

Salford City Council
Trees and Development Supplementary Planning
Document
Sustainability Appraisal Final Report
January 2006

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Components that make up the SEA Environmental Report

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

The places in the Sustainability Appraisal Report where the components which are required in relation to the Environmental Report are signposted in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Signpost of where in this report the different aspects of SEA Directive have been satisfied

Information to be included in an Environmental Report under the SEA Regulations	Relevant Sections in the SA Report
An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan and its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.	3.4 - 3.6 4.1 - 4.3
The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan.	4.4 - 4.10
The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	4.4 - 4.10 4.16
Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan, including in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC.	4.4 - 4.10 4.16
The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or national level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.	4.1 - 4.3
The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soils, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage, landscape, and the interrelationship between the above factors.	Section 6 Appendix 3
The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan.	Section 6 Appendix 3
An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties.	Section 2 Section 4 Section 5
A description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring.	Section 7
A non-technical summary of the information provided above.	Section 1

1. SUMMARY AND OUTCOMES

- 1.1 This section provides a non-technical summary of the Sustainability Appraisal report, setting out the process and the difference that this process has made. Contact details are also provided, with information about how to comment on the Report during the consultation period.

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.2 The Supplementary Planning Document (SPD): Trees and Development has been prepared to give information to all those involved in the development process about the standard that the Local Planning Authority requires for new development proposals with specific reference to the retention and protection of trees. It will also ensure consistent and transparent decision-making.
- 1.3 The purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is to promote sustainable development through the integration of sustainability considerations into the preparation and adoption of the SPD. The SA considers the SPD's implications, from a social, economic and environmental perspective, by assessing options and the draft SPD against available baseline data and sustainability objectives.
- 1.4 SA is mandatory for SPDs under the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004). SAs of SPDs should also fully incorporate the requirements of the European Directive 2001/42/EC, known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive. This Directive is transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 – the SEA Regulations.

THE APPRAISAL METHODOLOGY

- 1.5 The approach adopted to undertake the SA was based on the process set out in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) Guidance Paper "Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents" November 2005.
- 1.6 The level of detail and the scope that the SA covered was agreed by key stakeholders involved in the SA process as part of consultation on SA Scoping Report. This report was produced to set out the initial context and findings of the SA and the proposed approach to the appraisal process.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND OBJECTIVES

- 1.7 The purpose of reviewing other plans and programmes and sustainability objectives is to ensure that the relationship between these Documents and the draft SPD has been fully explored. This will in turn ensure that Salford City Council is able to act on any identified inconsistencies between international, national, regional and local objectives.
- 1.8 A range of national, regional and local strategies were reviewed as part of the SA process and no major inconsistencies were found between policies. The key links identified were with Planning Policy Statement 1 (PPS1): Delivering Sustainable Development; Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation; North West Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS13); North West Regional Assembly's Regional Sustainable Development Framework – 'Action for Sustainability' (AfS); and the City of Salford Unitary Development Plan - Revised Deposit Draft Replacement Plan 2003–2016.

BASELINE CHARACTERISTICS

- 1.9 The collection and assessment of information and data about the current and likely future state of the policy area (City of Salford) was used within the SA to help identify sustainability problems and predict the SPD's effects. Where available, comparators, key trends and targets were identified.
- 1.10 Sources for the baseline data included: Health Inequalities in Salford – a local strategy for action (2004); Salford PCT Annual Report (2003/2004); Neighbourhood Statistics website (<http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk>); Indices of Deprivation (2004); Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan (2000); Salford City Council Resident's Survey (2003/2004); and the Salford Annual Baseline Review (2004).
- 1.11 Issues and trends identified included that the population of the City has decreased rapidly since 1992 and that many parts of Salford are amongst the most deprived in the country. Also, the general health of the population is below the national average and crime is much higher than the national average. Average earning levels are also below the national average. However, the City is well-endowed with natural and cultural assets.

THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK

- 1.12 The establishment of SA objectives and criteria is central to the SA process and provides a way in which sustainability effects can be described, assessed and compared. The sustainability objectives used for the SA of the SPD were drawn from

the sustainability issues identified through analysis of the baseline data and review of other plans and strategies.

- 1.13 There were 16 objectives used in total, organised under the three dimensions of sustainability: social; environmental and economic. The objectives covered a broad range of issues, including: to improve the health of the population; to improve safety and security for people and property; to reduce deprivation within the city; to ensure that everyone has access to a good home that meets their needs; to improve accessibility for all the community; to maintain and improve biodiversity, flora and fauna; to reduce vulnerability to climate change; and to maximise economic growth.

APPRAISAL OF STRATEGIC OPTIONS

- 1.14 A key requirement of the SA is to consider reasonable alternatives as part of the assessment process. The options that were assessed were formulated from the Unitary Development Plan process and the Council's intention to provide transparent guidance for developers about what the potential issues are when considering the impact of development on trees. The options assessed were thus:

- **Do nothing / business as usual (option A):** This option would result in a lack of clear guidance for people involved in the development process and where trees are an issue. By not providing any detailed guidance the result could be a reduction in the overall quality of the tree stock which could have negative effects for all of the objectives, especially with regard to biodiversity and the quality of the City's townscapes.
- **Provide clear guidance for developers by way of SPD (option B):** It is very apparent the production of an SPD which provides guidance on tree planting and the protection of existing trees performs much better against the sustainability objectives than does the 'do nothing' option. Securing a healthy and well balanced tree stock / treescape can have positive benefits for all of the objectives, especially with regard to biodiversity and the quality of the City's townscapes.

- 1.15 The key changes and the sustainability strengths and weaknesses of each option were identified. This concluded that the preferred option was to provide transparent guidance for developers about what the potential issues are when considering the impact of development on trees. This option is delivered by the draft SPD.

APPRAISAL OF THE PLAN'S EFFECTS

- 1.16 The SA provides a record of the prediction and assessment of the potential effects of the preferred option (provide SPD) and the 'do nothing' option. These were assessed against each of the 16 sustainability objectives and were given a score based on a five-point scale with one uncertain category:

++	MAJOR POSITIVE
+	MINOR POSITIVE
0	NEUTRAL
-	MINOR NEGATIVE
--	MAJOR NEGATIVE
?	UNCERTAIN

In addition, the effects of the plan were described in terms of the time period over which they will occur, whether they are probable or improbable, their geographical scale, and whether effects are permanent or temporary.

- 1.17 Generally the draft SPD performed very well against the sustainability objectives and the majority of effects identified were very positive. This is because the tree stock has connections with, or secondary impacts on, social environmental and economic aspects of the City. For example, trees are an important aspect of the visual quality of the City which can help attract investment and employment, improve the setting of the historic environment, reduce deprivation and improve the quality of the housing stock.

IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

- 1.18 A key part of the SA process is establishing how any significant sustainability effects of implementing the SPD will be monitored. Some potential indicators have been proposed as a starting point for developing the SPD and sustainability monitoring programme. The indicators proposed are based on data already collected by the Council. It is envisaged that the monitoring will be on an annual basis, although updates of some indicators may not be available with this frequency.
- 1.19 Details are provided in the SA Report of the process that will follow the period of public consultation alongside the draft SPD.

DIFFERENCE THE PROCESS HAS MADE

- 1.20 The SA process and the preparation of the SPD have been initiated to build upon the Council's stated ambitions in the replacement Unitary Development Plan. Therefore the SA has found that implementing the draft SPD will have overall positive benefits on sustainability.

1.21 However some opportunities for further enhancement have been identified through the SA process and these recommendations have been incorporated in the consultation draft of the SPD. These include:

- The replacement of the general guidance found in the existing Supplementary Planning Guidance Document with more concise and user friendly, policy based content.
- The inclusion of policies which have regard for the various principles of sustainable development.

