the Local Plan and sustainability appraisal
Need to promote more sustainable design and construction, helping to support inclusive environments and reduce climate change emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to identify how more adaptable and accessible buildings and spaces will be secured • Need to identify how development can minimise resource use in both construction and occupation
Infrastructure	
Need to take into account the capacity of existing infrastructure when planning for new development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure that the policy framework ensures that issues of infrastructure constraints, and how they can be addressed, are considered alongside new development • Need to consider the potential for designing and locating new development in a way that minimises the need for new infrastructure, whilst balancing this against other objectives
Need to ensure that there is sufficient connectivity to support on-going digitalisation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to promote delivery of digital infrastructure within the city
Noise	
Minimise the severity and impact of noise pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to identify opportunities for noise reduction • Need to identify noisy areas where sensitive uses should be avoided, although this may create challenges in terms of other sustainability objectives given that such locations are often the most accessible
Tranquil zones should be identified and protected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to identify whether there are any existing tranquil areas within the city, or the potential for them to be created • Need to balance against promoting public access to and the recreation use of the city's countryside and urban fringe, which has health and quality of life benefits in particular

3.0 Baseline Information

Introduction

- 3.1 Baseline information provides the basis for predicting and monitoring the effects of the Local Plan and helps to identify sustainability problems and alternative ways of dealing with them. This section sets out the main statistics that are relevant to the sustainability appraisal and the development of the Local Plan more generally. More detailed information is contained in appendix 3 of this report.
- 3.2 A large amount of evidence will need to be collected in support of the Local Plan and this will evolve through the production process, ensuring that it is as up-to-date as possible. Therefore, the baseline information identified in this report may change over time, and future sustainability appraisal reports will reflect this.

Summary of key baseline information

- 3.3 Key facts identified from the baseline review are summarised in table 4 below along with implications for the Local Plan and this sustainability appraisal:

Table 4: Key conclusions and implications from the review of baseline information

Key conclusions from review of baseline information	Implications for the Local Plan and sustainability appraisal
Population	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The city saw a very significant decline in population over the last century (by 36% from its peak in 1921), but since 2002 there has been a continuous and accelerating growth in the population which is projected to continue • The city has a relatively high number of single person households and single parent households • The city has a relatively high proportion of 20-29 year olds, and below average numbers aged 45 and over 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure that the policy framework addresses issues associated with the demands of a growing population including in respect of the provision of suitable dwellings, employment opportunities, the accessibility of facilities and opportunities, and the capacity infrastructure.
Health	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct Standardised Mortality Rates in the city are significantly above the national average (sustainability appraisal indicator 'i') • There is a particular concentration of high mortality rates within Central Salford • Healthy life expectancy remains below the national average (sustainability appraisal indicator 'ii') 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure that the policy framework supports improvements in health which can be multi-faceted and include the provision of high quality living environments, controls over polluting activities, economic inclusion and the accessibility of recreational opportunities.
Crime	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime rates in the city have been increasing alongside those at the Greater Manchester level (sustainability appraisal indicator xvi) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure that the policy framework contributes positively in this regard by supporting economic inclusion and design principles which seek to minimise opportunities for incidents of crime.
Accessibility	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More people in Salford access work via the most sustainable forms of transport such as walking, cycling and public transport than the Greater Manchester and North West averages. Other than in respect of walking, Salford is however slightly behind rates at the national level (sustainability appraisal indicator xxv) • This may reflect the high accessibility of the city but also lower incomes • The modal split of all journeys is comparable with that recorded across Greater Manchester (sustainability appraisal indicator xxvi) • The city has good radial public transport services, but weaker orbital connections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure that the policy framework minimises the need to travel and encourages the use of more sustainable modes of transport. • This requires consideration of a range of issues including the identification of specific transport proposals that will enhance the city's existing network, guidance in respect of appropriate development densities in different parts of the city and guidance in respect of focusing facilities and opportunities in accessible locations.
Housing	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compared to the national average, the city has a very high proportion of social-rented housing, with 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure that the policy framework supports high quality residential development

<p>particular concentrations in Broughton, Langworthy, and Little Hulton, and a low proportion of owner-occupied dwellings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The city has a very low proportion of detached dwellings, and above average numbers of semi-detached and flatted accommodation • Net residential completions in the city are increasing and there are a large number of dwellings with planning permission. The supply is heavily skewed towards apartments. • The average ratio of house prices to incomes in the city has been increasing and is now comparable with that recorded across the North West • Since 2011 there has been a significant fall in the number of people on the housing register waiting for social-rented accommodation in the city (sustainability indicator 'xxiii') • Vacancy rates in the city have been falling and are now comparable with regional and national averages. • The number of private dwellings in the city classed as 'non-decent' has reduced significantly over recent years. As a proportion of total stock the city compares well with the national average (sustainability appraisal indicator 'xxiv') 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure the policy framework supports the delivery of a mix of dwellings in terms of size, type and tenure • Need to ensure the policy framework focuses on existing as well as new development and supports the decent homes programme
Education	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levels of GCSE attainment in the city are behind those at the regional and national levels. There are however significant disparities within the city (sustainability appraisal indicator 'xxii') • There have been significant improvements in the levels of qualifications held by the city's 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure a positive policy framework is presented in respect of the provision of education opportunities within the city, including through work-based learning.

<p>residents however fewer people in Salford have higher qualifications than the national average.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amongst 16 and 17 year olds there is a more pronounced focus on alternative forms of education including apprenticeships and work based learning in the city than at higher levels (sustainability appraisal indicator 'xxi') 	
Economic health	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whilst unemployment rates have fallen over recent years, they remain above the regional and national averages (sustainability appraisal indicator xix) • Productivity per capita in Salford is ahead of that recorded across Greater Manchester and the North West. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure that the policy framework promotes economic inclusion.
Structure of the Economy	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been considerable increases in the number of jobs in the city. Over recent years this has been at a significantly faster rate than higher level geographies (sustainability appraisal indicator 'xvii'). • Salford's economy is heavily reliant service sectors including distribution/hotels/catering, banking/finance and public administration/ education and health/ • There has been a continuing decline in manufacturing as an employer in the city, with the proportion of jobs in this sector significantly below the national average • Salford has a number of popular tourist attractions, the opening of the RHS in 2020 will significantly increase the numbers of visitors to the city (sustainability appraisal indicator xxviii) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure the policy framework supports significant economic opportunities within the city including those of City Centre Salford and Salford Quays • Need to ensure it promotes inclusive economic growth so that the benefits are felt by the city's residents • Need to reflect the economic opportunities around tourism and other service industries

Prosperity	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of business units in the city has increased significantly since 2010, at a faster rate than higher geographies (sustainability appraisal indicator xviii) • Between 2002 and 2019 the increase in median annual pay received by local residents has been behind rates seen at the sub-regional, regional and national averages. The median annual pay of Salford residents are lower than those achieved at higher geographic levels(sustainability appraisal indicator xx) • Work places in Salford pay on average more than identified for GM and the North West. However the rate of increase since 2002 has been greater across the North West and England. • Wages paid by jobs located within the city are higher than those earned by the city’s residents, however the gap has closed considerably since 2002. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure the policy framework promotes inclusive economic growth so that the benefits are felt by the city’s residents
Recreation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between 2005/06 and 2017/18 there has been some fluctuation in the citywide performance but there has been an overall increase in the areas of provision and proportion of households within walking distance of the majority of the local recreation standards (sustainability appraisal indicator ‘xxvii’). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure a positive policy framework in respect of accessible outdoor recreation opportunities.
Biodiversity	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The area of sites of biological importance (SBIs) in the city has increased between 2005/06 and 2017/18, rising from 486ha to 516ha (sustainability appraisal indicator ‘iv’) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure that the policy framework provides an appropriate level of protection for the city biodiversity resources.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 2008 survey of UK priority habitats in the city identified a total of 299.1ha (sustainability appraisal indicator 'v') • The city's priority habitats are dominated by readily restorable lowland raised bog 	
Soil and land	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Around 92% of new residential development was located on previously-developed land between 2003-2019 • High level assessments suggest that the city contains around 83% of the total grade 1 agricultural land in Greater Manchester 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure that the policy framework provides an appropriate level of protection to the city's soil and land resources. This includes promoting efficiency in land use to reduce pressures on more sensitive land uses.
Water and flood risk	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitored watercourses in Salford are generally assessed as moderate in quality with the exception of the River Glaze and Shaw Brook which are identified as poor (sustainability appraisal indicator 'vi') • Approximately 17,600 dwellings are subject to a medium or high risk of fluvial flooding, the majority of these are within the River Irwell floodplain (sustainability appraisal indicator 'vii') 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure the policy framework promotes an appropriate response to flood risk, supporting sustainable water management, investigating the potential for further strategic flood risk solutions, and mitigating risks.
Air quality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The air quality management area is focused around main highways and covers around 742ha, or 8%, of the city (sustainability appraisal indicator 'viii'). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure that the policy framework supports improvements in air quality in the context of work ongoing at the Greater Manchester level. This includes in respect of efficiency in land use towards accessible locations, the provision of accessible facilities and opportunities and enhancements to the city's transport network in support of more sustainable modes.
Climatic factors	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The city’s “carbon footprint” per capita is slightly below the regional and national average, and has been decreasing since 2005 (sustainability appraisal indicator ‘ix’). • Salford’s renewable energy installed generation capacity is increasing but is currently the third lowest in Greater Manchester (sustainability appraisal indicator ‘x’) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure that the policy framework supports further reductions in the city’s carbon footprint. This will include measures to promote resource conservation as part of new development and efforts to reduce the need to travel. • Need to ensure it supports, as appropriate, the installation of renewable energy capacity within the city.
Waste	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Household waste generation per capita is below the sub-regional average (sustainability appraisal indicator ‘xi’) • Recycling rates are increasing and now comparable with the average across Greater Manchester (sustainability indicator xii) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure that the policy framework encourages the provision of appropriate waste management facilities as part of new developments. • Wider issues of waste management are considered at a Greater Manchester level through the Joint Waste Plan.
Minerals	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration of lowland raised bog and associated habitats is now progressing at the three main former peat extraction sites in the Chat Moss area. Peat extraction ceased entirely in Salford in 2017. • There are sand and gravel reserves under Chat Moss however their exploitation would have serious environmental consequences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues of mineral extraction are considered through the Greater Manchester Joint Minerals Plan.
Cultural heritage	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salford has a diverse heritage, particularly related to its industrial past, with 235 separate listed building entries on the national heritage list (sustainability appraisal indicator ‘xiii’) • In 2019, there were 10 listed buildings and 4 conservation areas identified as being ‘at risk’ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure that appropriate protection is given to the city’s heritage assets. In this context the positive use of assets should be encouraged to minimise the potential for additional buildings/ conservation areas to become ‘at risk’.
Light and noise	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been a generally increasing trend in the number of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure that suitable controls are put in place in

complaints received over recent years (sustainability appraisal indicators 'xiv' and 'xv').	respect of issues of pollution, including light and noise.
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4.0 Sustainability Issues and Problems

