



## 5 BASELINE AND KEY ISSUES

### INTRODUCTION

- 5.1 The SEA Directive requires the "...*current state of the environment...*" (annex 1b of the SEA Directive) and the "...*environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected...*" (annex 1c of the SEA Directive) to be identified. This chapter provides a broad overview of the social, economic and environmental features of Oadby and Wigston Borough and the defined study area. The defined study area includes Oadby and Wigston Borough and parts of adjacent authorities which have environmental and socio-economic links with the Oadby and Wigston Borough. The extent of the defined study area is shown in Figure 1.
- 5.2 The baseline data first was presented in the Scoping Report (2005). This has now been updated to reflect the current situation and to take into account consultation responses.
- 5.3 The following social, economic and environmental parameters have been considered:
- Economy and Employment.
  - Population and Quality of Life.
  - Tourism and Recreation.
  - Traffic and Transport.
  - Geology and Land.
  - Waste Management.
  - Water Environment.
  - Biodiversity and Nature Conservation.
  - Landscape and Visual Amenity.
  - Cultural Heritage and Archaeology.
  - Noise.
  - Air Quality.
  - Climate Change.
- 5.4 Key issues have been identified at the end of each section.



## SOCIO-ECONOMIC BASELINE

### Introduction

5.5 This section outlines the socio-economic situation in Oadby and Wigston Borough. The baseline has been established with reference to:

- National Statistics website ([www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk))
- NOMIS - Official Labour Statistics ([www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk))
- Government Office for the East Midlands ([www.goem.gov.uk](http://www.goem.gov.uk))
- Oadby and Wigston Corporate Plan
- Audit Commission Best Value Indicators ([www.audit-commission.gov.uk](http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk))
- South Leicestershire Primary Care Trust (SLPCT) Annual Report 2004-2005
- Oadby and Wigston Crime Reduction Partnership Strategy 2002-2005
- Oadby and Wigston Sports and Leisure Strategy 2002-2007
- Oadby and Wigston Local Plan 1999
- Oadby and Wigston Preliminary Assessment of the Open Spaces and Recreational Facilities 2003
- Oadby and Wigston Local Agenda 21 Strategy
- Oadby and Wigston Sustainable Community Strategy
- Leicestershire Local Transport Plan (2006-2011)
- Central Leicestershire Local Transport Plan
- Leicestershire County Council Website ([www.leics.gov.uk](http://www.leics.gov.uk))
- EcoSchools website ([www.eco-schools.org.uk](http://www.eco-schools.org.uk))
- Annual Monitoring Report 2006-2007 ([www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk](http://www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk))

### Economy and Employment

5.6 Baseline data suggests that Oadby and Wigston Borough is slightly behind other Districts and Boroughs in Leicestershire in terms of its Economic Activity Rate, although it is higher than the national average. The local economy is largely dependant on traditional manufacturing jobs with less opportunities being available for employment in the high-technology industries and other new sectors. The Oadby and Wigston Corporate Plan identifies the need to diversify the economy away from traditional manufacturing industries. Oadby and Wigston Borough is largely urban in nature and therefore only a small percentage of the population work in agriculture.



5.7 Both the Job Seekers Allowance claimant rate and the actual unemployment rate for all those over 16 are currently under the national average.

## Population and Quality of Life

5.8 Population growth is high in Oadby and Wigston Borough compared to the national rate. However, it is similar to the average for Leicestershire. Most of the population of Oadby and Wigston Borough live in the towns of Oadby, Wigston and South Wigston. 18.2% of the population of Oadby and Wigston Borough are from ethnic minorities, and the majority of these people are of South Asian origin. The percentage of ethnic minorities is well above the Leicestershire County average of 7.3% and the East Midlands figure of 8.7% (Oadby & Wigston Community Profile, 2005).

5.9 Communities and Local Government produce the Indices of Deprivation to identify areas of social and economic deprivation in England. The Index of Multiple Deprivation incorporates various measures of deprivation including income, employment, health, education, barriers to housing, living environment and crime. The Indices are produced at local authority and Super Output Area levels. The lower the rank / percentile the more deprived the area is.

5.10 Oadby and Wigston Borough is ranked as 293 out of 354 local authorities nationally in the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2007, (Rank of Average Score). This indicates that the Borough as a whole is significantly less deprived in comparison to the majority of other Districts / Boroughs in England. However, there are some pockets of deprivation in the Borough. The Index of Deprivation is based on the small area geography known as Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs). LSOAs have between 1000 and 3000 people living in them with an average population of 1500 people. In most cases, these are smaller than wards, thus allowing the identification of small pockets of deprivation. The LSOAs with the highest levels of deprivation are mainly concentrated in the south west of the Borough (i.e. around Wigston and South Wigston).

5.11 None of the council owned housing in Oadby and Wigston Borough has been classified as non decent.

5.12 Health in Oadby and Wigston Borough is good compared with the rest of England. In 2006/07, 6.9% of the population considered their health to be Not Good compared to 8.8% for



England as a whole. In addition life expectancy is higher than the national average for both males and females.

- 5.13 The South Leicestershire Primary Care Trust (SLPCT) is responsible for the primary health care in Oadby and Wigston Borough. The SLPCT Annual Report highlights the main health related issues in South Leicestershire. Smoking is the greatest single cause of preventable death and illness in South Leicestershire. Other key areas for improvement include: a reduction in coronary heart disease and diabetes; increasing physical activity, healthy eating and preventing obesity; reducing teenage pregnancy; improving sexual health; reducing excess winter deaths in older people; improving access to services; and improved child protection.
- 5.14 Another important issue is inequalities in health which are often linked to levels of deprivation. In addition there are some health problems which affect people of ethnic minorities disproportionately, for example, there is a 40% higher death rate from heart disease in the South Asian community.
- 5.15 Leicestershire County Council is the Local Education Authority for Oadby and Wigston Borough. Attainment at GCSE level and at Key Stages 2, 3 and 4 of the National Curriculum in Leicestershire is well above the national average. There are 2 (out of 23) schools in Oadby and Wigston Borough that have achieved the EcoSchools award run by the Foundation for Environmental Education. The aim of this scheme is to provide recognition for schools that actively encourage children to take responsibility for the future of their own environment.
- 5.16 Baseline data shows that the level of crimes in Oadby and Wigston Borough is low compared to the national averages. The Oadby and Wigston Crime Reduction Partnership Strategy identifies priorities for the Borough based on crime trends and consultation evidence. Youth issues were identified as a priority due to high levels of anti-social behaviour in youths and a lack of facilities for young people. The other priority identified was road safety due to concerns over speeding vehicles and poor driver behaviour in general.

## Tourism and Recreation

- 5.17 The urban areas of Oadby and Wigston Borough have a limited ability to attract overnight tourists. However the countryside areas do have potential to attract day visitors to take advantage of the recreational assets. Recreation facilities of particular importance in terms of



tourism include Brocks Hill County Park and Environment Centre, the Botanic Gardens, Parkland Leisure Centre, Leicester Racecourse and the Framework Knitters Cottages.

- 5.18 Oadby and Wigston Borough has a wide resource of leisure and recreation activities to serve the local community. These include two swimming pools, parks, allotments, playing fields and informal open space. Other recreation facilities include Brocks Hill County Park, the Botanic Gardens, Parklands Leisure Centre and Leicester racecourse.
- 5.19 Open space and playing fields provide informal and formal recreation for all ages. The National Playing Fields Association guidance suggests that a minimum of 2.4 hectares of outdoor play space should be available per 1000 people in all settlements. The recent assessment of Open Spaces and Recreational Facilities identified that overall the Borough has an adequate provision of open space and recreational facilities. However, the assessment did identify a large under provision in equipped children's play space which needs to be addressed.
- 5.20 Access to the countryside is also important as it plays a major role in outdoor recreation activities. Oadby and Wigston Borough has a number of footpaths and bridleways which extend from the urban areas to the Grand Union Canal and outlying villages. The Grand Union Canal provides a significant recreational resource. It provides opportunities for walking, cycling, fishing and the tow path forms the longest stretch of Public Right of Way in the Borough.