HOW TO COMMENT ON THIS REPORT

1.22 Public consultation on the draft SPD: Trees and Development and it's Sustainability Appraisal Report runs from 17/02/2006 to 30/03/2006.

1.23 All comments must be received by 4:30pm on 31/03/2006 Comments can be submitted by:

Post to: Trees and Development Draft SPD
 Development Control Section
 Urban Vision Partnership Ltd
 Emerson House
 Albert Street
 Eccles
 Salford
 M30 OTE

Email to: spd.consultation@salford.gov.uk

Via the web through: www.salford.gov.uk/spdconsultation

2. APPRAISAL METHODOLOGY

APPROACH ADOPTED

- 2.1 The approach adopted to undertake the SA was based on the process set out in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) guidance paper "Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents" November 2005.
- 2.2 Table 2 below sets out the SA stages and tasks, based on those listed in the Government guidance. This SA Report represents the completion of up to Stage C of the SA process.

Table 2: Sustainability Appraisal stages and tasks

PRE-PRODUCTION
<p>Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding the scope.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and review other relevant plans, programmes and sustainable development objectives that will affect or influence the SPD. Collect relevant social, environmental and economic baseline information. Identify key sustainability issues for the SA to address. Develop the SA framework, consisting of the sustainability objectives, indicators and targets. Test the SPD objectives against the sustainability objectives and whether the SPD objectives are consistent with one another. Produce Scoping Report and carry out necessary consultation with key stakeholders on the scope of the appraisal and the key issues and possible options for solutions.
PRODUCTION
<p>Stage B: Developing and Refining Options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out appraisal of the SPD options and make recommendations for improvement. <p>Stage C: Appraising the effects of the draft SPD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Predict the effects and carry out detailed assessment of the effects of the draft SPD. Propose measures to maximize beneficial effects and mitigate adverse effects. Develop proposals for monitoring. Prepare the final SA Report along with the draft SPD. <p>Stage D: Consultation on the SA Report and Draft SPD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult on the final SA Report along with the draft SPD. Carry out, where necessary, appraisal of any significant changes made as a result of representations.
ADOPTION AND MONITORING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform consultees that SPD has been adopted. Issue statement summarizing information on how the SA results and consultees' opinions were taken into account, reasons for choice of options and proposals for monitoring, including in relation to any recommended changes. Make SPD and SA Report available for public viewing. <p>Stage E: Monitoring implementation of the SPD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor significant effects of the SPD to identify at an early stage any unforeseen adverse effects. Undertake appropriate remedial action where necessary.

TIMETABLE AND RESPONSIBILITY

- 2.3 The timing of key SA outputs and tasks is set out in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Timetable of SA outputs and tasks

TASK	TIMETABLE
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Preparation of the SA Scoping Report	September 2005
Consultation on SA Scoping Report	September - November 2005
Preparation of responses to comments from consultees	October 2005
Appraisal of strategic options	December 2005
Preparation of SA Report	January 2006

2.4 The SA was undertaken by a team of planning officers from Salford City Council.

CONSULTATION ARRANGEMENTS

2.5 In September 2005 an SA Scoping Report was produced to set out the initial context and findings of the SA and the proposed approach to the rest of the appraisal. The aim was to ensure that the SA was comprehensive and would address all relevant issues and objectives, by enabling input from key stakeholders and consultation bodies at an early stage in the process.

2.6 The Scoping Report set out an initial assessment of:

- The relationship between the SPD and other relevant plans and programmes.
- Relevant sustainability objectives established at the national, regional and local level.
- The current environmental, social and economic baseline and any trends.
- The likely key sustainability issues.

2.7 The Report also set out the proposed methodology for the SA, giving details of its proposed level of detail and scope.

2.8 Comments on the Scoping Report were invited from the four consultation bodies required by the SEA Regulations (English Nature, English Heritage, Environment Agency, Countryside Agency) together with other key consultees representing social, economic and environmental interests in the City of Salford, namely GONW and NWRA, Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside, British Trust for Ornithology, and the South Manchester Bat Group.

3. Background

PURPOSE OF SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

- 3.1 The purpose of SA is to promote sustainable development through better integration of sustainability considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans. The objective of this SA is to inform the development of the *Supplementary Planning Document: Trees and Development* (T&DSPD). The SA considers the SPD's implications from a social, economic and environmental perspective, by assessing options and the draft SPD against available baseline data and sustainability objectives.
- 3.2 SA is mandatory for Local Development Documents (LDD) under the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. These Documents include Development Plan Documents (DPD) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD).
- 3.3 This SA Report is the key output of the SA process, documenting the work carried out during the appraisal of the SPD.

PLAN OBJECTIVES AND CONTENT

- 3.4 The City Council recognise the aesthetic and environmental value of retaining and planting new trees in and around new developments. To ensure consistency in decision making and to encourage the retention and planting of new trees, the draft T&DSPD has been produced.
- 3.5 There are 3 key objectives of the draft T&DSPD:
1. To protect and improve the city's treescape
 2. To provide clear guidance on how to protect existing trees as part of new developments
 3. To provide clear guidance and advice on tree planting and landscaping
- 3.6 The draft T&DSPD is split into 10 sections:
- Introduction.
 - Trees and Development and the need for this document
 - Process for producing this document
 - Tree Surveys
 - Considerations for layout design
 - Existing trees and protection of trees during construction

- Tree preservation orders
- Trees in conservation Areas
- New tree planting
- Further Information

COMPLIANCE WITH THE SEA DIRECTIVE/REGULATIONS

- 3.7 In accordance with the Government's draft guidance on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), SAs of SPDs should also fully incorporate the requirements of the European Directive 2001/42/EC, known as the SEA Directive. This Directive is transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 – the SEA Regulations. While SEA and SA are distinct processes, the intention of this SA is to adopt an approach to appraisal which also meets the requirements of the SEA Directive and Regulations.

4. SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES, BASELINE AND CONTEXT

LINKS TO OTHER STRATEGIES, PLANS AND OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 The purpose of reviewing other plans and programmes and sustainability objectives is to ensure that the relationship between these documents and the draft SPD has been fully explored. This will in turn ensure that Salford City Council is able to act on any identified inconsistencies between international, national, regional and local objectives.
- 4.2 Table 4 below shows a list of the plans and strategies that were reviewed as part of the SA.

Table 4: List of all Plans, Programmes and Strategies reviewed as part of the SA.

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EC Directive - Conservation of Natural Habitats of Wild Fauna and Flora 92/43/EEC. • EC Directive - Establishing a framework for the Community action in the Field of Water Policy • Sustainable Communities: People, Places and Prosperity (A 5-year Plan from the ODPM) 2005. • Sustainable Communities: Homes for all (A 5-year Plan from the ODPM) 2005. • PPG 2 Green Belts. • PPG3 Housing. • PPG 9 Nature Conservation. • PPG 13 Transport. • PPG 15 Planning and the Historic Environment. • PPG 25 Development and Flood Risk. • PPS 1 – Delivering Sustainable Development. • PPS 6 Planning for Town Centres. • PPS 7 Sustainable Development in Rural Areas. • PPS 9 Biodiversity Geological Conservation. • PPS 12 Local Development Frameworks. • PPS 22 Renewable Energy. • PPS 23 Planning and Pollution Control. • Waste Strategy for England and Wales 2000. • Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland 2000. • Climate Change: The UK Programme. • Environment Act 1995. • Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). • Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. • Safer Places The Planning System and Crime Prevention. • Community Leadership and Climate Change – Guidance for LAs. • The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. • Our Energy Future – Creating a Low Carbon Economy. • Securing The Future: delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy 2005. • UK Biodiversity Action Plan. • Working with the Grain of Nature: A Biodiversity Strategy for England 2002.
REGIONAL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Strategy towards 2020 (The Regional Economic Strategy for the NW). • Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) (RPG13) • NWRA's Regional Sustainable Development Framework – 'Action for Sustainability' (AfS). • North West Regional Housing Strategy 2003. • Regional Waste Strategy for the North West 2004. • Red Rose Forest The Forest Plan (1994)& Supplementary Review (2000).
LOCAL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Salford Unitary Development Plan - Revised Deposit Draft Replacement Plan 2003–2016. • City of Salford 2003 Housing Market Demand Study. • Community Plan – Our Vision for Salford 2001-2006.

