WYG Planning & Environment

part of the **WYG** group

Allerdale Borough Council

Local Plan Pre-Submission Draft

Sustainability Appraisal Report

September 2013

Empress House, 12 Empress Road, Lyndhurst, Hampshire, SO43 7AE

Tel: 023 8028 3226

Email: erin.banks@wyg.com

www.wyg.com   **creative minds** safe hands

Document Control

Project:	Local Plan Pre-Submission Draft Sustainability Appraisal Report
Client:	Allerdale Borough Council
Job Number:	A060921-4
File Origin:	x:\Projects\A060001-A061000\A060921-4\reports\Revised Draft April 2013\WYG Local Plan SA Report v2 04.04.13.docx

Document Checking:

Prepared by:	Peter Kneen	Signed:	

Checked by:	Erin Banks	Signed:	

Verified by:	Steve Mustow	Signed:	

Issue	Date	Status
1	04.03.13	1st Draft Issue to ABC
2	08.04.13	2nd Draft Issue to ABC
3	12.9.2013	Final Draft Issue to ABC
4		

Deleted: 24.04

WYG Planning & Environment

part of the WYG group

Contents Page

Table Contents

Appendix Contents

1.0   Introduction

1.1   Purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal Report

This Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Report has been prepared for Allerdale Borough Council (ABC) as an integral part of the Local Development Framework (LDF) process to replace the existing Adopted Local Plan. As a key component of the LDF portfolio of Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs), the completed Local Plan for Allerdale will set out a spatial vision and strategic objectives for Allerdale Borough, and the strategic policies required in delivering that vision.

The SA is needed to inform the decision making process during the implementation of the Local Plan. This will ensure that the potential sustainable development implications of the Local Plan are identified and recognised in the choices made by the local planning authority (LPA). The SA must also test the performance of the Local Plan in order to determine whether it appears to be appropriate for the task intended. The purpose of the SA process is to appraise the social, environmental and economic effects of a plan in an integrated way from the outset to help ensure that Allerdale's LDF effectively guides decision-making to result in development that is sustainable.

1.2   Allerdale's Local Plan

The Local Plan will determine how the planning system will help to shape the communities within Allerdale over the plan period, as part of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The Plan is the Council's main collection of planning policy documents outlining the spatial strategy for the local area and contains the planning policies for managing development proposals through the planning application process.

In accordance with the Local Plan vision:

1. By 2028 Allerdale's communities will be sustainable, prosperous, safe, healthy and vibrant. The economy will be strong, diversified and well connected, with a growing and highly skilled population, with high employment, capitalising on skills and opportunities in the nuclear, energy and tourism sectors.

2. It will be a place that has adapted to meet the challenges of climate change, has a diverse and extensive network of accessible green infrastructure, unspoilt landscape and coastline and areas rich in biodiversity and geodiversity.

3. It will be a place where all sections of society have access to affordable, well designed homes that meet a range of needs, close to jobs, services and sustainable transport, where historic environments are protected and enhanced and sustainable development, investment and successful regeneration has created prosperous towns supported by sustainable rural communities.

4. **Workington** - will have retained and enhanced its role as West Cumbria's principal residential, educational, leisure, cultural and commercial centre. Taking advantage of its port and rail links it will have been a focus for major development delivering a stronger employment base, housing renewal and greater choice of housing as well as a vibrant town centre with an expanded night time economy.

6

5. **Maryport** - will have enhanced its role as a key residential, employment and visitor centre, ensuring deprivation has been reduced significantly. The town will be a key tourist destination building on its harbour, coastal location, rich Roman and Georgian heritage and environmental assets.

6. **Cockermouth** - will have retained its vibrant town centre and high quality historic environment. The housing market will be more balanced with greater access to affordable housing and wider job opportunities. The town is resilient to the risk from flooding through the delivery of appropriate infrastructure.

7. **Wigton** - will have developed its role as an important housing, commercial, employment and educational centre in North Allerdale. In particular the role of the town centre and the condition of its historic fabric will have been enhanced, meeting the retail and service requirements of its catchment population.

8. **Silloth** - will have an enhanced tourism sector having capitalised on its close proximity to the Solway Coast AONB and its historic environment. The role of the port will be maintained and enhanced, while the local community will have a more balanced age structure, with greater access to employment and services.

9. **Aspatria** - will have enhanced its role as a key centre serving its rural hinterland by offering a greater mix of housing, employment and tourism opportunities, making greater use of rail links and providing a range of services.

10. **Rural Areas** - will be made up of thriving, sustainable communities with improved access to employment opportunities and greater diversity in the local economy. Availability of affordable housing will have increased and existing services will have been retained and in places enhanced, whilst at the same time, the quality of the local environment and biodiversity assets has been protected and enhanced.

It is essential that the Local Plan provides measurable objectives designed to implement the Local Plan vision. They set the context for spatial policies and proposals in the Local Development Framework. The Local Plan Strategic Objectives are as follows:

1.3 Strategic Objectives

Climate Change and Sustainability
SO1a Reduce Allerdale's carbon footprint and support a low carbon future.

SO1b Ensure a comfortable, resilient and liveable environment across Allerdale by ensuring development adapts to, and mitigates the effects of climate change.

SO1c Focus major development in Workington and encourage complementary and additional development in Key Service Centres of Maryport, Cockermouth, Wigton, Silloth and Aspatria. Small-scale development will be supported in Local Service Centres with appropriate facilities.

SO1d Ensure the sustainability of towns and villages by supporting a stable and balanced population, ensuring accessible services that meet a range of community needs.

SO1e Support and encourage construction methods that seek to reduce energy consumption, use renewable energy sources, minimise waste and encourage recycling.

SO1f Promote renewable and low carbon energy production in the Plan Area.

SO1g Sustainable and effective use and re-use of land and protect the most versatile agricultural land from development.

Housing

SO2a Enable a balanced housing market that delivers a mix of housing type and tenure to meet the needs of all communities.

SO2b Support housing renewal and re-use of empty properties.

SO2c Ensure a deliverable supply of housing land that meets the needs of the community and local economy.

SO2d Increase access to affordable housing as part of housing developments and rural exception sites.

SO2e Support independent living for older people and people with disabilities by ensuring housing is adaptable for changing and varied needs.

Economy

SO3a Diversify the urban and rural economic base of Allerdale to enable a prosperous mixed, low carbon economy, including creative knowledge based industries, specialist engineering, energy and tourism sectors.

SO3b Encourage the development of business clusters, maximise the economic opportunities identified in the West Cumbria Economic Blueprint and implementation plan and ensure the timely improvement and delivery of essential infrastructure, such as the Port of Workington to support economic growth.

SO3c Promote Lillyhall as an important employment site, encouraging the growth of nuclear technology and research clusters while building on its existing education and skills role through the Energy Coast Campus.

SO3d Provide a wide range of modern, high quality employment sites and premises to meet existing business needs and emerging sectors.

SO3e Support opportunities for home working, creation of rural enterprise hubs for start up businesses and proposals that contribute to farm diversification.

SO3f Support improved digital connections, especially in rural areas.

SO3g Support the development of further and higher education in the Plan Area and improve educational attainment and skills to meet the needs of existing and future employment opportunities.

SO3h Promote the principles of sustainable tourism, the provision of high quality accommodation and attractions, and support key projects such as the Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Hadrian's Wall) World Heritage Site (Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site), Derwent Forest, and Roman Maryport.

SO3i Promote the vitality and viability of town centres, including the night time economy and support the retention of existing rural services.

SO3j Enable the long-term sustainability of the ports at Workington and Silloth by supporting appropriate port related activities and lobbying for improved road and rail links.

Transport

SO4a Locate the majority of development in locations that are accessible by a variety of modes of transport, particularly public transport, walking and cycling and reduce the need to travel.

SO4b Support road and rail infrastructure improvements required to deliver economic growth and key economic projects.

SO4c Work with partners to improve sustainable transport, both within and outside Allerdale.

SO4d Improve sustainable access to jobs, services, education, leisure opportunities and the wider countryside.

SO4e Develop and maintain safe, efficient, high quality, modern and integrated transport networks with good internal links and connections to key routes including A595/6 corridor, A66, M6, and West Coast mainline.

SO4f Enable the delivery of transport hubs across the Plan Area, linking the Cumbria Coastal Railway to other transport modes.

SO4g Promote the role of Workington and Silloth ports as an alternative means of accessing the area for both business and visitors.

Built and Historic Environment

SO5a Ensure that all new development meets high standards of quality of design, energy efficiency, safety, security and accessibility, and relates well to existing development, enhances the public realm and develops locally distinctive quality places.

SO5b Conserve and enhance both non-designated and designated heritage assets and their settings, including the Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Hadrian's Wall) World Heritage Site (Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site), where possible seek the opportunity to enhance and better reveal significance.

9

Deleted:

Deleted: Promote the principles of sustainable tourism, the provision of high quality accommodation and attractions, and support key projects such as Derwent Forest, and Roman Maryport.

Deleted: essential

Deleted: Conserve and enhance historic assets and their settings, including Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site, and where possible seek the opportunity to enhance and better reveal significance.

SO5c Protect and enhance existing social, community and utility related infrastructure, such as education, health, arts, cultural and leisure facilities.

SO5d Enhance green infrastructure by developing a comprehensive network of high quality open space such as parks, woodlands, gardens, natural green spaces and allotments.

SO5e Minimise the risk from flooding and support the incorporation of mitigation measures as part of the overall design solution.

SO5f Protect and enhance the quality of the environment and amenity.

Natural Environment

SO6a Protect and enhance the natural and historic landscape, including ancient woodland and geological assets, from unnecessary and harmful development, particularly within the Solway Coast AONB and areas adjoining the National Park.

SO6b Protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, notably the Natura 2000 sites and create ecologically diverse habitats across Allerdale and ensure the ability of habitats and species to adapt to climate change.

SO6c Promote opportunities to improve access to the countryside and coast.

SO6d Ensure high levels of water, and air quality are retained and where necessary improved, and safeguard agricultural land.

SO6e Promote, protect and provide a comprehensive network of green infrastructure, incorporating multi-functional green and blue spaces both within developments, linking across and between settlements throughout the area.
The Pre-Submission version of the Local Plan contains a set of policies developed to implement the vision and objectives.

1.4 Geographical Area

Allerdale is located in the North West Cumbria in North West England covering approximately 1,258km^2. As of 2011, Allerdale had a population of 94,300 with the main populations concentrated within the towns of Workington, Maryport and Cockermouth, and the three other supporting settlements of Wigton, Silloth and Aspatria. The local plan designed by ABC concerns the area of Allerdale borough outside the National Park.
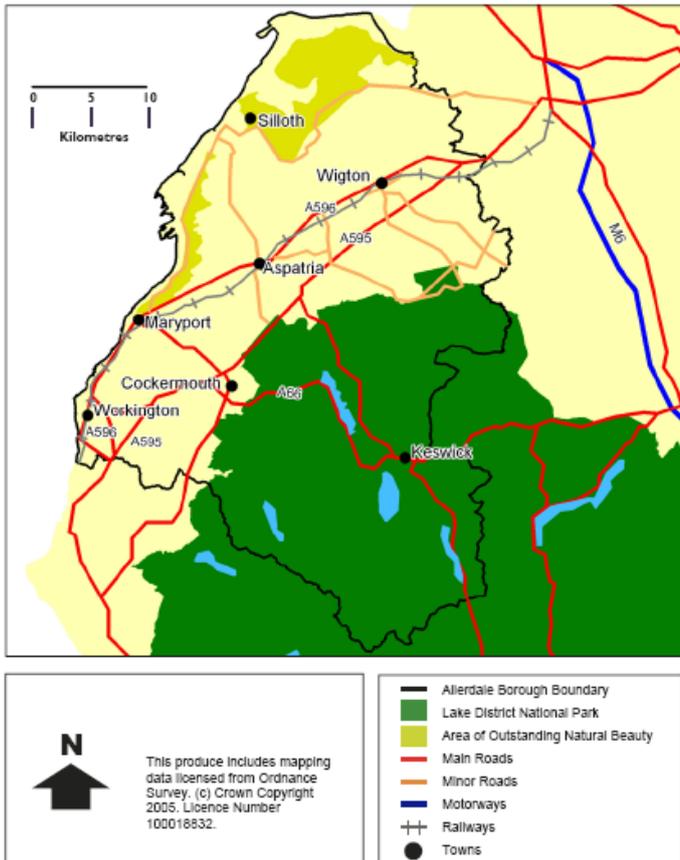
The Borough is one of contrasts. The major centres of population are located in the south of the Borough, with the settlement patterns more concentrated than anywhere else in the Borough. The economic and social history of this area is dominated by coal mining and iron and steel making, the decline of which has left its legacy of economic and social problems. By contrast, the rural hinterland, close to the boundary of the Lake District National Park, is characterised by a large number of rural villages which are subject to development pressure. The north of the district is predominantly rural with only a handful of substantial settlements. Agriculture and tourism play a key role in this area, with the Solway coast and National Park being important tourist destinations.

1.5 Requirement for Sustainability Appraisal

Under the Regulations implementing the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is required for all Local Development Documents (LDD). The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 removed the requirement for SA for Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD), although LPAs are still required to screen their SPDs in relation to both SA and SEA. The purpose of SA is to promote sustainable

11

development through better integration of sustainability considerations in the preparation and adoption of plans. The Regulations stipulate that SA of LDDs should also meet the requirements of the SEA Directive.

1.6 Compliance with the SEA Directive

The EU Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the SEA Directive) came into force in the UK on 20th July 2004 through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

The Directive applies to a variety of plans and programmes including those for town and country planning and land use. The Local Development Framework is prepared and adopted by an authority at the local level and is required by legislative provisions. It is prepared for the purposes of town and country planning / land use and is likely to have significant effects on the environment. It is therefore the case that DPDs and many SPDs in the Allerdale LDF will be required to be subject to environmental assessment under the SEA Directive.