## Traffic and Transport

- 5.21 Oadby and Wigston Borough is crossed by the A6 which runs from London to Leicester and the A5199 road from Northampton to Leicester. The B582 is an orbital route which links Oadby, Wigston and South Wigston. In addition the A563 Southern District Distributor Road, to the north of the Borough, enables access to the M1 and M69 motorways.
- 5.22 Car ownership in Oadby and Wigston Borough is relatively high compared to the averages for England and the East Midlands, but is below average for Leicestershire. The proportion of people driving to work shows a similar pattern. Oadby and Wigston Borough Council have identified that there is considerable potential for changing the mode of transport used in the urban areas where public transport / walking are viable alternatives to private car use.



- 5.23 The main form of public transport in Oadby and Wigston Borough is the bus. There are a number of bus routes which connect the three towns with Leicester city centre. There is a railway station at South Wigston on the Birmingham to Leicester line which allows a five minute journey to Leicester Station and also connects to Nottingham and Coventry city centres. However, this service is very infrequent with trains to Leicester running every two hours during the daytime. The Midland Mainline from Sheffield to London runs through the Borough but the nearest station on this line is Leicester Station.
- 5.24 The Oadby and Wigston Local Agenda 21 Strategy highlights the need to improve access to public transport, in particular for people with disabilities, parents, people of social and cultural minority groups and for people on a lower income. An issue raised in the consultation questionnaire responses was that there is an absence of evening and Sunday bus services between Oadby, Wigston and South Wigston.
- 5.25 There are three main cycle routes in Oadby and Wigston Borough; a dedicated cycle route along Manor Road connecting Leicester University with the student halls of residence in Oadby; a cycle track along the line of the A6 road (this is still being developed) and a cycle route in Wigston, connecting the town centre with the Knighton Park cycle track, eventually leading into Leicester city centre.
- 5.26 The Leicestershire Local Transport Plan sets out plans to increase the proportion of travel undertaken by foot and bicycle. Proposals include an integrated network of cycle routes, pedestrian priority and clear zones, improved pedestrian and cycle facilities, interchanges with the public transport system and a road safety plan to address the issues of road safety which affect pedestrians and cyclists. The Central Leicestershire Local Transport Plan also sets out plans to encourage of walking, cycling and public transport and where appropriate bring about a reduction in travel overall.

## Key Socio-Economic Sustainability Issues

- 5.27** The key sustainability issues relating to the socio-economic situation in Oadby and Wigston Borough are:
- High unemployment rate for all those over 16;
  - Pockets of deprivation in some areas;
  - The need to tackle health inequalities;



- The need to improve facilities for young people; and
- The need to tackle road safety issues.
- The need to address the shortfall in equipped children's play space.
- The need to reduce private car use;
- Poor bus services between Oadby, Wigston and South Wigston in the evenings and on Sundays;
- The need to improve access to public transport;
- The need to increase the proportion of journeys made by foot and bicycle;
- Congestion on major routes at peak times; and
- Tourism related traffic and transport issues.

## ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE

### Introduction

5.28 This section outlines the environmental situation in Oadby and Wigston Borough. The baseline has been established with reference to:

- Natural England ([www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk))
- Oadby and Wigston Local Plan 1999
- Oadby and Wigston Contaminated Land Strategy
- Environment Agency website ([www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk))
- Oadby and Wigston Biodiversity Action Plan
- Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan
- Oadby and Wigston Landscape Character Assessment
- Oadby and Wigston Green Wedge Management Strategy
- English Heritage ([www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk))
- Sites and Monuments Record held by Leicestershire County Council
- Central Leicestershire Local Transport Plan
- Oadby and Wigston Air Quality Strategy
- Oadby and Wigston Air Quality Stage 4 Review and Assessment
- Oadby and Wigston Borough website ([www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk](http://www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk))
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, Blaby District Council and Oadby and Wigston Borough Council (2007)



- Renewable Energy Opportunities for Blaby, Harborough, Hinckley and Bosworth, Melton, North West Leicestershire, Oadby and Wigston and Rutland (2008)

## Geology and Land

- 5.29 The geology of much of the western half of Leicestershire is dominated by the red mudstones of the Triassic aged Mercia Mudstone Group. The outcrop of these rocks gives rise to a moderately undulating landscape characterised by mixed pasture and arable agricultural that has developed on the neutral clay soils.
- 5.30 One site in Oadby and Wigston Borough has been identified as a Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS) as it is considered important for geological interest and therefore worthy of protection. This site is at Kilby Bridge Pit, a former limestone quarry which is flooded at the bottom.
- 5.31 There is 36ha of derelict land in Oadby and Wigston Borough with sites being of varying size. Some of these derelict sites are of important biodiversity value. This biodiversity value should be considered in any plans to redevelop these sites.
- 5.32 There are a number of contaminated and unstable sites in Oadby and Wigston Borough. Oadby and Wigston Local Plan identifies a site in South Wigston which is known to be generating methane to a significant extent.

## Waste Management

- 5.33 Baseline data indicates that Oadby and Wigston Borough has a relatively high recycling rate compared with the regional and national figures of 43% in 2007/08. This exceeded the waste recycling Best Value Performance Indicator target of 30%.
- 5.34 The Leicestershire Waste Management Strategy has been produced to enable local authorities in the county to work together to achieve common goals. It provides a framework under which new collection, treatment and disposal infrastructure can be developed. Future aims include: new and enhanced kerbside collections for recyclable materials including the collection of green waste; increased separation of waste particularly green waste for composting; new treatment and processing capacity for waste collected; and an education and awareness campaign.



## Water Environment

- 5.35 The River Sence is the main river in Oadby and Wigston Borough. It flows from east to west through the south of the Borough. The Grand Union Canal is located slightly north of the River Sence and generally follows a similar path. All stretches of Environment Agency Main Rivers in the Borough are currently meeting their River Quality Targets.
- 5.36 There are no major aquifers in the Borough. There are some areas which are underlain by a minor aquifer. Although not producing large quantities of water for abstraction minor aquifers are important for local supplies and in supplying base flow to rivers. In most areas the minor aquifer is classified as being of high vulnerability with small sections of intermediate vulnerability.
- 5.37 According to the Environment Agency website there are no Groundwater Source Protection Zones in Oadby and Wigston Borough.
- 5.38 Severn Trent Water provides water supplies in the Borough. The Water Resources Strategy for the East Midlands indicates that in some areas of the Borough there are no additional surface water resources available for extraction in summer.
- 5.39 A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) covering Oadby and Wigston Borough was undertaken in November 2007. This indicates areas at risk of flooding in the Borough. There are two main areas at risk of flooding in the Borough; these are situated around Wash Brook to the south of Oadby, and the River Sence to the southeast of South Wigston. The brooks which feed into the River Sence are liable to flooding after severe rainfall. The floodplain (washlands) along the River Sence were identified in the Oadby and Wigston Local Plan which also highlights the need to protect it from development.
- 5.40 The SFRA identifies the need for surface water control measures to be used to reduce downstream flood risk, particularly in the upper reaches of river catchments, for example along the upper reaches of Wash Brook in the Borough.
- 5.41 Climate change is one of the greatest global environmental threats. There is potential that climate change will have significant impacts upon Oadby and Wigston Borough (as with the rest of the globe) particularly through changes to weather patterns and a potential increase in flood risk.



### Biodiversity and Nature Conservation

- 5.42 There is one Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in Oadby and Wigston Borough; the Kilby Foxton canal (part of the Grand Union Canal) which is split into 15 units. All but one of the units of this SSSI is in an unfavourable declining condition. The condition of the SSSI is continuing to decline and thus protection and restoration of this site is a key issue. There is also one Local Nature Reserve (LNR) in the Borough; Lucas Marsh. In addition to the SSSI and the LNR a number of Sites of Importance to Nature Conservation (SINC) have been designated by Oadby and Wigston Borough Council.
- 5.43 The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) identifies local and national priority species and habitats. It also sets targets for their conservation and outlines mechanisms for achieving these. The Oadby and Wigston BAP identifies the contribution which Oadby and Wigston Borough can make to the achievement of the Leicestershire BAP objectives. It argues that, as the countryside in Oadby and Wigston Borough is relatively small, and largely made up of intensive agriculture, the remaining wildlife habitats are of particular importance. It identifies the following broad habitat types in the Borough:
- Urban habitats;
  - Farmland habitats;
  - Woodland and scrub habitats; and
  - Wetland habitats.