• Salford Community Safety Strategy 2005-2008

- 4.3 No inconsistencies between policies were found. The key links identified were with Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development; Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation; North West Regional Spatial Strategy; North West Regional Assembly's Regional Sustainable Development Framework – 'Action for Sustainability' (AfS); and the City of Salford Unitary Development Plan - Revised Deposit Draft Replacement Plan 2003–2016.

BASELINE CHARACTERISTICS AND THE FUTURE BASELINE

- 4.4 According to the latest mid-2003 population statistics, there were 216,400 people living in Salford of whom 49.7% were male and 50.3% were female. Children under five accounted for approximately 6% of the population. Between 1992 and 2002 the population of Salford decreased by 12.6%. This was the 2nd greatest decrease in the UK. In Salford 6 out of 20 of the wards are in the 5% most deprived wards and 9 are in the 10% most deprived wards. In 2003, the Gross weekly wage rate for Salford was £424, which is marginally lower than the average for the northwest (£437) and the national average (£438). The level of unemployment in the City (3.9%) is also above the national average (3.3%).
- 4.5 Life expectancy in Salford is the lowest in the whole of Greater Manchester. Male life expectancy in Salford is on average 2.9 years less than the national average. For women, the difference is 2.4 years. The main killers are heart disease and cancers. With regard to other health considerations, according to a 1998 survey, there were approximately 6,500 diabetics in Salford. It was thought that this figure may double by 2008. In 2001, 27,846 (22.8%) of people suffered with a limiting long term illness.
- 4.6 Crime in the City is significantly higher than the national average. Table 5 below, which relates to crimes recorded by the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships across the country, compares the crime rates in Salford to the national average. In particular, it highlights that burglary rates are more than double the national average.

Table 5: Comparison of Crime rates in Salford and England

Key Offences	England (2002/2003)	Salford (2002/2003)
Violence against the person (per 1000 population)	16.0	18.3
Sexual offences (per 1000 population)	0.9	1.1
Robbery offences (per 1000 population)	2.1	4.7
Burglary offences (per 1000 population)	20.2	43.7
Vehicle crime offences (per 1000 population)	18.7	33.4

- 4.7 The City of Salford is made up of a number of diverse landscapes. To the east of the City is central Salford which forms part of the regional center. This area is largely urbanised. The western fringes of the City are more rural in character and include large areas of green belt. The majority of this green belt also forms the Cities mosslands area which is a valuable conservation and nature resource of international importance. Habitats across the city are also highly diverse and include wet woodlands, lowland hay meadow, lowland dry acid grassland, lowland heath, and lowland raised bog. Within Salford there are 32 Sites of Biological Importance (SBIs), some of which include priority habitats as identified in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.
- 4.8 Pollutant levels in Salford (ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide) are all classified as being low, meaning that their effects are unlikely to be noticed by individuals with sensitivity to air pollution. With regard to the River Irwell, its chemistry and biology is classed as poor with fish largely absent.
- 4.9 With regard to the city's cultural and landscape heritage, there are 273 Listed Buildings, 3 Scheduled Ancient Monuments, 2 Historic Parks, 16 Conservation Areas and over 300 Tree Preservation Orders in Salford.
- 4.10 Sources for the baseline data included: Health Inequalities in Salford – a local strategy for action (2004); Salford PCT Annual Report (2003/2004); Neighbourhood Statistics website (<http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk>); Indices of Deprivation (2004); Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan (2000); Salford City Council Resident's Survey (2003/2004); and the Salford Annual Baseline Review (2004).

DATA COLLECTION LIMITATIONS

- 4.11 The collection of some of the baseline data is infrequent or is not specific to the City which can distort slightly the baseline situation. Also, the collection of baseline data is ongoing. New information may emerge, therefore, with relevance to the appraisal.

THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK

- 4.12 The establishment of SA objectives and criteria is central to the SA process. The SA framework, based on these objectives provides a way in which sustainability effects can be described, assessed and compared. Sustainability objectives are distinct from those of the SPD, but in some cases will overlap.
- 4.13 The sustainability objectives used for the SA of the SPD were drawn from the sustainability issues identified through analysis of the baseline data and review of other plans and strategies.

- 4.14 There were 16 objectives used in total, organised under the three dimensions of sustainability: social; environmental and economic. The objectives covered a broad range of issues, including: to improve the health of the population; to improve safety and security for people and property; to reduce deprivation within the city; to ensure that everyone has access to a good home that meets their needs; to improve accessibility for all the community; to maintain and improve biodiversity, flora and fauna; to reduce vulnerability to climate change; and to maximize economic growth.
- 4.15 The SA Framework can be found at appendix 1.

KEY SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

- 4.16 The Issues and trends identified are summarized in Table 6 below.

Table 6: Key Sustainability Issues

KEY ISSUES
Social
The City's population has decreased rapidly since 1992. According to the Indices of Deprivation, 2004, Salford has 45% (9 out of 20) of Salford's wards are in the lowest 10% of wards for deprivation.
As a City, Salford's population generally suffers from poor health with both men and women having a lower life expectancy than others in Greater Manchester.
Crime in Salford is significantly higher than the national average. In particular, burglary is more than double the national average and vehicle crime is close to double the national average.
There are a significant number of people in Salford who are temporarily or permanently disabled.
Environmental
Salford has a significant number of natural environmental assets including vast areas of Greenbelt and Mosslands, SBIs, TPOs and water resources such as lakes, rivers and ponds. These natural assets must be protected and enhanced for the benefit of the City and local biodiversity.
The level of water pollution in Salford is significant and restricts the development of biodiversity. In addition the UK has pledged to reduce its emissions of greenhouse gases by 15% below 1990 levels by 2010.
Salford also has an impressive array of cultural heritage assets which must be preserved and enhanced. These assets include Listed Buildings, Ancient Scheduled Monuments, Conservation Areas, Historic Parks
Large parts of Salford are susceptible to flooding (0.5% - 1.3% chance of flooding, except in extreme conditions)
Economic
Earning levels in Salford are marginally lower than the national average. However, unemployment is higher (3.9% in Salford, 3.3% national average).