SEA is an iterative assessment process which plans and programmes are required to undergo as they are being developed, to ensure that the potential significant environmental effects arising from the plan or programme are identified, assessed, mitigated and communicated to plan makers. SEA also requires the monitoring of significant effects once the plan or programme is implemented.

1.7 The SEA / SA Process

Although the statutory requirements for carrying out SA and SEA are distinct it is possible to satisfy both through a single but integrated SA process. Such a joint approach is advocated in Government guidance.

According to previous and current Government guidance, the main stages in the SA process are as follows:

- **Stage A** – Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope;

- **Stage B** – Developing and refining options and assessing effects;

- **Stage C** – Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report;

- **Stage D** – Consultation on the plan and the Sustainability Appraisal Report;

- **Stage E** – Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the plan.

Government guidance emphasises that SA is an iterative process which identifies and reports on the likely significant effects of the plan and the extent to which its implementation will achieve the social, economic and environmental objectives by which sustainable development can be designed. The intention is that SA is fully integrated into the plan making process from the earliest stages, both informing and being informed by it. The guidance also sets out a requirement for the preparation of the following reports.

- **Scoping Report** (documenting stage A work) which should be used for consultation on the scope of the SA;

- **Sustainability Appraisal Report** (documenting stages A and B) which should be used in the public consultation on the draft Local Plan. The SA Report fully encompasses the requirement to produce an Environmental Report under the SEA Directive.

Revisions to the LDF process as a result of the Planning Act 2008 removed the requirement for a formally staged approach to consultation on the development of DPDs. As such, ABC's decision to consult on the issues and options and spatial options can be considered good practice. New Government SA guidance[1] confirms that DPDs need now only be accompanied by a single SA Report at pre-submission consultation (Regulation 27) and that this report should detail the full SA process undertaken. However, the SEA Directive and SA guidance still require consideration of the significant effects of alternatives(s). For this reason the Allerdale Core Strategy SA addressed not only the preferred but also the alternative policies developed by ABC for consultation in Stage C of the LDF SEA/SA process. We consider this robust approach to be good practice in keeping with the government's approach to encouraging localism.

The combined SEA/SA process for the Local Plan identifies the key social, economic and environmental issues associated with Allerdale and how the adoption of the Local Plan will influence them. It will help to ensure that the significant adverse effects arising from the Local Plan are either avoided or mitigated. The process will also identify requirements (or indicators) for monitoring the implementation of the Local Plan following its adoption. Monitoring will identify any unforeseen impacts and inform the next revision or replacement of the Local Plan and related DPDs.

---

[1] Communities and Local Government (2009) Plan Making Manual: Sustainability Appraisal Guidance
(http://www.pas.gov.uk/pas/core/page.do?pageId=152450)

1.8 Consultation

Since 2006, the Council has used a range of consultation methods to involve as many different groups and as diverse a mix of people as possible in the preparation of the Local Plan.

Consultation has been undertaken in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), which can be found on the Council's website.

1.9 Appropriate Assessment

Under Regulation 48(1) on the Conservation (Natural Habitats, and C.) (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006, an Appropriate Assessment (also termed Habitats Regulations Assessment or HRA). Needs to be undertaken in respect of any plan or project which:

a) Either alone or in combination with other plans or projects would be likely to have a significant effect on a European Site, and

b) Is not directly connected with the management of the site for nature conservation.

European sites include Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA). Due to the presence of these areas within the Borough and adjacent to the Borough's boundaries a Habitats Regulations Assessment has been carried out by WYG. This process has been used in a similar way to the SA to help guide and inform decision making in terms of the Local Plan. The full HRA documents are available on Allerdale's website.

2.0 Background to the Development of the Local Plan

2.1 Background

It is a mandatory requirement of the LDF process that SA is undertaken on the Local Plan. The first stage of the SA of the Core Strategy DPD was 'scoping', or Stage A. The results of the scoping exercise were presented in a Scoping Report produced by Allerdale in 2006 and revised in January 2007 following consultation. Stage B of the Core Strategy SA began with a SA of the Core Strategy initial Issues and Options Paper (ABC, 2006) using the SA framework developed in Stage A. The Issues and Options Paper set out a number of key options and questions relating to future development in Allerdale. The outcome of the Issues and Options Paper SA was set out in an initial appraisal report produced by WYG on behalf of ABC in 2007.

ABC next produced two discussion papers containing the Strategic Objectives for the Core Strategy and details of the initial Spatial Options: 'From Strategic Objectives to Spatial Options: Discussion Paper 2' (ABC, 2009) and 'Spatial Options: Cockermouth and Post-Deluvian Issues: Discussion Paper 3' (ABC, 2009). WYG undertook the SA of these options and presented the results in May 2010.

Following the assessment of options in 2010, the Council undertook extensive work in considering the potential policy options that would form part of the Core Strategy and the Development Management DPD. The policy options that were considered as part of the Council's work were appraised against the Sustainability Appraisal Framework and the results of this appraisal were set out in two Reports, 'Core Strategy Preferred Options SA Report (WYG, May 2012)' and 'Development Management Preferred Options SA Report (WYG, May 2012)'. The findings of the SA process, in conjunction with the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) and a wide range of other evidence and policy guidance was then used to inform decision-making.

The draft Core Strategy and Development Management policies were subject to a period of consultation, along with the SA Reports and the HRA Reports in summer 2012. Statutory consultees in terms of both the planning process and the SEA/SA process were consulted, along with all other relevant non-statutory and local consultees with an interest in the future development of the Allerdale Borough. Finally, the public were also able to comment on the reports. Following this period of consultation, a wide range of comments were received from statutory and non-statutory consultees on both DPD documents and the HRA, however, no specific comments were received on the SA. All of the comments received as part of the consultation process have been fully reviewed and taken account of in the decision-making process that has led to the determination of the final strategic policies that are published in the pre-submission version of the Local Plan.

As a result of the processes described above ABC determined that the full list of policy options considered as part of the 2012 reports would be refined and that the Core Strategy and Development Management DPDs would be combined into a single DPD to be termed the Allerdale Local Plan.

This report is a summary of the assessment, performed by WYG, of the strategic policies which have been set out by ABC in the pre-submission version of the Local Plan. This assessment follows on from the assessment of options undertaken in 2012 and ensures that all changes and amendments to the policies are fully appraised to ensure that the likely sustainability effects are fully assessed and covered. Overall a review of how the final policies perform in terms of sustainability is made as part of this report.

2.2 Programme

Table 2.1 outlines the timetable and process (described above) undertaken to prepare the SA.

Table 2.1   Key SA Tasks and Outputs

Task / Output	Year	Comments
Draft SA Scoping Report	2006	The report included the baseline review, review of relevant plans, policies and programmes, identification of key sustainability issues and determination of the use of the Cumbria SA Framework.
Consultation	2006	SA Scoping Report comments, received from statutory SEA bodies and were reviewed in light of document.
SA Scoping Report	2007	An updated scoping report taking into account newly available baseline data and information and taking into account comments from statutory consultees.
Draft Core Strategy Issues and Options Initial Sustainability Appraisal	2007	The report outlined the process being followed and provided information on work to date in developing the plan as part of the LDF and presented the appraisal of the Core Strategy Issues and Options.
Consultation	2007	Consultation comments received were collated by the Council and fed into the next stage of the process.
Draft Core Strategy Strategic Options Sustainability Appraisal	2010	The report updated the process being followed developing the plan as part of the LDF and presented the appraisal of the Core Strategy Strategic options.
Consultation	2010	Consultation comments received were collated by the Council and fed into the next stage of the process.
Core Strategy Preferred Options Sustainability Appraisal	2012	The report updated the process being followed developing the plan as part of the LDF and presented the appraisal of the Core Strategy preferred options and all reasonable alternatives that had been assessed.
Development Management Policies Sustainability Appraisal	2012	The report updated the process being followed developing the plan as part of the LDF and presented the appraisal of the Development Management preferred options and all reasonable alternatives that had been assessed.
Consultation	2012	No consultation comments were received specifically on the SA, wider consultation comments, have been taken into account and incorporated in the final policy options in conjunction with the findings of the SA and HRA to determine the policies to move

Task / Output	Year	Comments
		forward to the Pre-Submission draft. At this stage the Core Strategy and Development Management policy documents have been amalgamated and rationalised into the Draft Local Plan.
Local Plan Pre-Submission Draft Sustainability Appraisal (this report)	2013	This report reviews and updates the information that was included in the previous SA Reports (which are appended for full reference), and provides an assessment of the sustainability performance of the policy options that form the Local Plan Pre-Submission draft.

2.3 Findings from Earlier Stages

The findings in terms of the SA process from the earlier stages are outlined in this report, however, for brevity they have not been fully documented here. The tables contained within chapter 4 outline how the previous stages of the process have helped to inform the current policy, prior to the current performance of the policy being described.

Should the reader wish to see the full assessment process that has been undertaken to date including the full documented findings and assessment tables for the earlier stages, then these can be found in the appendices to this report. The appendices contain the following:

- **Appendix A –** Scoping Report updated version 1 (ABC, 2007)
- **Appendix B –** Issues and Options SA Report (WYG, 2007)
- **Appendix C –** Strategic Options SA Report (WYG, 2010)
- **Appendix D –** Core Strategy Preferred Options SA Report (WYG, 2012)
- **Appendix E –** Development Management Policies Preferred Options SA Report (WYG, 2012)
- **Appendix F –** Local Plan and Sustainability Objectives Compatibility Matrix
- **Appendix G –** Local Plan Pre-Submission SA Policy Assessment Tables

2.4 Allerdale's Local Plan Objectives

The Local Plan, as the first DPD of the new LDF, sets out the policies that all other Allerdale DPDs and SPDs will have to conform to. This is because the Local Plan sets out the overarching vision for future development within the Borough and offers guiding policies for how new development could best be implemented, this will be supported by this SA. The Local Plan cannot, however, dictate site specific allocations; these are covered by the Site Specific Allocations DPD and by the Proposals Map.

Following an initial SA and consultation in 2007 and 2012, refinements following evidence based research and further SA assessment, the Council has developed a series of objectives for the Local Plan, these are set out in the table below. Appendix A provides the compatibility matrix which checks and illustrates the relationship between the Local Plan objectives and the SA objectives, i.e. to ensure that they compliment each other and do not conflict.

Table 2.2   The Local Plan Objectives

SO1) Climate Change and Sustainability
SO1a) Reduce Allerdale's carbon footprint and support a low carbon future.
SO1b) Ensure a comfortable, resilient and liveable environment across Allerdale by ensuring development adapts to and mitigates the effects of climate change.
SO1c) Focus major development in Workington and encourage complementary and additional development in Key Service Centres of Maryport, Cockermouth, Wigton, Silloth and Aspatria. Small-scale development will be supported in Local Service Centres with appropriate facilities.
SO1d) Ensure the sustainability of towns and villages by supporting a stable and balanced population, ensuring accessible services that meet a range of community needs.
SO1e) Support and encourage construction methods that seek to reduce energy consumption, use renewable energy sources, minimise waste and encourage recycling.
SO1f) Promote renewable and low carbon energy production in the Plan Area.
SO1g) Sustainable and effective use and re-use of land and buildings and protect the most versatile agricultural land from development.

SO2) Housing
SO2a) Enable a balanced housing market that delivers a mix of housing type and tenure to meet the needs of all communities.
SO2b) Support housing renewal and re-use of empty properties.
SO2c) Ensure a deliverable supply of housing land that meets the needs of the community and local economy.
SO2d) Increase access to affordable housing as part of housing developments and rural exception sites.
SO2e) Support independent living for older people and people with disabilities by ensuring housing is adaptable for changing and varied needs.

SO3) Economy
SO3a) Diversify the urban and rural economic base of Allerdale to enable a prosperous mixed, low carbon economy, including creative knowledge based industries, specialist engineering, energy and tourism sectors.
SO3b) Encourage the development of business clusters, maximise the economic opportunities identified in the West Cumbria Economic Blueprint and implementation plan and ensure the timely improvement and delivery of essential infrastructure, such as the Port of Workington to support economic growth.

SO3c) Promote Lillyhall as an important employment site, encouraging the growth of nuclear technology and research clusters while building on its existing education and skills role through the Energy Coast Campus.
SO3d) Provide a wide range of modern, high quality employment sites and premises to meet existing business needs and emerging sectors.
SO3e) Support opportunities for home working, creation of rural enterprise hubs for start up businesses and proposals that contribute to farm diversification.
SO3f) Support improved digital connections, especially in rural areas.
SO3g) Support the development of further and higher education in the Plan Area and improve educational attainment and skills to meet the needs of existing and future employment opportunities.
SO3h) Promote the principles of sustainable tourism, the provision of high quality accommodation and attractions, and support key projects such as the Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Hadrian's Wall) World Heritage Site (Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site), Derwent Forest, and Roman Maryport.
SO3i) Promote the vitality and viability of town centres, including the night time economy and support the retention of existing rural services.
SO3j) Enable the long-term sustainability of the ports at Workington and Silloth by supporting appropriate port related activities and lobbying for improved road and rail links.

SO4) Transport

SO4a) Locate the majority of development in locations that are accessible by a variety of modes of transport, particularly public transport, walking and cycling and reduce the need to travel.
SO4b) Support road and rail infrastructure improvements required to deliver economic growth and key economic projects.
SO4c) Work with partners to improve sustainable transport, both within and outside Allerdale.
SO4d) Improve sustainable access to jobs, services, education, leisure opportunities and the wider countryside.
SO4e) Develop and maintain safe, efficient, high quality, modern and integrated transport networks with good internal links and connections to key routes including A595/6 corridor, A66, M6, and West Coast mainline.
SO4f) Enable the delivery of transport hubs across the Plan Area, linking the Cumbria Coastal Railway to other transport modes.
SO4g) Promote the role of Workington and Silloth ports as an alternative means of accessing the area for both business and visitors.