Introduction

- 4.1 The assessment of other plans, policies and programmes, together with an analysis of the relevant baseline information, has enabled the identification of the main sustainability issues and problems that need to be taken into account in developing the Salford Local Plan. These issues and problems are identified below and cover a variety of scales, with some not just affecting Salford but also the sub-region, region, the country, and the world as a whole.
- 4.2 Listed alongside the issues identified are the sustainability appraisal objectives that specifically address the matters raised and have formed the basis of the appraisal framework discussed further in section 5.

Main sustainability Issues and problems	Sustainability Appraisal Objectives which address the issues identified
Population	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The major loss of population, particularly its inner city communities, has reduced the ability to sustain a full range of high quality facilities and services in some areas. • There are concerns that the city, and particularly its inner areas, is not sufficiently attractive to families. However the large proportion of single person households may partly reflect the attractiveness of the city centre to younger, single people 	<p>Relevant issues addressed through sustainability objectives that aim to contribute to an attractive city to live in, in particular:</p> <p>Objective 12 To protect and enhance amenity</p> <p>Objective 13 To reduce crime and the fear of crime</p> <p>Objective 14 To maximise economic growth that can be sustained in the long-term</p> <p>Objective 15 To enhance economic inclusion</p> <p>Objective 17 To ensure that everyone has access to a good home that meets their needs</p> <p>Objective 18 To improve the accessibility of facilities and opportunities</p>

	<p>Objective 19 To improve community cohesion</p> <p>Objective 20 To increase involvement in decision-making</p> <p>Objective 21 To improve perceptions of the city</p>
Health	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The population of Salford generally suffers from poor health, and there are very significant health inequalities within the city 	<p>Relevant issues addressed through:</p> <p>Objective 1 To improve physical and mental health</p> <p>Objective 7 To improve air quality</p> <p>Objective 12 To protect and enhance amenity</p> <p>Objective 15 To enhance economic inclusion</p> <p>Objective 17 To ensure everyone has access to a good home that meets their needs</p> <p>Objective 18 To improve the accessibility of facilities and opportunities</p>
Crime	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crime rates in the city are reducing, however there remain high levels of incidences in particular parts of the city and the issue continues to negatively affect perceptions of the city. This will need to be tackled if the city is to become more attractive to potential residents, especially families, and investment is to be maximised, particularly within the most deprived neighbourhoods where crime is at its highest 	<p>Relevant issues addressed through:</p> <p>Objective 13 To reduce crime and the fear of crime</p> <p>Objective 15 To enhance economic inclusion</p> <p>Objective 19 To improve community cohesion</p> <p>Objective 20 To increase involvement in decision-making</p> <p>Objective 21 To improve perceptions of the city</p>
Accessibility	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salford is a very accessible city, particularly within and 	<p>Relevant issues addressed through:</p>

<p>around the city centre, and is therefore well-placed to contribute to the sustainable location of new development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public transport along radial routes into the city centre is generally very good, although congested at peak times • Orbital routes are much less well-developed, and consequently accessibility to key employment and leisure opportunities such as within and around Trafford Park could be improved significantly • The role of the city’s existing town and neighbourhood centres needs to be protected and enhanced in order to ensure that residents can easily meet their daily needs 	<p>Objective 18 To improve the accessibility of facilities and opportunities</p>
<p>Housing</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a relative lack of diversity in residential accommodation in some parts of the city, particularly within several Central Salford neighbourhoods • Following a period of low completion rates of apartment development and investment purchases, largely a result of the credit crunch, there is now a significant number of new apartment schemes coming forward • Vacancy rates in Salford have been consistently higher than average but there have been significant recent reductions. Vacancy rates in Salford West are much lower than Central Salford • Although Salford has a relatively high proportions of social rented properties, there are a significant number of 	<p>Relevant issues addressed through:</p> <p>Objective 11 To maintain and enhance the quality and character of landscape and townscape</p> <p>Objective 12 To protect and enhance amenity</p> <p>Objective 17 To ensure that everyone has access to a good home that meets their needs</p> <p>Objective 18 To improve the accessibility of facilities and opportunities</p> <p>Objective 19 To improve community cohesion</p>

<p>households who require affordable housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whilst house price to income ratios on Salford are high, they are relatively affordable compared to Greater Manchester, the North West and England 	
<p>Education</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational attainment is improving amongst Salford pupils, but the overall skill levels amongst the population are still relatively low. This has a negative impact on social inclusion and contributes to deprivation, as it reduces the ability of residents to access many of the employment opportunities within the sub-region • Forecast declines in manufacturing jobs, with an increasing dominance of business services sectors, is likely to heighten the importance of improving skill levels within the city. If skill levels are not improved then the already significant problems of worklessness and deprivation may increase further 	<p>Relevant issues addressed through:</p> <p>Objective 15 To enhance economic inclusion</p> <p>Objective 16 To improve the city’s knowledge base</p> <p>Objective 18) To improve the accessibility of facilities and opportunities</p>
<p>Economic Health</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A proactive approach should be taken to encouraging economic growth • Unemployment is a problem for the city, significantly exceeding the national average. There is also a relatively large proportion of people claiming out of work benefits. • The city has done well in capturing new employment from the growth sectors, but 	<p>Relevant issues addressed through:</p> <p>Objective 14) To maximise economic growth that can be sustained in the long-term</p> <p>Objective 15) To enhance economic inclusion</p> <p>Objective 16) To improve the city’s knowledge base</p>

<p>there are question marks over how easy it is for local residents to benefit from these additional job opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The city’s economy is increasingly dominated by a small number of sectors, and although it will be important to target the growth sectors it will also be vital to ensure economic diversity to make the economy more robust to changing circumstances and provide more diverse employment opportunities to meet the varied needs and skills of residents 	<p>Objective 18) To improve the accessibility of facilities and opportunities</p> <p>Objective 21) To improve perceptions of the city</p>
Prosperity	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The high growth in businesses is encouraging, but this will need to be maintained if the economic growth objectives of other plans and strategies are to be achieved • It needs to be ensured that new employment opportunities provide a decent wage, and support is required to enable people to move from benefits to employment, in order to help close the gap between local and national disposable incomes. 	<p>Relevant issues addressed through:</p> <p>Objective 14) To maximise economic growth that can be sustained in the long-term</p> <p>Objective 15) To enhance economic inclusion</p> <p>Objective 18) To improve the accessibility of facilities and opportunities</p>
Biodiversity	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The city has a large area of readily restorable degraded lowland raised bog, which is a UK/EU priority habitat, offering the potential to make a major contribution to national biodiversity objectives • The large scale of development proposed for the city may put pressures on biodiversity resources, and therefore careful consideration must be given to their ongoing protection and enhancement. 	<p>Relevant issues addressed through:</p> <p>Objective 2) To protect, enhance and restore biodiversity resources</p> <p>Objective 4) To protect and improve soil and land resources</p> <p>Objective 5) To protect and enhance water resources</p>

<p>The level of change also offers opportunities to integrate biodiversity considerations more effectively into neighbourhoods where there are limited resources at present</p>	
Soil and Land	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The city has a large supply of high grade agricultural land which could become increasingly important as global climate change and population increases place pressure on food resources and security of supply. This will need to be balanced against other priorities for such land including biodiversity and recreational access • More than 92% of new dwellings are being provided on previously-developed land, and there remains a significant supply of vacant/underused land in the city to continue this performance in the future, but pressures for more family houses and new employment sites that better meet modern business requirements may increase demands for greenfield land release 	<p>Relevant issues addressed through:</p> <p>Objective 3) To protect, enhance and restore geological resources</p> <p>Objective 4) To protect and improve soil and land resources</p>
Water and Flood Risk	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant parts of the city are at risk of flooding, but those areas also include neighbourhoods in need of regeneration and thousands of households living in accommodation with inadequate flood protection, so it will be important to identify policy interventions that minimise risk whilst supporting community regeneration and recognising the increased 	<p>Relevant issues addressed through:</p> <p>Objective 5) To protect and enhance water resources</p> <p>Objective 6) To minimise the risk and impacts of flooding</p>