5. APPRAISAL OF STRATEGIC OPTIONS

- 5.1 One of the key requirements of SA is to consider reasonable alternatives as part of the assessment process. During the development of the draft SPD, a range of options were considered, assessed and debated.
- 5.2 The aim of options appraisal is to assess the sustainability of all options against the sustainability framework. This process enables comparison between options, highlighting any potential implications on sustainability. The appraisal of options also enables recommendations for mitigation of negative impacts and suggestions for modifications to the preferred option, as presented by the draft SPD.
- 5.3 The preferred approach, presented by the draft SPD, is to provide transparent guidance for developers and residents about what are the issues surrounding tree retention and protection in and around new developments. Clearly within this option, there are a number of sub-options around its detailed implementation, for example, what types of developments should be considered unacceptable by reason of the impact on protected trees. However, given the specificity and number of potential options, it is considered more appropriate to consider these matters as part of the discussion and consultation on the policy document, and not as part of the SA process. Thus the only other viable alternative available was the “do nothing” approach of failing to provide guidance.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE OPTIONS

- 5.4 **Option A: Provide clear guidance to developers and residents about trees and their relationship to new developments.**
- 5.5 Option A would involve the preparation of a document which would provide clear and accountable guidance to people who wish to undertake work to protected trees. The document would also provide guidance on the relationship between trees and new developments. Summary of key changes:
- Provide improved guidance to people about the relationship between trees and new developments.
 - Ensure that the process is fair and transparent.
 - Ensure consistency of decision making.
- 5.6 **Option B: Do nothing / business as usual.**

5.7 Although Supplementary Planning Guidance exists for Trees and Development, this will cease to be effective when the Replacement UDP is adopted. Therefore, option B assumes the future scenario when no such guidance will exist. Option B, therefore would result in a greater degree of uncertainty about the types of development

5.8 that would usually be acceptable and would result in the planning process being slowed down significantly due to the lack of clear guidance. Decisions would also be less consistent resulting in a potentially unfair system. Summary of key changes:

- Uncertainty about development proposals where trees may be effected within the site.
- Slower planning process.
- More inconsistent decision making.

SUMMARY OF THE APPRAISAL OF STRATEGIC OPTIONS

5.8 The matrix in appendix 2 confirms that the option to prepare a SPD on Trees and Development performs well in terms of sustainability in comparison with the option to do nothing:

- **Do nothing / business as usual (option A):** This option would result in a lack of clear guidance for people involved in the development process and where trees are an issue. By not providing any detailed guidance the result could be a reduction in the overall quality of the tree stock which could have negative effects for all of the objectives, especially with regard to biodiversity and the quality of the City's townscapes.
- **Provide clear guidance for developers by way of SPD (option B):** It is very apparent the production of an SPD which provides guidance on tree planting and the protection of exiting trees performs much better against the sustainability objectives than does the 'do nothing' option. Securing a healthy and well balanced tree stock / treescape can have positive benefits for all of the objectives, especially with regard to biodiversity and the quality of the City's townscapes.

5.9 The preferred option is thus to provide a document which would provide clear and accountable guidance to developers and residents about trees (existing and new) and developments. This option is delivered by the draft SPD.

6. APPRAISAL OF PLAN'S EFFECTS

- 6.1 The appraisal of the plan's effects can be found in the matrix at appendix 3 which provides a record of the prediction and assessment of the potential effects of the draft SPD and the 'do nothing' option. The plan objectives were scored on a five-point scale with one uncertain category against each of the sustainability objectives:

++	MAJOR POSITIVE
+	MINOR POSITIVE
0	NEUTRAL
-	MINOR NEGATIVE
--	MAJOR NEGATIVE
?	UNCERTAIN

In addition, the effects of the plan were described in terms of the time period over which they will occur, whether they are probable or improbable, their geographical scale, and whether effects are permanent or temporary.

POTENTIAL OVERALL EFFECTS OF THE DRAFT SPD

- 6.2 The matrix at appendix 3 shows that the majority of the sustainability objectives are affected either positively or very positively by the implementation of the SPD.
- 6.3 The policies that seek to protect existing trees are likely to have positive impacts on the majority of sustainability objectives. This is because the tree stock has connections with, or secondary impacts on, social, environmental and economic aspects of the City. For example, trees are an important aspect of the visual quality of the City which can help attract investment and employment, improve the setting of the historic environment, reduce deprivation and improve the quality of the housing stock. The benefit of the new tree planting policy within the Draft SPD should be to allow the City to retain an appropriate tree stock that will continue to provide the City with meeting the sustainability objectives.

In addition, production of the policies within SPD allows for extensive consultation to take place which ensures ownership of the policies for residents/developers and refinement of those policies so that they are representative of their views

SECONDARY, CUMMULATIVE AND SYNERGISTIC EFFECTS

- 6.3 Secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects were considered during the assessment.

6.4 The preferred option of producing SPD shows that the cumulative, secondary and synergistic impacts are generally positive. For example, the retention of existing trees and planting of new trees could improve the image of an area which could promote the image of the city as a place to come and live. This, in turn, could halt outward migration from the city. Similarly, if the image of the city is improved, this could attract greater investment into the city and improve the local economy. Trees also reduce soil erosion which can reduce silt build up in nearby waterways.

THE DIFFERENCE THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL PROCESS HAS MADE

6.5 The SA process and the preparation of the SPD have been initiated to build upon the Council's stated ambitions in the replacement Unitary Development Plan. Therefore the SA has found that implementing the draft SPD will have overall positive benefits on sustainability.

6.6 However some opportunities for further enhancement have been identified through the SA process and these recommendations have been incorporated in the consultation draft of the SPD. These include:

- The replacement of the general guidance found in the existing Supplementary Planning Guidance Document with more concise and user friendly, policy based content.
- The inclusion of policies which have regard for the various principles of sustainable development.

7. IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

- 7.1 The significant sustainability effects of implementing the draft SPD will be monitored to help identify unforeseen adverse effects and to enable remedial action to be taken.
- 7.2 The Council is required to prepare Annual Monitoring Reports to assess the implementation of the Local Development Scheme and the extent to which policies in the Local Development Documents are being achieved. The SPD will be included in this process.
- 7.3 Table 7 below shows the indicators that form part of the SA Framework.

Table 7: Potential Indicators

- Percentage of people who like the neighbourhood they live in" to act as a proxy.
- Net change in the number of trees resulting from planning permissions

NEXT STEPS

- 7.4 The key next steps of the SA once the formal consultation on the SA Report along with the draft SPD is complete will involve:
- Appraisal of any significant changes proposed to the draft SPD not already considered.
 - Publishing a statement following adoption of the SPD setting out the changes to the SPD in response to the SA process, the ways in which responses to consultation have been taken into account and confirmation of monitoring arrangements.
 - Monitoring the significant effects.

**APPENDIX 1:
SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK**

Topic Area	Objective	Key Criteria	Indicators	Data Source
SOCIAL				
Human Health	To improve the health of the population	Does the T&DSPD promote good quality environments, which in turn will make a contribution to the health and well being of the population?	"% of people who like the neighbourhood they live in" to act as a proxy	Quality of Life Survey
Education	To improve the education and skills of the population	Will the T&DSPD provide opportunities for skills development?	N/A	
Crime & Safety	To improve safety and security for people and property	Does the T&DSPD include links to other SPDs such as Design and Crime, which will minimise crime and the fear of crime? Does the T&D SPD encourage safety and security for people, buildings and vehicles?	N/A	
Deprivation and Poverty	To reduce deprivation within the city	Does the T&DSPD support an increase in household incomes/wealth?	N/A	
Housing	To ensure that everyone has access to a good home that meets their needs	Will the T&DSPD maximise the quality and design of the existing and new housing stock and promote the role of trees and landscaping in achieving quality homes.	N/A	

Topic Area	Objective	Key Criteria	Indicators	Data Source
Neighbourhoods and Community	To promote vibrant communities which participate in decision making	Will all sections of the local community have the opportunity to be involved in the preparation of the T&DSPD? Will it improve neighbourhood satisfaction?	% of people who like the neighbourhood they live in	Quality of Life Survey
Accessibility	To improve accessibility for all the community	Does the T&DSPD promote/not restrict accessibility for all users	N/A	
ENVIRONMENTAL				
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	To maintain and improve biodiversity, flora and fauna	Will the T&DSPD help conserve and enhance biodiversity, flora and fauna?	Net change in the number of trees resulting from planning permissions*	Development Control Uniform database
Water	To improve the quality of waterways	Will the T&DSPD make a positive contribution towards the improvement of the City's waterways? Will the T&DSPD minimise the amount of surface water runoff? Will the T&DSPD minimise the level of pollution entering the water table?	N/A	