### Landscape and Visual Amenity

- 5.44 The landscape of Oadby and Wigston Borough is diverse and includes the townscapes of Oadby, Wigston and South Wigston and the countryside areas on the rural-urban fringe. The urban fringe is generally well-integrated into the rural landscape and hedgerows, trees and subtle changes in the landform help to limit views of the town from the countryside.
- 5.45 The Oadby and Wigston Landscape Character Assessment (OWLCA) describes the Borough as *"...a transition zone between the more distinct plateau and steep sided valley landscapes to the north and east, and the more open, rolling landscapes to the south and west."* The landscape is also influenced by the River Sence valley to the south and the valley of the Upper Soar to the west. The townscape of Oadby is predominantly suburban residential and the OWLCA states that overall it does not have a high level of local distinctiveness. Wigston is also



predominantly residential but has areas distinguished by employment and educational use. The southern part of Wigston town centre retains its historical character and is one of the highest quality urban areas in the Borough. South Wigston is a relatively young settlement, characterised by a mix of uses, and its urban character is considered unremarkable.

- 5.46 English Heritage (2005) reported that nearly half of all parkland in the East Midlands recorded in 1918 had been lost by 1995 as a result of agricultural development, conversion to golf courses and other changes. Oadby and Wigston Borough is one of the areas that suffered the heaviest losses (96%).
- 5.47 The towns and villages of Oadby and Wigston Borough also have historic landscapes which should be preserved. Leicestershire County Council will be undertaking a Historic Landscape Characterisation of the county. This study will complement existing Landscape Character Assessments by considering landscape components that are “*natural*” but nevertheless the product of centuries of human action, such as, hedgerows, woodland, ponds and modified watercourses.
- 5.48 The Oadby and Wigston Local Plan identifies an Area of Local Landscape Value, around the River Sence, to the south west of the Borough. It also identifies an area of Historic Landscape at Stoughton Farm Park.
- 5.49 The Green Wedges within Oadby and Wigston Borough create a significant area of open space in the Borough and prevent the settlements of Oadby, Wigston and South Wigston from coalescing. They are important not only in terms of landscape but also for recreation and nature conservation. There are two Green Wedges in the Borough: the Thurnby, Leicester and Oadby Green Wedge; and the Oadby and Wigston Green Wedge.
- 5.50 The Oadby and Wigston Local Plan also identifies other significant areas of open space within the urban area which should be protected. The Countryside Agency (which has now merged with English Nature to form Natural England) has highlighted the importance of establishing a Green Infrastructure: a network of multi-functional greenspace that will contribute to a high quality natural and built environment.



5.51 Natural England has set an aspirational target for Local Planning Authorities of at least one hectares of Local Nature Reserve per 1000 population. In addition Natural England recommends that:

- No person should live more than 300m from an area of natural greenspace of at least 2 hectares;
- There should be at least one 20 hectare site of accessible natural greenspace within 2km of all homes;
- There should be at least one 100 hectare site within 5km of all homes; and
- There should be at least one 500 hectare site within 10km of all homes.

## Cultural Heritage and Archaeology

5.52 There are a number of archaeological sites of interest in the Borough which form an important part of its heritage. 85 of these are listed on the Sites and Monuments Record held by Leicestershire County Council. There is potential for archaeological sites and areas of cultural heritage to exist that are currently unknown and so are not specifically designated.

5.53 There are currently no Scheduled Monuments in the Borough although this situation is currently being reviewed.

5.54 There are 38 Listed Buildings in the Borough which have special architectural or historic value. Many of these are located within Conservation Areas. There are 10 Conservation Areas in the Borough. The purpose of these is to preserve and enhance the character and appearance of areas with heritage interest.

5.55 According to the Heritage at Risk Register 2008, no monuments/buildings are currently at risk in the Oadby and Wigston Borough.

## Noise

5.56 Background noise levels vary considerably within the Borough. However, high background noise levels are principally associated with road corridors. The Central Leicestershire Local Transport plan highlights noise as a significant issue around busy, main roads. Noise levels to the south of the Borough are generally lower than in the north due to its rural nature.



## Air Quality

- 5.57 The most recent Air Quality Updating and Screening Assessment (2006) identified that there are no likely exceedences of the air quality objectives for carbon monoxide, benzene, 1, 3-butadiene, lead, sulphur dioxide and PM<sub>10</sub>.
- 5.58 Previous air quality review and assessments resulted in the declaration of four Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) in Oadby and Wigston Borough. These were all declared in 2001 due to predicted exceedences (due to road traffic) in the levels of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) against the National Air Quality Strategy Objectives. The locations of the AQMAs were as follows:
- Saffron Road, Wigston
  - Moat Street to Bull Head Street, Wigston
  - Aylestone Land, Wigston
  - A6 Leicester / Harborough Road, Oadby
- 5.59 As a result of the latest monitoring data and the applying of calculations of pollutant levels at building facades (rather than kerb-side concentrations), Oadby and Wigston Borough Council have identified that the objective figure of 40 µg/m<sup>3</sup> for NO<sub>2</sub> was met in all four AQMAs for the years 2003, 2004 and 2005, and is likely to be met in subsequent years. As a result, all four AQMAs have been revoked. However, it is still important to ensure that good air quality in the Borough is maintained.

## Climate Change

- 5.60 Climate change is one of the greatest global environmental threats. It is likely that it will have significant impacts upon Oadby and Wigston Borough (as with the rest of the globe) particularly through increased rainfall intensity resulting in an increase in the number and severity of flood events.
- 5.61 According to a Renewable Energy Study (2008) commissioned by the Leicester and Rutland area to quantify the potential for renewable energy in the Leicestershire and Rutland area, Oadby and Wigston Borough has a very limited potential for renewable energy development, because of its relatively small area and its high population density.



5.62 The Oadby and Wigston Local Plan highlights the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through improved energy efficiency and conservation. The Brocks Hill Environment Centre, owned by Oadby and Wigston Borough Council, is an example of a fully sustainable building. It is designed to be energy efficient and generates its own electricity through photovoltaic panels and a wind turbine.

## Key Environmental Sustainability Issues

5.63 The key sustainability issues relating to the environmental situation in Oadby and Wigston Borough are:

- Future flooding risk associated with climate change;
- The need to improve the condition of the Kilby Foxton Canal SSSI;
- The need to protect key sites of geological interest;
- The need to reduce the amount of waste produced;
- No additional surface waters available for abstraction in summer;
- The need to protect and enhance both statutory and non statutory sites designated for nature conservation;
- The need to protect habitats and species listed in the Biodiversity Action Plans;
- The need to create new habitats;
- The need to protect and enhance the area of Green Wedges;
- The need to protect other areas of urban open space;
- The need to preserve and enhance sites of archaeological and cultural heritage interest and their settings;
- Noise pollution associated with the road corridors in the Borough;
- The need to maintain good air quality in the Borough;
- The need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- Potential climate change related impacts upon Oadby and Wigston Borough.

## SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

5.64 The SEA Directive requires an analysis of "*...any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan...*" (annex 1d of the SEA Directive). Key sustainability issues that affect the Core Strategy were identified through an analysis of the baseline conditions and through the review of plans and programmes. These key issues identified in the previous sections are summarised in Table 5.