Deleted: Promote the principles of sustainable tourism, the provision of high quality accommodation and attractions, and support key projects such as Derwent Forest, and Roman Maryport.

Deleted: essential

SO5) Built and Historic Environment
SO5a) Ensure that all new development meets high standards of quality of design, energy efficiency, safety, security and accessibility, and relates well to existing development, enhances the public realm and develops locally distinctive quality places.
SO5b) Conserve and enhance both non-designated and designated heritage assets and their settings, including the Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Hadrian's Wall) World Heritage Site (Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site), where possible seek the opportunity to enhance and better reveal significance.
SO5c) Protect and enhance existing social, community and utility related infrastructure, such as education, health, arts, cultural and leisure facilities.
SO5d) Enhance green infrastructure by developing a comprehensive network of high quality open space such as parks, woodlands, gardens, natural green spaces and allotments.
SO5e) Minimise the risk from flooding and support the incorporation of mitigation measures as part of the overall design solution.
SO5f) Protect and enhance the quality of the environment and amenity.

SO6) Natural Environment
SO6a) Protect and enhance the natural and historic landscape, including ancient woodland and geological assets, from unnecessary and harmful development, particularly within the Solway Coast AONB and areas adjoining the National Park.
SO6b) Protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, notably the Natura 2000 sites and create ecologically diverse habitats across Allerdale and ensure the ability of habitats and species to adapt to climate change.
SO6c) Promote opportunities to improve access to the countryside and coast.
SO6d) Ensure high levels of water, and air quality are retained and where necessary improved, and safeguard agricultural land.
SO6e) Promote, protect and provide a comprehensive network of green infrastructure, incorporating multi-functional green and blue spaces both within developments, linking across and between settlements throughout the area.

Deleted: Conserve and enhance historic assets and their settings, including Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site, and where possible seek the opportunity to enhance and better reveal significance.

3.0 Sustainability Appraisal Methodology

3.1 Overview of Approach

In undertaking the SA for the Allerdale Local Plan, WYG followed the five step process (Stages A to E) set out in current government SEA guidance[2] (ODPM, 2005) and the Sustainability Appraisal guidance provided by the Planning Advisory Service. The outcomes of Stage A were presented in the Scoping Report (ABC, 2007). The outcome of Stage B was presented in the Reports issued between 2007 and 2012. This report completes stages C and D of the process. The remaining stage, Stage E relates to the monitoring of the plan once adopted.

The approach used throughout the SA of the Allerdale Local Plan has been based on the guidance provided by Government, and experience in undertaking the work throughout the process.   Broadly speaking, the methodology has followed the steps A-C as described earlier in this report, and the sections below briefly describe the methodology used for these stages, and the results are briefly described later in this report, but can be found in more detail in the appendices of this report.

---

[2] ODPM (2005) A Practical Guide to the SEA Directive

3.2 Stage A: Setting the Context, Objectives, Establishing the Baseline and Deciding on Scope

Scoping work was undertaken in 2006 by ABC to help ensure that the SA covered the key sustainability issues which are relevant to Allerdale within the context of the Local Plan.

Review of Other Plans, Policies and Programmes

The LDF has to adopt a spatial planning approach, taking into account other strategies and programmes, in particular the Community Strategy. Therefore the Council undertook a review of relevant international, national and local strategies was carried out to ascertain how they will impact on the preparation of the LDF. Part of this process involved identifying potential conflicts or similarity between the objectives of the various programmes.

Baseline Information

This is the starting point for the scoping process and gathers together information on the social, economic and environmental characteristics of the Borough, drawing upon national, regional and local datasets. This work provided the evidence to highlight the current situation in terms of social, economic and environmental conditions in the Borough and helped to identify possible future trends.

To further supplement the baseline information and to support the later stages of the preferred options and policy assessments, a series of GIS constraints plans for the Borough were developed. These cover the whole of the Borough and set out key environmental constraints in the Borough, such as statutorily designated sites, areas of flood risk etc, and in addition the location of key services etc. These are included as appendices to the report contained within Appendix D.

Identification of Sustainability Issues

Using the baseline data and information gathered at the Scoping stage, it was then possible to identify the key sustainability issues and problems of the district, which then provides a basis for determining those areas where the LDF needs to focus policies upon.

Sustainability Appraisal Framework

The SA Framework provides a way in which the sustainable effects can be described, analysed and compared. It is central to the SA process. The framework consists of sustainability objectives which can be expressed in the form of targets, the achievement of which is measurable using indicators.

Sustainability objectives are distinct to the Local Plan objectives, though they will overlap. They provide a way of checking whether the Local Plan objectives are the best ones for sustainability and can be used as a measure against which the social, economic and environmental effects of the plan can be tested.

The sustainability framework set out in the Scoping Report and used in the subsequent stages of the SA process for the Local Plan was jointly developed with the other planning authorities in the Cumbria sub-region. This process was informed by the review of plans and strategies and the involvement of the of the statutory agencies for SEA, namely English Heritage, the Environment Agency, English Nature and the Countryside Agency (the relevant functions in SEA/SA terms of the latter two have since combined to form Natural England).

Both the targets and indicators in the Framework reflect the issues identified in the baseline analysis and role the LDF can play in addressing these issues. There remains a level of flexibility in the Framework in order to allow it to evolve over time as issues and circumstances alter.

Table 3.1 Allerdale Borough Council Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone
SP1: To increase the level of participation in democratic processes.
SP2: To improve access to services, facilities, the countryside and open spaces.
SP3: To provide everyone with a decent home.
SP4: To improve the level of skills, education and training
SP5: To improve the health and sense of well-being of people.
SP6: To create vibrant, active, inclusive and open minded communities with a strong sense of local history.
Effective protection of the environment
EN1: To protect and enhance biodiversity.
EN2: To preserve, enhance and manage landscape quality and character for future generations.
EN3: To improve the quality of the built environment.
Sustainable use and management of natural resources
NR1: To improve local air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
NR2: To improve water quality and water resources.
NR3: To restore and protect land and soil.
NR4: To manage mineral resources sustainably and minimise waste.
Building a sustainable economy in which all can prosper
EC1: To retain existing jobs and create new employment opportunities.
EC2: To improve access to jobs.

Formatted Table

EC3: To diversify and strengthen the local economy.

Consulting on the Scope of the Sustainability Appraisal

At this stage, the Council sought the views of the Consultation bodies and others on the scope and level of detail of the ensuing SA Report. A Scoping Report was prepared to that effect. The consultation responses were taken into account and a revised Scoping Report was published by the Council in 2007.

3.3 Stage B: Developing and Refining Options and Assessing Effects

Compatibility Assessment of Local Plan Objectives against SA Objectives

A compatibility matrix was developed to identify to what extent the objectives of the Core Strategy (and latterly Local Plan) are compatible with the SA objectives as set out in the SA Framework. When testing the compatibility, the following scale was used:

Table 3.2   Key to Compatibility of Objectives

Key	
✔✔	Highly Compatible
✔	Potentially Compatible
✖✖	Highly Incompatible
✖	Potentially Incompatible
~	Neutral/No Interaction

Assessment of Options

An assessment of the Issues and Options and Strategic Options was then conducted. The assessment used a broad brush and qualitative approach, which is generally accepted as an appropriate approach for the earlier strategic stages of the appraisal.

Potential sustainability effects for each option were assessed in terms of progress towards achieving the relevant SA objective using the scoring system presented in the table below.

Matrices were used to record the likely sustainability effects of each option against each objective in the SA Framework. Full details of the assessments and the results of the options can be found in Appendices B and C of this report.

Assessment of Preferred Options and Policies

A detailed assessment of each preferred Core Strategy option and Development Management preferred option and all reasonable alternatives was then undertaken, following on from this the policies contained within the Local Plan Pre-Submission version have been assessed in a similar manner. Each assessment was conducted on a separate assessment sheet and the results summarised in the reports contained within Appendices D and E of this report (with reference to the preferred options) and within chapter 4 of this report (with respect to the policies).

Using the baseline data and supporting information, the effects of the policies were predicted for each of the SA objectives.

Throughout the process, each option, and latterly, policy, was appraised to determine whether it will result in development that moves towards or away from the achievement of each sustainability objective. This is illustrated through the use of symbols, the symbols help to report the results of the assessment, in some cases the options or policies appeared to have no influence on an SA objective, or their influence on whether or not an objective would be met depending on how the option will be implemented and this too is reflected in the use of symbols. The symbol process was used in the Options Appraisal tables in previous reports and the Policy Assessment tables that form an appendix to this report; these symbols are explained below in Table 3.3.

Table 3.3   Key for the Sustainability Appraisal matrices

Key			
Direct Effects		**Indirect Effects**	
⬆⬆	Major beneficial (significant)	➔➔	Major beneficial (significant)
⬆	Minor beneficial	➔	Minor beneficial
⇧	Potentially beneficial	⇨	Potentially beneficial
⬇	Potentially adverse	⇦	Potentially adverse
⬇	Minor adverse	⬅	Minor adverse
⬇⬇	Major adverse	⬅⬅	Major adverse
⇕	Potentially beneficial or adverse, effects may depend on how the option or policy will be implemented		
⇔	No significant effect: neutral relationship with Sustainability Appraisal objective/or very little change to the status quo		

For the purposes of the SA, baseline conditions are assumed to be the 'status quo' for Allerdale. Implementation of the options or policies will result in either an improvement to, or deterioration of, this baseline. If the Local Plan is not implemented (do nothing situation) then it has been assumed

that there will be no change to the current baseline. In reality, however, this would not occur as natural and social processes would continue to operate.

At the options assessment phase of the process, a short commentary explained the likely positive and/or negative effects that would potentially result from each preferred and alternative option. In addition, where necessary, changes to the options or mitigation measures were recommended with the aim of reducing any potential adverse effects, or to maximise beneficial effects.

The results of this assessment were taken into account in the decision-making process for the policies proposed as part of this pre-submission draft. The assessment at this stage, has sought to review the amended policies that have been proposed as part of the pre-submission Local Plan, to ensure that the amendments made, are not significant in sustainability terms. Further, a brief assessment has been made in terms of the policy's performance in sustainability terms, which is reported in the assessment tables and later in this report.

Secondary and Cumulative Effects Assessment

Annex I of the SEA Directive requires that the assessment of effects include secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects.

Secondary or indirect effects are effects that are not a direct result of the plan, but occur away from the original effect or as a result of a complex pathway. These effects are not cumulative and have been identified and assessed primarily through the examination of the relationship between various objectives during the assessment of environmental effects.

Cumulative effects arise where several proposals individually may or may not have a significant effect, but in combination have a significant effect. Cumulative effects have been considered throughout the SA process, through the following means:

- As part of the review of relevant strategies, plans and programmes and the derivation of draft SA objectives, key receptors have been identified which may be subject to cumulative effects.
- In the process of collecting baseline information cumulative effects have been considered by identifying key receptors and information on how these have changed with time and how they are likely to change without the implementation of the LDF.
- Through the analysis of environmental issues and problems, receptors have been identified that are particularly sensitive, in decline or near to their threshold (where such information is available).
- Testing the consistency between the Local Plan and SA objectives has highlighted the potential for cumulative effects.

Monitoring

SA monitoring involves measuring indicators which will enable a better understanding of the causal links between the implementation of the plan and the likely significant effects (positive or negative) being monitored. It therefore helps to ensure that any adverse effects which arise during implementation, whether or not they were foreseen, can be identified and action taken to address them.

3.4 Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report

This SA Report has been prepared to accompany the Pre-Submission draft of the Local Plan. Interim SA Reports have been prepared for earlier stages of the process, as described earlier in this report, and these can be viewed in full detail in appendices B-E.

Meeting the Requirements of the SEA Directive

There is a distinct difference between the methodologies for SA and SEA. SEA is primarily focused on environmental effects, SA however widens the scope of the appraisal to assess the effects of a plan to include social and economic as well as environmental topics.

This SA has been undertaken so as to meet the requirements of the SEA Directive for environmental assessment of plans. The table below sets out where the specific SEA requirements have been met in this SA Report.

Table 3.4   Schedule of SEA Requirements

Requirements of the Directive	Where Covered in the Report
a) An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes	Section 1.2, Chapter 2 and Appendix A
b) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution without implementation of the plan or programme.	Appendix A and the GIS Plans contained within Appendix C and D
c) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	Appendix A and the GIS Plans contained within Appendix C and D
d) Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directive 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC	Appendix A
e) The environmental protection objectives established at international, community or national level which are relevant to the programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.	Appendix A
f) The likely significant effects on the environment, including: short, medium and long-term; permanent and temporary; positive and negative; secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects on issues such as; biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including the architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.	Chapter 4 and Appendix B, C, D, E, F and G

Requirements of the Directive	Where Covered in the Report
g) The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and, as fully as possible, offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.	Chapter 4, Chapter 5 and Appendix B, C, D, and E
h) An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information.	Chapter 2, Chapter 3, Appendix B, C, D, E
i) A description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring (in accordance with regulation 17)	Section 5.3
j) A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings	Non-technical summary

4.0   Results of the Sustainability Appraisal

As already discussed, the SA process for the Local Plan has been an iterative process over a number of years, and a number of the interim stages have been subject to the SA process. The full findings of the interim SA processes are described in Appendices B-E of this report, and for brevity are not repeated here in detail.

The interim stages of the SA process have considered numerous policy options and all reasonable alternatives and the findings and recommendations made at these interim stages have informed the decision-making which has resulted in the policies that form the Pre-Submission version of the Local Plan.

