

Shaping our Place 2026
Local Development Framework

Preferred Options: General Policies

August 2010

Sustainability Appraisal



Herefordshire Core Strategy Preferred Options Consultation July-August 2010

Sustainability Appraisal Note – General Policies

1 Introduction

1. Herefordshire County Council is producing a Core Strategy, in order to set out the vision, spatial strategy and core policies for the spatial development of the county. The Core Strategy will form part of the Local Development Framework (LDF), along with a number of other documents including the Hereford Area Plan (HAP).
2. Land Use Consultants (LUC) has been appointed by Herefordshire County Council to undertake Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of both the Herefordshire Core Strategy and the Hereford Area Plan DPDs. The SA of the Hereford Area Plan will be carried out and reported on separately.
3. Herefordshire County Council has begun the SA process in relation to the Core Strategy, having produced the following documents:
 - SA of Herefordshire's LDF – General Scoping Report (June 2007)
 - Developing Options Paper Sustainability Appraisal (June 2008)
 - Developing Options Paper Sustainability Appraisal Addendum (March 2009)
 - Joint SA and HRA Report for the Place Shaping Paper (January 2010)
4. Preferred Options for certain core policies within the Core Strategy, as well as spatial options for three of the towns within the county, have now been produced and are being subject to a targeted consultation exercise during July-August 2010. The initial SA work therefore covers the SA of the preferred options for the core policies relating to:
 - Spatial Options for Ledbury, Bromyard and Ross-on-Wye
 - Rural areas
 - General Policies, covering:
 - Affordable housing
 - Employment
 - Gypsy and traveller sites
 - Local distinctiveness

- Minerals
 - Waste
 - Movement
 - Open space, sport and recreation
 - Social and community infrastructure
5. Approximately four further general policies and a spatial option for Hereford will be produced at a later date (anticipated to be late August 2010) and these will then also be subject to SA.
 6. The findings of the sustainability appraisal of the emerging Core Strategy Preferred Options are presented in three separate SA Notes: one relating to the spatial options for the market towns; one relating to the rural areas policies; and one for the general core policies. These SA Notes therefore cover only those proposals produced for the first targeted consultation (July-August 2010), but will be updated and extended to form a full interim SA Report once the second set of preferred options have been drafted and subject to the SA process.

2 Methodology

7. The SA process involved assessing each of the preferred options against the SA framework that was developed in the SA Scoping Report. The SA objectives were grouped into six themes (see **Appendix I** to this note):
 1. Education and Employment
 2. Healthy and Prosperous Communities
 3. Transport and Access
 4. Built Environment
 5. Resource Consumption and Climate Change
 6. Natural Environment.
8. Appraisal matrices were used to score each option against each theme, or group of SA objectives, using the following symbols:

++	The policy is likely to have a significant positive impact on the SA objective(s).
+	The policy is likely to have a positive impact on the SA objective(s).
0	The policy is likely to have a negligible or no impact on the SA objective(s).
+/-	The policy is likely to have a mixture of positive and negative impacts on the SA objective(s).
-	The policy is likely to have a negative impact on the SA objective(s).
--	The policy is likely to have a significant negative impact on the SA objective(s).

9. The appraisal was initially carried out for the draft policy preferred options prepared by the Council (June 2010) and recommendations for improvements were set out in the appraisal matrices. The Council then produced a finalised set of policy preferred options (July 2010), which had been amended in light of the SA recommendations made. In order to clarify where changes were made by the Council, the appraisal has been updated with a second row of scores, showing where changes to the scoring resulted from amendments made to the policies. In addition, notes have been added in *italics* underneath each recommendation, explaining whether and how the policy preferred option was amended by the Council.

3 Findings

10. **This document relates to the General Policies** and the findings are set out in the following tables overleaf.

Land Use Consultants

2nd August 2010

General core policies

Core Strategy Policy	SA Objective Topics					
	Education & Employment	Healthy & Prosperous Communities	Transport & Access	Built Environment	Resource Consumption & Climate Change	Natural Environment
Protection of Natural and Historical Assets (draft version June 2010)	0	0	+	++	0	++
<p>This policy seeks to ensure that areas of lower sensitivity in terms of natural and historical assets are developed prior to more sensitive areas. The policy is likely to have a positive impact on increasing the type or quality of cultural and community facilities (SA objective 6.1) by protecting local sites of heritage and environmental value. It may also have a positive impact on encouraging appreciation for the County's heritage (6.2) by encouraging the protection and enhancement of existing sites.</p> <p>The policy is likely to have a positive impact on improving a sense of place (11.6, 20.3), by protecting and enhancing local environmental and heritage features and landscapes which help to shape local the identity of local places. The policy is likely to have a significant positive impact on the protection of features/areas of heritage and cultural value (20.1), by protecting important archaeological sites and local built heritage assets.</p> <p>The policy is likely to have a significant positive impact on objectives to protect biodiversity (13) and landscape quality (15), as it addresses these elements directly. However, the policy and its explanatory text suggest that only to sites of biological interest identified in the Building Biodiversity report¹ will be afforded protection. This report only identifies sites within 1km of the settlement boundaries of the market towns and within 2km of the boundary of Hereford city. This suggests that sites of biodiversity importance outside of main urban areas have not been identified, and that buffer zones would not similarly apply to these non-urban sites. The policy may need rewording to provide greater clarity as to whether or not sites of biodiversity importance outside those identified in the Building Biodiversity report have been or will be identified, or whether additional/different criteria will be applied on a case by case basis in order to protect and enhance biodiversity outside of the main urban fringe areas.</p> <p>This policy is unlikely to have an impact on the remaining SA objectives relating to education and employment, communities, and resource consumption and climate change.</p> <p><u>Recommendations</u></p> <p>The Landscape Quality section of the policy should refer specifically to the County's Landscape Character Assessment² (LCA) as the evidence base against which the impact of a development proposal will be assessed. For example, the policy sets out that development proposals in 'areas of identified need of restoration and enhancement' will need to demonstrate a positive contribution to the wider landscape, but it is not clear what or where are these identified areas of need. Similarly, the policy directs development to 'areas of lesser landscape sensitivity', and so it should set out where these areas are identified. The policy also requires mitigation for the impact of development within areas of higher landscape sensitivity; examples of appropriate mitigation measures should be provided, recognising that some landscape impacts may be difficult to mitigate (e.g. wind turbines). Reference should be included to the management and mitigation measures described in the LCA.</p> <p><i>Paragraph 2.8 in the supporting text makes reference to the LCA as the source of information about the location and character of the county's distinctive landscapes.</i></p> <p>The Biodiversity section of this policy refers to sites of 'local importance' and to 'buffer zones', which are identified and mapped in the Building Biodiversity evidence base document. Improved reference in the supporting text, or a map, should be included, to make it clear where these sites (and their spatial</p>						

¹ *Building Biodiversity into Herefordshire's Local Development Framework* (Herefordshire Council and NHS, 2009).

² *Landscape Character Assessment: Supplementary Planning Guidance* (Herefordshire Council and NHS, 2004, updated 2009).

boundaries) have been identified. The current reference in the supporting text (para.1.8) is not sufficiently clear for this purpose.
Paragraph 2.9 in the supporting text remains largely unchanged, referring still to the Building Biodiversity evidence base document. The Council has advised that site specific maps will be included in the MTRAP and HAP so have not been included here.

It is not clear if the purpose of the Built Environment and Streetscape section of the policy is to protect 'local built heritage assets', or more broadly to protect 'buildings, vistas and green spaces of local interest' (without a heritage element). The text and title of this section of the policy should be reworded to provide clarity.
The wording of the Built Environment and Streetscape policy has been amended to reflect this recommendation.

Core Strategy Policy	SA Objective Topics					
	Education & Employment	Healthy & Prosperous Communities	Transport & Access	Built Environment	Resource Consumption & Climate Change	Natural Environment
NH.1 Scores for the revised policy option 'Landscape', as included in the consultation document (July 2010).	0	0	+	0	0	++
NH.2 Scores for the revised policy option 'Biodiversity', as included in the consultation document (July 2010).	0	0	+	0	0	++
NH.3 Scores for the revised policy option 'Built Environment and Streetscape', as included in the consultation document (July 2010).	0	0	+	++	0	0
NH.4 Scores for the revised policy option 'Archaeology', as included in the consultation document (July 2010).	0	0	+	++	0	0

The draft policy entitled 'Protection of Natural and Historical Assets' was revised for the July 2010 consultation document and split into four separate policies, as shown above. The four new policies are now slightly more detailed than the earlier version of the policy originally subject to SA, and have been strengthened by adding references to geodiversity as well as biodiversity in NH.2, and to protection of features that positively contribute to the character and quality of the landscape in NH.1.