Topic Area	Objective	Key Criteria	Indicators	Data Source
Climatic Factors	<p>To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality</p> <p>To reduce vulnerability to climate change</p>	<p>Will the T&DSPD make a positive contribution towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions?</p> <p>Will the T&DSPD minimise the risk of flooding?</p> <p>Will the T&SDP minimise the amount of surface water runoff?</p>	N/A	
Material Assets	Prudent and efficient use of energy and natural resources	Does the T&DSPD encourage appropriate planting species and location which allows maximum natural light/heat to enter properties?	N/A	
Cultural Heritage	To protect and enhance the historic environment	<p>Will the T&DSPD protect and enhance sites, features, buildings and areas of historical interest?</p> <p>Will the T&DSPD enhance the setting of sites, features, buildings and areas of historical interest?</p>	N/A	
Landscape and Townscape	To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	Will the T&DSPD protect and enhance sites, features, buildings and areas of architectural interest and their setting?	The above indicator on “% of people who like the neighbourhood they live in” acts as proxy	Quality of Life Survey

Topic Area	Objective	Key Criteria	Indicators	Data Source
		Will the T&DSPD make a positive contribution to design?		
ECONOMIC				
Economic Health	<p>To maximise sustainable economic growth</p> <p>To ensure good quality employment opportunities are available to all</p>	Will the T&DSPD improve the image of the area as a place to invest and work?	N/A	

**APPENDIX 2:
APPRAISAL OF STRATEGIC OPTIONS**

SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVE	OPTION A (Do nothing)		OPTION B (Develop SPD to provide guidance for developers)	
	Effect	Comments/ Mitigation	Effect	Comments/ Mitigation
To improve the health of the population	-	Having no SPD could result in a loss of treescape due to inappropriate development and a lack of / inappropriate replacement planting. This would have a detrimental impact on the quality of local environments which in turn could have a negative impact on the health and well-being of the population.	+	Providing clear guidance on tree planting and replacement should lead to an improved treescape. This would have a positive impact on the quality of local environments which in turn could have a positive impact on the health and well-being of the population.
To improve the education and skills of the population	0	Although having SPD could result in a loss of treescape due to inappropriate development and a lack of / inappropriate replacement planting, it is likely to have little impact on woodlands, which are considered the main resource for education/learning purposes. There may however be exceptions, eg: Forest Park.	0	Although having SPD could result in a loss of treescape due to inappropriate development and a lack of / inappropriate replacement planting, it is likely to have little impact on woodlands, which are considered the main resource for education/learning purposes. There may however be exceptions, eg: Forest Park.
To improve safety and security for people and property	-	Having no SPD could result in inappropriate tree planting (e.g. near to rear gardens, paths or street lighting) which could result in decreased levels of security (i.e. reduce lighting, natural surveillance etc).	+	SPD should provide specific layout guidance to highlight the implications of trees in relation to security concerns. (e.g. trees obscuring street lighting).
To reduce deprivation within the city	-	Having no SPD could result in a loss of treescape due to inappropriate development and a lack of / inappropriate replacement planting. This would have a detrimental impact on the quality of local environments which in turn could have a negative impact on communities and levels of deprivation.	+	Providing clear guidance on tree planting and replacement should lead to an improved treescape. This would have a positive impact on the quality of local environments which in turn could reduce levels of deprivation.
To ensure that everyone has access to a good home that meets their needs	-	Having no SPD could result in a loss of treescape due to inappropriate development and a lack of / inappropriate replacement planting. This would have a detrimental impact on the quality of local environments which in turn could reduce the attractiveness of the City's housing stock.	+	Providing clear guidance on tree planting and replacement should lead to an improved treescape. This would have a positive impact on the quality of local environments which in turn could improve the attractiveness of the City's housing stock.
To promote vibrant communities which participate in decision making	-	Although, the planning process would allow an opportunity for people to comment on applications when they are submitted, the production of an SPD would give people a further opportunity to shape the policies that guide decisions.	+	Although, the planning process would allow an opportunity for people to comment on applications when they are submitted, the production of an SPD would give people a further opportunity to shape the policies that guide decisions.
To improve accessibility for all the community	-	Having no SPD could result in inappropriate planting which could result in hazards from, for example, leaf fall on pedestrian routes – especially with regard to elderly people. SPD could address this by advising on appropriate planting and species selection.	+	SPD could reduce the possibility of hazards by advising on appropriate planting and species selection.
To maintain and improve biodiversity, flora and fauna	--	Having no SPD could result in a loss of treescape due to inappropriate development and a lack of / inappropriate replacement planting. This could reduce the tree stock (loss of flora) which is also home to many species of fauna.	++	Having an SPD would increase the availability of information to guide developers and officers into retaining important trees on site and also encouraging appropriate species selection for the site which in turn would improve the tree stock which supports fauna.
To improve the quality of watercourses	-	Having no SPD could result in a loss of treescape due to inappropriate development and a lack of / inappropriate replacement planting. This could lead to increased erosion and silt levels which in turn would have a negative impact on the quality of water courses.	+	Providing clear guidance on tree planting and replacement should lead to an improved treescape. This would result in reduced run off and reduced levels of silt. This has a positive impact on water courses.

To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality	-	Having no SPD could result in a loss of treescape due to inappropriate development and a lack of / inappropriate replacement planting. This would result in a less effective natural resource with regard to dealing with CO2 emissions.	+	Providing clear guidance on tree planting and replacement should lead to an improved treescape. This would result in a more effective natural resource for dealing with CO2 emissions.
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	-	Having no SPD could result in a loss of treescape due to inappropriate development and a lack of / inappropriate replacement planting. This would result in increased run-off and an increase in flash floods.	+	Providing clear guidance on tree planting and replacement should lead to an improved treescape which in turn would reduce levels of run-off and a decrease in the occurrence of flash floods.
Prudent and efficient use of energy and natural resources	-	Lack of guidance can result in inappropriate tree planting or development near to trees leading buildings to be over shadowed, as such buildings need to use energy to light and heat the building	+	By having guidance a separation distance can be maintained and enforced between buildings and trees (3.6m) allowing for a reasonable level of light to enter habitable room windows.
To protect and enhance the historic environment	-	Lack of guidance can result in inappropriate planting that can have a negative effect upon the setting of the historic environment and a negative direct impact upon the structure of historic buildings (e.g. by tree roots affecting foundations).	+	Clear guidance should ensure more appropriate planting (and tree retention) which maintains and improves the historic environment and restricts any damage to building structures.
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	--	Inappropriate planting/ loss of trees- this can have a negative impact of the quality of landscape and townscape	++	Clear guidance should ensure more appropriate planting (and tree retention) which maintains and improves the townscape.
To maximise sustainable economic growth	-	Inappropriate tree planting can lead to an undesirable place to invest.	+	Clear guidance should ensure more appropriate planting (and tree retention) which maintains and improves the townscape. This would result in a city that is more attractive to invest in.
To ensure good quality employment opportunities are available to all	-	Inappropriate tree planting can lead to an undesirable place to attract investment resulting in a low level of job opportunity	+	Clear guidance should ensure more appropriate planting (and tree retention) which maintains and improves the townscape. This would result in a city that is more attractive to invest in and improved employment opportunities.
SUSTAINABILITY SUMMARY	It is very apparent the production of an SPD which provides guidance on tree planting and the protection of existing trees perform much better against the sustainability objectives than does the 'do nothing' option. Securing a healthy and well balanced tree stock / treescape can have positive benefits for all of the objectives above, especially with regard to biodiversity and the quality of the City's townscapes.			