<p>potential for major flood events associated with climate change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scale of new development proposed, coupled with projected increases in rainfall associated with climate change, could place additional pressure on sewers that are already near or at capacity and increase runoff into watercourses 	
<p>Air Quality</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The air quality management area is focused on the city’s main highways. Potential increases in local traffic as a result of development coming forward in the city, and wider conurbation, will need to be managed to avoid any greater impacts on health and quality of life 	<p>Relevant issues addressed through:</p> <p>Objective 7) To improve air quality</p> <p>Objective 18) To improve the accessibility of facilities and opportunities</p>
<p>Climatic Factors</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The levels of development that could come forward in the city offers the potential to significantly reduce the average per capita carbon footprint through the careful location and design of development, but reducing emissions from existing development will also be important though challenging • Successful adaptation to climate change will be fundamental to achieving other objectives, for example relating to quality of life (e.g. increased urban heat island effect), flood risk and biodiversity • The city’s green belt contains significant areas of peat which have a significant role in storing carbon. 	<p>Relevant issues addressed through:</p> <p>Objective 3) To protect, enhance and restore geological resources</p> <p>Objective 4) To protect and improve soil and land resources</p> <p>Objective 8) To minimise contributions to climate change</p> <p>Objective 9) To minimise the use of non-renewable resources</p> <p>Objective 18) To improve the accessibility of facilities and opportunities</p>
<p>Material Resources</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The city has a low recycling rate for household waste, and Greater Manchester generally exports a significant proportion of its waste • The large scale of development proposed will place major demands on material resources 	<p>Relevant issues addressed through:</p> <p>9) To minimise the use of non-renewable resources</p>
Landscape and Open Space	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than a third of the city is Green Belt, and there are other significant open spaces, all of which have competing functional demands for example in terms of recreation, agriculture, biodiversity, flood water storage and landscape value • The large scale of redevelopment proposed in some parts of the city may offer opportunities to enhance the provision of open spaces and other green infrastructure in areas that currently have only limited such resources 	<p>Relevant issues addressed through:</p> <p>4) To protect and improve soil and land resources</p> <p>11) To maintain and enhance the quality and character of landscape and townscape</p> <p>18) To improve the accessibility of facilities and opportunities</p>
Cultural Heritage	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The city has a rich cultural heritage, which is an important source of local pride and identity, and contributes towards the city’s tourism potential. It is therefore important that an appropriate level of protection and enhancement is provided for the city’s heritage assets. • There are potentially conflicts between continuing the strong protection of the city’s heritage and enabling the large scale of development and regeneration proposed for the city 	<p>Relevant issues addressed through:</p> <p>Objective 10) To protect, enhance, and enable the appreciation of, the city’s heritage</p> <p>Objective 11) To maintain and enhance the quality and character of landscape and townscape</p>
Light and Noise	

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increasing complaints over recent years indicate the need to carefully locate and design new development, and may increase the importance of retaining some areas of relative tranquillity	Relevant issues addressed through: 12) To protect and enhance amenity
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5.0 Sustainability Appraisal Framework

Introduction

- 5.1 The sustainability appraisal framework provides the tools for describing, analysing and comparing the sustainability effects of the Publication Salford Local Plan: Development Management Policies and Designations document (SLP:DMP) and the reasonable alternative options. The framework consists of three main elements:
- a) A series of sustainability objectives, which the SLP:DMP should seek to further as far as practicable within the scope and purpose of the plan
 - b) A number of questions related to each objective, which will assist in determining the impact of the SLP:DMP, and reasonable alternatives, on those objectives
 - c) A range of indicators, which will enable sustainability effects to be monitored, covering the full spectrum of objectives
- 5.2 The sustainability appraisal framework has been developed by analysing the full range of sustainability issues that the SLP:DMP could potentially have an impact on, informed by the above sections of this report.
- 5.3 The objectives have been designed to be fully comprehensive, whilst minimising any overlap between individual objectives that could potentially cause confusion and skew the results of any appraisal. All of the objectives are considered to be “primary” objectives, which are desirable in and of themselves in securing more sustainable outcomes, and purely “secondary” objectives that only help to achieve primary objectives have been excluded. For example, it will be important to maximise the use of more sustainable means of transport such as walking, cycling and public transport. However, it is not a primary objective but rather a secondary objective that helps to achieve a range of primary objectives such as minimising contributions to climate change, improving air quality, improving physical and mental health, and protecting and enhancing amenity. Similarly, although reducing greenhouse gas emissions has its own objective, there is not a separate objective on adaptation to climate change as it is covered by other objectives, for example relating to biodiversity, flood risk, health etc. Each objective is inevitably broad in its scope given the wide-ranging nature of the Local Plan and its potential sustainability implications.
- 5.4 The indicators have been chosen to strike a balance between providing a comprehensive assessment of sustainability effects and being manageable in terms of their number and data requirements. The

emphasis is on direct, primary outcomes rather than inputs, outputs or indirect outcomes that affect the primary outcomes, although proxy indicators may sometimes be required. They are intended to be “headline” indicators, and as a result there are not indicators relating to all of the questions listed (with many of the questions relating to indirect outcomes or outputs). It is therefore inevitable that other information will need to be collected in order to supplement the sustainability indicators and inform future policy development. The interconnectedness of the sustainability objectives means that some of the indicators potentially relate to several different objectives, but they have been grouped under individual indicators for ease of use.

5.5 The SLP:DMP, and the identified alternative options, have been appraised against the objectives identified having regard to the following issues:

- The degree and type of impact, split by short term (0-5 years), medium term (5-10 years), and long-term (10+ years). The following codes have been used to illustrate the impact type:

Impact code	Impact type
--	Major negative
-	Negative
0	Neutral
+	Positive
++	Major Positive
?	Uncertain

- The certainty of the impact, in terms of high, medium or low
- The scale of the impact, which may be local (site/neighbourhood level), city (affecting most or all of Salford), sub-regional (affecting whole of Greater Manchester), national (affecting the country as a whole), or global (potentially affecting the whole world)
- The permanence of the impact, which may be high (to a large extent irreversible), medium (reversible but likely to require specific interventions), or low (easily reversible)
- Any key secondary, cumulative and/or synergistic impacts, although the overall scores and text generally pick up the interconnectedness of the different sustainability objectives and the different proposals within each option
- Any additional opportunities for mitigation beyond those already identified within the plan.

The framework

- 5.6 Table 5 below sets out the sustainability appraisal framework that is being used to assess the sustainability of the SLP:DMP and reasonable alternatives. The objectives, questions and indicators have been grouped under broad topic headings to assist in identifying the primary issues that they will address. The first ten headings reflect the requirements of point (f) of Annex I of the SEA Directive.
- 5.7 Appendix 4 provides more details on the definition of and data sources for the indicators.

Table 5: Sustainability appraisal framework

Topic	Objective	Questions	Indicators
Health	1) To improve physical and mental health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce death rates? • Will it reduce health inequalities? • Will it promote healthy lifestyles? • Will it minimise the potential negative health impacts of a changing climate? • Will it improve access to healthcare facilities? • Will it reduce isolation for vulnerable people? • Will it reduce exposure to pollutants? • Will it reduce accidents and the risk of accidents? • Will it improve access to healthy, affordable food? • Will it reduce fuel poverty and other negative health impacts of housing? • Will it promote good mental health? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Direct standardised mortality rate (all causes) ii) Healthy life expectancy
Biodiversity, flora and fauna	2) To protect, enhance and restore biodiversity resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it protect and enhance existing flora, fauna and priority habitats? • Will it provide opportunities for new habitat creation? • Will it minimise fragmentation of habitats and increase links? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii) Area of UK priority habitats by type iv) Area of locally designated sites

Topic	Objective	Questions	Indicators
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it take into account the potential impacts of climate change on biodiversity? 	
Geodiversity	3) To protect, enhance and restore geological resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it protect notable geological and geomorphological features? • Will it enhance appreciation of such features? • Will it support the management of such features? 	v) Area of designated geological sites
Soil and land	4) To protect and improve soil and land resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it protect the agricultural quality of soil resources? • Will it reduce land instability? • Will it reduce land contamination? • Will it reduce the amount of derelict and/or degraded land? • Will it minimise the net loss of greenfield land? 	No indicator identified
Water	5) To protect and enhance water resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it protect and enhance the quality of waterways and groundwater? • Will it ensure an adequate supply of water to homes and businesses? • Will it reduce per capita water consumption? 	vi) Proportion of waterways classified as “Moderate” or better under the terms of the Water Framework Directive
	6) To minimise the risk and impacts of flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce the number of people and properties at risk of flooding? • Will it reduce the severity of impacts of any flooding? 	vii) Number of dwellings at risk of flooding more often than once every 100 years

Topic	Objective	Questions	Indicators
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it increase the use of sustainable drainage systems? 	
Air	7) To improve air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce the emission of airborne pollutants? • Will it maximise the removal of air pollutants (e.g. by trees)? 	viii) Area of the city that complies with national air quality standards
Climatic factors	8) To minimise contributions to climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, particularly carbon dioxide and methane? • Will it increase energy efficiency? • Will it increase the use of renewable energy? • Will it reduce traffic levels and encourage walking, cycling and public transport use? 	ix) Carbon dioxide emissions by per capita x) Renewable energy installed capacity
Material assets	9) To minimise the use of non-renewable resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce waste generation? • Will it maximise the use of waste as a resource, and minimise the amount of residual waste going to landfill? • Will it minimise the use of primary minerals? • Will it increase the use of building materials from sustainable sources? • Will it maximise the reuse of existing buildings? • Will it minimise the use of fossil fuels? 	xi) Total amount of waste per capita per year xii) Annual recycling and composting rate

Topic	Objective	Questions	Indicators
Cultural heritage	10) To protect, enhance, and enable the appreciation of, the city's heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it minimise the loss of, and damage to, places, landscapes and structures of historic, cultural and/or archaeological value? • Will it protect the setting and views of such assets? • Will it help to secure a positive and sensitive use for such assets? • Will it improve access to the city's heritage? • Will it help to increase recognition of the value of the city's heritage? 	xiii) Net change in the number of nationally designated heritage assets
Landscape and townscape	11) To maintain and enhance the quality and character of landscape and townscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it improve the quality of urban, architectural and landscape design? • Will it protect landscape features and open spaces? • Will it secure good maintenance of landscape and townscape? • Will it improve public access to quality landscapes and townscapes? • Will it protect and enhance local character and distinctiveness? 	No indicator identified
Amenity	12) To protect and enhance amenity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it improve neighbourhood quality? • Will it minimise light and noise pollution? 	xiv) Number of noise complaints xv) Number of light pollution complaints