The SA scores have not changed as the policies are still expected to have a significant positive effect on the Built Environment and Natural Environment topics, and a minor positive effect on improving access to and engagement in quality cultural, leisure and recreational activities (SA objective 6.1 in the Transport and Access topic). Note that no effect has now been recorded for NH.1 and NH.2 under the Built Environment topic and under the Natural Environment topic for policies NH.3 and NH.4 due to the new policies becoming more specific.

Core Strategy Policy	SA Objective Topics					
	Education & Employment	Healthy & Prosperous Communities	Transport & Access	Built Environment	Resource Consumption & Climate Change	Natural Environment
Green Infrastructure (draft version June 2010)	0	++	++	++	0	++
<p>The policy is assessed as having no impact on education or employment objectives, although it is recognised that there may be a negligible positive impact with regard to associated employment (in developing GI sites) or education opportunities.</p> <p>This policy is likely to have a positive impact on encouraging healthy lifestyles (SA objective 5.3) and a significant positive impact on supporting a high quality community/amenity space (7.4) by improving the quality and provision of open spaces. Improving the provision and quality of GI may also have a negligible positive impact on encouraging respect for the environment (9.3), although this is difficult to predict.</p> <p>The policy is also likely to have a significant positive impact on increasing cycling and walking (4.4), where such routes are enhanced through the provision of GI features. In particular, the policy is likely to have a significant positive impact on increasing the quality of leisure, sporting and recreational activities (6.1) and developing services and facilities appropriate to the community (7.1), as it promotes the provision of open and recreational spaces at a County and local level. The policy is also likely to have a positive impact on promoting the use of inland waterways (6.3), by recognising (in the GI Strategy³) these features as GI assets.</p> <p>The policy may have a positive impact on meeting local needs locally (19.3), by providing opportunities for food growing, as well as other open space opportunities. The policy is likely to have a positive impact on protecting features of historical and cultural value (20.1), where opportunities existing to protect or create new GI features/spaces within historic areas or their settings. It is likely to have a significant positive impact on encouraging development which incorporates green space, encourages biodiversity and promotes local distinctiveness (20.3). The policy is also likely to have a significant positive impact on improving the general appearance of an area (20.4) by requiring on-site improvements to existing GI, soft landscaping, and protecting trees.</p> <p>The policy may have a negligible positive impact on reducing transport emissions (14.1, 16.1) by improving facilities for walking and cycling, where these have been protected or provided through GI measures. However, as this benefit is dependent upon specific proposals, the policy has been assessed as having no impact on these sustainability objectives.</p> <p>The policy is likely to have a significant positive impact on protecting biodiversity (13), landscape quality (15) and minimising pollution (18). Specifically, by protecting and enhancing open and green spaces, the policy is likely to protect certain habitats and species (13.1, 13.2); help to maintain wildlife corridors (13.3); protect natural environmental assets (15.1); promote the use of rural areas, through the designation of Fringe Zones, and of open space (15.4); and to minimise pollution (18.1), protect watercourses (18.2) and soil quality (18.3). The policy is also likely to have a significant positive impact on reducing flood risk (17), as GI provision provides opportunities to direct appropriate development to the floodplain (e.g. agriculture, recreation, nature conservation, flood attenuation), and to create sustainable drainage systems.</p> <p><u>Recommendations</u></p> <p>This policy and supporting text provide a relatively narrow description of Green Infrastructure (GI), which, in addition to features associated with 'recreation areas' and 'areas of importance to wildlife', can also encompass rivers and water bodies; areas of flood plain; cemeteries and churchyards; road/rail verges; and food growing sites (e.g. allotments). This broader definition has been captured in the Green Infrastructure Strategy⁴, and it would be helpful to reflect the same definition in this policy.</p>						

³ Green Infrastructure Strategy (Herefordshire Council and NHS, February 2010).

⁴ Green Infrastructure Strategy (Herefordshire Council and NHS, February 2010).

Table 1 has been inserted into the supporting text, providing a range of examples of green infrastructure assets at the county, district and local level.

The reference to 'natural vegetation' in the supporting text (para.1.15) should be revised (as all vegetation is natural).

The words 'natural vegetation' have been replaced with 'local native species'.

	SA Objective Topics					
Core Strategy Policy	Education & Employment	Healthy & Prosperous Communities	Transport & Access	Built Environment	Resource Consumption & Climate Change	Natural Environment
GI.1 Scores for the revised policy option, as included in the consultation document (July 2010).	0	++	++	++	0	++

Only very minor amendments have been made to the wording of the policy option, and the SA scores remain unchanged.

Core Strategy Policy	SA Objective Topics					
	Education & Employment	Healthy & Prosperous Communities	Transport & Access	Built Environment	Resource Consumption & Climate Change	Natural Environment
Open Space, Sport, and Recreation (draft version June 2010)	0	++	++	++	0	++

This policy is likely to have a positive impact on improving the health of people in Herefordshire (SA objective 5.3) and a **significant positive** impact on supporting a high quality community/amenity space (7.4) by improving the quality and provision of recreation and open spaces. The policy is also likely to have a **significant positive** impact on increasing cycling and walking (4.4), where improved walking and cycling routes have been included in open or recreational space provision. In particular, the policy is likely to have a **significant positive** impact on increasing the quality and quantity of leisure, sporting and recreational activities (6.1) and developing services and facilities appropriate to the community (7.1), as it directly promotes the provision of open space and sports facilities.

The policy is likely to have a positive impact on meeting local needs locally (19.3), by providing opportunities for food growing, as well as other open space opportunities. The policy is likely to have a positive impact on protecting features of historical and cultural value (20.1), where opportunities existing to protect or create new open spaces within historic areas or their settings. It is likely to have a **significant positive** impact on encouraging development which incorporates green space, encourages biodiversity and promotes local distinctiveness (20.3) by requiring development to meet the demand for open space and encouraging creative measures for biodiversity and play. The policy is also likely to have a **significant positive** impact on improving the general appearance of an area (20.4) by encouraging the enhancement of recreational and open spaces, and supporting the use of developer contributions to provide open spaces.

The policy is likely to have a **significant positive** impact on protecting biodiversity (13), landscape quality (15) and minimising pollution (18). Specifically, by protecting and enhancing open space, the policy is likely to protect certain habitats and species (13.1, 13.2); help to minimise fragmentation (13.3); protect natural environmental assets (15.1); promote the use of rural areas and open space (15.4), by improving their provision; and to minimise pollution (18.1), protect watercourses (18.2) and soil quality (18.3).

The policy may have a negligible positive impact on reducing transport emissions (14.1, 16.1), by encouraging walking and cycling where open and recreational spaces have provided suitable facilities. However, as this benefit is dependent upon specific proposals, the impact has been assessed as negligible for these sustainability objectives. The policy is also unlikely to have an impact on the remaining SA objectives relating to education and employment.

Recommendations

There appears to be some overlap between the Green Infrastructure policy and the Open Space, Sport, and Recreation policy. The Open Space section of this policy could be moved into the Green Infrastructure policy. As discussed in the appraisal of the Green Infrastructure policy, open space should be considered part of green infrastructure, and the Grow Your Own facilities and wildlife gardens promoted in this policy can also be considered a key part of the County's green infrastructure. *The Open Space part of the policy has become free-standing as the policy option has been split into three, but it has not yet been incorporated in to the GI policy.*

Core Strategy Policy		SA Objective Topics					
		Education & Employment	Healthy & Prosperous Communities	Transport & Access	Built Environment	Resource Consumption & Climate Change	Natural Environment
OS.1	Scores for the revised policy option 'Open Space', as included in the consultation document (July 2010).	0	++	++	0	0	++
OS.2	Scores for the revised policy option 'Sport and Recreation Facilities', as included in the consultation document (July 2010).	0	++	++	0	0	0
OS.3	Scores for the revised policy option 'Protection of Existing Sports and Recreation Facilities', as included in the consultation document (July 2010).	0	++	++	0	0	0

The draft policy entitled 'Open Space, Sport and Recreation' was revised for the July 2010 consultation document and split into three separate policies, as shown above. The policies are largely unchanged from the three sections of the original draft policy option.