**APPENDIX 3:
SUMMARY OF THE EFFECTS OF THE DRAFT SPD**

‘DO NOTHING’

SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVE	Timescale			Certainty	Scale	Permanent ?	Secondary, cumulative, synergistic	Comments	Mitigation
	0-3 years	3-10 years	10+ years						
Social Objectives									
To improve the health of the population	-	-	--	High	City	Long-term	Cumulative impact of development and tree removal	The cumulative loss for trees over time due to continuous development, following low levels of replanting and a high possibility of damage to tree during construction would have a negative impact on City with knock on effects for health as identified in annex 2. This would only relate to trees not afford protection (TPO or Conservation Area)	Provide SPD which stipulates necessity for replacements and detailed guidance to developers on tree protection and opportunities for new planting.
To improve the education and skills of the population	○	○	○	High	N/A	N/A	Having no guidance may lead to reduce tree stock for educational resources	Negligible effect	
To improve safety and security for people and property	-	-	--	High	City	Long-term	Cumulative effect of inappropriate tree planting or inappropriate development	Having no SPD could result in inappropriate tree planting (e.g. near to rear gardens, paths or street lighting) which could result in decreased levels of security (i.e. reduce lighting, natural surveillance etc). The problem would get worse over time as more inappropriate tree planting takes place.	Provide SPD which seeks to protect existing trees and stipulates necessity for appropriate tree planting and species selection.
To reduce deprivation within the city	-	-	--	High	City	Long-term	Cumulative impact of poor setting resulting in increased deprivation.	Having no SPD could result in a loss of treescape due to inappropriate development and a lack of / inappropriate replacement planting. This would have a detrimental impact on the quality of local environments which in turn could have a negative impact on communities and levels of deprivation. The problem would get worse over time as the protected tree's quality deteriorates due to lack of guidance, inappropriate tree planting and inappropriate development	Provide SPD which seeks to protect existing trees and stipulates necessity for appropriate tree planting and species selection..
To ensure that everyone has access to a good home that meets their needs	-	-	--	High	City	Long-term	Cumulative impact of poor setting resulting a decreased level of quality homes	Having no SPD could result in a loss of treescape due to inappropriate development and a lack of / inappropriate replacement planting. This would have a detrimental impact on the quality of local environments which in turn could reduce the attractiveness of the City's housing stock. The problem would get worse over time as more inappropriate tree planting takes place.	Provide SPD which seeks to protect existing trees and stipulates necessity for appropriate tree planting and species selection.
To promote vibrant communities which participate in decision making	-	-	-	High	City	Long-term	Reduction of ownership of planning process	Communities unable to influence detailed planning policies although they will still be able to comment on applications.	Produce SPD with extensive consultation.
To improve accessibility for all the community	-	-	--	High	City	Long-term	Potential increased burden on	Having no SPD could result in inappropriate planting which could result in hazards from	Provide SPD which seeks to protect existing trees and stipulates necessity for appropriate

for all the community							burden on individuals, families and communities due to effect of trees on accessibility. (i.e, reliance of disabled users on support)	planting which could result in hazards from, for example, leaf fall on pedestrian routes – especially with regard to elderly people. The problem would get worse over time as more inappropriate tree planting takes place	trees and stipulates necessity for appropriate tree planting and species selection.
Environmental Objectives									
To maintain and improve biodiversity, flora and fauna	-	-	--	High	City	Long-term	Potential knock on effects for fauna which are supported by trees.	Having no SPD could result in a loss of treescape due to inappropriate development and a lack of / inappropriate replacement planting. This could reduce the tree stock (loss of flora) which is also home to many species of fauna. The problem would get worse over time as more inappropriate tree planting takes place	Provide SPD which seeks to protect existing trees and stipulates necessity for appropriate tree planting and species selection.
To improve the quality of waterways	-	-	--	High	City	Long-term	Poor quality water environments can have negative impacts on eco-systems contained within them.	Having no SPD could result in a loss of treescape due to inappropriate development and a lack of / inappropriate replacement planting. This could lead to increased erosion and silt levels which in turn would have a negative impact on the quality of water courses. The problem would get worse over time as more inappropriate tree planting takes place	Provide SPD which seeks to protect existing trees and stipulates necessity for appropriate tree planting and species selection.
To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality	-	-	--	High	City	Long-term	Impact on global warming.	Having no SPD could result in a loss of treescape due to inappropriate development and a lack of / inappropriate replacement planting. This would result in a less effective natural resource with regard to dealing with CO2 emissions. The problem would get worse over time as the tree stock diminishes.	Provide SPD which seeks to protect existing trees and stipulates necessity for appropriate tree planting and species selection.
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	-	-	--	High	City	Long-term	Potential impact on the quality of water based eco-systems.	Having no SPD could result in a loss of treescape due to inappropriate development and a lack of / inappropriate replacement planting. This would result in increased run-off and an increase in flash floods. The problem would get worse over time as the tree stock diminishes and inappropriate tree planting takes place.	Provide SPD which seeks to protect existing trees and stipulates necessity for appropriate tree planting and species selection.
Prudent and efficient use of energy and natural resources	-	-	--	High	City	Long-term	The removal of trees to allow developments over a period of time would result in a detrimental impact on the treescape of the City.	Lack of guidance can result in appropriate tree planting or development near to trees leading buildings to be over shadowed, as such buildings need to use energy to light and heat the building. The problem would get worse over time as more inappropriate tree planting takes place.	Provide SPD which seeks to protect existing trees and stipulates necessity for appropriate tree planting and species selection.
To protect and enhance the historic environment	-	-	--	High	City	Long-term		Lack of guidance can result in inappropriate planting that can have a negative effect upon the setting of the historic environment and a	Provide SPD which seeks to protect existing trees and stipulates necessity for appropriate tree planting and species selection.

								negative direct impact upon the structure of historic buildings (e.g. by tree roots affecting foundations). The problem would get worse over time as more inappropriate tree planting takes place.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	-	-	--	High	City	Long-term	Cumulative impact of tree loss/ inappropriate tree planting.	Inappropriate planting/ loss of trees- this can have a negative impact of the quality of landscape and townscape. The problem would get worse over time as more inappropriate tree planting takes place and as trees are lost.	Provide SPD which seeks to protect existing trees and stipulates necessity for appropriate tree planting and species selection.
Economic Objectives									
To maximise sustainable economic growth	-	-	--	High	City	Long-term	Cumulative impact of tree loss/ inappropriate tree planting.	Inappropriate tree planting can lead to an undesirable place to invest. The problem would get worse over time as more inappropriate tree planting takes place and as trees are lost.	Provide SPD which seeks to protect existing trees and stipulates necessity for appropriate tree planting and species selection.
To ensure good quality employment opportunities are available to all	-	-	--	High	City	Long-term	Cumulative impact of tree loss/ inappropriate tree planting.	Inappropriate tree planting can lead to an undesirable place to invest resulting in a fewer job opportunities. The problem would get worse over time as more inappropriate tree planting takes place.	Provide SPD which seeks to protect existing trees and stipulates necessity for appropriate tree planting and species selection.
SUSTAINABILITY SUMMARY	<p>The 'do nothing' approach is likely to have negative impacts on the majority of sustainability objectives. This is because the tree stock has connections with, or secondary impacts on, social, environmental and economic aspects of the City. For example, trees are an important aspect of the visual quality of the City which can help attract investment and employment, improve the setting of the historic environment, reduce deprivation and improve the quality of the housing stock.</p> <p>Over time, the negative impacts of loss of trees and inappropriate planting would become more apparent which could have greater secondary impacts.</p>								