Topic	Objective	Questions	Indicators
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it ensure that occupiers of buildings and spaces have sufficient natural light and appropriate levels of privacy? • Will it ensure that public spaces are sufficiently well lit? • Will it maintain tranquil areas? • Will it mitigate the negative impacts of climate change on microclimates? 	
Crime	13) To reduce crime and the fear of crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce actual levels of crime? • Will it reduce the fear of crime? • Will it reduce antisocial behaviour and disorder? 	xvi) Incidences of crime per 1,000 population
Economic health	14) To maximise economic growth that can be sustained in the long-term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it support a diverse and robust economy? • Will it support key growth sectors that drive economic growth? • Will it enhance productivity levels? • Will it encourage inward investment? • Will it support existing businesses? • Will it support innovation and business development? • Will it increase the quantity and quality of employment opportunities? • Will it promote security of energy supply and other resources? 	xvii) Number of jobs xviii) Number of businesses

Topic	Objective	Questions	Indicators
Prosperity	15) To enhance economic inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it meet the employment needs of local people? • Will it increase economic activity levels? • Will it improve physical accessibility to jobs? • Will it support higher income levels for local residents? • Will it improve economic performance in disadvantaged areas? 	xix) Unemployment rate xx) Median annual pay
Education	16) To improve the city's knowledge base	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it increase the skills of local people? • Will it improve the qualifications of local people? • Will it increase the levels of participation in education? • Will it help to develop and maintain a healthy labour market? 	xxi) Proportion of pupils remaining in full-time education beyond the age of 16 xxii) Proportion of pupils achieving GCSE 9-4 English and Maths (standard pass)
Housing	17) To ensure that everyone has access to a good home that meets their needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it provide an appropriate mix of housing to enable all needs to be met? • Will it enable people to meet their needs within their existing communities? • Will it reduce homelessness? • Will it reduce the number of unfit dwellings? 	xxiii) Number of households in identified housing need xxiv) Number of non-decent homes

Topic	Objective	Questions	Indicators
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce the number of vacant dwellings? • Will it increase the stability of the housing market? • Will it ensure that people can afford their housing? • Will it reduce overcrowding? 	
Accessibility	18) To improve the accessibility of facilities and opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it improve transport systems and services that provide access to facilities and opportunities for employment, shopping and leisure? • Will it reduce the distance people need to travel to access jobs, facilities and services? • Will it improve the range and quality of facilities within the city? • Will it secure accessible quality green space and other outdoor recreation opportunities close to homes? • Will it protect existing town and neighbourhood centres where such facilities are focused? • Will it encourage linked trips? • Will it improve access to high quality information and communication technology? 	xxv) Modal split of all journeys xxvi) Modal split of all journeys to a place of work xxvii) Provision and accessibility of formal open spaces in the city

Topic	Objective	Questions	Indicators
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does it remove/reduce blockages to access? 	
Community cohesion	19) To improve community cohesion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it create a sense of belonging and identity? • Will it improve relations between different groups? • Will it reduce prejudice? • Will it support community development? • Will it promote equality? 	No indicator identified
Decision-making	20) To increase involvement in decision-making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it enable people to influence decision-making? • Will it keep people informed? • Will it involve people in the implementation of decisions? • Will it engage hard to reach groups? 	No indicator identified
Image	21) To improve perceptions of the city	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it support an increase in visitor numbers? • Will it provide a more positive image for the city? • Will it secure positive publicity? 	xxviii) Number of tourism visits to key attractions within the city

Internal compatibility of the sustainability objectives

5.8 The sustainability objectives have been assessed for their internal compatibility. This will help to identify where there are potential synergies that could be maximised through the SLP:DMP, as well as where there are potential conflicts that the SLP:DMP will need to manage and mitigate.

5.9 Sustainability considerations are not made in isolation but are mutually dependent. None of the sustainability objectives identified are considered to be inherently incompatible. However, there are some objectives that could potentially be incompatible depending on the proposals that come forward through the SLP:DMP, and these are identified below:

- Maximising economic growth (objective 14) can have a positive impact on many of the other sustainability objectives identified, including securing higher social and environmental standards. However, it could potentially have a negative impact, as economic development has historically led to compromises in environmental conditions in particular, but also many social objectives such as good health. However, the links between economic growth and environmental/social degradation are not automatic, and the challenge will be to ensure that the form of economic growth minimises the negative impacts and maximises the positive effects such as increasing prosperity and investment in infrastructure that has wider social benefits.
- Achieving the objective of ensuring that everyone has access to a good home that meets their needs (objective 17) could potentially require the demolition of existing buildings, some of which may be considered to make a positive contribution to the heritage and townscape character of the city (objectives 10 and 11). In these circumstances, it will be particularly important to ensure that any replacement buildings have at least the same positive impact on the quality and distinctiveness of the local area.
- Increases in the city's population as a result of working towards objective 17 could also potentially have a negative impact at the local level on many of the other objectives unless the per capita impacts of human activity are reduced. However, this needs to be balanced against the implications at a regional, national and international level were that population to be located outside Salford. For example, locating people within Salford rather than elsewhere could potentially help to minimise negative impacts, for example by enabling more people to live closer to the main concentrations of employment in the region.

- Increasing involvement in decision-making (objective 20) has the potential to compromise the achievement of many of the objectives given that most people have a limited amount of time available to engage in the development of the SLP:DMP, and therefore may not be able to take all of the various sustainability considerations into account when seeking to influence the document. This emphasises the importance of ensuring that appropriate information is available for the public, and is written in plain English.

5.10 Many of the sustainability objectives are mutually reinforcing. However, there are some synergies that are particularly important.

- Although the SLP:DMP can only have a minor impact in the global context, reducing contributions to climate change (objective 8) will be essential in supporting many of the other objectives. For example, climate change could potentially have a negative impact on health (through higher temperatures and more extreme weather events) (objective 1), biodiversity (with the climate changing faster than ecosystems can adapt) (objective 2), soil quality (with longer dry periods potentially leading to dust bowls) (objective 4), water resources (by requiring greater water usage) (objective 5), risk of flooding (by increasing the severity of rain events and therefore peak river flows) (objective 6), air quality (with higher temperatures increasing incidences of photochemical smog) (objective 7), amenity (with higher temperatures making urban areas less comfortable to live in) (objective 12), and subsequent impacts on economic growth (objective 14).
- Although a primary objective itself, improving physical and mental health can be influenced by many of the other objectives. For example, access to wildlife and quality landscapes and townscapes can promote good mental health (objectives 2 and 11), reducing contamination of land minimises health risks (objective 4), improving air quality helps to reduce respiratory diseases (objective 7), protecting amenity, community cohesion and involvement in decision-making reduces stress levels (objectives 12, 19 and 20), reducing crime helps to protect health (objective 13), enhancing economic inclusion and improving access to facilities enable people to maintain healthier lifestyles (objectives 15 and 18), and reducing the number of people living in poor housing also reduces health impacts (objective 17).
- Securing good educational standards (objective 16) also has important links with other objectives, particularly helping to promote economic growth by ensuring a quality labour supply (objective 14), assisting

local residents to share in the benefits of economic growth (objective 15), and enabling people to become more fully involved in decision-making (objective 20).

Compatibility of Sustainability Objectives for Greater Manchester and Salford

- 5.11 As part of the development of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF), an Integrated Assessment (IA) is being undertaken incorporating the requirements of Sustainability Appraisal (SA), Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) and Health Impact Assessment (HIA). The Integrated Assessment identifies 18 objectives, set out in table 6 below, which provide a framework for the assessment of the GMSF in these terms.
- 5.12 The GMSF, alongside Salford's Local Plan (parts 1 and 2), will form part of the city's Development Plan¹². It is therefore appropriate to consider the compatibility of the sustainability objectives that frame the assessments of these documents in order to ensure that they are being appraised against similar goals.
- 5.13 Table 6 below lists the 18 objectives (and sub-questions) within the GMSF integrated assessment. The final column explains how the issues identified are addressed within Salford's sustainability appraisal.
- 5.14 It can be seen that the SLP:DMP Sustainability Appraisal addresses all of the sustainability objectives identified in the Greater Manchester Integrated Appraisal.

¹² Salford's Development Plan currently comprises Saved Unitary Development Plan Policies, the Greater Manchester Joint Waste Development Plan, the Greater Manchester Joint Minerals Plan and the Proposals Map.