The SA scores remain almost the same as for the draft version, as the policies are still expected to have a significant positive effect on the Healthy and Prosperous Communities and Transport and Access topics, and in the case of the Open Space policy, on the Natural Environment. However note that no effect has now been recorded for OS.2 and OS.3 under the Natural Environment topic due to the new policies becoming more specific.

Core Strategy Policy	SA Objective Topics					
	Education & Employment	Healthy & Prosperous Communities	Transport & Access	Built Environment	Resource Consumption & Climate Change	Natural Environment
Affordable Housing (draft version June 2010)	0	++	0	++	0	0
<p>This policy may have a negligible positive impact on reducing the number of vacant properties (SA objective 7.3), in cases where a developer prefers to refurbish an existing dwelling rather than build new dwellings which would trigger the affordable housing requirement. However, this positive impact is expected to be small.</p> <p>The policy is likely to have a positive impact on reducing inequalities in health (5.2), by improving access to adequate accommodation for low income people. The policy is also likely to have a positive impact improving quality of life (9.2), by improving access to adequate housing for all residents. The policy is likely to have a significant positive impact on poverty and disadvantage (10.4) by directly addressing the difficulties of accessing affordable housing.</p> <p>The policy is likely to have a significant positive impact on delivering good quality, affordable housing (11), as it directly addresses this objective.</p> <p>This policy is unlikely to have an impact on the remaining SA objectives relating to education and employment, transport and access, resource consumption and climate change and the natural environment.</p> <p><u>Recommendations</u> No recommendations are considered necessary.</p>						
Core Strategy Policy	SA Objective Topics					
	Education & Employment	Healthy & Prosperous Communities	Transport & Access	Built Environment	Resource Consumption & Climate Change	Natural Environment
AH.1 Scores for the revised policy option, as included in the consultation document (July 2010).	0	++	0	++	0	0
Only very minor amendments have been made to the wording of the policy option, and the SA scores remain unchanged.						

Core Strategy Policy	SA Objective Topics					
	Education & Employment	Healthy & Prosperous Communities	Transport & Access	Built Environment	Resource Consumption & Climate Change	Natural Environment
Gypsy and Traveller sites (draft version June 2010)	0	+	+	++	0	0
<p>The policy is likely to have a positive impact on reducing inequalities in health (5.2), by improving access to appropriate accommodation for gypsies and travellers. The policy is also likely to have a positive impact on improving quality of life (9.2), by improving access to adequate housing for gypsies and travellers. The policy is likely to have a positive impact on disadvantage (10.4) by directly addressing the difficulties for gypsies and travellers to access suitable housing.</p> <p>The policy requires pitch sites to be located within 5km of a settlement with sufficient local services and facilities, which is likely to have a positive impact on reducing the need to travel (4.1) and increasing sustainable modes of travel (4.4), as the 5km buffer is considered the furthest distance people are willing to cycle for local services.</p> <p>The policy is likely to have significant positive impact on increasing access to good quality housing (11.1) and reducing the percentage of unfit homes (11.3), by meeting the identified need for pitch sites in the County. The policy is also likely to have a positive impact on ensuring new developments are in appropriate locations (19.1) and appropriate to the setting or function of a local area (20.2), by establishing criteria that potential pitch sites must meet, including proximity to existing settlements and landscaping measures. The policy is likely to have a positive impact on improving the general appearance of an area (20.4) by supporting improvements to existing pitch sites, and high standard design of new sites.</p> <p>The policy may have a negligible positive impact on promoting the recycling of waste (12.3), as it requires provision of adequate recycling facilities within new pitch sites.</p> <p>This policy is unlikely to have an impact on the remaining SA objectives relating to education and employment, resource consumption and climate change and the natural environment.</p> <p><u>Recommendations</u></p> <p>No recommendations are considered necessary.</p>						
Core Strategy Policy	SA Objective Topics					
	Education & Employment	Healthy & Prosperous Communities	Transport & Access	Built Environment	Resource Consumption & Climate Change	Natural Environment
Scores for the revised policy option, as included in the consultation document (July 2010).	0	+	+	++	0	0
<p>Only very minor amendments have been made to the wording of the policy option, and the SA scores remain unchanged.</p>						

Core Strategy Policy	SA Objective Topics					
	Education & Employment	Healthy & Prosperous Communities	Transport & Access	Built Environment	Resource Consumption & Climate Change	Natural Environment
Social and Community Infrastructure (draft version June 2010)	++	++	++	+	-	+

The policy is likely to have an overall positive impact on the economy (SA objective 3), by planning for the adequate provision of various services, which in turn is likely to support and provide employment opportunities (1). The policy is likely to have a **significant positive** impact on the provision of education infrastructure (8.1) as it commits to the provision of primary and secondary schools and promotes the role of Herefordshire as a university gateway. However, it is uncertain to what extent this policy will benefit the smaller rural settlements, as the supporting text notes that most of the service needs will be concentrated within the major growth locations (i.e. the market towns and rural service centres).

The policy is likely to have a positive impact on the provision of healthcare services (5.1), as it aims to provide accessible health facilities and services across the County; and encouraging healthy lifestyles (5.3), as it aims to maximise walking and cycling. Similarly, the policy is likely to have a positive impact on community safety (9.1), as it addresses the provision of new police facilities. The policy is likely to have a **significant positive** impact on the provision of service and opportunities (10.1), as it directly addresses the provision of a range of social services, including housing, healthcare, education, and transport.

The policy is likely to have a positive impact in promoting the provision of and access to sustainable transport (4.2, 4.3, 4.4), as it aims to maximise walking and cycling and recognises sustainable transport as an element of community infrastructure. It is also likely to have a **significant positive** impact on increasing the type and quality of community facilities (6.1) and in developing services and facilities (7.1).

The policy is likely to have a positive impact on the provision of affordable housing (11.2), as it recognises such housing as an element of social infrastructure.

The policy may have a negligible positive impact on reducing transport emissions (14.1, 16.1) by supporting the provision of sustainable transport infrastructure.

The policy promotes greater access to green space and the countryside, which is likely to have a positive impact on promoting the use of rural areas and open space (15.4). Recognising drainage and flood prevention as elements of community infrastructure is likely to have a positive impact on reducing flood risk (17), while the recognition of green infrastructure as component of community infrastructure is likely to have a positive impact on the protection of biodiversity (13) and landscape quality (15).

For all of the potentially positive impacts of this policy, these are most likely to be achieved in the larger growth locations of the market towns and rural service centres, which may leave some of the smaller and more remote rural settlements with a lack of services. This in turn will continue to encourage rural residents to travel to the access services, mostly by private car but also public transport where available, which could have a negative impact on reducing transport emissions (14.1, 16.1).

Recommendations

It is recommended that more reference be given to enabling provision of appropriate scale and type of services within smaller rural settlements where this would help to maintain the social viability of those settlements and reduce the need to travel to rural service centres for all service needs.

No amendments have been made to the policy option in relation to this recommendation.

	SA Objective Topics					
Core Strategy Policy	Education & Employment	Healthy & Prosperous Communities	Transport & Access	Built Environment	Resource Consumption & Climate Change	Natural Environment
SC.1 Scores for the revised policy option, as included in the consultation document (July 2010).	++	+	++	+	-	+

A large amount of text was removed from the draft policy and not included in the version within the July 2010 consultation document. This text related to proposals for health facilities and services, and as such the score for healthy and prosperous communities has been amended to a minor positive score instead of a significant positive.