**Table 5 Key Sustainability Issues**

Sustainability Issue	Econ-omic	Social	Environ-mental	Implications for the Core Strategy	Potential influence of the Core Strategy
High unemployment rate for all those over 16.	✓	✓		The Core Strategy needs to consider the provision of employment sites and access to those sites.	Moderate
Pockets of deprivation in some areas.	✓	✓	✓	The Core Strategy should seek to address issues which contribute to social deprivation such as lack of access to jobs, facilities and services and poor quality of the built environment. Regeneration of deprived areas could help to tackle this issue.	Minor
The need to tackle health inequalities.	✓	✓	✓	Health inequalities in the Borough are related to deprivation. The Core Strategy should seek to address issues which contribute to social deprivation such as lack of access to jobs, facilities and services and poor quality of the built environment. Regeneration of deprived areas could help to tackle this issue.	Minor
The need to improve facilities for young people.		✓		The Core Strategy should ensure that future developments do not compromise existing youth facilities. Encourage the development of more youth facilities particularly in areas where anti social behaviour is an issue.	Minor
The need to tackle road safety.		✓		Future development could increase the number of cars on the roads and lead to further road safety issues. The Core Strategy should consider the location of development so as to avoid an increase in car use.	Minor



Sustainability Issue	Economic	Social	Environmental	Implications for the Core Strategy	Potential influence of the Core Strategy
The need to address the shortfall in equipped children's play space.		✓	✓	Future developments could impact upon existing children's play spaces. The Core Strategy should ensure that these are protected. It should also encourage the development of new children's play space in locations where there is a shortfall.	Major
The need to reduce private car use.		✓	✓	Future developments could lead to further increases in car use as they attract more people. The Core Strategy needs to carefully consider the location of developments and access to them, in particular, access by footpaths and cycle ways. The Core Strategy could also encourage new developments to provide facilities for cyclists such as bicycle storage and showers.	Moderate
Poor bus services between Oadby, Wigston and South Wigston at the evenings and on Sundays.		✓	✓	Future developments need to be accessible by public transport to reduce private car use. The Core Strategy should ensure that all developments are accessible by public transport.	Minor
The need to improve access to public transport.		✓	✓	Future developments need to be accessible by public transport to reduce private car use. The Core Strategy should ensure that all developments are accessible by public transport.	Moderate



Sustainability Issue	Econ-omic	Social	Environ-mental	Implications for the Core Strategy	Potential influence of the Core Strategy
The need to increase the proportion of journeys made by foot and bicycle.		✓	✓	Future developments need to be accessible by foot and bicycle. The Core Strategy needs to carefully consider the location of developments access to them. The Core Strategy could also encourage new developments to provide facilities for cyclists such as bicycle storage and showers.	Moderate
Congestion on major routes at peak times.		✓	✓	The Core Strategy should ensure developments are easily accessible by walking, cycling and public transport.	Moderate
Tourism related traffic and transport issues.		✓	✓	The Core Strategy should consider the impact of tourism on traffic levels and congestion and ensure good accessibility to tourism developments via walking, cycling and public transport.	Moderate
Future flooding risk associated with climate change	✓	✓	✓	Future development in the floodplain and increased surface water run-off could increase flood risk to properties. The Core Strategy should restrict development in the floodplain and ensure the sustainable management of surface water run-off from development sites.	Moderate
The need to improve the condition of the Kilby Foxton Canal SSSI.			✓	New development could impact upon the SSSI. The Core Strategy should afford special protection to the SSSI and ensure that no developments will contribute to its further decline.	Moderate
The need to protect key sites of geological interest.			✓	New developments could impact upon key geological sites. The Core Strategy should afford protection to these sites.	Major



Sustainability Issue	Econ-omic	Social	Environ-mental	Implications for the Core Strategy	Potential influence of the Core Strategy
The need to reduce the amount of waste produced	✓	✓	✓	The Core Strategy should encourage sustainable waste management for new developments and the reuse of construction material.	Moderate
The need to increase the proportion of waste that is recycled.	✓	✓	✓	The Core Strategy should encourage sustainable waste management for new developments and the reuse of construction material.	Moderate
No additional surface waters available for abstraction in summer		✓	✓	The Core Strategy should encourage water efficiency in new developments.	Minor
The need to protect and enhance additional non statutory sites designated for nature conservation.			✓	New developments could impact upon nature conservation sites. The Core Strategy should afford protection to identified nature conservation sites both statutory and non-statutory. The Core Strategy should afford protection to habitats that have developed on brownfield sites and the species supported by them. It should ensure that for biodiversity features lost to development (where loss is completely unavoidable) the area of compensatory habitat provided is greater than the amount that has been lost.	Major
The need to protect habitats and species listed in the Biodiversity Action Plans.			✓	New developments could impact upon priority species and habitats. The Core Strategy should incorporate measures to protect and enhance the natural environment to ensure that priority species and habitats are protected and encourage developers to provide space to enhance these where possible.	Moderate



Sustainability Issue	Economic	Social	Environmental	Implications for the Core Strategy	Potential influence of the Core Strategy
The need to create new habitats.			✓	The Core Strategy should consider provision of land for creation of new habitats. It should also encourage the provision of new habitats within new developments.	Moderate
The need to protect and enhance the Green Wedge area.		✓	✓	New developments could impact upon the landscape quality of the Green Wedge area. The Core Strategy should protect this area from such developments and also consider expanding the designated area.	Major
The need to protect other areas of urban open space.		✓	✓	New development could impact upon the area of urban open space in the Borough. The Core Strategy should protect these areas from unsuitable development. It should also promote the provision of Green Infrastructure as part of new development.	Major
The need to preserve and enhance sites of archaeological and cultural heritage interest and their settings.		✓	✓	New development could impact upon archaeological and cultural heritage resources. The Core Strategy should afford protection to all designated archaeological / cultural heritage sites. It should also require new developments to undertake an archaeological / cultural heritage assessment and implement appropriate mitigation where necessary. It should ensure Historic Landscape Character Assessments are undertaken prior to development and that only development which will fit in with local settings is allowed.	Major



Sustainability Issue	Economic	Social	Environmental	Implications for the Core Strategy	Potential influence of the Core Strategy
Noise pollution associated with the road corridors in the Borough.		✓	✓	The Core Strategy should consider the location of development in relation to road corridors.	Minor
The need to maintain good air quality in the Borough.		✓	✓	Future development could increase the number of cars on the roads and thus have implications for air quality. The Core Strategy should plan for more sustainable patterns of development in order to reduce the need for people to travel.	Moderate
The need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.		✓	✓	The Core Strategy should plan for more sustainable patterns of development in order to reduce the need for people to travel. The Core Strategy should also encourage renewable energy developments where appropriate.	Minor
Potential climate change related impacts upon Oadby and Wigston.	✓	✓	✓	The Core Strategy needs to take into consideration the likely impacts of future climate change, such as, an increase in the risk of flooding when planning future developments.	Minor



## 6 TESTING THE PLAN OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 In order to determine whether the objectives of the Core Strategy are in accordance with sustainability principles it is necessary to test their compatibility with the SA objectives.
- 6.2 During Stage A (scoping stage) the East Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) core objectives were tested against the SA objectives in order to determine whether they were in accordance with sustainability principles. The compatibility matrix presented in the SA Scoping Report identified areas where conflict may arise.
- 6.3 Oadby and Wigston Borough Council used this compatibility matrix as a guide in the development of their Core Strategy objectives. Draft Core Strategy objectives were presented within the Preferred Options Report (2006). These were tested against the SA objectives and the results presented within the Preferred Options Sustainability Report (WYG, 2006).
- 6.4 The Core Strategy objectives have been slightly revised following the consultation process and therefore the compatibility test has been repeated. The results of this process are illustrated in the Objectives Compatibility Matrix in Appendix B, which shows whether the objectives are compatible / incompatible, together with a brief commentary. This is illustrated through the use of symbols in the matrix as shown in Table 6 below.

**Table 6 Objectives Compatibility Matrix Key**

Key	
✓✓	Highly compatible
✓	Potentially compatible
✕✕	Highly incompatible
✕	Potentially incompatible
~	Neutral







## 7 DEVELOPMENT AND APPRAISAL OF OPTIONS

### INTRODUCTION

- 7.1 Stage B of the SA process involves broad appraisal of the strategic options and then appraisal in more detail of the effects of the Preferred Options when these have been selected. ODPM recognise that elements of Stage B may need to be carried out more than once in the DPD development. Stage B of the SA of the Oadby and Wigston Core Strategy has been undertaken through a number of sub-stages as options were refined.
- 7.2 At each stage in development of the Core Strategy, WYG appraised the potential options using the SA objectives and taking into account the baseline and key issues identified during Stage A. The likely social, economic and environmental effects of each potential option were determined.
- 7.3 For each option it was determined whether there would be a move towards or away from achievement of each SA objective. This was presented in a matrix format using symbols as shown in Table 7 below.