Table 6: Comparison of GMSF integrated appraisal sustainability objectives and Salford sustainability objectives

GM Objectives	GM Sub questions	Key Links to Salford Objectives
<p>1 Provide a sustainable supply of housing land including for an appropriate mix of sizes, types, tenures in locations to meet housing need, and to support economic growth</p>	<p>Will the GMSF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure an appropriate quantity of housing land to meet the objectively assessed need for market and affordable housing? • Ensure an appropriate mix of types, tenures and sizes of properties in relation to the respective levels of local demand? • Ensure housing land is well-connected with employment land, centres and green space or co-located where appropriate? • Support improvements in the energy efficiency and resilience of the housing stock? 	<p>Primarily addressed by objective 17, which is to ensure that everyone has access to a good home that meets their needs.</p> <p>Issues of access to facilities and opportunities, including quality green spaces, are addressed by objective 18 (to improve the accessibility of facilities and opportunities).</p> <p>Issues of energy efficiency and resilience of the housing stock are addressed holistically through objectives 1 (To improve physical and mental health), 6 (To minimise the risk and impacts of flooding) and 8 (to minimise contributions to climate change).</p>
<p>2 Provide a sustainable supply of employment land to ensure sustainable economic growth and job creation</p>	<p>Will the GMSF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet current and future demand for employment land across GM? • Support education and training to provide a suitable labour force for future growth? • Provide sufficient employment land in locations that are well-connected and well-served by infrastructure? 	<p>Primarily addressed by objective 14, to maximise economic growth that can be sustained in the long-term.</p> <p>Objectives 15 (To enhance economic inclusion), 16 (To improve the city’s knowledge base) and 18 (To improve the accessibility of facilities and opportunities)</p>

		address access to employment from a transport and skills perspective.
3 Ensure that there is sufficient coverage and capacity of transport and utilities to support growth and development	<p>Will the GMSF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the transport network can support and enable the anticipated scale and spatial distribution of development? • Improve transport connectivity? • Ensure that utilities / digital infrastructure can support and enable the anticipated scale and spatial distribution of development? 	<p>Primarily addressed by objective 18, to improve the accessibility of facilities and opportunities. The questions associated with the objectives include transport and digital connections.</p> <p>The provision of utilities is a key issue for both existing homes and businesses and as part of new development within the city. Appropriate utilities infrastructure is therefore implicit in objectives 14 (to maximise economic growth that can be sustained in the long-term), 17 (to ensure that everyone has access to a good home that meets their needs), and 18 (To improve the accessibility of facilities and opportunities). Water supply is also addressed by objective 5 (to protect and enhance water resources).</p>
4 Reduce levels of deprivation and disparity	<p>Will the GMSF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the proportion of people living in deprivation? • Support reductions in poverty (including child and fuel poverty), deprivation and disparity across the domains of the Indices of Multiple Deprivation? 	<p>The aims of GM Objective 4 are addressed by a number of objectives in the Salford appraisal including objective 1 (To improve physical and mental health - which includes questions relating to health inequalities, access to affordable food and fuel poverty); 15 (To enhance economic inclusion), 19 (To</p>

		improve community cohesion) and 20 (To increase involvement in decision-making).
5 Promote equality of opportunity and the elimination of discrimination	<p>Will the GMSF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster good relations between different people? • Ensure equality of opportunity and equal access to facilities/infrastructure for all? • Ensure no discrimination based on 'protected characteristics', as defined in the Equality Act 2010? • Ensure that the needs of different areas, (namely urban, suburban, urban fringe and rural) are equally addressed? 	Addressed by objectives 15 (To enhance economic inclusion), 19 (To improve community cohesion) and 20 (To increase involvement in decision-making).
6 Support improved health and wellbeing of the population and reduce health inequalities	<p>Will the GMSF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support healthier lifestyles and support improvements in determinants of health? • Reduce health inequalities within GM and with the rest of England? • Promote access to green space? 	Primarily addressed by objective 1 (to improve physical and mental health). Objective 18 (to improve the accessibility of facilities and opportunities) includes the accessibility of green spaces and other outdoor recreation opportunities close to homes.
7 Ensure access to and provision of appropriate social infrastructure ¹³	<p>Will the GMSF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure people are adequately served by key healthcare facilities, regardless of socio-economic status? • Ensure sufficient access to educational facilities for all children? 	Addressed by objective 18 (To improve the accessibility of facilities and opportunities).

¹³ In this instance social infrastructure is being used as a term to refer to schools, local healthcare services, playgrounds, public sports facilities, community buildings and land.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote access to and provision of appropriate community social infrastructure including playgrounds and sports facilities? 	
8 Support improved educational attainment and skill levels for all	<p>Will the GMSF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve education levels of children in the area, regardless of their background? Improve educational and skill levels of the population of working age? 	Addressed by objective 16 (To improve the city's knowledge base)
9 Promote sustainable modes of transport	<p>Will the GMSF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the need to travel and promote efficient patterns of movement? Promote a safe and sustainable public transport network that reduces reliance on private motor vehicles? Support the use of sustainable and active modes of transport? 	Addressed by objectives 8 (To minimise contributions to climate change) which includes reducing traffic levels and encouraging walking, cycling and public transport use, and 18 (To improve the accessibility of facilities and opportunities)
10 Improve air quality	<p>Will the GMSF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve air quality within Greater Manchester, particularly in the 10 Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs)? 	Addressed by objective 7 (To improve air quality). Objective 1 (To improve physical and mental health) also includes reducing exposure to pollutants.
11 Conserve and enhance biodiversity, green infrastructure and geo-diversity assets	<p>Will the GMSF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide opportunities to enhance new and existing wildlife and geological sites? Avoid damage to or destruction of designated wildlife sites, habitats and species and protected and unique geological features? 	Addressed by objectives 2 (To protect, enhance and restore biodiversity resources), 3 (To protect, enhance and restore geological resources) and 12 (To protect and enhance amenity)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and enhance existing multifunctional green infrastructure and / or contribute towards the creation of new multifunctional green infrastructure? • Ensure access to green infrastructure providing opportunities for recreation, amenity and tranquillity? 	<p>Rather than an objective in its own right, the provision of multi-functional green infrastructure would be encouraged as one way to address a number of objectives including 1 (to improve physical and mental health), 2 (to protect, enhance and restore biodiversity resources), 6 (minimise the risk and impacts of flooding), 7 (to improve air quality), 11 (to maintain and enhance the quality and character of landscape and townscape), and 18 (to improve the accessibility of facilities and opportunities).</p>
<p>12 Ensure communities, developments and infrastructure are resilient to the effects of expected climate change</p>	<p>Will the GMSF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that communities, existing and new developments and infrastructure systems are resilient to the predicted effects of climate change across GM? 	<p>Resilience to a changing climate is addressed by a number of objectives including objective 1 (To improve physical and mental health) which includes minimising the potential negative health impacts of a changing climate. Objective 2 (To protect, enhance and restore biodiversity) which includes having regard to the impacts of climate change, Objective 6 (To minimise the risk and impacts of flooding). Objective 12 (To protect and enhance amenity) which includes mitigating the negative impacts of climate change on microclimates. Objective 13 (to maximise economic growth that can be sustained in the long-term) which includes promoting security of energy supply and other resources,</p>

<p>13 Reduce the risk of flooding to people and property</p>	<p>Will the GMSF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrict the development of property in areas of flood risk? • Ensure adequate measures are in place to manage existing flood risk? • Ensure that development does not increase flood risk due to increased run-off rates? • Ensure development is appropriately future proof to accommodate future levels of flood risk including from climate change? 	<p>Addressed by objective 6, to minimise the risk and impacts of flooding.</p>
<p>14 Protect and improve the quality and availability of water resources</p>	<p>Will the GMSF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage compliance with the Water Framework Directive? • Promote management practices that will protect water features from pollution? • Avoid consuming greater volumes of water resources than are available to maintain a healthy environment? 	<p>Addressed by objective 5, To protect and enhance water resources.</p>
<p>15 Increase energy efficiency, encourage low-carbon generation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions</p>	<p>Will the GMSF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage reduction in energy use and increased energy efficiency? • Encourage the development of low carbon and renewable energy facilities, including as part of conventional developments? • Promote a proactive reduction in direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions emitted across GM? 	<p>The issues considered under GM objective 15 are addressed through objectives 8 (to minimise contributions to climate change) and 9 (to minimise the use of non-renewable resources) of Salford’s sustainability appraisal.</p>

<p>16 Conserve and/or enhance landscape, townscape, heritage assets and their setting and the character of GM</p>	<p>Will the GMSF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve landscape quality and the character of open spaces and the public realm? • Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their setting? • Respect, maintain and strengthen local character and distinctiveness? 	<p>Addressed by objectives 10 (to protect, enhance and enable the appreciation of the city’s heritage) and 11 (to maintain and enhance the quality and character of landscape and townscape).</p>
<p>17 Ensure that land resources are allocated and used in an efficient and sustainable manner to meet the housing and employment needs of GM, whilst reducing land contamination</p>	<p>Will the GMSF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the development of previously developed land and other sustainable locations? • Protect the best and most versatile agricultural land / soil resources from inappropriate development? • Encourage the redevelopment of derelict land, properties, buildings and infrastructure, returning them to appropriate uses? • Support reductions in land contamination through the remediation and reuse of previously developed land? 	<p>Addressed by objectives 4 (to protect and improve soil and land resources) and 9 (to minimise the use of non-renewable resources).</p>
<p>18 Promote sustainable consumption of resources and support the implementation of the waste hierarchy</p>	<p>Will the GMSF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the sustainable use of physical resources? • Promote movement up the waste hierarchy? • Promote reduced waste generation rates? 	<p>Addressed by objective 9 (to minimise the use of non-renewable resources).</p>

Compatibility of the sustainability objectives and the Publication Salford Local Plan: Development Management Policies and Designations document objectives

- 5.15 In addition to assessing the internal compatibility of the sustainability objectives, their compatibility of the objectives of the Publication Salford Local Plan: Development Management Policies and Designations document (SLP:DMP) has also been assessed. This is important in terms of ensuring that the overall strategic direction of the SLP:DMP is sustainable, before there is any specific consideration of individual policies or proposals.
- 5.16 The following strategic objectives have been identified in the SLP:DMP and will provide the basis for the plan's monitoring framework. The policies and proposals of the plan are designed to support the achievement of these objectives.
- 1) To enable all residents to share in the benefits of economic growth
 - 2) To support improvements in the average health of residents and reduce health inequalities
 - 3) To enable more households to access suitable and affordable housing
 - 4) To support regeneration and the efficient use of land
 - 5) To enable the provision of facilities and services to support new developments and existing communities
 - 6) To enhance the network of green infrastructure across Salford and protect important green spaces
 - 7) To support a net gain in Salford's biodiversity
 - 8) To minimise contributions to, and risks from, climate change
 - 9) To significantly enhance accessibility and reduce congestion
 - 10) To deliver high quality development that makes a positive contribution to the character, heritage and identity of Salford and its neighbourhoods
- 5.17 Many of the issues of compatibility between the SLP:DMP and sustainability objectives are similar to those relating to the internal compatibility of the sustainability objectives discussed above. Once again, there is not considered to be any inherent incompatibility

between the various objectives, but the extent to which the delivery of the SLP:DMP objectives supports or works against the achievement of the sustainability objectives will be heavily dependent on the individual policies and proposals contained in the Local Plan. The main issues of compatibility are discussed below in relation to each SLP:DMP.