POLICIES TD1, TD2, TD3, TD4, TD5 – PROTECTION OF EXISTING TREES

SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVE	Timescale			Certainty	Scale	Permanent ?	Secondary, cumulative, synergistic	Comments	Mitigation
	0-3 years	3-10 years	10+ years						
Social Objectives									
To improve the health of the population	+	+	0/+	High	City	Life of the tree	Retention of trees could have a positive cumulative impact on peoples health by promoting places where people would choose to walk	Proving clear guidance on tree protection/retention should lead to an improved treescape. This would have a positive impact on the quality of local environments which in turn could have a positive impact on the health and well-being of the population. The treescape could improve over time if new tree planting also takes place, but if not, trees would die and so the impact of the policies in the long term could be reduced.	Ensure SPD provides clear guidance on tree maintenance so as to ensure they are retained.
To improve the education and skills of the population	○	○	○	High	N/a	N/a	Unlikely to have any impact	Impact on education is likely to be negligible.	Unlikely to have any impact
To improve safety and security for people and property	+	+	+	High	City	Life of the tree	A synergistic impact of trees upon security may be decreased natural surveillance due to over grown trees	These policies should provide specific layout guidance to highlight the implications of trees in relation to security concerns. (e.g. trees obscuring street lighting) (i.e. the location of features with regard to existing trees).	Ensure SPD provides clear guidance on tree maintenance so as to ensure that trees are properly managed and do not become over grown and affect security of people and property.
To reduce deprivation within the city	+	+	0/+	High	City	Life of the tree	Trees can enhance they appearance of an area and as such a cumulative impact of tree retention may be to improve the desirability of an area to attract investment and reduce deprivation.	Proving clear guidance on tree protection should lead to an improved treescape. This would have a positive impact on the quality of local environments which in turn could reduce levels of deprivation. The treescape could improve over time if new tree planting also takes place, but if not, trees would die and so the impact of the policies in the long term could be reduced.	The retention of trees can positively contribute to ameliorating deprivation; as such the SPD should seek to promote the incorporation of trees within any new development proposals.
To ensure that everyone has access to a good home that meets their needs	+	+	0/+	High	City	Life of the tree	A secondary impact of tree retention and protection may be that unless trees are well maintained tree growth can have a negative impact on houses due to over shadowing	Proving clear guidance on tree protection should lead to an improved treescape. This would have a positive impact on the quality of local environments which in turn could improve the attractiveness of the City's housing stock. The treescape could improve over time if new tree planting also takes place, but if not, trees would die and so the impact of the policies in the long term could be reduced.	Ensure SPD provides clear guidance on tree maintenance so as to ensure that trees are properly managed and do not become over grown
To promote vibrant communities which participate in decision	+	+	0/+	High	City	Life of the tree	Unlikely to have any impact however, the	Although, the planning process would allow an opportunity for people to comment on applications when they are submitted, the	Unlikely to have any impact however, the formation of the SPD and the combination of consultation during a tree application allows for

making							formation of the SPD and the combination of consultation during a tree application allows for public participation of the planning process.	production of an SPD would give people a further opportunity to shape the policies that guide decisions.	public participation of the planning process.
To improve accessibility for all the community	0/-	0/-	0/-	High	City	Life of the tree	A synergistic effect of trees upon accessibility may have a negative effect upon the mobility impaired due to over hanging branches and wet leaves on pavements and walkways.	The retention and protection of existing trees is likely to be negligible. However, retention of species close to footpaths etc may have negative impacts on accessibility of mobility impaired users (e.g. elderly).	Consideration of the tree species could be taken into account when assessing whether the tree should be protected. However, visual amenity needs to be balanced against this.

Environmental Objectives

To maintain and improve biodiversity, flora and fauna	+	+	0/+	High	City	Life of the tree	Trees provide a valuable habitat for wildlife as such tree retention should promote this, however unless trees are replaced this would only be effective during the life of a tree.	Having an SPD would increase the availability of information to guide developers and officers into retaining important trees on site which in turn would improve the tree stock which supports fauna. The treescape could improve over time if new tree planting also takes place, but if not, trees would die and so the impact of the policies in the long term could be reduced.	Consider inclusion within SPD of a paragraph on trees providing a valuable habitat for wildlife.
To improve the quality of waterways	+	+	0/+	High	City	Life of the tree	Trees can assist in improving the quality of waterways by reducing soil erosion and prevent silt build up from entering the waterways.	Providing clear guidance on protection should lead to an improved treescape. This would result in reduced run off and reduced levels of silt. This has a positive impact on water courses. The treescape could improve over time if new tree planting also takes place, but if not, trees would die and so the impact of the policies in the long term could be reduced.	Providing clear guidance on tree planting and replacement should lead to an improved treescape which in turn would reduce levels of run-off and a decrease in the occurrence of flash floods.
To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality	+	+	0/+	High	City	Life of the tree	Providing clear guidance on tree planting and replacement should lead to an improved treescape. This would result in a more effective natural resource for dealing with CO2 emissions.	Providing clear guidance on tree protection should lead to an improved treescape. This would result in a more effective natural resource for dealing with CO2 emissions. The treescape could improve over time if new tree planting also takes place, but if not, trees would die and so the impact of the policies in the long term could be reduced.	Providing clear guidance on tree planting and replacement should lead to an improved treescape. This would result in a more effective natural resource for dealing with CO2 emissions.

To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	0/+	High	City	Life of the tree	The Cumulative benefit of tree retention is to prevent soil erosion and reduce flooding risks	Providing clear guidance on tree protection should lead to an improved treescape which in turn would reduce levels of run-off and a decrease in the occurrence of flash floods. The treescape could improve over time if new tree planting also takes place, but if not, trees would die and so the impact of the policies in the long term could be reduced.	
Prudent and efficient use of energy and natural resources	+	+	+	High	City	Life of the tree	These policies could cumulative reduce the need for energy use by allowing natural light into room windows	Some of these policies seek to maintain adequate separation distances between buildings and trees (3.6m) allowing for a reasonable level of light to enter habitable room windows.	
To protect and enhance the historic environment	+	+	0/+	High	City	Life of the tree		Providing clear guidance on the protection of trees which contribute to the historic environment would maintain appropriate settings for those historic assets. The treescape could improve over time if new tree planting also takes place, but if not, trees would die and so the impact of the policies in the long term could be reduced.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	0/+	High	City	Life of the tree	A secondary benefit of these policies is the maintenance of an attractive landscapes and townscapes that would promote people to come and live in the City.	Providing clear guidance on the protection of trees which contribute to the townscape would maintain the quality of the city's environment. The treescape could improve over time if new tree planting also takes place, but if not, trees would die and so the impact of the policies in the long term could be reduced.	

Economic Objectives

To maximise sustainable economic growth	+	+	0/+	High	City	Life of the tree		Providing clear guidance on the protection of trees which contribute to the townscape would maintain the quality of the city's environment. This would result in a city that is more attractive to invest in. The treescape could improve over time if new tree planting also takes place, but if not, trees would die and so the impact of the policies in the long term could be reduced.	
To ensure good quality employment opportunities are available to all	+	+	0/+	High	City	Life of the tree	Tree retention should have the secondary benefits of providing and attractive setting in which businesses may wish to invest.	Providing clear guidance on the protection of trees which contribute to the townscape would maintain the quality of the city's environment. This would result in a city that is more attractive to invest in. The treescape could improve over time if new tree planting also takes place, but if not, trees would die and so the impact of the policies in the long term could be reduced.	Provide SPD which seeks to protect existing trees and stipulates necessity for appropriate tree planting and species selection.