**Table 7 Options Appraisal Matrix Key**

	Option moving towards achievement of Sustainability Appraisal objective
	Unknown: depends on how option will be implemented
	Option moving away from achievement of Sustainability Appraisal objective
	Neutral: no relationship with Sustainability Appraisal objective

- 7.4 In each matrix, commentary was provided to explain the reasoning behind the appraisal. In addition, where appropriate, changes to the options or measures were recommended to reduce potential adverse effects and maximise beneficial effects.

### INITIAL ISSUES AND OPTIONS PAPER

- 7.5 Oadby and Wigston Borough Council published an Issues and Options Paper for the Core Strategy in July 2005. The Issues and Options Paper set out the key issues affecting land use



and potential options for development in the Borough. The purpose of the Issues and Options Paper was to encourage stakeholders to become involved in the LDF process by answering a series of questions set out in the report.

- 7.6 The potential options for development identified by Oadby and Wigston Borough Council within the Issues and Options Paper were appraised using the SA framework developed in Stage A. The SA of the Issues and Options was presented in the form of appraisal matrices. These appraisal matrices are available on request from the Council.

## FIRST PREFERRED OPTIONS 2006

- 7.7 Following consultation on the Issues and Options Paper, Oadby and Wigston Borough Council produced a Preferred Options Report for the Core Strategy in April 2006 which included a number of potential policies. The potential policies within the Core Strategy Preferred Options Report were appraised using the SA framework developed in Stage A. The outcome of the Preferred Options Appraisal was presented in the Sustainability Report produced by WYG, dated April 2006. This report is available on request from the Council. The Council went out to consultation on the Preferred Options Report and accompanying Sustainability Report between April and June 2006.

## CHOICES AND BROAD LOCATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT GROWTH

- 7.8 In June 2007, as a result of consultation responses and advice from GOEM, Oadby and Wigston Borough Council prepared a Supplemental Issues and Options Paper which considered options relating to choices and broad locations of growth, as detailed below. The Appraisal Matrices associated with this stage are presented in Appendix C.

### Appropriate Locations for Development Growth

- 7.9 The Supplemental Issues and Options Paper identified five possible options for the appropriate location of new development in the Borough. The following location options were appraised using the SA framework:

- *New free-standing settlement* – this option requires the allocation of a single large and distinct greenfield site to accommodate all of the proposed housing and employment growth expected to be required in the Borough during the lifespan of the development plan document. A new settlement would be located away from the existing urban area.



- *Redevelopment of brownfield sites and one large sustainable urban extension (SUE)* – this option follows a strategy of urban concentration (i.e. develop in the existing built up area) as advocated at national and regional level, plus allocation of one large SUE to accommodate any future development that cannot be accommodated on suitable and viable previously developed land.
- *Redevelopment of brownfield sites and several small sustainable urban extensions* – this option again follows a strategy of urban concentration but rather than a single large SUE it advocates that several small SUEs be allocated across the Borough’s three town settlements, adjacent to the urban area, to accommodate any future development that cannot be accommodated on suitable and viable previously developed land in the urban area.
- *Brownfield sites only* - this option relies solely on the redevelopment of previously developed land and buildings. No greenfield sites would be allocated.
- *SUE sites only* - this option would require the allocation of a number of greenfield, urban fringe sites of varying sizes to accommodate future development needs of the Borough up to 2021 and beyond. No brownfield sites would be allocated and there would be limited guidance regarding the reuse of brownfield sites for alternative uses should they become vacant.

7.10 The preferred option taken forward in the Core Strategy Further Consultation Paper is the redevelopment of brownfield sites and one large urban fringe site.

#### Broad Locations for Development Growth

7.11 In addition to the options proposed for the appropriate location of new development, Oadby and Wigston Borough Council are considering eight possible locations for SUEs to accommodate growth. The following broad ‘areas of search’ were appraised using the SA framework:

- Area A - adjacent to the urban area south of South Wigston
- Area B – adjacent to the urban area south east of Wigston
- Area C – adjacent to the urban area south of Oadby
- Area D – adjacent to the urban area south east of Oadby
- Area E – adjacent to the urban area north east of Oadby



7.12 The Core Strategy Further Consultation Paper narrows down these options to three as shown in the Key Diagram in Figure 2 (Areas B, C and D). It is anticipated that this will be further narrowed down in the submission draft Core Strategy.

## OUTCOMES OF THE OPTIONS DEVELOPMENT AND APPRAISAL

7.13 SA of the Core Strategy options identified a number of potential effects, both beneficial and adverse. The appraisal matrices were used by Oadby and Wigston Borough Council to inform the preparation of the Core Strategy.

7.14 An explanation of the reasons why certain options were chosen and other options discounted is provided throughout the Core Strategy Further Consultation Paper.



## 8 LIKELY EFFECTS OF THE CORE STRATEGY

### INTRODUCTION

- 8.1 The SA of the Core Strategy has been undertaken in relation to the SA framework developed during Stage A (scoping) of the SA process. The social, economic and environmental effects of implementing the Core Strategy have been predicted taking into account the baseline situation and key sustainability issues identified during Stage A, which were determined using information from a wide range of sources, including data / information from plans, programmes and policies, as well as consultation with key organisations and consultees.
- 8.2 The predicted effects of the Core Strategy are detailed in the Appraisal Tables in Appendix D. An Appraisal Table has been produced for each policy proposed, detailing the social, economic and environmental effects of that particular policy. Measures to mitigate adverse effects and to enhance beneficial effects have been recommended where possible.
- 8.3 For the purposes of the SA the baseline conditions are assumed to be the status quo for the study area. Implementation of the Core Strategy will result in either an improvement to or deterioration in this baseline. If the Core Strategy is not implemented then it must be assumed that there will be no change to the current baseline conditions. However, in reality this would not occur as natural and social processes would continue to operate.
- 8.4 It should be noted that this SA has been based upon the information provided in the Core Strategy Further Consultation Paper (Oadby and Wigston Borough Council, November 2008). Therefore, if there are any fundamental changes to the Core Strategy, the potential significant effects may also change. In this event, the Core Strategy will need to be reassessed to determine significant effects.
- 8.5 The methodology for assessing significant effects is detailed in the following section.

### APPRAISAL METHODOLOGY

#### Prediction of Effects

- 8.6 The social, economic and environmental effects of the Core Strategy have been predicted in relation to each of the SA objectives developed at Stage A.



- 8.7 The predicted effects have been qualified within the Appraisal Tables in terms of their nature, duration, magnitude and geographical scale.
- 8.8 Effects may be of the following nature:
  - Adverse or beneficial.
  - Direct or indirect.
- 8.9 Effects may be of the following duration:
  - Temporary or permanent.
  - Short or long term.
- 8.10 Effects may be of the following geographical scale:
  - Immediate.
  - Local.
  - District.
  - Regional.
  - National.
  - International.
- 8.11 Effects have also been qualified in terms of their likelihood and the magnitude of changes in the baseline conditions. The magnitude of effects has been determined based upon the changes to the baseline conditions that are predicted to arise from the Core Strategy taking into account the likelihood and scale of the change. Table 8 details the methodology for determining the magnitude of effects.

**Table 8 Determining Magnitude of Effects**

Magnitude of Effect	Description
Major	Effect resulting in a considerable change in baseline conditions with undesirable / desirable consequences on the receiving environment
Minor	Effect resulting in a discernible change in baseline conditions with undesirable / desirable consequences that can be tolerated
No effect	No discernible change in baseline conditions



Assessment of Effects

- 8.12 Following the prediction of effects, as detailed above, an assessment of the significance of these effects has been undertaken. The factors described above (magnitude, geographical scale, duration and nature) have been considered in order to determine significance. As advised in the ODPM SA Guidance (2005) significance has been determined based on the individual merits of each case, as effects which are significant in one situation may not necessarily be significant in another.
- 8.13 Where effects have been identified to be potentially beneficial or potentially adverse this means that there is a degree of uncertainty associated with the effects. This may be because the effects will depend upon implementation of the option or there may be limited information available at the strategic level to confirm their significance.
- 8.14 The Appraisal Tables show how significant adverse effects represent a move away from a SA objective and significant beneficial effects represent a move towards a SA objective. Table 9 provides a key to the significance of effects as shown within the Appraisal Tables.