1) To enable all residents to share in the benefits of economic growth

5.18 SLP:DMP strategic objective 3 has a strong positive relationship with sustainability objective 15 (to enhance economic inclusion) and has an indirect positive relationship with objectives 1 (to improve physical and mental health), 12 (to protect and enhance amenity), 13 (to reduce crime and the fear of crime), 17 (to ensure everyone has access to a good home that meets their needs), 18 (to improve the accessibility of facilities and opportunities), and 21 (to improve perceptions of the city).

2) To support improvements in the average health of residents and reduce health inequalities

5.19 SLP:DMP strategic objective 4 has a strong positive relationship with sustainability objective 1 (to improve physical and mental health). Measures to achieve this Local Plan objective would also be expected to contribute to sustainability objectives 7 (to improve air quality), 12 (protect and enhance amenity), 15 (enhance economic inclusion), 17 (to ensure that everyone has access to a good home that meets their needs), and 18 (to improve the accessibility of facilities and opportunities).

3) To enable more households to access suitable and affordable housing

5.20 SLP:DMP strategic objective 5 is directly linked to sustainability objective 17 (to ensure that everyone has access to a good home that meets their needs). The strategic objective is also linked to sustainability objectives 1 (to improve physical and mental health), 12 (to protect and enhance amenity), 15 (to enhance economic inclusion) and 18 (to improve the accessibility of facilities and opportunities).

4) To support regeneration and the efficient use of land

5.21 SLP:DMP strategic objective 6 is wide reaching in its relationship with the sustainability objectives. As with other objectives, much will depend on the specifics of regeneration proposals and other development. However, with appropriate safeguards, supporting regeneration has the potential to perform positively against sustainability objectives 1 (To improve physical and mental health), 11 (to maintain and enhance the quality and character of landscape and townscape), 12 (to protect and

enhance amenity), 13 (to reduce crime and the fear of crime), 14 (to maximise economic growth that can be sustained in the long-term), 15 (to enhance economic inclusion), 17 (to ensure that everyone has access to a good home that meets their needs), 18 (to improve the accessibility of facilities and opportunities), 19 (to improve community cohesion) and 21 (to improve perceptions of the city).

5.22 The efficient use of land requires a valued judgement on the specifics of the land in question and the use proposed. However in principle support given in this regard would also be expected to have wide reaching positive impact relating to a reduced demand for more sensitive areas of land (including sustainability objectives 2, 3, 4, and 9) and improvements to the accessibility of services and facilities by sustainable modes (including sustainability objectives 1, 7, 8, 9 and 18)

5) *To enable the provision of facilities and services to support new developments and existing communities*

5.23 SLP:DMP strategic objective 7 is directly linked to sustainability objective 18 (to improve the accessibility of facilities and opportunities) and could also have positive benefits in terms of sustainability objectives 1 (to improve physical and mental health), 12 (to protect and enhance amenity), 17 (to ensure that everyone has access to a good home that meets their needs), and 19 (to improve community cohesion).

6) *To enhance the network of green infrastructure across Salford and protect important green spaces*

5.24 Given the multi-functional nature of green infrastructure and the range of issues that can make a green space important SLP:DMP strategic objective 8 contributes positively to many of the sustainability objectives. These could include 1 (to improve physical and mental health), 2 (to protect, enhance and restore biodiversity resources), 3 (to protect, enhance and restore geological resources), 4 (to protect and improve soil and land resources), 5 (to protect and enhance water resources), 6 (to minimise the risk and impacts of flooding), 7 (to improve air quality), 8 (to minimise contributions to climate change), 9 (to minimise the use of non-renewable resources), 10 (to protect, enhance and enable the appreciation of, the city's heritage), 11 (to maintain and enhance the quality and character of landscape and townscape), 12 (to protect and enhance amenity), 17 (to ensure that everyone has access to a good home that meets their needs), 18 (to improve the accessibility of facilities and opportunities and 21 (to improve perceptions of the city).

7) *To support a net gain in Salford's biodiversity*

5.25 SLP:DMP strategic objective 9 has a direct relationship with sustainability objective 2 (to protect, enhance and restore biodiversity resources). Measures to achieve this SLP:DMP objective could contribute positively to range of other sustainability objectives including 4 (To protect and improve soil and land resources); 5 (to protect and enhance water resources); and 7 (to improve air quality).

8) *To minimise contributions to, and risks from, climate change*

5.26 The levels of growth anticipated over the plan period have the potential to increase contributions to climate change, although there is the potential for per capita reductions. Much will depend on the location and form of development that takes place. SLP:DMP strategic objective 10 is however directly tied to sustainability objective 8 (to minimise contributions to climate change). The minimisation of risks has a positive relationship with sustainability objectives 1 (to improve physical and mental health), 2 (to protect, enhance and restore biodiversity resources), 6 (minimise the risk and impacts of flooding) and 12 (to protect and enhance amenity).

9) *To significantly enhance accessibility and reduce congestion*

5.27 SLP:DMP strategic objective 11 has a positive relationship with many of the sustainability objectives given the associated benefits it can have in terms of promoting active forms of travel, access to services, facilities and employment, and the negative impacts congestion can have environmentally, economically and socially.

5.28 The achievement of this objective would therefore be expected to have a positive impact on sustainability objectives 1 (to improve physical and mental health), 7 (improve air quality), 8 (to minimise contributions to climate change), 9 (to minimise the use of non-renewable resources), 12 (to protect and enhance amenity), 14 (to maximise economic growth that can be sustained in the long-term), 15 (to enhance economic inclusion), 17 (to ensure that everyone has access to a good home that meets their needs), 18 (to improve the accessibility of facilities and opportunities), and 21 (to improve perceptions of the city).

10) *To deliver high quality development that makes a positive contribution to the character and identity of Salford and its neighbourhoods*

5.29 The achievement of this objective in its fullest sense requires the consideration of a wide range of issues and is relevant to all of the sustainability objectives.

6.0 Appropriate Assessment

Introduction

- 6.1 The Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) requires that a “habitats regulations assessment” is undertaken of land use plans such as the Local Plan to ensure that the integrity of nature conservation sites of European importance is protected. Such sites are known as Natura 2000 sites, and include special areas of conservation (SACs), candidate special areas of conservation (cSACs), Special Areas of Protection (SPAs), candidate special areas of protection (cSPAs), and offshore marine sites (OMSs).
- 6.2 Government guidance identifies three stages for an appropriate assessment:
- 1) **screening**, to determine whether the plan, in combination with other proposals, is likely to have a significant impact on any European site
 - 2) **assessment**, to determine the scale and nature of the impacts on the integrity of any European site
 - 3) **mitigation**, to determine whether alternative solutions are available, or, if not, how the impacts can be minimised.

Screening for habitats regulations assessment

- 6.3 In carrying out the screening process it is appropriate to consider the main possible sources of effects on the European sites arising from the plan, possible pathways to the European sites and the effects on possible sensitive receptors in the European sites. Only if there is an identifiable source, a pathway and a receptor is there likely to be a significant effect.
- 6.4 Possible sources and pathways for effects arising from development on the identified sites and used in the screening of European sites are considered to be:
- Water (water pollution and hydrology)
 - Air (air pollution)
 - Direct land-take
 - Habitat/Species Disturbance
 - Increased recreational pressure
 - Risk of invasive non-native species introduction – encompassed in habitat disturbance

- 6.5 The Greater Manchester Ecological Unit (GMEU), in consultation with Natural England, have undertaken a habitats regulation assessment of the SLP:DMP¹⁴. The assessment identifies that the SLP:DMP has the potential to affect the Manchester Mosses Special Area of Conservation (SAC), the Rixton Clay Pits SAC and the Mersey Estuary Special Protection Area/Ramsar.
- 6.6 GMEU's screening assessment identified that the sources of potential harm to European sites arising from the implementation of the SLP:DMP were only in respect of the Manchester Mosses SAC and specifically in relation to recreation pressure and hydrological changes.¹⁵

Recreational Pressures

- 6.7 Manchester Mosses SAC consists of 3 component parts:
- Risley Moss (Warrington)
 - Holcroft Moss (Warrington)
 - Astley and Bedford Moss (Wigan)
- 6.8 GMEU's assessment provides a description of the nature of each of the Mosses component parts. It identifies that access to the majority of the SAC is restricted, either being privately owned and/or access requiring permit/ approval.
- 6.9 It is concluded that, given the nature of the component parts of the Manchester Mosses SAC, it is considered unlikely that the policies of the SLP:DMP would lead to an increase in recreational pressure on the SAC, either alone or in combination. Overall it was considered that policies CT1 (Tourism development) and R4 (Strategic Recreation Routes), as the only policies screened in to the assessment in this regard, will have no effect on the integrity of any European Site.¹⁶

Hydrological changes

- 6.10 In respect of hydrological changes, the assessment describes that Policy EG2 (Renewable and low carbon energy schemes) has been screened into this assessment on the advice of Natural England because in their view "It is not sufficient to defer any potential impacts or assessment to the project level stage."

¹⁴ Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (December 2019) Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Impact on European Protected Sites of Salford Local Plan: Development Management Policies and Designations.