Core Strategy Policy	SA Objective Topics					
	Education & Employment	Healthy & Prosperous Communities	Transport & Access	Built Environment	Resource Consumption & Climate Change	Natural Environment
Maintaining Supply of Employment Land (draft version June 2010)	++	0	0	0	0	+
<p>This policy is likely to have a significant positive impact on employment and economic objectives – in particular, on the provision of employment land (1.2) and increasing the diversity of job opportunities (1.4), by ensuring an adequate supply of a range of employment land. The policy will also have a significant positive impact on the provision of appropriate facilities for new businesses (3.2), and may also have a minor positive impact on improving the diversity of the economy (3.1) and supporting the development of new technologies (3.5) by providing adequate and appropriate employment land.</p> <p>The policy is likely to have a positive impact on the provision of and access to jobs (10.1); however, because access to jobs is influenced by many factors in addition to the provision of employment land (e.g. education and skills, income), the impact of this policy is considered minor.</p> <p>As the policy does not address the type or character of employment development, it is not considered to have an impact on objectives to increase the type or quality of services or facilities (6.1, 6.3). Similarly, the policy is not likely to have an impact on objectives to ensure development is appropriately located (19.1) or of an appropriate density and use (19.2). This policy is also unlikely to have an impact on the remaining SA objectives relating to communities, transport and access, built environment, resource consumption and climate change.</p> <p>In scoring the quality of existing and potential employment sites in the County, the Herefordshire Employment Land Study⁵ attributed a score according to the degree to which a site was constrained by landscape or nature conservation designations or flood risk, giving a high score to those sites with less constraint. (This assessment applied to vacant or part vacant sites and redevelopment opportunities only.) Therefore, the Best and Good quality employment sites safeguarded in this policy are likely to coincide with areas outside of landscape and nature conservation designations or areas of high flood risk, which is likely to have a positive impact on SA objectives to protect these areas (13.1, 13.2, 15.1) and to reduce flood risk (17.1, 17.2).</p> <p><u>Recommendations</u> No recommendations are considered necessary.</p>						
Core Strategy Policy	SA Objective Topics					
	Education & Employment	Healthy & Prosperous Communities	Transport & Access	Built Environment	Resource Consumption & Climate Change	Natural Environment
E.1 Scores for the revised policy option, as included in the consultation document (July 2010).	++	0	0	0	0	+
<p>Only very minor amendments have been made to the wording of the policy option, and the SA scores remain unchanged.</p>						

⁵ Herefordshire Employment Land Study (Drivers Jonas, October 2009)

Core Strategy Policy	SA Objective Topics					
	Education & Employment	Healthy & Prosperous Communities	Transport & Access	Built Environment	Resource Consumption & Climate Change	Natural Environment
Employment Land Provision (draft version June 2010)	++	+	+	0	+ / -	+

The policy is likely to have a **significant positive** impact on objectives to provide flexible employment land (1.2) and appropriate sites for new business growth (3.2); and reduce the number of vacant properties and support vitality (7.3) by encouraging the re-use of existing and brownfield sites. The policy is also likely to have a positive impact on objectives to increase the diversity of job opportunities and businesses (1.4, 3.1) by allowing flexibility for non-B class employment-generating uses.

The policy is likely to have a positive impact on the provision of jobs (10.1), by supporting the provision of employment land and allowing for some flexibility for employment-generating non-B class uses.

The policy directs most new employment land provision to Hereford and the market towns, which is likely to have a positive impact on reducing the need to travel (4.1) for residents within these urban areas, and increasing the use of public transport (4.4), as it will increase the proportion of employment sites within proximity to the existing public transport services available in these urban areas. The policy's prioritisation of making more efficient use of existing sites and using suitable brownfield sites is likely to have a positive impact on local viability and services and facilities (7.1).

The above positive impacts are most likely to occur in Hereford and the market towns, as the policy states that most new employment land provision will be focused there. However, the policy does also allow for the provision of smaller employment sites to meet local needs and encourage new business development, which should enable much needed employment provision within some of the smaller rural settlements, although it is not entirely clear that this is where the smaller sites might be located. Provision of small scale employment land in rural areas would help to encourage creation of small start-up businesses, which are often highly successful in rural areas, and it should also help to improve community vitality (7) and reduce the need to travel by car (4).

The policy does not address elements of design or character, and therefore is not likely to have an impact on objectives for the built environment.

The policy is likely to have a positive impact on the reuse of existing buildings (14.3), as it promotes the more efficient use of existing premises; however, the policy's promotion of new business development is likely to have a negative impact on minimising the need for new build (14.3). The focus of development in the County's main urban areas is likely to have a positive impact on transport emissions (16.1), enabling use of existing public transport infrastructure; however, support for new business development could have a negative impact on commercial and industrial emissions (16.1) and the consumption of raw materials (14.2) from construction. Given these varied impacts, the policy has been assessed as having both positive and negative impacts on objectives for resource consumption and climate change. However, other policies in the Core Strategy require the use of sustainable design and construction techniques, which should help to minimise any potential negative effect on these SA objectives.

The direction of employment development to existing urban areas and the priority given to the reuse of existing premises and brownfield land are likely to have a positive impact on the protection of biodiversity (13) and landscape (15). However, local impacts will vary on a site-by-site basis (for example, a brownfield site may have high biodiversity value, and a rural site may be able to accommodate development without a negative impact on landscape quality). The reuse of existing sites and brownfield land may have a positive impact on soil quality (18.3), where a site is restored as part of development.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the criterion permitting smaller employment sites include more explicit reference to these being allowed in smaller rural settlements, not just in Hereford and the market towns (which is the main focus of the policy).

The wording of the policy option has been amended to this effect.

	SA Objective Topics					
Core Strategy Policy	Education & Employment	Healthy & Prosperous Communities	Transport & Access	Built Environment	Resource Consumption & Climate Change	Natural Environment
E.2 Scores for the revised policy option, as included in the consultation document (July 2010).	++	+	+	0	+ / -	+

Only very minor amendments have been made to the wording of the policy option, and the SA scores remain unchanged.

Core Strategy Policy	SA Objective Topics					
	Education & Employment	Healthy & Prosperous Communities	Transport & Access	Built Environment	Resource Consumption & Climate Change	Natural Environment
Movement (draft version June 2010)	+	0	+ / -	+	--	-
<p>The policy may have a minor indirect positive impact on maintaining conditions that enable a sustainable economy (SA objective 1) through supporting improvements to transport across the county including the road network, public transport provision and the increased movement of freight by rail.</p> <p>By promoting enhancements in the quality of the wider public realm, this policy is likely to have a positive impact on creating a high quality public realm (7.4), and may have a positive impact on encouraging healthy lifestyles (5.3). However, the policy also promotes improvements to the strategic and local highway network, including construction of a new relief road around Hereford, which reflects a continued dependence in the County on car use. Existing and forecast demand for car use far exceeds demand for sustainable transport modes (public transport, cycling, walking)⁶; therefore, the policy is not expected to have an overall positive impact on health.</p> <p>The policy is likely to have mixed effects on the transport and access objectives, as it aims to protect and enhance strategic and local cycle and walking routes, which promote more sustainable transport patterns (4.2). However, it is not clear that sustainable transport patterns will increase overall, given the continued reliance on car use in the County (as forecast by supporting evidence⁷ and reflected through policy support for improvements to the highways network). The policy prioritises the construction of a new relief road around Hereford to address forecasted highway congestion associated with development growth. In this case, therefore, the policy is likely to have a negative impact on promoting sustainable transport patterns in areas suffering from congestion (4.2). However, the policy's aim to improve public transport interchanges is likely to have a positive impact on improving the quality and provision of integrated transport options (4.3). The policy is likely to have a positive impact on increasing the use of public transport (4.4), as it supports improved rail infrastructure, public transport interchanges, expansion of an existing park-and-ride scheme, and improving bus provision.</p> <p>The policy requires new development to demonstrate that existing or proposed public transport services can accommodate development proposals, which is likely to have a positive impact on ensuring developments are accessible by sustainable transport modes (19.1). The policy is also likely to have a positive impact on improving the general appearance of an area (20.4), as it promotes enhancements in the quality of the wider public realm (in order to encourage walking and cycling).</p> <p>The policy is likely to have a negative impact on reducing the consumption of fossil fuels (14.1) and greenhouse gas emissions (16.1), as it is predicated on providing improved highway infrastructure to meet forecast increase in the number of cars on the County's roads. The policy also encourages the use of public transport, including improved rail infrastructure and bus service; however, the policy overall is likely to result in an increase in transport emissions, reflecting the predicted population growth within the County and high car use, which is likely to continue due to the concentration of growth in Hereford and market towns.</p> <p>Due to construction and development associated with planned transport developments, the policy may have negative impacts on landscape quality (15.1) or on objectives to protect biodiversity (13), through land take, encroachment, or disturbance. The SEA of the Local Transport Plan identifies that biodiversity, soil quality, flood risk and landscape could be adversely affected by the provision of the two Park-and-Ride sites in Hereford, the rail-based Park-and-Ride at Withington, a new rail station at Rotherwas, and a Hereford Relief Road.</p> <p>The policy is likely to have a negative impact on air quality (18.1) through growth in car use and</p>						

⁶ Hereford Multi-Modal Model Forecasting Report (JMP Consultants, September 2009).