**Table 9 Significance of Effects**

Significance of Effects	
Direct Effects	Indirect Effects
Major beneficial	Major beneficial
Minor beneficial	Minor beneficial
Potentially beneficial	Potentially beneficial
Potentially adverse	Potentially adverse
Minor adverse	Minor adverse
Major adverse	Major adverse
Potentially beneficial or adverse	
No significant effect	



## Limitations

- 8.15 As advised in the ODPM SA Guidance (2005) any uncertainties and / or limitations encountered in the SA have been documented, which are summarised as follows. Future SA and monitoring of LDF documents should take into account these limitations / uncertainties.
- 8.16 The purpose of the Core Strategy is to provide an overarching framework for the spatial development of the Borough. At this level limited information is available on the specific locations and / or types of development. Where necessary a worst case scenario has therefore been assumed (e.g. that development resulting from the Core Strategy could potentially have an adverse effect upon biodiversity).
- 8.17 It should be noted that the SA has been based on a combination of quantitative information from a number of sources (e.g. National Statistics and Nomis) and qualitative assessment using considered judgement. Given the strategic nature of the plan the robustness of the SA is not considered to be compromised by the use of a qualitative approach. Detailed quantitative information relating to the effects of the plan is likely to only be available at a later stage (e.g. once planning applications are submitted).

## LIKELY EFFECTS OF THE CORE STRATEGY

- 8.18 This section gives an overview of the likely beneficial and adverse effects associated with the Core Strategy. Full details of the likely effects of the Core Strategy are presented in the Appraisal Tables in Appendix D.

## Overall Effects

- 8.19 Some of the Core Strategy potential policies will encourage development in the Borough (particularly CS2, CS16, CS20, CS22, CS23 and CS24) which could potentially have a number of adverse effects upon some of the SA objectives, particularly those relating to environmental resources. Other policies focus on protecting certain aspects of the environment (e.g. CS8, CS9, CS10, CS14 and CS15) and may therefore help to mitigate some of these adverse effects.
- 8.20 Large scale construction work associated with development in the Borough is likely to result in a number of temporary minor adverse effects upon the environment. For example the use of natural resources; the generation of construction waste for disposal; the generation of dust and emissions to air; and the risk of pollution incidents. Energy and water consumption and



the amount of domestic / commercial waste for disposal are also likely to increase once the developments are operational.

8.21 New developments (due to construction works and following occupation) may also have permanent adverse effects upon biodiversity resources, cultural heritage and archaeological resources and their settings, geological resources and the landscape value of the chosen site. New development may also have an impact upon the character and distinctiveness of towns and villages in the Borough if not sensitively designed. In addition, development may have adverse effects upon soil quality, in particular development that occurs on greenfield land in countryside areas.

8.22 Once occupied new developments may attract more people (residents / employees / visitors) to the Borough which could lead to an increase in car use; this may result in increased levels of traffic congestion, noise, vibration, air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore it is essential that efficient forms of public transport and walking and cycling routes are provided. Attracting new people to the area may also place additional demand on transport infrastructure, education facilities, health facilities, utilities infrastructure and leisure / recreational opportunities in the Borough.

## Effects of Individual Potential Policies

### *CS1: Sequential Approach to the Location of Development*

8.23 This policy focuses on guiding the location of development in the Borough. Use of the sequential approach will help to focus development in Oadby, Wigston and South Wigston town centres and the Principal Urban Area. This will ensure new development has good access to services and facilities. In addition, focusing development in these areas and thereby reducing the need to travel will help to minimise car use and associated emissions. In order for these benefits to be maximised it is important to ensure the provision of a frequent, efficient and high quality public transport system in the Borough and encourage walking and cycling through the creation of well-lit footpaths and cycleways.

8.24 The sequential approach will also encourage development on previously developed land and existing buildings, and may help to protect greenfield sites from development.



*CS2: Hierarchy and Development Strategy for Town, Neighbourhood and Local Centres*

- 8.25 This policy will encourage mixed use development in town centres and seek to maintain local facilities within neighbourhood and local centres. This will help to ensure good access to services and facilities across the Borough and reduce the need for people to travel. Mixed use developments in the town centres will also enable the provision of housing and jobs in accessible locations. Such developments may have some minor adverse effects upon the environment, for example, development in Oadby or South Wigston may have an impact upon flood risk given the location of the floodplain. Development in the town centres may also affect historic assets within or near to the town centres, including Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings. It is therefore important that new mixed use developments are sensitively designed to protect and enhance all historic assets.

*CS3: Regeneration Schemes and Areas of Change*

- 8.26 This policy requires Masterplans / Area Action Plans / site development briefs to be produced for regeneration schemes / areas of large scale changes and sets out what these documents should cover. While this policy does not encourage development as such, it is likely to have a number of beneficial effects associated with requiring Masterplans / Area Action Plans / site development briefs to address certain issues, including community safety, sustainable construction and design and biodiversity.

*CS4: Development and Enhancement of a Sustainable Transport System*

- 8.27 This policy identifies the need to protect land safeguarded for development / enhancement of transport infrastructure. The effects of this depend upon the type of transport infrastructure to be developed, the existing use of the land and alternative uses which may be proposed. However, should development of this land for transport infrastructure occur, it may help to improve the transport system, thus improving accessibility to jobs and services. Development of roads could encourage car use, whereas development of public transport infrastructure may help to encourage a shift away from the private car.

*CS5: Sustainable Transport and Accessibility (including Strategic Development Control Policy)*

- 8.28 This policy addresses the location and design of new development and essential services to reduce the need to travel, enhance pedestrian and road safety and improve accessibility. This



policy will therefore significantly improve access both within and to new developments and to essential services. In addition, it is likely to help to encourage public transport use, cycling and walking as opposed to the private car. The policy also includes a requirement for green travel plans for larger developments which will further help to reduce car use and encourage use of other modes of transport.

- 8.29 While the policy does not directly encourage development, it may affect the location of development, i.e. is likely to favour proposals in urban areas with good access to services. Most of the effects of this policy are likely to be beneficial; however focusing development in urban areas could affect resources such as green space, historic sites and biodiversity.

*CS6: Green Wedges (including Strategic Development Control Policy)*

- 8.30 This policy seeks to safeguard the Green Wedges within the Borough, which will have a number of beneficial effects, both in relation to protection of the natural environment and landscape, and enabling the continued use of the Green Wedges by local people for recreational purposes.

- 8.31 However, the policy does allow for a review of Green Wedges should the need arise for development which can not be accommodated within the urban area. Should such a review occur, it could result in loss of some areas within the current Green Wedges, which may have some adverse effects. It is therefore recommended that, should a review of Green Wedges occur, it must take into consideration aspects such as ecological, historic and landscape value and the presence of recreational uses, as well as the need to maintain the separate identify of settlements.

*CS7: Appropriate Green Wedge Land Uses*

- 8.32 This policy identifies the types of development that would be considered appropriate in areas designated as Green Wedges. This includes footpaths, bridleways, cycleways, outdoor leisure, recreation and sporting facilities, all of which if developed have the potential to encourage walking, cycling and other forms of exercise, promoting healthy lifestyles and improved wellbeing. Other types of development which may be acceptable include mineral extraction sites and transport infrastructure. Development of these could have a number of adverse



effects, for example upon the natural landscape and upon habitats and species present in the Green Wedges.

*CS8: Development in the Countryside (including Strategic Development Control Policy)*

- 8.33 This policy outlines the criteria that will be applied to any development that is considered to be acceptable in the countryside. While the policy does allow some development in the countryside, it aims to ensure that environmental and historic resources are not adversely affected by this. As well as ensuring protection of the environment, this policy will also help to ensure the needs of the local community are met through allowing certain types of development. These include provision of affordable housing, essential services and employment.