The results presented here are the results of the final assessment of the policies, using the methodology described earlier in this report. The results however, do additionally provide description as to how the previous stages of the process, in particular the preferred options stage, have influenced the final policy that is being proposed in the Pre-Submission Local Plan. The SA process has identified potential social, economic and environmental effects associated with the policies for the topic headings set out in the Local Plan. These are detailed within the policy review tables in Appendix G.

4.1 Core Policies

The strategic policies set out the broad overarching framework for the rest of the Local Plan to draw upon, including sustainable development, settlement strategy and the area based strategies for the main towns within the Borough. The policies under this topic area are:

- S1: Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development;

- S2: Sustainable Development Principles;

- S3: Spatial Strategy and Growth;

- S4: Design Principles;

- S5: Development Principles;

- S6a: Area Based – Workington;

- S6b: Area Based – Maryport;

- S6c: Area Based – Cockermouth;

- S6d: Area Based – Wigton;

- S6e: Area Based – Silloth; and

- S6f: Area Based – Aspatria.

The summary of the assessment of these policies is provided in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1   Strategic Policy Summary Results

Policy	Policy Assessment Summary
S1	This policy notes that where possible the Council will approve developments and work with developers to assist in gaining planning permission. This is a new 'model' policy which has been instigated since the previous sustainability appraisal was undertaken in 2012. Therefore no alternative options for this policy have been available for assessment. The policy generally has major and minor beneficial effects on the sustainability objectives. However there is potential for both positive and adverse effects for some objectives as there will be a loss of open space due to development. There is a single minor adverse effect on the waste management in the Borough which will be put under pressure due to an increased population. However this is only a minor effect and so not considered significant. The effects of this policy on the sustainability objectives are beneficial on the whole with only a single minor adverse effect and few with the potential to be both positive and negative. As such the policy can generally be considered to be beneficial to the sustainability of Allerdale.
S2	This policy states that the Council will promote sustainable development in terms of economic, social and environmental factors. This policy is the amalgamation of the preferred options for 3 policies in the local plan preferred options document which was assessed in a previous SA. These policies were: Sustainable Development principles, Adapting and Mitigating the Effects of Climate Change and Delivering a Sustainable and Diverse Local Economy. The new policy broadly covers social, economic and environmental factors. The first of the previous policies which makes up S2 broadly covered social, economic and environmental factors. The following two (previously S2 and S3) where more specifically related to environmental and economic factors. The new policy condenses the aims of these three policies to create an overarching policy which outlines the sustainable development principles, the Council use to assess new developments. This policy performs strongly in terms of the sustainability objectives with the majority of effects being majorly beneficial. All other objectives are met with minor beneficial effects.
S3	This policy states that at least 5,471 additional dwellings and 54 hectares of employment land will be provided from 2011-2029. Policy S3 is policy which is made up of 5 policies from the previous policy. This policy concerns Spatial Strategy and Growth and is therefore and over arching policy covering: level of growth, settlement hierarchy, role of settlements, development limits and distribution of effects. This policy is made up of the preferred options from the previous document which took alternative scenarios in to account. These preferred options can been seen in appendix D where the choice of this policy is justified with regards to other policies and the local plan objectives included in table 3.1. The policy is assessed to cause both beneficial and potentially adverse effects however the policy in general is beneficial for sustainability.

Deleted: 167

Deleted: 51

Deleted: 2028

Policy	Policy Assessment Summary
S4	This policy implies new designs must be visually attractive as well as functional, ensuring suitable access and protecting environmental and historical environments.

A standalone design policy does not appear in the Preferred Options document. It is an overarching policy designed to be used in conjunction with the other Local Plan policies to make it the most sustainable. It is believed that the alternative option for this policy, i.e. not providing a framework for the requirements of new designs in the area, is far less sustainable than the option which has been chosen. The development of the current S4 policy is considered to reach a high level of sustainability which has been assessed and summarised as follows.

The policy contains one indirect potential minor adverse effect on restoring and protecting land and soil as new developments on undeveloped land will use soil and as this policy does not specifically promote the use of previously developed sites there is potential minor indirect adverse effect. There are several objectives which are not relevant to the policy and are therefore not affected. However the majority of the objectives are benefitted by the policy.

The policy is generally beneficial to sustainability as the 12 beneficial effects outweigh the potential adverse effects. |
| S5 | This policy is a criterion based policy outlining the principles for new developments. It outlines the fact that the Council will give more support to developments which use previously developed land.

This policy does not appear in the previous document (Allerdale Core Strategy). Policy S5 sets out the spatial framework across the Allerdale Borough outlining the Councils approach to scale, location and distribution of growth. It is an overarching policy designed to be used in conjunction with the other Local Plan policies to make it sustainable. It is believed that the alternative option, i.e. not providing a framework for the requirements scale, location and distribution of growth, is far less sustainable than the one used. The development of the current S5 policy is considered to reach a high level of sustainability which has been assessed and summarised as follows.

This policy does not significantly affect several of the objectives through either; not being relevant to the policy or relevant but having no significant effects. The policy results in major beneficial effects in relation to the provision of decent homes and improvement to the built environment as well as supporting all environmental protection objectives. The policy also results in major beneficial effects for all three economic objectives.

The policy is generally beneficial as the majority of the objectives are supported beneficially. |
| S6a | The Council's area based policy for Workington gives details of aims for housing development, economic growth, built environment improvement, natural environment improvement and infrastructure and transport development.

This area based policy, instead of covering a single aspect of development, covers all aspects of development within the Workington area. This policy has been updated since the sustainability appraisal was performed on the previous policies. S6a (Workington area based policy) has been modified with regards to housing in that the most recent policy now gives |

31

Policy	Policy Assessment Summary
	specific targets for development in Allerdale. 35% of the overall housing growth in the area will be located in Workington where as in the previous policy it was only stated that new housing would be encouraged. These targets have been calculated by the ABC and are considered to be the more sustainable than other figures.
	The section of this policy aimed at the economy has changed very little from the previous policy. It includes the addition of an expectation that the majority of employment will be met within key sites in the area. This expectation is central to the delivery of Allerdales economic strategy and is therefore considered a sustainable aim with regards to the economy.
	The built environment part of this policy has been expanded. As in the housing section, additional points have been included. For example, in addition to the sites mentioned in the preferred option, Workington Hall and Curwen Park and gardens will be protected and maintained. The protection of Curwen Park was a part of the previous policy, however, it has been moved from the Natural Environment section to the Built Environment. The section also now includes the recognition of the value of brownfield sites in the borough.
	The Natural Environment section has been updated with the addition of several sites and features of the area which are valuable to the natural environment. Another addition which was not in the previous document is the development of the Cumbrian Coastal Access project which aims to increase public access to the coast.
	The flood protection point has remained largely unchanged.
	Community Infrastructure and Transport has been updated to include mention of improvements and enhancements to the facilities at the Workington train station. There are also additional passages encouraging health and fitness improvements to the general populous by providing improved leisure and sports facilities.
	The updates and additions to this policy are considered to be sustainable options. The policy as a whole has been assessed in terms of sustainability for this SA and the results are summarised below.
	The policy supports most of the sustainability objectives; however this policy could possibly have adverse effects on biodiversity through the provision of new facilities in edge of town areas in Workington, especially if greenfield land is needed.
	The policy is generally considered to be beneficial to the sustainability of the area as the beneficial effects of the policy outweigh potential adverse effects.
S6b	The Council's area based policy for Maryport gives details of aims for housing development, economic growth, built environment improvement, natural environment improvement and infrastructure and transport development.
	This area based policy, instead of covering a single aspect of development, covers all aspects of development within the Maryport area. This policy has been updated since the sustainability appraisal was performed on previous policies. S6b (Maryport area based policy) has been modified with regards to housing in that the most recent policy now gives specific targets for development in Allerdale. 12% of the overall housing growth in the area will be located in Maryport where as in the previous policy it was only stated that new housing would be encouraged. The council will also aim to provide 20% affordable housing within Maryport. These targets have been calculated by the ABC and are considered to be the most sustainable.
	The economy section in the previous policy was entitled employment. Additions have been made to the updated policy. These include revision of areas of employment to make the areas more productive. An important aspect of this policy is the promotion of tourism.

32

Policy	Policy Assessment Summary
	Although mentioned in the previous policy, it is expanded in S6b.
	The built environment part of this policy has not been updated. The previous policy was considered to be adequate for the area and therefore no additions were needed.
	The Natural Environment section remains unchanged as it is considered to be sufficient for the area and of an adequate level of sustainability.
	Community Infrastructure and Transport has remained largely unchanged. The only additions are to support the improvements of leisure facilities and to develop a sustainable future for the Wave centre. These can be considered sustainable additions in terms of both social and economic effects.
	The updates and additions to this policy are considered to be the most sustainable options. The policy as a whole, including those sections which have not changed, have been assessed in terms of sustainability for this SA and the results are summarised below.
	The policy supports most of the sustainability objectives; however there are potential conflicts between improving access to the countryside and the potential impact that increased access may have on biodiversity and the integrity of designated sites.
	The objectives are generally supported by beneficial effects and so the policy can be considered beneficial to the sustainability of Allerdale.
S6c	The Cockermouth area based strategy supports the sustainability objectives in terms of guiding new development within the town and its environs.
	This area based policy, instead of covering a single aspect of development, covers all aspects of development within the Cockermouth area. This policy has been updated since the sustainability appraisal was performed on previous document. S6c (Cockermouth area based policy) has been modified with regards to housing in that the most recent policy now gives specific targets for development in Allerdale. 10% of the overall housing growth in the area will be located in Cockermouth where as in the previous policy it was only stated that new housing would be encouraged. The council will also aim to provide 40% affordable housing within Cockermouth. These targets have been calculated by the ABC and are considered to be the most sustainable.
	The economic section of this policy has been updated from the previous policy. All points outlined in the previous policy have been retained however there are several additions. These include revision of shop frontages to encourage and promote leisure and culture. In addition the council will aim to support and promote festivals to draw visitors to the area. These additions are assessed in terms of sustainability in this SA (assessment tables appendix G).
	The built environment section has been updated to continue conservation and enhancement of the town's architectural assets. It also includes a point to promote development in accordance with the Cockermouth Design Guide.
	The natural environment section has remained largely the same as in the previous policy, however has had a point added to it. This is to pay reference to the landscape character of the area with particular reference to the Lake District National Park.
	The community infrastructure and transport section includes two points from the previous policy with one addition describing the aim to introduce new broadband in to the area.
	The updates and additions to this policy are considered to be the most sustainable options. The policy as a whole, including those sections which have not changed, have been assessed in terms of sustainability for this SA and the results are summarised below.
	The policy ensures that the most appropriate type and mix of housing, particularly

Policy	Policy Assessment Summary
	addressing the issue of affordability in the town, and also ensures that the most appropriate types of economic development are promoted within the town. The high quality environment within and adjacent to the town will be protected by national policy. The area based policy for Cockermouth supports these at a local level, providing extra support, and opportunities for identifying enhancements. The policy supports the objectives providing the majority of them with beneficial effects making the policy beneficial for sustainability in general.
S6d	The policy regarding Wigton outlines the housing provisions to be made in the town. This area based policy, instead of covering a single aspect of development, covers all aspects of development within the Wigton area. This policy has been updated since the sustainability appraisal was performed on previous document. S6d (Wigton area based policy) has been modified with regards to housing in that the most recent policy now gives specific targets for development in Allerdale. 10% of the overall housing growth in the area will be located in Wigton where as in the previous policy it was only stated that new housing would be encouraged. The council will also aim to provide 20% affordable housing within Wigton. These targets have been calculated by the ABC and are considered to be the most sustainable. A new section has been added to the new S6d policy entitled Cross Boundary issues. This section details the requirements for new residents in parishes which adjoin the national park. The economic section of this policy has been updated from the previous policy. Most points outlined in the previous policy have been retained however there are additions. These include support of the production of area and town centre plans to improve prospects of the area as well as encouraging appropriate levels of growth. The built environment section has been updated to recognise the importance of the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site. The previous two policy points have been preserved in the new policy. The natural environment section has been updated. The new policy now includes reference to SSIs and Natura 2000 sites. It also aims to support the development of the Cumbrian Coastal Access project which aims to improve public access to the Cumbrian coast. The Community Infrastructure and Transport section has been slightly modified as some of the points have been combined and expanded. S6d does not mention the proposed Wigton Eastern Bypass which was mentioned in the previous policy. Instead the transport measures in the updated policy are for alleviating congestion in the town centre. The updates and additions to this policy are considered to be the most sustainable options. The policy as a whole, including those sections which have not changed, have been assessed in terms of sustainability for this SA and the results are summarised below. It is apparent that the housing provision will address the identified needs of the town in terms of type and mix of housing and economic development, services and facilities to support the continued vibrancy of the town whilst ensuring that new development is in-keeping with the scale and character of the current town. The policy ensures that development in the more rural areas is enabled where there is an identified need but that it is undertaken within the existing scale and character of the settlements. A minor adverse effect of this policy is the loss of land and soil-sealing through new infrastructure. This is not considered to majorly adversely affect the natural environment. The assessment of this policy showed that the objectives, in general, are met with beneficial

Deleted: World Heritage Site

Deleted: (WHS)