⁷ Ibid.

consequent transport emissions. There may also be a **significant negative** impact on improving air quality within Air Quality Management Areas (18.4), due to the policy's support for improvements to the road network in Hereford, which is likely to exacerbate existing air quality issues in that area.

Recommendations

The Multi Modal Model Forecasting Report⁸ indicates that demand for car use will grow significantly as a result of planned development in the County, and will far outweigh demand for more sustainable modes of transport. While the report goes on to assess options for construction of a new relief road around Hereford, the need for improved public transport and cycle routes to accommodate growth has not been assessed. Therefore, it is not certain from this policy or from supporting evidence that adequate policy support for sustainable transport has been provided to ensure realistic alternatives to car use in the County. Given the impact of reducing car use on minimising transport emissions and air pollution, and improving health, the Core Strategy provides an important opportunity for Council to ensure adequate policy support for public transport, cycling, and walking infrastructure.

It is recommended that stronger support be provided to encourage improved provision of public transport and cycle and walking infrastructure. For example, the policy could support the development of commuter cycle routes, particularly linked with new housing and employment development.

The wording of the policy option has been amended to include reference to commuter cycle routes.

	SA Objective Topics					
Core Strategy Policy	Education & Employment	Healthy & Prosperous Communities	Transport & Access	Built Environment	Resource Consumption & Climate Change	Natural Environment
M.1 Scores for the revised policy option, as included in the consultation document (July 2010).	+	0	+ / -	+	- ?	-

Following discussion with Council officers, the finding relating to air quality (as described above) has been amended slightly, to an uncertain negative score rather than a significant negative. Although the policy option proposes the provision of a Hereford relief road, which should have positive effects on air quality within the city, the policy option also allows for further improvements to the road network which may have an overall effect of increasing traffic volumes across the County generally, and therefore having an overall adverse impact on air quality in Herefordshire (although not necessarily within the AQMA if the relief road is indeed provided). The other SA scores remain unchanged.

⁸ Hereford Multi-Modal Model Forecasting Report (JMP Consultants, September 2009).

Waste policies

Core Strategy Policy	SA Objective Topics					
	Education & Employment	Healthy & Prosperous Communities	Transport & Access	Built Environment	Resource Consumption & Climate Change	Natural Environment
<p>Waste Streams and Targets (draft version June 2010)</p> <p>This policy encourages the re-use of materials, e.g. construction and demolition waste on-site (SA Objective 12.3), which may help to reduce transport emissions (16.1) and minimise the consumption of natural materials (14.2).</p> <p>The policy establishes targets to maximise diversion from landfills, which is likely to have a positive effect on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, i.e. methane (16.1).</p> <p>The policy also supports the development of a joint energy-from-waste facility with Worcestershire County Council, which supports the recovery of waste (12.3), increases the amount of energy generated from renewable sources (16.2), and contributes to a reduction in the consumption of fossil fuels (14.1). The policy makes provision for sufficient waste facilities to help the County promote re-use, recovery and recycling of waste (12.3) and deal with its waste locally (12.4).</p> <p>The policy identifies the need for 2ha of land for additional waste management facilities. Depending on the location of these additional facilities, there could be a negative impact upon habitats or species (15.1), due to land take or pollution of land, water, or air (18.1), or a visual impact on the setting of a local area (20.2). However, these effects are uncertain and would need to be assessed when a site is allocated in the Minerals and Waste DPD or proposed in a planning application. Policy W2 sets out some of the criteria that new waste facility proposals would be assessed against, and affords some protection to the natural, cultural and historic environment.</p> <p>This policy is unlikely to have an impact on the remaining SA objectives relating to education and employment, communities, transport and access and the built environment.</p> <p><u>Recommendations</u></p> <p>No recommendations are considered necessary.</p>	0	0	0	0	+	- ?
	SA Objective Topics					
Core Strategy Policy	Education & Employment	Healthy & Prosperous Communities	Transport & Access	Built Environment	Resource Consumption & Climate Change	Natural Environment
<p>Scores for the revised policy option, as included in the consultation document (July 2010).</p> <p>W.1</p>	0	0	0	0	+	- ?

Only very minor amendments have been made to the wording of the policy option, and the SA scores remain unchanged.

Core Strategy Policy	SA Objective Topics					
	Education & Employment	Healthy & Prosperous Communities	Transport & Access	Built Environment	Resource Consumption & Climate Change	Natural Environment
Location of New Waste Facilities (draft version June 2010)	+	0	0	0	+	-?

In general, this policy seeks to locate waste facilities in suitable locations where any potential impacts on amenity should be minimised (i.e. on existing waste sites, in employment/industrial locations, sewage treatment works etc.) However, the policy does allow for the use of redundant agricultural or forestry buildings and their curtilage to accommodate new waste management facilities. Given their rural and/or remote setting, the development of such sites could have a negative impact on protecting biodiversity (SA Objective 13) and landscape quality (15). However, these effects are uncertain and would need to be assessed when a site is allocated in the Minerals and Waste DPD or proposed in a planning application. The policy also allows for a 'trial period' of permission if 'reasonable doubt exists about the local environmental impact' of a development. This suggests that development could take place before environmental impacts have been properly assessed, and thus the policy may not offer effective protection to local environmental assets (13, 15, 18).

The development of new waste facilities will help the County promote re-use, recovery and recycling of waste (12.3) and deal with its waste locally (12.4), providing a minor positive impact on the resource consumption objectives. In addition, construction and operation of new facilities could have a minor positive effect on employment opportunities in the County, albeit the number of employees would vary depending on the type of facility and is unlikely to be significant compared with other sectors in the County.

This policy is unlikely to have an impact on the remaining SA objectives relating to communities, transport and access and the built environment.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the final criterion allowing a trial period of permission where reasonable doubt exists about the local environmental impact is deleted or re-worded unless further explanation and justification is provided. This criterion should not be allowed if it means that the potential impacts of a waste development would not be identified and assessed prior to the proposal being permitted. If the criterion is included, it should be reworded to require the assessment of impacts before permission, with the application of stringent conditions to the planning permission relating to mitigation of identified potential effects, and then monitoring of adherence to those conditions, occurrence of any effects and making changes to the planning permission in order to reduce or stop the effects from occurring.

The wording of this criterion has been extended to state that any such permission must include provision for monitoring adverse effects and a strategy for mitigating them.

Core Strategy Policy	SA Objective Topics					
	Education & Employment	Healthy & Prosperous Communities	Transport & Access	Built Environment	Resource Consumption & Climate Change	Natural Environment
Scores for the revised policy option, as included in the consultation document (July 2010).	+	0	0	0	+	-?

Only very minor amendments have been made to the wording of the policy option, and the SA scores remain unchanged.