¹⁵ Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (December 2019) Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Impact on European Protected Sites of Salford Local Plan: Development Management Policies and Designations, Chapter 6.0

¹⁶ Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (December 2019) Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Impact on European Protected Sites of Salford Local Plan: Development Management Policies and Designations, paragraph 7.3

- 6.11 GMEU conclude however that given that the wording of the policy specifically states “Development of geothermal schemes shall protect the hydrology of the Manchester Mosses Special Area of Conservation”, it is considered that there are sufficient safeguards in place to deal with any subsequent schemes or plans and that the policy will have no effect on the integrity of any European Site.

Consideration of in-combination effects

- 6.12 The Habitats Regulation Assessment must consider the likely significant effect of the Plan in relation to other proposals and plans current or planned within the relevant administrative area, other administrative authorities and prepared by other statutory organisations (e.g. Environment Agency, United Utilities) and in combination with the identified effects of those Plans.
- 6.13 In making this assessment GMEU have had regard to a number of plans and strategies within Greater Manchester, and the district and sub-regional level, and Warrington as a neighbouring authority.
- 6.14 The assessment identifies that in-combination recreational pressures on the Manchester Mosses SAC could occur from Wigan, Warrington and Trafford. However, referring also to the HRA’s of relevant documents within these authorities, GMEU conclude that there no in-combination effects will occur from the implementation of these plans. GMEU also conclude that none of the policies within the SLP:DMP will have any in-combination effect with each other.

Habitats Regulation Assessment Conclusion

- 6.15 In light of the above, GMEU conclude that the policies of the SLP:DMP would have no effect on the integrity of European Sites. It is recommended however that if any changes are made to the Plan as a result of either the public consultation or during the Examination in Publication, the HRA will need to be revisited and revised to ensure that these changes would not result in a significant effect on any European Site.¹⁷

¹⁷ Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (December 2019) Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Impact on European Protected Sites of Salford Local Plan: Development Management Policies and Designations, chapter 9.0

7.0 Sustainability Appraisal, scope of the SLP:DMP and consideration of reasonable alternatives

Sustainability appraisal of the SLP:DMP

- 7.1 The following sections provide a summary of the sustainability appraisal of the Salford Local Plan: Development Policies and Designation Revised Draft Local Plan (SLP:DMP). The full assessment is set out in appendices 5 and 6
- 7.2 The sustainability appraisal was undertaken prior to the finalisation of the formal approval of the SLP:DMP. The process of sustainability appraisal has therefore provided a further opportunity to shape the document and specifically the wording of the policies included. The detailed appraisal of policies in appendix 6 identifies potential mitigation measures along with a brief explanation as to how those measures have influenced the wording of the SLP:DMP.
- 7.3 The decision to take forward the Salford Local Plan in two parts has narrowed the scope of the SLP:DMP from that of earlier versions of the plan. The SLP:DMP will set the development management policies and protective designations that will provide a policy framework against which development proposals can be considered.
- 7.4 It is not the role or purpose of the SLP:DMP to consider the scale of development needs within the city or allocate land to deliver it. Issues of development need and the allocation of land will instead be considered through the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) and the subsequent Salford Local Plan: Core Strategy and Allocations document (SLP:CS).
- 7.5 It is therefore possible that decisions taken through the GMSF and/or the second part of Salford's Local Plan (SLP:CS), could require the review of elements of the SLP:DMP, including in respect of protective designations. The preparation of the SLP:CS, following on from the GMSF, will provide an opportunity to consider any relevant issues in this regard.
- 7.6 The change in scope has been reflected in this sustainability appraisal and, in particular, limits the alternative options that would be considered to be reasonable alternatives to the SLP:DMP.

Reasonable alternatives

- 7.7 The consideration of reasonable alternatives alongside the SLP:DMP is a key requirement of the sustainability appraisal process. In addition to being consistent with the GMSF and national policy, for options to the SLP:DMP to be considered 'reasonable', they must fall within its defined scope and purpose. Reasonable alternatives have therefore

been identified in this context, also having regard to the options considered through the process of policy development, and comments received during earlier consultations.

- 7.8 Given the change in scope, options pursued in earlier versions of the Local Plan, and/or considered through the associated sustainability appraisals as alternative options for the Local Plan, may no longer be considered reasonable. This includes the reintroduction of guidance / detail relating to levels of development and the spatial strategy presented in the Draft and Revised Draft Local Plans. It also impacts on the treatment of protective designations within the SLP:DMP.
- 7.9 Within a plan that considers the scale and distribution of development, and the associated supply of land for it, a higher growth scenario might suggest that options should be considered in relation to the boundary of a particular designation being reduced in size, and/or additional flexibility added to the relevant policy to allow for a certain scale and/or form of development to come forward. However these issues fall outside of the scope of the SLP:DMP and will instead be considered through the GMSF and Salford Local Plan: Core Strategy and allocations document (SLP:CS).
- 7.10 Nevertheless, in the absence of an adopted dwelling requirement within the city's development plan, in accordance with paragraph 73 of the NPPF the city's Local Housing Need (LHN) is that calculated in accordance with the Government's standard methodology¹⁸. It is therefore appropriate to consider the policy framework provided by the SLP:DMP, including designations, against the ability to deliver this LHN.
- 7.11 In this regard the Salford Housing and Economic Land Availability assessment (HELAA)¹⁹, and five year supply position²⁰, suggests that the city's Local Housing Need over the plan period can be accommodated without the need to amend any existing designations as currently adopted in the Saved Policies of Salford's UDP. The HELAA and five year supply statement take account of the significant number of dwellings which already have planning permission within the city which, as of 31 March 2019, stood at 20,512²¹.
- 7.12 There is therefore no justification for the relaxation or deletion of current controls over protected areas , given that the quantum of

¹⁸ This methodology is in the Housing and economic needs assessment section of the national planning practice guidance. As of 31 December 2019, Salford's LHN this is 1,370 dwellings per annum.

¹⁹ Salford City Council (2019) Housing and economic land availability assessment 2019 to 2037

²⁰ Salford City Council (2019) Five Year housing land supply position (1 April 2019 to 31 March 2024)

²¹ Salford City Council (June 2019) Residential development monitoring 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019

development identified through the LHN methodology can come forward with them as part of the policy framework. Given this, such options have not therefore been included within this sustainability appraisal.

- 7.13 The SLP:DMP also provides an opportunity to consider the extent of protective designations in the city and their consistency with the specific focus of relevant policies.
- 7.14 All of the city's protective designations continue to perform a role in protecting important assets which contribute to a number of the objectives of the SLP:DMP, in particular:
- Objective 6 (to enhance the network of green infrastructure across Salford and protect important green spaces);
 - Objective 7 (to support a net gain in Salford's biodiversity);
 - Objective 8 (to minimise contributions to, and risks from, climate change); and
 - Objective 10 (to deliver high quality development that makes a positive contribution to the character, heritage and identity of Salford and its neighbourhoods).
- 7.15 The consideration of existing designations through the SLP:DMP therefore primarily relates to the consistency between the value that the designation seeks to protect, the character/ quality of land falling within its defined boundaries and adjoining land currently excluded from the designation.
- 7.16 The SLP:DMP proposes changes to existing protective designations in the city in relation to these issues. These are discussed further in the individual appraisals of policies in appendix 6 and include the removal of parts of the West Salford Greenway and the expansion of the Chat Moss designation. Amendments have been made to the area identified as Irwell Valley to reflect changes in land use, the city's various Sites of Biological Importance have been revised to reflect the latest evidence in this regard, and amendments have also been made to the city's town and neighbourhood centres.
- 7.17 No changes are proposed to Green Belt boundaries in the city through the SLP:DMP and no options have been identified in this regard through the sustainability appraisal. Green Belt boundaries are being considered alongside future development needs across the conurbation through the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework. It is not therefore appropriate for the SLP:DMP to pre-empt decisions taken through that document in this regard.
- 7.18 Notwithstanding the approach taken to protective designation's in the SLP:DMP, it is important to recognise that issues of development scale, distribution, and Green Belt boundaries are being considered

through the GMSF. The implications of decisions taken through that document may require the subsequent review of some of the city's protective designations as set out in the SLP:DMP. As identified in paragraph 7.5 above, Salford's Local Plan Core Strategy and allocations document, which will follow on from the GMSF, provides the opportunity to consider relevant issues in this regard.

8.0 Sustainability Appraisal of Strategic Options

- 8.1 Sustainability appraisals associated with the Draft and Revised Draft Salford Local Plans assessed the overarching strategy proposed and also reasonable alternatives to it as a set of strategic options.
- 8.2 The strategic options primarily reflected different approaches to the scale and distribution of development within the city and its implications in terms of the need to allocate different types of land for residential and employment development, including increasing parts of existing employment areas and protective designations in Salford's current development plan, and the mix of dwellings it would deliver. The options identified also considered, at a high level, the implications of the overarching planning framework that would be in place under each option.
- 8.3 As outlined in the previous section, issues of scale and distribution which were previously assessed through the strategic options, are no longer within the scope of the Publication Salford Local Plan: Development Management Policies and Designations document (SLP:DMP). Decisions in relation to these issues will be appraised through the sustainability appraisals of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework, which will specify the housing requirement for Salford and contain a series of strategic policies and allocations, and the Salford Local Plan: Core Strategy and Allocations document, which will provide additional detail on the scale and distribution of development proposed for Salford and allocate individual sites for particular types of development.
- 8.4 The reasonable options around the policy framework presented in the SLP:DMP are therefore limited by the scope of the document and also the need to be consistent with the emerging Greater Manchester Spatial Framework and National Policy. As such, at an overarching plan level, the only reasonable alternative to the SLP:DMP is considered to be the Saved Policies of the UDP (a no plan/ business as usual option).
- 8.5 The options identified around the individual policies of the plan, discussed further in sections 7 and 10, and appraised in detail in appendix 6, are not considered to amount to a distinct and coherent alternative option that should be appraised alongside the SLP:DMP.