34

Policy	Policy Assessment Summary
	effects, making this area based policy beneficial over all.
S6e	The Silloth area based strategy states that only 3% of the overall housing growth in Allerdale will take place in the Silloth area and that the economy of the area will be boosted by promoting Silloth as a tourist destination. This area based policy, instead of covering a single aspect of development, covers all aspects of development within the Silloth area. This policy has been updated since the sustainability appraisal was performed on previous document. S6e (Silloth area based policy) has been modified with regards to housing in that the most recent policy now gives specific targets for development in Allerdale. 3% of the overall housing growth in the area will be located in Silloth where as in the previous policy it was only stated that new housing would be encouraged. The council will also aim to provide 20% affordable housing within Silloth. These targets have been calculated by the ABC and are considered to be the most sustainable. This policy also encourages the provision of housing for the older generation and people with special needs which supports social sustainability. The economic section of this policy has been updated from the previous policy. Most points outlined in the previous policy have been retained however there is an addition. This is to recognise and promote Silloth as a tourist destination for outdoor recreation such as golf, walking, cycling and horse riding as well as a major service centre for visitors of the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site. The natural environment section has been updated. The new policy now includes reference to Natura 2000 sites. It also aims to support the development of the Cumbrian Coastal Access project which aims to improve public access to the Cumbrian coast. The updates and additions to this policy are considered to be the most sustainable options. The policy as a whole, including those sections which have not changed, have been assessed in terms of sustainability for this SA and the results are summarised below. This policy strongly supports housing objectives; however it is less supportive of natural environment objectives such as enhancing biodiversity. There is a minor negative effect to the improvement of air quality and reduction of greenhouse gases objective caused by this policy due to an increase in population. The policy supports the objectives providing the majority of them with beneficial effects making the policy beneficial for sustainability in general.
S6f	The area based policy for Aspatria outlines the strategy for housing, economy, built environment, natural environment and transport and infrastructure. This area based policy, instead of covering a single aspect of development, covers all aspects of development within the Aspatria area. This policy has been updated since the sustainability appraisal was performed on previous document. S6f (Aspatria area based policy) has been modified with regards to housing in that the most recent policy now gives specific targets for development in Allerdale. 4% of the overall housing growth in the area will be located in Aspatria where as in the previous policy it was only stated that new housing would be encouraged. The council will also aim to provide 20% affordable housing within Aspatria. These targets have been calculated by the ABC and are considered to be the most sustainable. The economic section of this policy has been updated from the previous policy. Most points outlined in the previous policy have been retained however there are additions These include the development of superfast broadband in the area which will greatly benefit the

Deleted: WHS

Policy	Policy Assessment Summary
	communication in the Borough and supporting the economic sustainability of Aspatria. This policy also aims to promote Aspatria for outdoor recreation such as walking, cycling and horse riding. This will increase employment in the area and also bring in visitors from other parts of the country. This is also thought to be beneficial to the economic sustainability of this policy.
	The built environment section of this policy has also been updated to support and promote the conservation of the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site and to support the production of an Aspatria Action Plan to bring derelict buildings back in to use. These changes to the policy will be beneficial both to the built environment and indirectly to the economy as they will cause more visitors from outside the Borough to visit.
	The natural environment section has been updated. The new policy now includes reference to Natura 2000 sites.
	The community infrastructure and transport section of this policy has also been updated to include support of local community facilities such as village halls pubs and local shops. Like the previous additions to this policy, this is considered to be beneficial to the sustainability of the area in terms of both social and economic effects.
	The updates and additions to this policy are considered to be the most sustainable options. The policy as a whole, including those sections which have not changed, have been assessed in terms of sustainability for this SA and the results are summarised below.
	This policy causes a potentially adverse effect on landscape, water quality and land and soil protection as the policy will be encouraging new developments which will take up land, cause water management issues and potentially detrimentally affect the landscape.
	However, as there are many more beneficial effects than adverse ones and the beneficial outweigh the adverse, the policy, in general, is considered beneficial for sustainability.

Deleted: WHS

36

4.2 Housing Policies

The housing policies set out the approach to future housing development in terms of mix and types of housing and rural housing issues. The policies under this topic area are:

- S7: A mixed and Balanced Housing Market;

- S8: Affordable Housing;

- S9: Rural Exceptions Sites;

- S10: Elderly Needs Housing; and

- S11: Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Sites.

The summary of the assessment of these policies is provided in Table 4.2.

Table 4.2   Housing Policy Summary Results

Policy	Policy Assessment Summary
S7	Through this policy the Council aims to promote sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities through improving the balance of housing in the area and meeting the community needs. This policy is absorbs parts of three preferred options from the Allerdale Core strategy document which was subjected to an SA. These previous policies are: a balanced housing market, housing mix and housing renewal. It is backed up later in this updated policy document in policy DM1: Housing Renewal and Empty Properties. This policy is made up of sustainable options from the previous document which took alternative scenarios in to account. These preferred options can been seen in appendix D where the choice of these options is justified with regards to other policies and the local plan objectives included in table 3.1. This policy supports many of the sustainability objectives set out in Table 3.1. Through this policy, the Council aims to support the production of affordable housing, which will be built to Lifetime Homes Standard ensuring a high environmental quality of these units. The majority of the objectives are benefitted by this policy. Other objectives are not significantly affected as the policy does not relate to several of them. Therefore it is considered that the policy is beneficial to sustainability.
S8	This policy supports the sustainability objectives by aiming to promote sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities. This policy is updated from a previous housing policy also entitled Affordable Housing. It is a more flexible policy which allows for a greater range of developments than the previous policy. The percentage growth to be allocated in Cockermouth remains the same as this has been considered appropriate by ABC. Unlike in the previous policy where each town is given its own specific proportion of affordable housing, the new policy simply states that developments of more than 5 dwellings (or >0.12ha) will be required to provide 25%

Policy	Policy Assessment Summary
	affordable housing. The final section of this policy states that if the circumstances of the development do not lend themselves to meeting this affordable housing portion, it will be up to the developer to adequately demonstrate this. Unlike in the previous policy, this allows for more flexibility with regards to developments. Particular strengths were the beneficial effects of considering the different areas and needs across the Borough in terms of targets and thresholds for affordable housing rather than taking the approach of a single target or threshold to be applied across the whole area. This ensures that the very specific and differing needs of the different areas within Allerdale are fully taken into account in decision making. All objectives, with the exception of SP1 which is not relevant to the policy, are benefitted either directly or indirectly as a result of this policy. This means the policy is considered beneficial to sustainability in Allerdale.
S9	This policy outlines criteria for rural exceptions sites, within the Borough, to be made. This policy remains largely unchanged from the previous policy as it performed well in the previous sustainability appraisal. There is however a removal of part of a criterion. In the preferred option (previous policy) it is stated that the applicant will be legally required to reserve and control occupancy for people in housing needs with specified local connections. This is no longer present in the updated policy meaning that now the applicant will not have responsibility for people with a local connection. An addition that has been made to this policy is that there are some circumstances in which a small proportion of open market housing will be allowed in these rural exception sites. This will only occur where it can be shown that there will be a significant proportion of affordable housing in the development. As exception sites are likely to be rural, there will be an increase in travel from these areas to local centres, which will likely be via cars. Therefore this policy causes an indirect minor adverse effect. The policy performed well against the sustainability objectives. The areas of strong performance were particularly linked to the provision of decent and affordable homes and the supporting of the vibrancy of communities. Affordability is a key issue across the Borough including in the rural areas, and this policy permits affordable housing in those areas outside of the more formal Local Plan policies. The policy is considered beneficial for sustainability.
S10	This policy is designed to give support to the elderly and dependent community. It will allow people to remain independent and give them a greater choice in dwelling. This policy is based on the previous policy (preferred option). As the previous policy performed well in the last sustainability appraisal, the new policy contains several of its points. S10 has been updated to contain the criteria which must be met in order for self contained annex proposals to be accepted. It goes on to clarify that the Council may use planning conditions to limit the use of such developments. The updates to this policy have improved its sustainability. It supports many of the social sustainability objectives but has no significant effect on the environmental, natural resource and economic objectives. It will allow for new

Policy	Policy Assessment Summary
	developments and will encourage high standards of building through the Lifetime Homes Standards. The policy supports the objectives providing the majority of them with beneficial effects making the policy beneficial for sustainability.
S11	This is a criteria based policy to address the requirements for gypsy, traveller and travelling showpeople sites. Although the preferred option for this policy from the previous document performed well in terms of sustainability, it has been updated in an effort to improve its sustainability performance. An additional criterion for potential Gypsy/traveller sites has been added which intimates that the scale of the potential site should be in keeping with the local context and nearest community. The policy has also been updated from: minimising loss of important trees and biodiversity to a more specific mention of Natura 2000 sites, biodiversity, geodiversity and historic assets. This update has made the policy more sustainable in terms of the natural environment and natural resources as it gives a clearer outline as to what should be considered in the allocation of new traveller sites. The policy is strong in terms of provision of a decent homes and ensuring good access to services and facilities. It supports many of the objectives with beneficial effects. The improvements from the preferred option in this policy include more beneficial effects for the natural environment and for natural resources objectives. The policy is beneficial for sustainability in the area.

4.3 Economy Policies

The economic policies set out the overarching policy framework for economic development in the Borough covering issues such as location of employment land, the rural economy and tourism. The policies under this topic area are:

- S12: Land and Premises;

- S13: Energy Coast Innovation Zone;

- S14: Rural Economy;

- S15: Education and Skills;

- S16: Town Centres and Retail;

- S17: Tourism, Coastal and Countryside Recreation;

- S18: Derwent Forest;

- S19: Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Technologies; and

- S20: Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects.

The summary of the assessment of these policies is provided in table 4.3

Table 4.3 Economy Policy Summary Results

Policy	Policy Assessment Summary
S12	This policy aims to protect existing employment and increase as well as diversify employment in the future by taking into account the needs of the area. This policy includes sections from preferred options for policies in the previous document (EC1 Location of Employment Land and Employment Allocations). The preferred option EC1 was split in to different sections for specific areas of the borough. The new policy has been simplified in that now it is an overarching policy all points of which cover the whole area. It is considered that making the policy less specific is beneficial to its sustainability as it will allow the council to take changes in national policy and economics in to account when considering new developments. The results of this SA are summarised below. It supports several environmental objectives by encouraging improvements to existing buildings and sites rather than the development of new ones. This policy also provides a beneficial effect in terms of employment allocations prior to future plan development in terms of the Employment Land Allocation DPD. The policy is considered to be beneficial in terms of sustainability as it provides beneficial effects for the sustainability objectives.

Policy	Policy Assessment Summary
S13	This policy outlines the Council's plans for supporting Cumbria's Energy Coast Innovation Zone. These include improving local infrastructure such as energy, communication and transport as well as improving the housing stock. The council also intends to support tourism development of Allerdales historic ports.

This policy uses aspects from the preferred option EC2 from the previous document. This policy contains a list of ways in which the council will support economic opportunities in the Energy Coast Innovation Zone. These points aid in the economic and social sustainability of this policy as they encourage employment in and the development of education and skills opportunities. The policy has specific aims for both the Lillyhall Estate and the Port of Workington. The aim for Lillyhall is for it to make a key contribution to the employment of West Cumbria with emphasis on integration on industry, commerce, education and training. Also included in this section of the policy is a list of points which will be focused on to make Lillyhall a key employment centre. It is considered that these points are very sustainable for both the economic, environmental and the social aspect of the policy as they not only promote industry and employment, but also training, education, reuse of existing sites and improvement to green infrastructure, In this policy the aim is to promote the Port of Workington as a key strategic gateway and economic driver for West Cumbria. The council intends to work with partners to improve the infrastructure in the area to make this possible. This is also considered to be beneficial to sustainability. The results of the SA performed on this policy as part of this report is summarised below.

This policy strongly supports many of the sustainability objectives stated in Table 3.1, particularly the economic objectives such as preserving employment as well as improving skills and education.

The policy is considered beneficial for sustainability. |
| S14 | This policy aims to protect the countryside whilst supporting the economic prosperity, sustainability, diversification and growth of rural communities.

This policy is based upon the preferred option (Rural Economy and Enterprise) from the previous document. The present policy has been modified however it still retains several of the key points made in the preferred option such as the provision of small employment units and the combination of small flexible business and residential spaces in to a single unit. The criteria for new buildings for business uses in rural areas has been clarified and specified. This modification has made the policy more sustainable in relation to the built environment as it means it will encourage reuse of rural buildings. The section of the policy concerning expansion of existing rural businesses has remained largely unchanged as the preferred option, from which it was derived, performed well in terms of sustainability during the previous sustainability appraisal. The farm diversification section of the policy has also been updated to perform better in terms of sustainability. It now has two criteria which show the types of proposals for farm diversification which the Council will support. The changes that have been made are believed to increase sustainability over the preferred option. S14 as a whole has been assessed again in terms of sustainability. The results of which are outlined below.