Core Strategy Policy	SA Objective Topics					
	Education & Employment	Healthy & Prosperous Communities	Transport & Access	Built Environment	Resource Consumption & Climate Change	Natural Environment
Existing and Permitted Waste Treatment Sites (draft version June 2010)	+	0	0	0	+	0
<p>This policy is expected to help the County deal with its waste locally (SA Objective 12.4), by safeguarding local existing waste sites. Safeguarding existing waste sites would also help to maintain employment within those facilities, contributing positively to the maintenance of employment opportunities (SA objective 1).</p> <p>This policy is unlikely to have an impact on the remaining SA objectives relating to communities, transport and access, the built environment and the natural environment.</p> <p><u>Recommendations</u></p> <p>No recommendations are considered necessary.</p>						
Core Strategy Policy	SA Objective Topics					
	Education & Employment	Healthy & Prosperous Communities	Transport & Access	Built Environment	Resource Consumption & Climate Change	Natural Environment
Scores for the revised policy option, as included in the consultation document (July 2010).	+	0	0	0	+	0
<p>Only very minor amendments have been made to the wording of the policy option, and the SA scores remain unchanged.</p>						

Core Strategy Policy	SA Objective Topics					
	Education & Employment	Healthy & Prosperous Communities	Transport & Access	Built Environment	Resource Consumption & Climate Change	Natural Environment
Anaerobic Digesters (draft version June 2010)	+	0	0	0	++	0
<p>This policy supports the development of anaerobic digesters and other emerging technologies, not restricted to the broad locations for waste facilities. Therefore, it is likely to have a significant positive impact on increasing the proportion of energy generated from renewable and low carbon sources (SA Objective 16.2), and the recovery of waste (12.3), as well as a positive impact on increasing employment opportunities (1.2, 1.4).</p> <p>This policy is unlikely to have an impact on the remaining SA objectives relating to communities, transport and access, the built environment and the natural environment.</p> <p><u>Recommendations</u></p> <p>No recommendations are considered necessary.</p>						
Core Strategy Policy	SA Objective Topics					
	Education & Employment	Healthy & Prosperous Communities	Transport & Access	Built Environment	Resource Consumption & Climate Change	Natural Environment
Scores for the revised policy option, as included in the consultation document (July 2010).	+	0	0	0	++	0
<p>Only very minor amendments have been made to the wording of the policy option, and the SA scores remain unchanged.</p>						

Core Strategy Policy	SA Objective Topics					
	Education & Employment	Healthy & Prosperous Communities	Transport & Access	Built Environment	Resource Consumption & Climate Change	Natural Environment
Waste Minimisation and Management in Development (draft version June 2010)	0	0	0	0	++	0
<p>This policy is likely to have a significant positive impact on minimising development waste and encouraging the on-site re-use of development waste (SA Objectives 12.2, 12.3, 12.4), and therefore the reduction in the consumption of raw materials (14.2). If effective in encouraging waste reduction and re-use, the policy may also reduce transport emissions associated with moving waste off-site (14.1).</p> <p>This policy is unlikely to have an impact on the remaining SA objectives relating to education and employment, communities, transport and access, the built environment and the natural environment.</p> <p><u>Recommendations</u></p> <p>No recommendations are considered necessary.</p>						
Core Strategy Policy	SA Objective Topics					
	Education & Employment	Healthy & Prosperous Communities	Transport & Access	Built Environment	Resource Consumption & Climate Change	Natural Environment
Scores for the revised policy option, as included in the consultation document (July 2010).	0	0	0	0	++	0
<p>Only very minor amendments have been made to the wording of the policy option, and the SA scores remain unchanged.</p>						

Minerals policies

Core Strategy Policy	SA Objective Topics					
	Education & Employment	Healthy & Prosperous Communities	Transport & Access	Built Environment	Resource Consumption & Climate Change	Natural Environment
Minerals Safeguarding Areas (draft version June 2010)	+	0	0	+	0	0
<p>Note that this assessment has not included a review of the Proposals Map referred to in the policy, as it was not available at the time of the assessment.</p> <p>The policy is likely to have a minor positive impact on improving business resilience (3.1) and facilitating new business growth (3.2), by safeguarding mineral sites for future development.</p> <p>In safeguarding sites for extraction of local building stone, the policy is likely to have a minor positive impact on protecting and enhancing features of heritage and cultural value (20.1). The policy is likely to have a negligible negative impact on minimising the consumption of raw materials (14.2), as it enables future development of, but does not explicitly promote, the mineral workings.</p> <p>The policy is likely to have no impact on landscape (15) or biodiversity (13), although it is recognised that the eventual working of safeguarded sites could have significant impacts on these features.</p> <p>This policy is unlikely to have an impact on the remaining SA objectives relating to communities, transport and access, the built environment, resource consumption and climate change, and the natural environment.</p> <p><u>Recommendations</u></p> <p>No recommendations are considered necessary.</p>						
Core Strategy Policy	SA Objective Topics					
	Education & Employment	Healthy & Prosperous Communities	Transport & Access	Built Environment	Resource Consumption & Climate Change	Natural Environment
MN.1 Scores for the revised policy option, as included in the consultation document (July 2010).	+	0	0	+	0	0
<p>Only very minor amendments have been made to the wording of the policy option, and the SA scores remain unchanged.</p>						

Core Strategy Policy	SA Objective Topics					
	Education & Employment	Healthy & Prosperous Communities	Transport & Access	Built Environment	Resource Consumption & Climate Change	Natural Environment
Criteria for the Assessment of Minerals Related Development (draft version June 2010)	+	+	0	+	-	+/-?
<p>In providing clear guidance on the development of minerals within the County, the policy is likely to have a minor positive impact on facilitating new business growth (3.2). As the policy promotes community/leisure uses as an after-use of minerals sites, it may have a minor positive impact on creating community amenity spaces (7.4). The policy may help to promote the transport of freight by rail (4.7) as it aims to maximise the use of sustainable transport measures; however, this impact will depend upon specific transportation arrangements of individual sites (therefore, this potentially positive impact for transport and access has been assessed as negligible).</p> <p>The policy emphasises the need to mitigate any impact on archaeology or heritage interests, which is likely to have a positive impact on objectives to protect and enhance features of heritage and cultural value (20.1). However, the policy is likely to have no impact on any of the other sub-objectives within the Built Environment SA topic.</p> <p>As the policy addresses primary mineral extraction, it is likely to have an inherent negative impact on objectives to minimise the consumption of raw materials (14.2) and greenhouse gas emissions (16.1).</p> <p>In allowing for the extraction of minerals, the policy is likely to have a negative impact on habitats and species (13), in cases where habitats are disrupted by landtake or associated development (e.g. disturbance from transport of minerals). However, the policy requires mineral developments to mitigate potential impacts on biodiversity interests, and prioritises habitat creation for the after-use of minerals sites. Therefore, the impact of the policy on biodiversity is considered to be dependent on individual site specifications, and has been assessed as mixed and uncertain. The policy prohibits further granite extraction from the Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Beauty (AONB) and requires mitigation of landscape impacts, especially in AONBs, which is likely to have a positive impact on protecting these valued landscapes (15.1, 15.3). Nonetheless, the policy's support for mineral extraction could still have a negative impact on landscapes in other parts of the county. Therefore, the impact of this policy on landscape quality (15) has been assessed as mixed.</p> <p>This policy is unlikely to have an impact on the remaining SA objectives relating to transport and access.</p> <p><u>Recommendations</u></p> <p>Please note that the reference to 'Rivers Wye and Lugg SAC' is technically incorrect. It should be replaced with 'the River Wye SAC and River Lugg SSSI'.</p> <p><i>The wording of the policy option has been amended to 'the River Wye SAC which includes the lower River Lugg'.</i></p> <p>Criterion 3 b might be clearer if worded as: 'the environmental impact of the development can be mitigated <u>and potential benefits maximised</u> especially with regard to:...'.</p> <p><i>The wording of the policy option has been amended to this effect.</i></p>						

Core Strategy Policy	SA Objective Topics					
	Education & Employment	Healthy & Prosperous Communities	Transport & Access	Built Environment	Resource Consumption & Climate Change	Natural Environment
Scores for the revised policy option, as MN.2 included in the consultation document (July 2010).	+	+	0	+	-	+/-?
Only very minor amendments have been made to the wording of the policy option, and the SA scores remain unchanged.						

Core Strategy Policy	SA Objective Topics					
	Education & Employment	Healthy & Prosperous Communities	Transport & Access	Built Environment	Resource Consumption & Climate Change	Natural Environment
Small-scale Non-aggregate Building Stone and Clay Production (draft version June 2010)	+	-/+ ?	0	++	+ / -	-/+ ?

This policy to allow for small-scale extraction of locally distinct building stone is likely to have a positive impact on objectives to support job opportunities (1.4) and improve the diversity of the economy (3.1), by allowing for the continuance of a local source of employment.

The supporting the provision of local building stone, the policy is likely to have a **significant positive** impact on the development of homes which contribute to a sense of place (11.6), and protecting heritage features (20.1) and ensuring development is appropriate to its local setting (20.2) and promoting local distinctiveness (20.3). The policy is also likely to have a **significant positive** impact on meeting demand for local materials locally (19.3).