*CS9: Biodiversity, Geological Conservation and the Wider Environment (including Strategic Development Control Policy)*

- 8.34 This policy outlines how the restoration, re-creation and enhancement of green infrastructure and biological diversity will be actively promoted. It also outlines criteria that will be applied to developments to enable optimum conditions for the protection of wildlife species and habitats. This policy is likely to have a major beneficial effect upon the natural environment and will help to avoid some of the potential adverse effects associated with development in the Borough.

*CS10: Flood Risk and Protection of the Water Environment (including Strategic Development Control Policy)*

- 8.35 This policy outlines how flood risk and protection of the water environment will be taken into account when meeting new development needs. This policy will have beneficial effect upon the water environment in the Borough, and also potentially upon the biodiversity and landscape value associated with this. In addition, this policy will help to ensure high standards of sustainable design and construction through requiring the use of sustainable drainage systems and measures to maximise water efficiency, such as grey water recycling facilities.

*CS11: Renewable Energy Use and Increasing Energy Efficiency*

- 8.36 This policy requires major development to incorporate on-site renewable energy generation to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. This will help to develop renewable energy technologies and



tackle climate change. However, consideration should be given to ensuring new buildings are as energy efficient as possible, before specifying renewable energy sources. This is because renewable energy technologies may have a relatively short life span and be costly to maintain. Depending upon the type, scale and location of on-site renewable energy sources, there may be some adverse effects upon landscape, biodiversity and historic resources such as Conservation Areas.

### *CS12: Renewable Energy Installations*

- 8.37 This policy encourages the generation of energy from renewable sources, given the wider environmental benefits of utilising such sources. Similar to Policy CS11, this will help to develop renewable energy technologies and tackle climate change. While development of renewable energy generating installations could adversely affect some aspect of the environment, the policy seeks to ensure that no unacceptable effects upon the environment will occur and that they meet high standards of sustainable construction.

### *CS13: Sustainable Construction and Designing for Quality (including Strategic Development Control Policy)*

- 8.38 This policy will help to encourage the use of sustainable construction and design principles in all new developments in the Borough and as such is likely to have beneficial effects relating to a number of the SA objectives. This policy will help to reduce some of the potential adverse effects associated with development in the Borough (e.g. energy consumption, waste generation) and also contribute towards social aspects such as community safety and health (through open space provision).

### *CS14: Conservation, Heritage and Culture (including Strategic Development Control Policy)*

- 8.39 This policy will contribute significantly towards the preservation and enhancement of the character and appearance of archaeological sites, historic buildings, Conservation Areas and other cultural assets in the Borough. In addition, protection of the Grand Union Canal will have beneficial effects in terms of biodiversity, water resources and landscape. Protection of historic resources may limit the extent to which existing buildings and previously developed land may be used in new development. However, there may be opportunities for bringing buildings / sites back into use as part of enhancement schemes. Such schemes may also present



opportunities for opening sites up to the public and thus improving people's access and understanding of local heritage.

*CS15: Protecting and Respecting Local Landscape and Historic Character*

- 8.40 This policy seeks to protect and enhance the distinctive landscape and historic character of the Borough. In addition to having a major beneficial effect in terms of the landscape and historic resources, it will also help to protect green spaces from development and avoid pollution of undeveloped land. It may also help to encourage use of previously developed land as an alternative to greenfield sites.

*CS16: Meeting the Housing Needs of the Borough*

- 8.41 This policy sets out proposals for the release of housing land supply in order to provide 2,250 new dwellings. This will help to ensure housing needs are met. Development of these dwellings may have a number of potential effects on the environment as detailed in 8.3 to 8.6. The release of housing land supply will be monitored and managed, which will encourage the optimal use of previously developed land before greenfield sites. The policy also sets out the criteria for allocating housing sites. Use of these criteria will help to ensure sites with good accessibility to services are given priority and ensure protection of important and sensitive environmental resources.

*CS17: Affordable Homes Provision*

- 8.42 This policy requires residential developments meeting the affordable housing threshold to provide at least 30% affordable units to meet identified local needs. This will have a major beneficial effect upon housing provision in the Borough. In addition, the policy requires that affordable housing be distributed in unison with private market housing and be of equal design. This may help to promote social cohesion and will reduce health problems associated with poor quality housing (e.g. reducing fuel poverty). The policy will also help to ensure good access to services and public transport for all members of the community.

*CS18: Accommodation for Specialist Needs*

- 8.43 This policy requires new housing development to take into account specialised accommodation needs, including supported housing for the elderly, people with special needs and students,



adaptive housing for disabled residents and housing for disadvantaged young people. This will further ensure housing needs in the Borough are met, and will also help to reduce health inequalities by helping to ensure that all groups have access to decent housing. The policy seeks provision of such accommodation on appropriately located sites, which may help to ensure good access to services for these groups.

*CS19: Criteria for Identifying Sites of Gypsy and Traveller Pitch Development*

- 8.44 This policy identifies the need for designation of one Gypsy and Traveller pitch in the Borough. Provision of a Gypsy and Traveller pitch will help to ensure the provision of living accommodation for those in the travelling community and also help to reduce health problems associated with the travelling community being unable to find appropriate sites to live. Provision of a Gypsy and Traveller pitch may have some localised adverse effects upon the environment. The policy also sets out criteria which will ensure Gypsy and Traveller sites have good access to facilities.

*CS20: Meeting the Employment Needs of the Borough*

- 8.45 This policy will help to improve employment opportunities available in the Borough through provision of new employment development. New employment development has potential to have a number of adverse effects upon the environment as outlined in 8.3 to 8.6. However, the policy will help to avoid detrimental effects of employment sites on residential areas, such as noise, odour and access. The policy also encourages regeneration of the Identified Employment Areas and includes a requirement for development to achieve a high standard of design and appropriate landscaping, which may help to enhance these areas.

*CS21: Developer Contributions to Meet Community Needs*

- 8.46 This policy sets out the requirements for developer contributions that will be sought to secure provision of community infrastructure. Depending upon what types of contributions are sought this policy has the potential to have beneficial effects upon a wide range of both social and environmental objectives, including objectives relating to housing, health, education, waste management, air quality, climate change and the historic environment.



*CS22: Leisure and Recreation (including Strategic Development Control Policy)*

- 8.47 This policy sets out the requirements for provision of open space and built leisure facilities to meet the needs of local residents and will therefore have major beneficial effects in terms of access to leisure activities and health. The policy may result in development of additional leisure facilities in the Borough, which may result in some adverse effects upon the environment, depending upon the location, scale and design of such developments. The policy also identifies the need for enhancement and protection of Rights of Way, which as well as having health and leisure benefits may encourage walking and cycling across the Borough as an alternative to car use.

*CS23: Tourism*

- 8.48 This policy seeks to encourage sustainable tourism growth and outlines proposals for restoration of the Grand Union Canal and tourism development around Kilby Bridge. This will have a beneficial effect upon the local economy and may create employment opportunities for those living in the Borough. In addition, the policy encourages the protection and enhancement of the Borough's industrial and architectural heritage and restoration of the Grand Union Canal, which would have a beneficial effect upon historic assets in the Borough.
- 8.49 The policy states that tourism development must take into account landscape and biodiversity issues. However, new tourism developments may result in some adverse effects upon the environment.
- 8.50 Encouragement of tourism may result in increased visitors to the Borough and an associated increase in traffic, which may lead to increased emissions. It is important to ensure adequate provision of public transport and walking and cycling linkages to tourist developments in order to minimise the use of the private car by tourists.

*CS24: Community Facilities and Places of Worship*

- 8.51 This policy identifies the need to involve key stakeholders and the local community in the planning and implementation process for proposals for community facilities and places of worship. This will have a major beneficial effect upon the empowerment of local communities.



8.52 This policy also sets out criteria for determining locations for development of community facilities and places of worship and in particular, ensuring that these are provided in accessible locations. This will help to improve access to such facilities for people in the Borough, and may also encourage a shift away from the private car.