This policy performs strongly as it is considered to have beneficial effects when judged |

Policy	Policy Assessment Summary
	against the majority of the stated sustainability objectives. The only objective which is not benefitted by this policy concerns the improvement of air quality. This objective is not considered to be significantly affected.
	This policy is considered beneficial for sustainability.
S15	This policy gives a range of strong beneficial effects related to improvement of education and skills in the Borough, and the related benefits of increased access to educational facilities and beneficial elements related to the economy.
	This policy has been modified from the preferred option (education and skills) from the previous document. The ways in which the Council will be encouraging and promoting education and skills in the area have been changed to make the policy more sustainable. One of the criterions has been changed to include the cooperation of partners with the Council to plan for the provision of schools in the correct locations. The preferred option performed well in terms of sustainability during the previous SA. Due to its high sustainability there was little need for drastic modifications and so it is largely unchanged from the preferred option. However it has been reassessed in this investigation, the results of which are summarised below.
	This policy indirectly supports the objective to improve the health and well being of the residents of Allerdale Borough as well as strongly supporting the objective to provide and protect jobs in the future.
	The policy provides many of the objectives with beneficial effects making the policy beneficial on the whole.
S16	The Council's policy on town centres and retail strongly supports the sustainability objectives.
	This policy is based on the preferred option from the previous document. It has been slightly modified in the specifics which makes it more sustainable. A point from the preferred option has not been used in this policy. This is to support the preservation of town centre boundaries and frontages. This is not, however, considered to have a detrimental effect on the built environment.
	This policy includes a clearer justification of the hierarchy of retail centres which will allow applicants to aim their proposals appropriately. S16 is also more flexible with regards location for proposals outside the existing centres. This gives the Council the ability to decide on each proposal considering its individual merit, improving the economy of the area whilst not deleteriously affecting the character of the area.
	The Council has modified a point from the preferred option so that they now only state that they will encourage evening economy proposals in the town centres. They have also added that proposals should not have a harmful effect on the amenity of residents in the area. This change to the policy from the previous document is considered to have made the policy perform better in terms of sustainability. The reassessment of this policy in terms of sustainability is summarised below.
	The policy's strengths in particular are the encouragement that the Council will provide for town centre viability and the support that they will provide to the local economy in terms of

Policy	Policy Assessment Summary
	encouraging investment and diversification, protection and growth of employment opportunities and improving access to employment opportunities. This policy strongly supports many of the sustainability objectives. The objectives are met with beneficial effects and therefore the policy is considered to be beneficial.
S17	This policy encourages tourism in areas where it does not have an adverse affect on the character of the area or the environment. This policy is based on the preferred option from the previous document but is more focused on tourism rather than tourism and leisure. It has absorbed aspects of other preferred options including DM EC19 – Holiday Accommodation, DM EC20 – Provision of Camping, Caravan and Chalet Development and DM EC21 – Change of Use/Loss of Tourism Facility. The new policy offers support to proposals which will aid in relieving tourism pressures on sensitive areas. This is a beneficial to sustainability in the area as it will potentially help defend the area against detrimental effects of tourism. S17 also now states that new static caravan site proposals will be strongly resisted within the Solway Coast AONB and other proposals for tourist accommodation outside the new extended criteria, included in this policy, will be refused. Another addition to this policy is that the loss or change of use of tourism businesses will be discouraged and proposals of this nature will only be granted permission if the business is shown to no-longer fit for purpose or financially viable. This policy, including the absorption of aspects from other preferred options have been assessed in terms of sustainability. The results of this assessment are summarised below. This policy directly and indirectly supports many of the sustainability objectives. The Council will support the sustainable growth of tourism and recreation with an aim to boost the economic success of the area. The beneficial effects of the policy on the objectives make this policy beneficial for sustainability.
S18	This is the Council's policy regarding development within Derwent Forest. It ensures that the social, economic and environmental issues are fully considered and maximised. This policy describes the council's views on the development of Derwent Forest. It is based on the preferred option described in the previous document and has been updated to improve its sustainability. The council has added several development types, to the existing list, which it will support in the area. These include the following: a festival site, required residences, an eco-hamlet, small scale employment and infrastructure. These additions have made the policy more sustainable. In addition to these amendments this policy now includes a list of criteria for other proposals. These criteria are for the benefit of applicants and will also ensure that any additional developments which do take place within Derwent Forest will have limited detrimental effects

43

Policy	Policy Assessment Summary
	on the area and are more likely to be positive. As this policy has changed relatively little from the preferred option, which performed well in the previous SA, however it has been reassessed in this SA and the results are summarised below. This policy benefits all social objectives, including the support of local educational institutions. The policy strongly supports the sustainability objectives with mainly beneficial effects. The policy is considered to be beneficial for sustainability.
S19	This policy outlines the Council's aims to promote renewable and low carbon technologies. This policy is closely modelled on the preferred option from the previous document. In this policy the Council is more supportive of renewable energy and low carbon technologies compared to the preferred option. For example instead of simply providing the criteria against which proposals will be considered this policy now states the what will be looked upon favourably. This modification to the policy could be considered positive as it will allow the applicants to adjust their proposals accordingly and aim towards sustainable developments. The Council will also use planning obligations to ensure that mitigation which may be needed to reduce negative effects of proposals can be implemented. The policy has been subjected a sustainability assessment, the results of which are summarised below. The provision of decent homes and improvements to the built environment are not considered relevant to this policy; however the economic objectives are all strongly benefited by it. As a result of the support of the sustainability objectives, this policy is considered to be beneficial to the sustainability in this area.
S20	This is a Policy to ensure a proactive and transparent process for the development of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs). This policy is similar to the preferred option from the previous document. The only changes which have been made are alterations to the wording and the formatting. It is not considered that the meaning of the policy has significantly changed and therefore it should still perform well in terms of sustainability. The results of this sustainability assessment are summarised below. The policy supports all of the economic sustainability objectives as it encourages economic growth in the area. As such it also supports several of the social objectives. The beneficial effects of the policy on the objectives make this policy generally beneficial for sustainability.

4.4 Sustainable Communities and Infrastructure Policies

The sustainable communities and infrastructure policies set out the framework for the future development of the Borough, including the overarching transport principles and strategic infrastructure. The policies under this topic area are:

- S21: Developer Contributions;

- S22: Transport Principles;

- S23: Supporting and Safeguarding Strategic Infrastructure;

- S24: Green Infrastructure;

- S25: Sports, Leisure and Open Space; and

- S26: Community and Rural Services.

The summary of the assessment of these policies is provided in Table 4.4

> **Deleted: Error! Reference source not found.**.

Table 4.4   Sustainable Communities and Infrastructure Policy Summary

Policy	Policy Assessment Summary
S21	This policy indicates that the developers will be expected to contribute to the area through a number of different infrastructures, facilities and services. This policy is based upon the preferred option (S4) from the previous document. It has been changed very little from the previous option as that option performed well in terms of sustainability. The only change is to a "non exhaustive" list, which by the very nature of a "non exhaustive" list is only considered to be a minor change to this policy. Therefore the performance of this policy against the Councils sustainability objectives is considered to be unchanged. A summary of how this policy performed in this sustainability assessment can be seen bellow. This policy includes a non exhaustive list of contributions future developers will be requested to make to the local the community as part of future developments. The policy has no significant effect on the objectives detailing the protection of land or on improving the built environment. On the whole, the policy is very supportive of the sustainability objectives and is considered beneficial for sustainability in Allerdale.
S22	This policy ensures that new developments should be located for easy access to public transport and reduced journey times it also includes criteria for new developments. This policy is similar to the preferred option for this policy in the previous document. S22 now includes a list of requirements for new developments. It has been noted that although the policy mentions accessibility principles; these are not included in the policy which seems to be an oversight.

Policy	Policy Assessment Summary
	The criteria set out in this policy for new developments is considered beneficial to the sustainability of the policy as it sets out the Councils position on the types of development that will be accepted. It is therefore considered that the new policy still performs well when assessed for sustainability. The summary for the sustainability assessment is included below. This policy supports all objectives set out in Table 3.1 except for improving water quality and water resources on which it will have no significant effect. It also supports all the relevant sustainability objectives. The objectives are met with beneficial effects and therefore the policy is considered to be beneficial.
S23	The Council will seek to support the improvements set out in the Local Transport Plan. This policy is based on the preferred option (TR2) from the previous document. The wording has changed slightly however the meaning of the policy is considered to be very similar to the preferred option. One of the modifications made to this policy is the inclusion of two aims for the Council. These include the following: supporting the establishment of viable transport hubs across the plan area and to protect sites for important infrastructure when these become available. The preferred option performed well in the previous sustainability assessment. The modifications made to this policy are considered to improve its performance against the Councils Sustainability objectives. In general this policy supports the sustainability objectives, however, it causes potential adverse effects on biodiversity and soil protection through the provision of new facilities in edge of town areas in Workington and Maryport, especially if greenfield land is used, resulting in land take and soil sealing. In general, the policy performs well with the objectives. The policy is beneficial as the majority of the objectives are benefitted.
S24	This policy provides an overarching Green Infrastructure (GI) policy. This policy is based on the preferred option (NE1) from the previous document. The wording of the introductory paragraph has changed slightly however the meaning of the policy is considered to be very similar to the preferred option. The preferred option in the previous document performed well in terms of sustainability and therefore it was not considered necessary to make major modifications. One of the changes made to this policy is the inclusion of an aim for the Council and its partners. This was to support key specific projects which contribute significantly to the green infrastructure network in the area. This addition is considered to be beneficial to the sustainability of the policy as it means that developments in the area will benefit green infrastructure which is considered to be beneficial. The modifications made to this policy are considered to improve its performance against the Councils Sustainability objectives. There is the potential for this policy to have both adverse and beneficial effects. It would enable new development to be planned sympathetically with GI provision; especially on the basis that 'decent home' includes appropriate GI setting and service provision. There may be

Policy	Policy Assessment Summary
	some conflicts between GI needs and housing need in specific areas. Due to the predominance of beneficial effects this policy is considered to be beneficial for sustainability.
S25	This policy aims to support both formal and informal sporting activities in the area through this policy. This policy is based on the preferred option (DM BE17) from the previous document. It has been modified from the preferred option which performed well in the previous SA. Preferred option DM BE17 was concerned with the amount of open space provision developments are required to provide. The new policy also concerns open space however it also contains points regarding sporting facilities, both indoor and outdoor. This addition improves the social sustainability of the policy. In addition to stating that developments must contribute to sports and recreation facilities, this policy also suggests that these facilities should be situated in sustainable locations in accordance with town centre policies. This means that access to these facilities should be relatively easy which improves the social sustainability of the policy. It is considered that the modifications to this policy from the preferred option have improved its sustainability. The results of this SA are summarised below. This policy supports the social sustainability objectives except for improving skills and education which it has no significant effect on. The objectives are met with beneficial effects and therefore the policy is considered to be beneficial.
S26	This policy ensures that where community facilities can show that they will enhance the sustainability of the area, they will be supported by the Council. This policy is based on the preferred option (DM EC15) from the previous document. It has been modified slightly from this to get to the updated policy assessed in this SA. The preferred option performed well in the previous SA and so it was judged by the Council that little modification was needed to make the policy more sustainable. The main change that has been made in the creation of this policy is the removal of all marketing process requirements. This removal of requirements is not thought to have a deleterious effect on the sustainability of the policy as a whole. The results of the SA performed on this policy are summarised below. This policy supports all of the social and economic objectives and does not significantly affect the environmental and natural resources objectives. The objectives are met with beneficial effects and therefore the policy is considered to be beneficial.

4.5 Built Environment and Historic Environment Policies

The built environment and historic environment policies set out the approach to be taken in terms of design, the historic environment, pollution and flood resilience. The policies under this topic area are:

- S27: Heritage Assets;

- S28: Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site;

- S29: Flood Risk and Surface Water Drainage;

- S30: Reuse of Land;

- S31: Reuse of Rural Buildings and Replacement of Dwellings in the Countryside; and

- S32: Safeguarding Amenity.

The summary of the assessment of these policies is provided in Table 4.5.

Table 4.5   Built Environment Policy Summary Results

Policy	Policy Assessment Summary
S27	This policy states that historic environments will be preserved according to their importance. This policy is based on the preferred options (BE7, DM BE28, DM BE29, DM BE30, DM BE31 and DM BE32) from the previous document which performed well in terms of sustainability in the previous SA. It has been modified from that option in an attempt to make it more sustainable and advantageous to Allerdale Borough. In the preferred option the Council gave a list of aims which would help them ensure protection of assets and character in the area. This list has been highly modified in the policy. It is thought that this modification will make the policy perform better in terms of sustainability. Some key points which are made in the updated policy which are thought to be beneficial to the sustainability of the policy include: Protection of assets according to significant, developments which affect archaeological remains will not be allowed without appropriate mitigation and the addition of "adding the building to the National Buildings at Risk Register" These points are thought to be beneficial to the sustainability of the area. The policy has also retained several of the key points made in the preferred options. For example proposals which involve the demolition of listed buildings will not be allowed where there is evidence of intentional damage or neglect. The summary of the sustainability assessment of this policy is included below. This policy strongly supports the objective to promote a sense of local history. Many of the objectives are not significantly affected by this policy however the policy is generally supportive of the objectives. The policy is considered to be beneficial.
S28	This policy contains the criteria to protect the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site, its setting and buffer zone from inappropriate development.

48

Deleted: World Heritage Site

Deleted: Error! Reference source not found..