**SUSTAINABILITY
SUMMARY**

The policies that seek to protect existing trees is likely to have positive impacts on the majority of sustainability objectives. This is because the tree stock has connections with, or secondary impacts on, social, environmental and economic aspects of the City. For example, trees are an important aspect of the visual quality of the City which can help attract investment and employment, improve the setting of the historic environment, reduce deprivation and improve the quality of the housing stock.

Over time, unless dying trees are replaced the impact of these policies would be reduced.

POLICY TD6 – REPLACEMENT TREES

SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVE	Timescale			Certainty	Scale	Permanent ?	Secondary, cumulative, synergistic	Comments	Mitigation
	0-3 years	3-10 years	10+ years						
Social Objectives									
To improve the health of the population	+	+	++	High	City	Life of the tree	Replacement trees can provide an attractive location to encourage people to walk	Subject to appropriate maintenance particularly where groups of trees exist	Consider inclusion of advice relating to good arboricultural practice
To improve the education and skills of the population	0	0	0	High	NA	NA			
To improve safety and security for people and property	+	+	++	High	City	Life of the tree	The secondary benefits of this policy is that replacement trees would only be planted in suitable locations as such trees should not provide opportunities for crime by providing places of concealment.	Subject to appropriate maintenance particularly where groups of trees exist	Consider inclusion of advice relating to good arboricultural practice
To reduce deprivation within the city	0	0	0/+	High	City	Life of the tree	Trees can enhance they appearance of an area and as such a cumulative impact of tree retention may be to improve the desirability of an area to attract investment and reduce deprivation	Providing clear guidance on tree replanting should lead to an improved treescape. This would have a positive impact on the quality of local environments which in turn could reduce levels of deprivation.	Consider inclusion of advice relating to good arboricultural practice
To ensure that everyone has access to a good home that meets their needs	+	+	0/+	High	City	Life of the tree	A secondary impact of tree replanting may be that unless trees are well maintained tree growth can have a negative impact on houses due to over shadowing	Providing clear guidance on tree replanting should lead to an improved treescape. This would have a positive impact on the quality of local environments which in turn could improve the attractiveness of the City's housing stock.	Consider inclusion of advice relating to good arboricultural practice
To promote vibrant communities which participate in decision making	+	+	0/+	High	City	Life of the tree	Unlikely to have any impact however, the formation of the SPD and the combination of consultation during a tree application allows for public participation of the planning process.	Although, the planning process would allow an opportunity for people to comment on applications when they are submitted, the production of an SPD would give people a further opportunity to shape the policies that guide decisions.	
To improve accessibility for all the community	0	0/-	0/-	High	City	Life of the tree	A synergistic effect of trees upon accessibility may have a negative effect upon the mobility impaired due to over hanging branches and wet leaves on pavements and walkways.	The replanting and protection of new trees is likely to be negligible. However, replanting of species close to footpaths etc may have negative impacts on accessibility of mobility impaired users (e.g. elderly).	Consideration of the tree species could be taken into account when assessing whether the tree should be replanted in the same location as the removed tree. However, visual amenity needs to be balanced against this.
Environmental Objectives									
To maintain and improve biodiversity, flora and fauna	+	+	0/+	High	City	Life of the tree	Trees provide a valuable habit for wildlife as such tree	Having an SPD would increase the availability of information to guide	Consider inclusion within SPD of a paragraph on trees providing a valuable habitat for wildlife

						tree	habit for wildlife as such tree replanting should promote this, however new trees would only be effective as habits when they are large enough to accommodate them	availability of information to guide developers and officers into replanting trees on site which in turn would improve the tree stock which supports fauna. The treescape could improve over time as new tree planting takes place.	trees providing a valuable habitat for wildlife.
To improve the quality of waterways	+	+	0/+	High	City	Life of the tree	Trees can assist in improving the quality of waterways be reducing soil erosion and prevent silt build up from entering the waterways.	Providing clear guidance on tree replanting should lead to an improved treescape. This would result in reduced run off and reduced levels of slit. This has a positive impact on water courses.	Providing clear guidance on tree planting and replacement should lead to an improved treescape which in turn would reduce levels of run-off and a decrease in the occurrence of flash floods.
To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality	+	+	0/+	High	City	Life of the tree	Providing clear guidance on tree planting and replacement should lead to an improved treescape. This would result in a more effective natural resource for dealing with CO2 emissions.	Providing clear guidance on tree replanting should lead to an improved treescape. This would result in a more effective natural resource for dealing with CO2 emissions. The treescape could improve over time.	Providing clear guidance on tree planting and replacement should lead to an improved treescape. This would result in a more effective natural resource for dealing with CO2 emissions
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	0/+	High	City	Life of the tree	The Cumulative benefit of tree replanting is to prevent soil erosion and reduce flooding risks	Providing clear guidance on tree replanting should lead to an improved treescape which in turn would reduce levels of run-off and a decrease in the occurrence of flash floods. The treescape could improve over time if new tree planting also takes place.	Providing clear guidance on tree planting and replacement should lead to an improved treescape and prevent soil erosion thus reducing the potential of flash floods.
Prudent and efficient use of energy and natural resources	+	+	+	High	City	Life of the tree	This policy could cumulative reduce the need for energy use by only planting trees in appropriate locations and also choosing the species correctly for the site.	This policy seeks to allow 2 for 1 tree replacements. New tree planting can be controlled so the species and location are well thought out.	Consider providing guidance on species selection and location selection
To protect and enhance the historic environment	+	+	0/+	High	City	Life of the tree	This policy would allow for protected trees to be replaced in and around historic settings. The new trees would have a synergistic impact by continuing to maintain the quality and appearance of the historic buildings win which they are set	Providing clear guidance on tree replanting which contributes to the historic environment would maintain appropriate settings for those historic assets. The treescape could improve over time as new tree planting also takes place.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	0/+	High	City	Life of the tree	A secondary benefit of this policy is the maintenance of an attractive landscapes and townscapes that would promote people to come and live in the City.	Providing clear guidance on the replanting of trees which contribute to the townscape would maintain the quality of the city's environment. The treescape could improve over time as new tree planting also takes place.	

Economic Objectives

To maximise sustainable economic growth	+	+	0/+	High	City	Life of the tree		Providing clear guidance on the replanting of trees which contribute to the townscape would maintain the quality of the city's environment. This would result in a city that is more attractive to invest in. The treescape could improve over time as new tree planting also takes place.	Consider inclusion of advice relating to good arboricultural practice
To ensure good quality employment opportunities are available to all	+	+	0/+	High	City	Life of the tree	Tree replanting should have the secondary benefits of providing and attractive setting in which businesses may wish to invest.	Providing clear guidance on the replanting of trees which contribute to the townscape would maintain the quality of the city's environment. This would result in a city that is more attractive to invest in. The treescape could improve over time if new tree planting also takes place.	Consider inclusion of advice relating to good arboricultural practice
SUSTAINABILITY SUMMARY	<p>This policy seeks to provide guidance for new trees. New tree planting is likely to have positive impacts on the majority of sustainability objectives. This is because the tree stock has connections with, or secondary impacts on, social, environmental and economic aspects of the City. For example, trees are an important aspect of the visual quality of the City which can help attract investment and employment, improve the setting of the historic environment, reduce deprivation and improve the quality of the housing stock.</p> <p>Over time, this policy should provide the City with an appropriate tree stock</p>								