## Cumulative Effects of the Draft Core Strategy Policies

8.53 Table 10 overleaf provides an overall summary of the cumulative effects of the Core Strategy potential policies in relation to the SA objectives. This uses the same key as the Appraisal Tables as detailed in Table 9 on page 54. In some columns there is more than one type of effect. This is because in some cases different elements of the same policy may have different impacts upon the same SA objective.



**Table 10 Cumulative Effects of the Core Strategy Potential Policies**

SA Objectives	Core Strategy Potential Policies																							
	CS1	CS2	CS3	CS4	CS5	CS6	CS7	CS8	CS9	CS10	CS11	CS12	CS13	CS14	CS15	CS16	CS17	CS18	CS19	CS20	CS21	CS22	CS23	CS24
1	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↕	↔	↑↓	↔	↔	↔	↔	↑	↔	↔	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑	↔	↑	↑	↔	↔
2	↑↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑↓	↑↓	↑	↔	↔	↔	↔	↑	↔	↔	↕	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↔	↑
3	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑↓	↑↓	↑	↔	↔	↔	↔	↑	↑	↑	↕	↔	↔	↑	↔	↑	↑↑	↑	↑
4	↓	↔	↑	↔	↑	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↑	↔	↔	↑	↑	↔	↕	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔
5	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↑	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↑	↑	↔	↑	↔	↑	↔	↔
6	↑	↑	↔	↔	↔	↑	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↑	↑	↔	↕	↔	↑	↔	↔	↑
7	↑↓	↓	↑	↓	↕	↑↓	↑↓	↑	↑↑	↑	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↓	↔	↔	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑↓	↓
8	↕	↕	↑	↓	↕	↑↓	↑↓	↑	↔	↔	↓	↓	↑	↑↑	↑	↓	↔	↔	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑↓	↑↓
9	↑	↑	↑	↑↓	↑↕	↑↑	↑↓	↑	↑	↔	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑↑	↓	↑	↔	↓	↓	↑	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓
10	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑↓	↓	↑	↑	↑↑	↔	↓	↑	↔	↔	↓	↔	↔	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑↓	↓
11	↑↓	↑↓	↑	↕	↑	↔	↑↓	↔↕	↔	↔	↑	↑	↑	↔	↔	↕	↔	↔	↔	↓	↑	↔	↓	↔
12	↑	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑↓	↓	↑↓	↑	↔	↑	↑	↑	↔	↔	↑	↔	↔	↕	↕	↔	↕	↕	↕
13	↕	↕	↑	↔	↔	↔	↔	↑	↔	↔	↑	↑	↑	↔	↔	↕	↔	↔	↔	↕	↔	↔	↔	↔
14	↑	↑	↑	↕	↑	↔	↑↓	↔↕	↔	↔	↑	↑	↑	↔	↔	↕	↔	↔	↔	↓	↑	↔	↓	↔
15	↑	↑	↑	↕	↑	↔	↑	↔↕	↑	↔	↔	↔	↑	↔	↔	↑	↔	↔	↑	↔	↑	↔	↔	↔
16	↑↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	↔	↔	↑	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↕	↑	↔	↑	↔	↑	↔	↔	↑
17	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↕	↔	↑	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↑↑	↑	↔	↑	↔
18	↑↑	↑↑	↑	↕	↑	↑	↑	↑	↔	↔	↔	↕	↔	↕	↔	↑	↔	↔	↕	↕	↔	↕	↕	↑
19	↑	↑	↑	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑↑	↔	↔	↑	↔	↔	↔	↑	↔	↑	↑	↑
20	↓	↓	↑	↓	↔	↔	↔	↕	↔	↔	↔	↔	↑	↔	↔	↓	↔	↔	↓	↓	↑	↓	↓	↓
21	↑	↑↑	↑	↑	↑↑	↔	↑	↑	↔	↔	↔	↔	↑	↔	↔	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↔	↑
22	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑↓	↑	↑↕	↔	↔	↔	↔	↑	↔	↔	↑	↑	↔	↑	↕	↑	↑	↑	↑



## RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.54 A series of measures have been identified in order to mitigate adverse effects and to maximise beneficial effects associated with the potential policies. These may be implemented by Oadby and Wigston Borough Council as part of the Core Strategy where necessary, or through subsequent DPDs / SPDs as appropriate. These are suggested recommendations only and Oadby and Wigston Borough Council will determine their implementation.
- 8.55 Detailed recommendations are presented in Appendix D in relation to each of the SA objectives. Many of the measures recommended within the Appraisal Tables are already addressed either wholly or in part through other potential policies within the Core Strategy. Therefore in order for the predicted adverse effects to be minimised and beneficial effects to be maximised (therefore maximising the sustainability of the Core Strategy) all of the potential policies must be enforced for all development proposals.
- 8.56 Recommended measures can be incorporated at three stages:
- During preparation of the Core Strategy in order to design out or reduce adverse impacts, and to maximise beneficial impacts;
  - During construction in order to minimise adverse impacts / maximise beneficial impacts arising during the construction process; and
  - Following development in order to minimise impacts / maximise beneficial impacts arising during the post implementation phase.
- 8.57 The following hierarchy is used when determining mitigation measures for adverse impacts:
- Prevent impacts as far as possible through design or using preventative measures.
  - Reduce impacts as far as possible by using preventative measures to minimise effects.
  - Offset impacts to compensate for unavoidable effects that cannot be further reduced.



## 9 IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

### NEXT STEPS

9.1 The Core Strategy Further Consultation Paper will be consulted on for a period of eight weeks. Oadby and Wigston Borough Council will then consider the responses to the consultation and produce their submission draft Core Strategy. Submission of the Core Strategy to the Secretary of State will be followed by an examination before it can be adopted. Any significant changes made to the Core Strategy during these stages will need to be subject to further SA prior to adoption.

9.2 The next steps of the SA and associated steps of the Core Strategy are detailed in Table 11.

**Table 11 Next Steps in the SA**

ODPM Stage		SA Steps	Links to the Core Strategy Process
Stage D Consulting on the Core Strategy and the SA Report	D1	Consultation on the SA Report.	Undertaken at the same time as consultation on the Core Strategy Further Consultation Paper.
	D2	Appraise any significant changes to the Core Strategy following consultation and examination.	Undertaken in conjunction with finalisation of the Core Strategy for submission and following examination.
	D3	Produce an adoption statement to accompany the Core Strategy outlining how the findings of the SA have been taken into account and how sustainability considerations have been integrated into it.	Undertaken in conjunction with finalisation of the Core Strategy prior to adoption.
Stage E Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Core Strategy	E1 & E2	Undertake monitoring of significant effects arising from the Core Strategy and respond to adverse effects.	Undertaken after the Core Strategy has been adopted.



## PROPOSALS FOR MONITORING

- 9.3 Once adopted, implementation of the Core Strategy must be monitored to ensure that unforeseen adverse effects are identified and acted upon. Monitoring should:
- Take an objective and target led approach.
  - Determine whether the SA process has accurately predicted effects.
  - Determine whether the Core Strategy is contributing to achievement of the SA objectives.
  - Determine whether mitigation measures are performing as desired.
  - Identify adverse effects and determine whether remedial action is required.
- 9.4 A list of general monitoring targets and indicators has been developed for the Oadby and Wigston Core Strategy and is presented in Appendix E. These were developed with reference to the SA objectives, key sustainability issues and review of plans and programmes. The indicators should be used as guidance only; it may be necessary for Oadby and Wigston Borough Council to build upon / refine these targets and indicators. In developing monitoring it may be possible to utilise indicators being used elsewhere within the Council, such as in the monitoring of the Local Transport Plan or other documents under the LDF.
- 9.5 It is not necessary to monitor everything, or conduct monitoring indefinitely. It should be noted that although monitoring features of the baseline may indicate the effects of the Core Strategy, those features may also be open to effects beyond its influence. As such, indicators should be clearly linked to the SA process and in addition should enable the setting of targets that are within the scope of that which the Core Strategy can achieve. This may involve focussing upon the significant effects predicted during the SA process, as detailed in Appendix D.