Deleted: World Heritage Site

Deleted: (WHS)

Policy	Policy Assessment Summary
	This policy has taken points from preferred options including (DM BE32) from the previous document. It is however a specific policy concerning the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site The policy consists of key points affecting developments within different ranges of the World Heritage Site including: within the Hadrian's Wall site, within the buffer zone and outside the buffer zone.
	In general the policy supports proposals which will promote the World Heritage Site which will improve the sustainability of both economic and historical environment in the area. It also states that significant developments within the site and the buffer zone must be subject to a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to ensure the impacts and implications for the longer term are evaluated in full.
	The preferred option that this policy is loosely based on performed well in the previous SA, however as the policy has changed significantly it is thought that this will have an effect on its sustainability. The results from this SA are summarised below.
	This policy strongly supports the environmental and economic sustainability objectives providing them with beneficial effects. It also provides the potential for indirect beneficial effects for the natural resources objectives through the limitation of development in the World Heritage Site.
	Due to the majority beneficial effects caused by this policy, it is considered to be beneficial to the borough.
S29	This policy outlines the Council's intent to resist plans to build in areas likely to suffer from flooding.
	This policy has been produced by taking key points from the following preferred options: DM BE25, DM BE26 and DM BE27 which all concern water management and flood risk. The preferred options from the previous document performed well in the last SA. The updated policy has therefore taken many of the key points from these to make one over arching policy concerning flood risk and surface water drainage. As in the preferred option DM BE25 the new policy aims to resist developments in areas of high flood risk potential. However the new policy does not outline the requirements that new development proposals must adhere to, such as soft landscaping, with regards to areas of differing flood risks. The policy does state that proposed developments must be fully compliant with the NPPF (technical guidance) or subsequent guidance. This means that developments must adhere to up to date guidance and will therefore be beneficial to the sustainability of the policy. New developments, as per this policy, are required to incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in preference to using the infrastructure already in place. This will alleviate negative effects that new developments may have on the existing drainage and sewage systems in the area and will help improve the sustainability of the Borough.
	This policy promotes resilient construction methods however it may be too restrictive and prevent some new developments from being built due to financial requirements. The policy does not support the objective to diversify and strengthen the local economy as it may make new developments economically unviable.
	This policy does however benefit all environmental protection objectives as well as supporting the protection of land and soil and improvement of water resources.
	On balance when comparing the significance of the beneficial effects compared to the

Deleted: World Heritage Site

Deleted: (WHS)

Deleted: WHS

Deleted: WHS

Deleted: WHS

49

Policy	Policy Assessment Summary
	potential for adverse effects, this policy is considered to be beneficial for sustainability.
S30	Through this policy the Council will be in favour of reusing previously developed sites. This policy is based on the two preferred options BE2 and DM BE23 both of which cover the reuse of land. The preferred options on which this policy is based performed well in the previous SA. This policy is made up of two sections: previously developed land (brownfield) and Contaminated and unstable land. Both sections are taken (slightly modified in wording) from BE2. As the policy is made up of preferred options which performed well in the last SA it is considered that the combination of these will make this policy to perform well in this SA. The results of this are summarised below. Any contaminated or unstable sites must be assessed by an adequately qualified person. This policy performs very well in relation to the objectives set out in table 3.1 supporting all relevant objectives. The policy is very supportive of the sustainability objectives and is considered beneficial for sustainability in Allerdale.
S31	This policy outlines the Council's intent to encourage projects which will reuse buildings instead of demolishing them and building new ones. This policy is based on the preferred option (BE3) from the previous document. S31 includes many of the key points from this preferred option which performed well in the previous SA. It is therefore assumed that these points, though slightly modified, will still perform well. This policy has an additional section: Replacement Dwellings in the Countryside. This section details the requirements for developments which replace existing buildings and only allows proposals which are in line with national policy and where they do not substantially alter from the existing buildings footprint. This policy has been assessed in terms of its sustainability and the results of this are summarised below. All sustainability objectives are supported through this policy. The effects on the objectives range between potential indirect benefits for economic objectives to major direct benefits to natural resource objectives. This policy is very supportive of the sustainability objectives and is considered beneficial for sustainability in Allerdale.

Policy	Policy Assessment Summary
S32	This policy implies the Council will support proposals which will improve or maintain the quality of the area with S32. This policy is based on the preferred option (DM BE7) from the previous document. All key points from this option are included in the modified policy. As such performs well in respect to the Councils sustainability objectives. The policy has been subject to another SA, the results of which are summarised below. The policy strongly supports all protection of the environment objectives giving examples of specific potential problems this policy aims to reduce. The policy is considered to be beneficial.

4.6 Environment Policies

The environment policies set out the policy approach for the natural environment of Allerdale, including landscape and biodiversity. The policies under this topic area are:

- S33: Landscape;

- S34: Development in the Solway Coast AONB;

- S35: Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity and Geodiversity;

- S36: Air, Water and Soil Quality; and

- S37: Shoreline Management and Coastal Development.

The summary of the assessment of these policies is provided in Table 4.6.

<div style="border:1px solid red">Deleted: Error! Reference source not found.</div>

Table 4.6   Environment Policy Summary Results

Policy	Policy Assessment Summary
S33	This policy states that the Council aims to protect and conserve the landscape character of the area and will support proposals which remove or reduce detrimental Landscape features. The council will require a Landscape Character Assessments for all projects which they consider to impact upon the landscape, particularly within sensitive areas. This policy is based on the preferred option (NE2) from the previous document. The policy includes several of the points from the preferred option, however it has not included points mentioning the Solway Coast AONB and Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site as these are included in other polices. Another point which is no longer present in this policy is that the council will encourage proposals that enhance public access and recreation opportunities by contributing to the network of green infrastructure. When taken out of the context of the policy document and viewed on its own, this would make the policy seem less sustainable in terms of social effects. However, as the policy document should be viewed as a whole and this information has been included in other policies, it is thought that this does not detrimentally affect the sustainability of policy document. The individual performance of this policy in this sustainability assessment is summarised below. This policy strongly supports the environmental objectives and indirectly supports the natural resource objectives. The policy has relatively little effect on the social objectives and no significant effects on the economic objectives. On the whole, the policy is very supportive of the sustainability objectives and is considered beneficial for sustainability in Allerdale.

<div style="border:1px solid red">Deleted: WHS</div>

Policy	Policy Assessment Summary
S34	This policy ensures that developments must maintain or enhance the landscape and heritage of the Solway AONB. It strongly supports all environmental protection sustainability objectives. This policy is based on the preferred option (DM NE1) from the previous document. The modified policy remains very similar to the preferred option incorporating many of the key points. The key difference between S34 and the preferred option (DM NE1) is that in the preferred option the Solway Coast AONB management team, who are based in Silloth, are to be consulted regarding proposals within the AONB boundary or which impact upon its settings. Where as the new policy simply states that planning permission for major developments will be considered against national policy and resisted except in exceptional circumstances. The SA for this policy is summarised below. All social objectives are also supported both directly and indirectly. The majority of the natural resource and economic objectives are not considered to be significantly affected by this policy. However there is the potential for beneficial outcomes both directly to land and soil protection and indirectly to the protection of existing jobs. The policy provides beneficial effects and therefore it is considered to be beneficial.
S35	This policy is designed to protect and enhance (where possible) biodiversity and geodiversity assets in the Allerdale area. This policy is based on the preferred option (NE3) from the previous document which performed well in the previous SA. S35 contains most of the information from this option. This policy does not use all the points from the preferred option. A criterion no longer in this policy is: to provide an appropriate level of protection to legally protected sites and species. It has been replaced with protecting and enhancing key ecological habitats and wildlife corridors and stepping stones including watercourses and wetlands. This modification to the policy is considered to be beneficial to sustainability as it does not limit its influence to legally protected sites and species as in the preferred option. This policy also includes protection of existing ecological assets of important to the local community, character and which are of nature conservation value. The Council will refuse permission for developments which could significantly harm an irreplaceable habitat which cannot be mitigated or compensated for. This is considered to be beneficial to the sustainability of the policy. The results of this SA are summarised below. The policy has no significant effects on the economic objectives. However, it strongly supports all environmental objectives and indirectly supports all natural resource objectives. This policy performs well in terms of sustainability. The policy is considered to be beneficial as it provides beneficial effects for the sustainability objectives.
S36	This policy has been designed to protect the air, soil and water quality in the area and to pursue proposals to improve them. This policy is based on the preferred option (NE4) from the previous document which

Policy	Policy Assessment Summary
	performed well in the previous SA. S36 contains most of the information from this option. The preferred option contained a list of receptors which, if negatively impacted, would prevent developments from gaining approval. The new policy added another receptor to this list: the Water Framework Directive and status of the watercourse. This increases the reach of the policy adding extra protection to water resource assets.
	This policy aims to promote the development of low quality land in preference to high quality land. This has been updated from the preferred option which only concerned development of agricultural land.
	It is considered that both modifications to this policy have improved the sustainability of the area as they have both broadened the reach of the policy. The results of the SA are summarised below.
	This policy strongly supports all natural resource objectives whilst having no significant effects on the economic objectives. It performs well in terms of sustainability supporting most of the objectives. Those objectives not actively supported by the policy are not significantly affected.
	The policy is beneficial to the sustainability in Allerdale as it causes many beneficial effects.
S37	This policy describes how new residential buildings will not be permitted in the Coastal Change Management Area.
	This policy is the same as the preferred option (NE7) in the previous document. S37 has not changed at all from the preferred option as it was thought that it performed suitably well in the previous SA.
	S37 supports all environmental protection objectives. It also supports several relevant social objectives and most natural resource objectives. It will have no significant effect on the management of mineral resources and waste.
	This policy performs well in relation to the sustainability objectives as it provides beneficial effects for the majority of them.

4.7 Development Management Policies

The development management policies set out the specific policy approaches for the type and form of new development in the Borough, including for the residential environment of Allerdale, economic development and built and historic environment. The policies under this topic area are subdivided in to sections as follows:

Housing Development Management Policies

- DM1: Housing Renewal and Empty Properties; and

- DM2: Rural Workers Dwellings.

Economic Development Management Policies

- DM3: Protection of Employment Sites;

- DM4: Expansion and Intensification of Employment Sites;

- DM5: Farm Diversification;

- DM6: Equestrian and Agricultural Buildings;

- DM7: Town Centre Development;

- DM8: Protecting Town Centre Vitality and Viability; and

- DM9: Town Centre Frontages.

Built and Historic Development Management Policies

- DM10: Improvements to the Public Realm;

- DM11: Advertisements;

- DM12: Sustainable Construction;

- DM13: Telecommunications Development;

- DM14: Standards of Good Design;

- DM15: Extensions and Alterations to Existing Buildings and Properties;

- DM16: Sequential Test for Previously Developed Land; and

- DM17: Trees, Hedgerows and Woodland.

The summary of the assessment of these policies is provided in Table 4.7.

Table 4.7 Housing Development Management Policy Summary Results

Policy	Policy Assessment Summary
Housing Development Management Policies	
DM1	This policy describes the Councils wish to resist demolition of existing housing stock where possible and expect the potential for refurbishment and re-use to be fully explored. This policy is based upon a combination of preferred options from the previous document (HO4 and DM HO1). There is little change in this policy from the preferred options as they performed well in the previous SA. The only modification to this policy from the preferred options is that; in cases where the Council is satisfied that refurbishment is not economically viable they will allow demolishment and replacement of buildings. This is thought to be beneficial to the sustainability of the policy as it has the potential to improve the built environment by increasing the redevelopment of derelict and rundown buildings. The results of the SA performed on this policy is summarised below. This policy supports all environmental protection objectives with major benefits to the built environment. The majority of the objectives are supported however there are some, including the economical objectives, which are not considered to be significantly affected. There are no adverse affects caused by this policy to any of the stated objectives. The policy is considered to be beneficial as it provides beneficial effects for the sustainability objectives.
DM2	This policy states that new permanent dwellings will be permitted where a business has been established and profitable for 3 years and where the requirement cannot be fulfilled through existing buildings. Temporary accommodation may be permitted for a limited time. This policy is based on preferred options from the previous document (DM HO2 and HO6). There is little change in this policy from the preferred options as they performed well in the previous SA. The only modification to this policy from the preferred options is that; where the removal of occupancy condition has been justified, the council may require it to be replaced by an alternative condition to enable the dwelling to meet the local needs. This is thought to be beneficial to the sustainability of the policy as it will provide a greater number of affordable houses whilst still resisting the removal of occupancy conditions. The results of the SA performed on this policy is summarised below. This policy supports all social objectives as well as many others. It will have little effect on natural resources having only a potential indirect positive outcome for reducing greenhouse emissions. On the whole this policy is beneficial to the sustainability of the area.
Economic Development Management Policies	
DM3	This is a criteria based policy for the protection of employment sites. It performs well in terms of sustainability as it supports many social objectives as well as strongly supporting

Policy	Policy Assessment Summary
	all economic objectives. This policy is based on the preferred option DM EC2 from the previous document. It has been modified slightly in the addition of a criterion which applicants must demonstrate for redevelopment of employment sites to be accepted. Proposals must not undermine the spatial strategy of the local plan. This modification is considered to be beneficial to the sustainability of the policy as it backs up other policies in this policy document. The results of this SA for this policy are summarised below. However there is potential for an adverse effect in on "providing everyone with a decent home" as the policy will potentially hinder the provision of residential development on existing employment sites or allocated land. The policy still performs well in sustainability terms.
DM4	This policy concerns the proposals to expand existing employment sites, which will be permitted, subject to criteria on scale, amenity, traffic and policy. This policy is based on the preferred option DM EC1 from the previous document. This policy has been updated from the preferred option so that now it includes mention that adverse impacts on Natura 2000 sites and historic assets as well as those The results of this SA for this policy are summarised below. This policy strongly supports all economic objectives as it encourages the expansion of employment sites. There is the potential for this policy to benefit the built environment objective, however the other environmental protection objectives are not considered to be significantly affected. In general the sustainability of this policy is good having a large number of beneficial effects causing the policy to be beneficial overall.
DM5	This policy implies that the Council will support proposals for diversification of farming activities that are of a scale and nature appropriate to the location and accompanied by a Farm Diversification Plan. This policy is based on the preferred option (DM EC5) from the previous document. The preferred option for this policy performed well in the previous SA and therefore it is largely unchanged. The criteria in this policy have been changed slightly in that one of the criterions has been made more specific by mentioning that no unacceptable impacts on amenity, historic assets, biodiversity and geodiversity or Natura 2000 sites. This is considered to be beneficial to sustainability as it specifies different areas in which negative impacts will not be tolerated. Another addition to this policy is that developments must be of appropriate size, scale and appearance and must not be detrimental to the character of the area. This modification means that new developments should only be allowed to be built if they are sustainable in terms of the built environment. This policy has been subjected to an SA, the results of which are summarised below. The policy supports both the social and the economic objectives. There is little significant

Policy	Policy Assessment Summary
	effect on the environmental objectives and no significant effect on the natural resources objectives. The policy is broadly supportive of the sustainability objectives and therefore it is considered to be beneficial.
DM6	This policy is a criterion based policy for the permitting of equestrian and agricultural buildings in the countryside. This policy is based on the preferred option (DC EC6 and DC EC7) from the previous document. Several of the points from the preferred option have been maintained in this policy however there have been several other modifications to improve the policies relevance and sustainability. The policy now states that any development of equestrian and agricultural buildings should relate closely to existing farm or other groups of buildings where possible. Where this is not possible it should be designed in such a way that it does not impact on the landscape setting of the area. This change to the policy is thought to have made the policy more sustainable as it will decrease the negative impact on the landscape that new agricultural buildings would cause. This policy has been subject to an SA, the summary of which is included below. This policy supports the majority of the social objectives, only having no affect on the provision of decent homes as it is not relevant to this policy. There is little significant effect on the environmental and the natural resources objectives as they are not considered relevant to this policy. On the whole, the policy is very supportive of the sustainability objectives and is considered beneficial for sustainability in Allerdale.
DM7	This policy means that proposals for large scale retail must ensure appropriate provision for smaller retailers in order to protect town centre diversity and distinctiveness. This policy is based on the preferred option (DC EC8) from the previous document. Several of the points from the preferred option have been maintained in this policy however there have been several other modifications to improve the policies relevance and sustainability. This policy has been subject to an SA, the summary of which is included below. This policy strongly supports the economic objectives as it encourages small businesses. It is also considered that the policy will majorly benefit the management and preservation of the landscape character. In general this policy supports the objectives and is therefore considered sustainable and therefore beneficial for the sustainability of the area.
DM8	This policy explains that proposals for retail, leisure and commercial uses outside defined town centres will be subject to sequential test set out in PPS4 and other national policy. This policy is based on the preferred option (DC EC10 and DC EC11) from the previous document.