The extraction of a local building material is likely to have a positive impact on reducing the use of fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions (14.1, 16.1), as alternative building materials are likely to incur higher transportation emissions. However, the policy supports an increase in the consumption of raw materials (14.2), which will have a negative impact.

Mineral extraction even at a small scale could still have a negative impact on biodiversity (13) and landscape (15). There may also be negative impacts on the amenity of residents (5) in close proximity to the extraction site due to noise and/or dust. However, any proposal would also be assessed against policy M2, which requires mineral developments to mitigate potential impacts on biodiversity interests, landscapes and the amenity of nearby residential properties. Therefore, the impact of the policy on biodiversity, landscape and residential amenity is considered to be dependent on individual site specifications, and has been assessed as mixed and uncertain.

This policy is unlikely to have an impact on the remaining SA objectives relating to communities and transport and access.

Recommendations

It is not clear how the first criterion in the policy will be assessed at the planning application stage, i.e. how will the need for the material be measured and judged as 'outweighing any material harm the extraction may cause to matters of acknowledged importance'? It would be better perhaps to state instead that proposals will be permitted where 'there is a demonstrated need for the material for the preservation of local distinctiveness...and any impacts of the extraction can be mitigated.'

The wording of the policy option has been amended to this effect.

There appears to be repetition of the requirement for the proposal to be for non-aggregate materials – in the first sentence 'Proposals for the small scale extraction of non-aggregate building stone and clay...', and in criterion 2 'the proposal is limited to the production of non-aggregate materials'.

The wording of the policy option has been amended to reflect this.

Core Strategy Policy	SA Objective Topics					
	Education & Employment	Healthy & Prosperous Communities	Transport & Access	Built Environment	Resource Consumption & Climate Change	Natural Environment
MN.3 Scores for the revised policy option, as included in the consultation document (July 2010).	+	-/+ ?	0	++	+ / -	-/+ ?
Only very minor amendments have been made to the wording of the policy option, and the SA scores remain unchanged.						

Core Strategy Policy	SA Objective Topics					
	Education & Employment	Healthy & Prosperous Communities	Transport & Access	Built Environment	Resource Consumption & Climate Change	Natural Environment
Secondary (Reused and Recycled) Aggregates (draft version June 2010)	+	+/-?	0	++	++	+/-?

This policy is expected to have a positive impact on the promotion of resource-efficient technologies (3.5) by encouraging the supply and use of recycled aggregates.

The policy may have a minor positive impact on reducing the need to travel (4.1), as it allows for the development of recycled waste processing facilities ancillary to a development, which is likely to reduce the need to transport materials to the development site.

The policy is likely to have a **significant positive** impact on increasing the use of sustainable building materials in construction (11.5) and a positive impact on meeting local needs locally (19.3), as it encourages on-site re-use of demolition waste. The policy is also likely to have a **significant positive** impact on minimising waste (12.2), promoting the re-use of waste (12.3) and minimising the consumption of raw materials (14.2), as well as a positive impact minimising the consumption of fossil fuels (14.1) and associated greenhouse gas emissions (16.1).

By reducing the need for new mineral extraction, the policy is likely to have a positive impact on minimising the environmental impact of minerals operations (15.3). However, the processing, treatment and storage of secondary (reused and recycled) aggregates may give rise to negative effects on the environment and amenity of nearby residents. The final criterion in the policy attempts to ensure that proposals would not be permitted where these effects were 'unacceptable'. Therefore, the impact of the policy on biodiversity, landscape and residential amenity is considered to be dependent on individual site specifications, and has been assessed as mixed and uncertain.

This policy is unlikely to have an impact on the remaining SA objectives relating to communities and transport and access.

Recommendations

The reference to proposals not having an 'unacceptably adverse effect on environmental interests including residential amenity' should be reworded, as it is difficult to measure an 'unacceptably adverse effect'. The criterion could instead be worded as: 'In all cases the proposals should provide adequate means of controlling noise, vibration, dust etc. as part of the development so as to avoid adverse effects on the amenity of the immediate or surrounding environment (including landscape and townscape) and human health.'

The wording of the policy option has been amended to this effect.

Core Strategy Policy	SA Objective Topics					
	Education & Employment	Healthy & Prosperous Communities	Transport & Access	Built Environment	Resource Consumption & Climate Change	Natural Environment
Scores for the revised policy option, as included in the consultation document (July 2010).	+	+/-?	0	++	++	+/-?

Only very minor amendments have been made to the wording of the policy option, and the SA scores remain unchanged.

Core Strategy Policy	SA Objective Topics					
	Education & Employment	Healthy & Prosperous Communities	Transport & Access	Built Environment	Resource Consumption & Climate Change	Natural Environment
Moreton on Lugg Railhead (draft version June 2010)	0	0	++	0	++	0
<p>The protection of the railhead for minerals transportation at Moreton-on-Lugg is likely to have a significant positive impact on objectives to prioritise the transportation of freight by rail (4.7) and reduce the use of fossil fuels (14.1) and greenhouse gas emissions (16.1).</p> <p>This policy is unlikely to have an impact on the remaining SA objectives relating to education and employment, communities, the built environment, and the natural environment.</p> <p><u>Recommendations</u></p> <p>No recommendations are considered necessary.</p>						
Core Strategy Policy	SA Objective Topics					
	Education & Employment	Healthy & Prosperous Communities	Transport & Access	Built Environment	Resource Consumption & Climate Change	Natural Environment
Scores for the revised policy option, as included in the consultation document (July 2010).	0	0	++	0	++	0
<p>Only very minor amendments have been made to the wording of the policy option, and the SA scores remain unchanged.</p>						

Core Strategy Policy	SA Objective Topics					
	Education & Employment	Healthy & Prosperous Communities	Transport & Access	Built Environment	Resource Consumption & Climate Change	Natural Environment
Apportionments (draft version June 2010)	+	0	0	0	0	0

This policy establishes targets for the supply of sand and gravel and for crushed rock, and notes that revised apportionments will need to be established beyond 2016.

The policy's establishment of supply targets is likely to have a minor positive impact on mineral developers, and therefore on the economy (SA objective 3.1) by providing clear guidance for developers on how much aggregate should be produced within the county. The sustainability implications of the particular apportionment targets and alternative apportionment options were assessed at the regional scale during preparation of the Regional Spatial Strategy. The potential implications of a higher or lower apportionment for sand and gravel or crushed rock in Herefordshire should be assessed as part of the Minerals and Waste DPD SA work. The potential impacts of developing minerals sites to meet these apportionments have been assessed as part of the preceding five minerals policies, and this policy is considered unlikely to have an impact on the remaining SA objectives relating to communities, transport and access, the built environment, resource consumption and climate change and the natural environment.

Recommendations

No recommendations are considered necessary.

Core Strategy Policy	SA Objective Topics					
	Education & Employment	Healthy & Prosperous Communities	Transport & Access	Built Environment	Resource Consumption & Climate Change	Natural Environment
MN.6 Scores for the revised policy option, as included in the consultation document (July 2010).	+	0	0	0	0	0

Only very minor amendments have been made to the wording of the policy option, and the SA scores remain unchanged.

Appendix 1: SA Framework grouped by topic

The SA objectives and sub-objectives have been presented below under the relevant topic heading. Note that sub-objectives may be organised under different Topics, according to the issues that they address (e.g. sub-objectives in SA Objectives 7, 18).