Summary of sustainability impacts

- 8.6 The narrowed scope of the SLP:DMP has removed the consideration of development scale and distribution of development, and the identification of sites to deliver it, from its scope. These issues will instead be considered through the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework and the Salford Local Plan Core Strategy.
- 8.7 In lieu of decisions taken through these documents, Salford’s dwelling requirement would be set by the Government’s Local Housing Need methodology and this would similarly be the case under Option 1 (Saved policies of the UDP).
- 8.8 Whilst under Option 1 a small number of land allocations in the saved policies of the UDP would remain, the distribution of development within the city would be likely to be similar under either option and broadly in line with the estimates made in Salford’s Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment.
- 8.9 The differences between the two options therefore largely come down to the detailed requirements of the individual policies that would make up the development plan. In this regard whilst the two plans present policy frameworks that address similar issues, there are notable differences in emphasis and aspiration.
- 8.10 As described above, the sustainability appraisal of the plan level/ strategic options looks at the short, medium and long term implications of the option against the 21 sustainability objectives. Table 7 below summarises the long term scores (10+) years as the SLP:DMP will be looking over a 20 year horizon and beyond.

Table 7: Comparative assessment of Local Plan ‘plan’ level/ strategic options

Objective	Option 1 (No Plan)	Option 2 (SLP:DMP)
1) To improve physical and mental health	+	++
2) To protect, enhance and restore biodiversity resources	0/+	+
3) To protect, enhance and restore geological resources	0	0/+
4) To protect and improve soil and land resources	0	0/+
5) To protect and enhance water resources	+	+ / ++
6) To minimise the risk and impacts of flooding	? / +	? / +
7) To improve air quality	+	+
8) To minimise contributions to climate change	+	+ / ++

Objective	Option 1 (No Plan)	Option 2 (SLP:DMP)
9) To minimise the use of non-renewable resources	+	+ / +++
10) To protect, enhance, and enable the appreciation of, the city's heritage	+	+
11) To maintain and enhance the quality and character of landscape and townscape	+ / +++	+ / +++
12) To protect and enhance amenity	+	+ / +++
13) To reduce crime and the fear of crime	+	+
14) To maximise economic growth that can be sustained in the long-term	+	+ / +++
15) To enhance economic inclusion	+	+ / +++
16) To improve the city's knowledge base	+	+ / +++
17) To ensure that everyone has access to a good home that meets their needs	+	+ / +++
18) To improve accessibility to facilities and opportunities	+	+ / +++
19) To improve community cohesion	0 / +	+
20) To increase involvement in decision-making	0	+
21) To improve perceptions of the city	+ / +++	++

8.11 As described above, similar levels of development could come forward under either option and, at a high level, both present largely similarly protective approaches through specific designations and policy restrictions. At a plan level therefore the potential impacts in relation to the majority of sustainability appraisal objectives would be expected to be similar. Nevertheless, the updated policy framework and additional detail in relation to a number of policy areas under option 2 (SLP:DMP) would be expected to bring additional benefits in relation to a number of the objectives. These are discussed further in the detailed appraisal of the two options in appendix 5.

9.0 Sustainability Appraisal of Site Allocation Options

- 9.1 Sustainability appraisals associated with the Draft and Revised Draft Local Plans assessed the site allocations proposed in those documents alongside others which could be considered reasonable alternative options.
- 9.2 The scale of development and its distribution, including the allocation of land for development, falls outside of the scope of the Salford Local Plan: Development Management Policies and Designations document. As such there are no proposed allocations to appraise through this sustainability appraisal. These issues will be considered through the sustainability appraisal of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework and the Salford Local Plan: Core Strategy and Allocations document. These document will identify the scale and distribution of development proposed for Salford and allocate individual sites for particular types of development to deliver it.

10.0 Sustainability Appraisal of Policy Options

- 10.1 Given the focus of the SLP:DMP on development management policies and designations, it is in relation to these elements that the greatest number of options around the approach proposed in the SLP:DMP can be identified.
- 10.2 Each of the policies proposed for inclusion in the SLP:DMP has been appraised through the sustainability appraisal framework. A ‘business as usual’/ ‘no plan’ option has been appraised for each policy in the plan. This ‘business as usual’ option is primarily informed by the Saved Policies of the Salford Unitary Development Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework but reference is also made to a number of other policy and guidance documents. As this option is a continuation of the existing policy framework, the policies of the emerging GMSF are not included in the appraisal.
- 10.3 Other reasonable alternatives to each policy in the SLP:DMP have also been appraised. As outlined in section 7 above, these alternatives have been identified having regard to the scope of the SLP:DMP and its objectives, the options considered through the process of policy development, and comments received during earlier consultations.
- 10.4 Also as discussed in section 7, the narrowed scope of the SLP:DMP limits the alternative options that would be considered reasonable to its policies and designations, and this is perhaps most significant in relation to protective designations in the city.

11.0 Implementation

11.1 The sustainability impacts of the SLP:DMP, both positive and negative, will depend very much on how it is implemented as well as on the contents of the document itself. The analysis undertaken through this appraisal has highlighted a number of different issues that need to be carefully considered when implementing the SLP:DMP, and this will need to be done not only through the development management process but also through other plans and strategies, the investment decisions of a range of organisations and ‘non-planning’ processes.

11.2 Some examples of the key implementation issues are listed below:

- Need to ensure that new employment development furthers economic inclusion objectives as far as possible, and this will include improvements in the accessibility of jobs including both skills and transport.
- In order to maximise the benefits and minimise the negatives from new development, particular over larger area, a comprehensive and coordinated approach will be key. Masterplans and regeneration frameworks will be essential, but equally important will be the process for producing them and consulting on associated planning applications in order to ensure that the objectives relating to community involvement and cohesion are also fully supported.
- The scale of development likely to come forward over the plan period, as anticipated in Salford’s Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment, is likely to put the city’s services and facilities under increasing pressure, schools and health services would be a particular concern. It will therefore be critical that policy requirements seek to manage and mitigate these impacts.
- Need to ensure the careful design of development to maximise the benefits for a wide range of sustainability objectives and minimise the negatives. The cumulative impact of individual developments that are likely to come forward over the plan period could be enormous given the levels of development anticipated through Salford’s Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment. The careful consideration of individual applications in these terms will be very important.
- Need to carefully manage activity within Chat Moss in order to maximise the benefits for potentially conflicting objectives around environmental protection and access to opportunities. It is the detailed implementation of the approach that will be

fundamental to reconciling these various objectives, working to influence the activities of individual landowners that could affect soil quality, hydrology and the ability to restore lowland bog habitat, and to manage public access in a positive way that supports recreation use but does not compromise other objectives.

- Need to ensure a coordinated approach at the catchment level to improving water quality and minimising flood risk. This will involve close working with other local authorities, the Environment Agency and United Utilities through catchment management plans, as many of the activities required to improve conditions within Salford will need to take place outside the city, for example in terms of flood mitigation measures upstream and the improvement of sewage treatment works that overflow into Salford's watercourses such as the Manchester Ship Canal.
- Need to ensure appropriate local provision is made to enable the recycling of waste of all types, both in order to help minimise the use of non-renewable resources and minimise air pollution associated with transporting waste materials. In this regard it will be important to work with developers to enable the provision of temporary treatment/transfer sites, and to secure effective site waste management plans. This will need to be supported by masterplans, development frameworks, and individual planning applications.
- The protection, enhancement, expansion and well-planned integration of the city's network of green infrastructure as part of new development has a highly significant positive role to play in meeting a range of sustainability objectives. This will be key issue for future master-planning.

11.3 The above is not intended to be comprehensive, but pulls together some of the main messages stemming out of the sustainability appraisal. Other formal and informal planning documents will be important to ensuring that the implementation of the SLP:DMP furthers the sustainability objectives as much as possible. In terms of major development locations, area-based development frameworks and masterplans will have a critical role in co-ordinating both development and the investment programmes of various organisations, including in terms of schools, health facilities, transport infrastructure, and utilities.

12.0 Monitoring

12.1 Chapter 5 of this report sets out the sustainability appraisal framework for the Salford Local Plan: Development Management Policies and Designations document (SLP:DMP), and this includes 28 headline indicators that will be used for monitoring purposes. These are as follows:

- i) Direct standardised mortality rate (all causes)
- ii) Healthy life expectancy
- iii) Area of UK priority habitats by type
- iv) Area of locally designated sites
- v) Area of designated geological sites
- vi) Proportion of waterways classified of “moderate” or better
- vii) Number of dwellings at risk of flooding more often than once every 100 years
- viii) Area of the city that complies with national air quality standards
- ix) Carbon dioxide emissions per capita
- x) Renewable energy installed capacity
- xi) Total amount of waste per capita
- xii) Annual recycling and composting rate
- xiii) Net change in the number of nationally designated heritage assets
- xiv) Number of noise complaints
- xv) Number of light pollution complaints
- xvi) Crime rate
- xvii) Number of jobs
- xviii) Number of businesses
- xix) Unemployment rate
- xx) Median annual pay
- xxi) Proportion of pupils remaining in full-time education beyond the age of 16
- xxii) Proportion of pupils achieving GCSE 9-4 English and maths (standard pass)
- xxiii) Number of households in identified housing need
- xxiv) Number of non-decent homes
- xxv) Modal split of all journeys
- xxvi) Modal split of all journeys to a place of work
- xxvii) Provision and accessibility of formal open spaces in the city
- xxviii) Number of tourism visits to key attractions within the city

12.2 These indicators will be monitored on an annual basis, they are headline indicators, and therefore it will be important to collect information in relation to other environmental, social and economic indicators, which will be reported in annual monitoring reports and other research reports that the city council may produce. The indicators will be kept under review and revisions may be made to existing indicators or new indicators introduced to reflect the availability of data.