Policy	Policy Assessment Summary
	Several of the points from the preferred options have been maintained in this policy however there have been several other modifications to improve the policies relevance and its performance against the Councils Sustainability objectives. The preferred option contains a table of area thresholds above which proposals will require impact assessment. In the modified policy these thresholds have been increased so now an impact assessment is only needed for larger developments. This is thought to aid in economical sustainability as it improves the economic viability of development schemes in the town centres. Developments which require out of town centre sites must show the Council that this site is necessary. This addition to the policy will make it more sustainable as it will reduce the amount of out of town centre retail unless it is specifically necessary to that particular retail type. This could potentially improve the built environment and protect previously undeveloped land. This policy has been subject to an SA, the summary of which is included below. There are no significant effects on any of the environmental objectives but the policy supports all economic objectives. In particular, the policy majorly benefits the objective to create vibrant, active, inclusive and open minded communities with a strong sense of local history. The policy is supportive of the sustainability objectives and as such is beneficial to the sustainability of the area.
DM9	This policy explains that designation of primary frontages to manage the different town centre uses and protect areas where loss may impact vitality and viability. This policy is based on the preferred options (DC EC13 and DC EC14) from the previous document. Several of the points from the preferred option have been maintained in this policy however there have been several other modifications to improve the policies relevance and its performance against the Councils Sustainability objectives. The policy now includes a list of criteria that aid the Council in assessing over concentration and/or coalescence and the impact resulting from this. This modification to the policy is considered to be beneficial to the sustainability of this policy as it will allow the shop frontages to be assessed with more specific guidance. This policy has been subject to an SA, the summary of which is included below. This policy does not significantly affect many of the sustainability objectives. However the policy does support creating a vibrant and community by improving the looks of the shop frontages. It also supports improving the built environment and enhancing the landscape character. The policy performs well overall with regards to sustainability and is considered beneficial for the sustainability of the area.
Built and Historic Development Management Policies	
DM10	This policy ensures ongoing improvements to the visual, functional and inclusive quality of the public realm. This policy is based on the preferred option (DC BE21) from the previous document. The policy does not include all points from the preferred option. In the new policy

Policy	Policy Assessment Summary
	"Additionally, schemes should seek to retain, incorporate and repair any existing historic fabric and/or furniture as there will be a presumption against their removal" is no longer included. This section of the preferred option was considered to be detrimental to the sustainability of the policy. This is may be due to the possibility that the economy would be deleteriously affected by this. This policy has been subject to an SA, the summary of which is included below. This policy is considered relatively sustainable as it supports the majority of the sustainability objectives. It strongly supports all environmental objectives as well as improving the local air quality through the encouragement of green infrastructure. This policy has no significant effect on the education or skills of the area, however all other social objectives are supported. The economic objectives are not significantly affected by this policy. In general the policy is considered to be beneficial in terms of sustainability.
DM11	This policy is designed to guide advertising. Sensitively designed and appropriately located advertisements will be consented subject to impact on amenity, safety and clutter on the street scene. This policy is based on the preferred option (DC BE8) from the previous document. Several of the points from the preferred option have been maintained in this policy however, there have been several other modifications to improve the policies relevance and its performance against the Councils Sustainability objectives.. DM11 has been simplified from the preferred option. The new policy does not include criteria against which the proposed advertisements can be assessed. However it is considered that this change will allow the Council to make more sustainable decisions about acceptable advertisements. An addition to this policy is that the Council will resist advertisements which are illuminated within protected landscapes. This is thought to be beneficial to the built environment sustainability as it reduces negative impacts. This policy has been subject to an SA, the summary of which is included below. The policy will cause a potential benefit as the policy guidance will both enable necessary advertising whilst protecting communities from adverse impacts that would impact upon local identity. It also supports the diversification of the local economy as it recognises the role that advertising plays in the local economy and provides clear policy guidance for the implementation of development. Although this is a relatively specific policy, and therefore has no significant effect on many objectives, the objectives it does affect are benefited and therefore it is considered to beneficial to sustainability overall.
DM12	This is a criteria based policy to ensure that all new development mitigates against the impacts of climate change and seeks to achieve the highest levels of sustainability. This policy is based on the preferred option (DC EC10) from the previous document. This policy contains all the information from the preferred option. The only modification made to this policy is the wording in the final paragraph which is considered to make the policy easier to interpret and therefore possibly more sustainable.

Policy	Policy Assessment Summary
	This policy has been subject to an SA, the summary of which is included below. The environmental protection policies are majorly benefitted both directly and indirectly. The protection of land and soil is not considered to be affected by this policy, however the other natural resource objectives are majorly benefited as the policy is directly related to them. As this policy supports a great number of the sustainability objectives it can be considered to beneficial to sustainability.
DM13	This is a criteria based policy to control new proposals for network telecommunications development in the Allerdale area. This policy is based on the preferred option (DC BE12) from the previous document. Several of the points from the preferred option have been maintained in this policy however there have been modifications to improve the policies relevance and sustainability. DM13 has been simplified from the preferred option. This policy no longer specifies that the installation of telecommunication masts on the streets unless an operational requirement can be found. This section was not deemed necessary as it was reiterating earlier parts of the policy. This policy has been subject to an SA, the summary of which is included below. This policy will improve the residents' access to communication facilities and supports all social objectives. It also supports environmental objectives as it will ensure the limitation of developments on the landscape. There are also economic advantages as businesses will have increased connectivity. The policy is considered to beneficial to sustainability in Allerdale.
DM14	This is a criteria based policy to ensure that layout of new development creates neighbourhoods with a sense of place and that integrates and are compatible with existing development. This policy is based on a combination of the preferred options (DC BE13, DC BE15 and DC BE16) from the previous document. These preferred options all performed well in the previous SA that was performed on them. This policy combines points from all three preferred options. An addition to this policy is that the Council will seek to achieve a minimum of 30 dwelling per hectare for all new residential developments. Proposals for different densities are required to to demonstrate that it is appropriate. This policy has been subject to an SA, the summary of which is included below. The environmental protection objectives are benefited by this policy with the biodiversity and built environments benefiting majorly. No natural resource objectives are significantly affected by this policy as it is not considered relevant to them. The relevant social objectives are majorly benefitted. The policy performs well overall with regards to sustainability and is considered beneficial for the sustainability of the area.

Deleted: polcy

61

Policy	Policy Assessment Summary
DM15	This is a criteria based policy to ensure a high standard of design for proposals that involve an alteration and/or extension to existing buildings. This policy is based on the preferred option (DC BE18) from the previous document. This policy is the same as the preferred option as it was deemed suitably sustainable. It has however been subjected to another SA. This policy has been subject to an SA, the summary of which is included below. This is a very specific policy and therefore does not have a significant effect on many of the stated objectives. It is considered that the policy will cause major beneficial effects to the provision of decent homes. It will also be of minor benefit to the built environment. Due to the overriding benefits of this policy, it is considered to be sustainable.
DM16	This is a policy giving priority to previously developed sites over greenfield sites. Greenfield proposals are required to undertake sequential test to demonstrate that there are no suitable alternative sites. This policy is based on the preferred option (DC BE22) from the previous document. This policy has only changed slightly in wording from the preferred option as this option was deemed suitably sustainable. It has however been subjected to another SA. This policy has been subject to an SA, the summary of which is included below. This policy supports all environmental objectives and many others from the different areas. Due to the support that the policy gives to the objectives, it is considered to be relatively beneficial to sustainability.
DM17	This policy states that existing trees, hedgerows and woodland that are considered important, contribute positively to character and/or are of nature conservation value will be protected. This policy is based on the preferred option (DM NE3) from the previous document. Several of the points from the preferred option have been maintained in this policy however there have been modifications to improve the policies relevance and its performance against the Councils Sustainability objectives. DM17 has been simplified from the preferred option by removing the information to be included in tree surveys. This list has been replaced with the sentence: "Details required by tree surveys will be set out by the Council in a Local Validation Checklist". This is considered to be a sustainable modification to the policy as it will allow different details to be added depending on the site and trees. Another addition to this policy is that the Council will require proposals which pose significant harm to habitats to include replacement planting to maintain amenity, character and nature conservation interest. This is considered to be a benefit to the policies sustainability as it promotes the conservation of habitats. This policy has been subject to an SA, the summary of which is included below. The policy supports the environmental objectives as well as all other relevant objectives. Objectives not relating to this policy are not significantly affected by this policy and

Policy	Policy Assessment Summary
	therefore the policy as a whole is considered to perform very well in terms of sustainability. The policy as a whole is considered to be beneficial to the sustainability of the Allerdale Borough area.

5.0   Conclusions

5.1   Findings of the Sustainability Appraisal

This SA report concludes the SA process undertaken for ABC's Local Plan. The process has involved consideration of the sustainability of the options, the preferred options and now the policies. At all stages the findings of the wider evidence base work on the LDF and the responses to consultation have been taken into account. No consultation responses were received in relation to the SA at the preferred options stage and no significant changes have been made to the policies that result in significant effects in terms of sustainability.

The SA process that has been undertaken on the Local Plan policies, generally illustrates that the policies provide a sustainable approach to future development in the Borough. This does not necessarily mean that they all result in positive effects across the board, but in considering the overall approach they present sustainable solutions.

The Local Plan policies meet the range of sustainability objectives identified in the SA Framework to a large extent. The Local Plan policies are considered to offer potentially significant positive effects on environmental, social and economic objectives.

Where adverse impacts were identified in the previous assessment, amendments to the policies have been built into those policies where potential issues relating to design and implementation have previously identified potential risks.

Amendments made to the policies as a result of the previous SA and the consultation on the Core Strategy have been reassessed in order to ensure that amendments do not have an adverse sustainability impact that had not previously been identified.

As a result of changes made to the policies due to previous appraisals; there have been no significant adverse effects identified during the process of this SA. This policy document, on balance, is considered to be beneficial to the sustainability of the Allerdale Borough.

The extent of the significance of both positive and negative effects and subsequent mitigation will be assessed in greater detail in the appraisal of subsequent specific DPDs and SPDs. Consequently careful wording of more specific policies could minimise or enhance these potential significant effects identified in the assessment of Local Plan policies as well as ensuring that there is appropriate provision for the protection of the environment.

At all stages of the SA and Local Plan process, ABC have taken into account the recommendations made in the earlier stage of the process. Not all recommendations have been taken on board, but this is due to the need to balance the differing demands of the HRA, SA, SEA and other decision-making tools. ABC have maintained a record of the changes that have been made to the policies as a result of their evolution, and the Local Plan provides the justification for the policy which includes reference to SA decision-making.

5.2   Next Steps

The Local Plan, and earlier iterations of the reports, have been through a comprehensive development process involving, comprehensive consultation, a full HRA and SA process.

This final SA of the policies that form part of the pre-submission draft of the Local Plan, will be taken forward with the findings of the HRA to submission, in accordance with the timetable set out in ABC's Statement of Community Involvement.

5.3 Provisions for future monitoring

In accordance with the requirements of the SEA and SA guidance arrangements for monitoring need to be established prior to the adoption of the plan. Monitoring is a useful tool to provide important feedback on the success of the plan and progress towards its objectives.

In the Scoping Report produced for Allerdale's LDF and in conjunction with the SA Framework developed by Cumbria County Council, a series of indicators were established to monitor the effects of the plan and the objectives that have been assessed. It is proposed that these will form the basis of the monitoring procedures for the Local Plan. The Council's Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) will co-ordinate the monitoring process for the plan and will then be able to clearly identify any significant effects in a timely and efficient manner. Where significant effects are identified, the Council will then ensure that actions and steps are taken to consider and determine a way forward to address these.

6.0 References

Allerdale Borough Council (2007). Scoping Report.

Allerdale Borough Council (2013). Local Plan Pre-Submission version.

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (2005). Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents.

WYG (2007). Issues and Options Sustainability Appraisal Report.

WYG (2010). Strategic Options Sustainability Appraisal Report.

WYG (2012). WYG Core Strategy Preferred Options SA Report May 2012.

WYG (2012). WYG Development Management Policies Preferred Options SA Report May 2012.

Appendices

Appendix A – Allerdale Borough Council Scoping Report (2007)

Appendix B – Issues and Options SA Report (2007)

Appendix C – Strategic Options SA Report (2010)

Appendix D – Core Strategy Preferred Options SA Report (2012)

Appendix E – Development Management Policies Preferred Options SA Report (2012)

Appendix F – Compatibility Assessment of Local plan and SA Objectives

Appendix G – Local Plan Policy SA Assessment Tables