Education and Employment

SA Objectives	
1	<p>Support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities, suited to the changing needs of the local workforce.</p> <p>1.1 Maintain or increase current employment rates in knowledge and technology intensive sectors.</p> <p>1.2 Provide flexible employment land near to the workforce or provide opportunities easily accessible by public transport.</p> <p>1.3 Encourage fair and decent work conditions and increase median weekly earnings.</p> <p>1.4 Help to increase diversity of job opportunities.</p>
2	<p>Secure a more adaptable and higher skilled workforce.</p> <p>2.1 Provide or facilitate through investment, appropriate training and learning to help build, attract and retain a highly skilled workforce that meets existing and future needs.</p> <p>2.2 Reduce inequalities in skills across the county.</p> <p>2.3 Promote the voluntary sector, lifelong learning and life/environmental skills.</p>
3	<p>Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment.</p> <p>3.1 Improve the resilience and/or diversity of business and the economy.</p> <p>3.2 Provide or facilitate availability of appropriate sites and properties for new business opportunities or growth whilst using natural resources efficiently.</p> <p>3.3 Encourage and support a culture of enterprise and innovation, including social enterprise or the voluntary sector.</p> <p>3.4 Encourage corporate social and environmental responsibility, with county organisations leading by example.</p> <p>3.5 Promote and support the development of new high value and low impact technologies, especially resource-efficient technologies and environmental technology initiatives.</p>
7	<p>Sustainable regeneration</p> <p>7.2 Help create an appropriate range of independent, competitive and national retailers.</p> <p>7.3 Help reduce the number of vacant properties and support vitality.</p>
8	<p>Raise educational achievement levels across the County.</p> <p>8.1 Ensure that education infrastructure meets projected future demand and need.</p>

Healthy and Prosperous Communities

SA Objectives	
5	<p>Improve the health of the people of Herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and demographically and encourage healthy living for all.</p> <p>5.1 Help to ensure there is adequate provision of healthcare services appropriate to local needs, which are accessible by sustainable modes of transport.</p> <p>5.2 Help to reduce inequalities in health.</p> <p>5.3 Encourage healthy lifestyles, e.g. reducing car use and maintaining or enhancing access to physical sports, green space and recreation.</p>
7	<p>Sustainable regeneration.</p> <p>7.4 Support or create high quality public realm and community/amenity space that is safe and encourages positive community interaction.</p>
9	<p>Reduce and prevent crime/fear of crime and antisocial behaviour in the county.</p> <p>9.1 Enhance community safety, security and reduce crime or fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>9.2 Help improve quality of life and address the opportunity for crime or anti-social behaviour through design measures.</p> <p>9.3 Encourage respect for people and the environment.</p>
10	<p>Reduce poverty and promote equality, social inclusion by closing the gap between the most deprived areas in the county and the rest of the county.</p> <p>10.1 Ensure easy and equitable access to and provision of services and opportunities, including jobs and learning, and avoid negative impacts on different groups of people because of their ethnicity, gender, religion, disability, sexuality or age.</p> <p>10.2 Enable the involvement of all affected parties, including hard to reach groups.</p> <p>10.3 Promote equality, fairness and respect for people and the environment.</p> <p>10.4 Address poverty and disadvantage, taking into account the particular difficulties of those facing multiple disadvantages.</p>

Transport and Access

SA Objectives	
4	<p>Reduce road traffic and congestion, pollution and accidents and improve health through physical activity by increasing the proportion of journeys made by public transport, cycling and walking.</p> <p>4.1 Reduce the need to travel.</p> <p>4.2 Promote more sustainable transport patterns in areas suffering from congestion,</p> <p>4.3 Improve the quality and/or provision of integrated transport options in areas of need and that are accessible to all.</p> <p>4.4 Increase the use of public transport, cycling and walking.</p> <p>4.5 Secure the implementation of green travel plans.</p> <p>4.6 Minimise risks associated with car travel.</p> <p>4.7 Promote a shift of freight from road to rail.</p>
6	<p>Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all.</p> <p>6.1 Maintain or increase the type or quality of facilities (including open space) in areas where there is need, ensuring easy and equitable access by sustainable modes of transport.</p> <p>6.2 Promote Herefordshire's facilities to local people and tourists encouraging appreciation of the heritage of the county and participation by all.</p> <p>6.3 Promote the use of inland waterways for leisure, recreation, telecommunication, freight transport and/or as a catalyst for urban and rural regeneration.</p>
7	<p>Sustainable regeneration</p> <p>7.1 Support viability or develop services and facilities appropriate to the community, function, character and scale of the centre and existing facilities using sustainable, resource- efficient designs.</p>

The Built Environment

SA Objectives	
11	<p>Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing of the right type and tenure, in clear, safe and pleasant local environments.</p> <p>11.1 Increase access to good quality housing meeting people's needs (e.g. tenure, aspirations, location, affordability, size and type, accessible to disabled people).</p> <p>11.2 Increase the supply of affordable housing.</p> <p>11.3 Reduce the percentage of unfit homes/empty homes.</p> <p>11.4 Improve the energy and resource efficiency of homes and reduce fuel poverty and ill-health.</p> <p>11.5 Increase the use of sustainable design techniques, improve the quality of housing and use sustainable building materials in construction.</p> <p>11.6 Improve the wider built environment and sense of place.</p>
19	<p>Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use.</p> <p>19.1 Ensure new developments are in appropriate locations, optimising the use of previously developed land and buildings, primarily focussed on the urban areas and are accessible by walking, cycling or sustainable transport and/or will increase the share of these transport modes, thereby reducing the need to travel.</p> <p>19.2 Encourage an appropriate density and mix of uses using sustainable resource-efficient design.</p> <p>19.3 Promote ways of meeting local needs locally by encouraging local sourcing of food, goods and materials.</p>
20	<p>Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's historic environment and cultural heritage.</p> <p>20.1 Preserve, protect and enhance Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, archaeological remains, and other features and areas of historical heritage and cultural value e.g. locally listed buildings.</p> <p>20.2 Prevent development which is inappropriate in scale, form or design to its setting or to its function or local area.</p> <p>20.3 Encourage development that creates and sustains well-designed, high quality built environments that incorporate green space, encourage biodiversity and promote local distinctiveness and sense of place?</p> <p>20.4 Encourage cleanliness and/or improve the general appearance of the area.</p>

Resource Consumption and Climate Change

SA Objectives	
12	<p>Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling.</p> <p>12.1 Minimise the use of non re-usable materials.</p> <p>12.2 Minimise waste from households, businesses etc including hazardous waste.</p> <p>12.3 Promote re-use, recovery and recycling of waste.</p> <p>12.4 Deal with waste locally and/or through the best Practical Environmental Option.</p>
14	<p>Use natural resources and energy more efficiently.</p> <p>14.1 Maximise energy efficiency and minimise the consumption of non-renewable energy i.e. from fossil fuels.</p> <p>14.2 Minimise the consumption of water, land, soil, minerals, aggregates and other raw materials by all? E.g. through integrated transport, sustainable resource-efficient design, local sourcing of food, goods, materials.</p> <p>14.3 Encourage the re-use/enhancement (to high standards of sustainable resource-efficient design) of existing buildings and minimise the need for new build.</p>
16	<p>Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.</p> <p>16.1 Reduce the county's contribution to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport, domestic, commercial and industrial sources.</p> <p>16.2 Increase the proportion of energy generated from renewable and low carbon sources including by micro-generation, Combined Heat and Power (CHP), district heating and in transportation.</p>
18	<p>Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources.</p> <p>18.5 Encourage the use of clean technologies and water minimisation techniques.</p>

The Natural Environment

SA Objectives	
13	<p>Value, maintain, restore and expand county biodiversity .</p> <p>13.1 Protect or enhance habitats of international, national, regional or local importance.</p> <p>13.2 Protect international, national, regional or locally important terrestrial or aquatic species.</p> <p>13.3 Maintain wildlife corridors and minimise fragmentation of ecological areas and green spaces.</p> <p>13.4 Manage access to sites in a sustainable way that protects or enhances their nature conservation value.</p> <p>13.5 Create new appropriate habitats.</p>
15	<p>Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces.</p> <p>15.1 Value, enhance and protect natural environmental assets including AONB's, historic landscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens and their settings.</p> <p>15.2 Encourage local stewardship of local environments, for example by promoting best practices in agricultural management.</p> <p>15.3 Ensure that environmental impacts caused by mineral operations and the transport of minerals are minimised.</p> <p>15.4 Promote the use of rural areas and open space by all, encourage easy non-car based access, and accommodate the needs of disabled users.</p>
17	<p>Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment.</p> <p>17.1 Reduce flood risk both presently and taking into account climate change.</p> <p>17.2 Prevent inappropriate development of the floodplain, and include flood protection systems.</p> <p>17.3 Include sustainable urban drainage systems where appropriate.</p>
18	<p>Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources.</p> <p>18.1 Minimise water, air, soil, groundwater, noise and light pollution from current activities and the potential for such pollution.</p> <p>18.2 Protect and enhance the quality of watercourses.</p> <p>18.3 Provide opportunities to improve soil quality or reduce contaminated land.</p> <p>18.4 Help achieve the objectives of Air Quality Management Plans through for e.g. increasing use of public transport, cycling and walking.</p>