

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

This note was prepared by AMEC and URS on behalf of the Planning Advisory Service. It aims to help local authorities prepare their plans in advance of an examination, taking into account the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework. A separate checklist looks at legal compliance.

In summary – the key requirements of plan preparation are:

- Has the plan been positively prepared i.e. based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed requirements?
- Is the plan justified?
- Is it based on robust and credible evidence?
- Is it the most appropriate strategy when considered against the alternatives?
- Is the document effective?
- Is it deliverable?
- Is it flexible?
- Will it be able to be monitored?
- Is it consistent with national policy?

The Tests of Soundness at Examination

The starting point for the examination is the assumption that the Council has submitted what it considers to be a sound plan. Those seeking changes should demonstrate why the plan is unsound by reference to one or more of the soundness criteria.

The tests of soundness are set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (para 182): “The Local Plan will be examined by an independent inspector whose role is to assess whether the plan has been prepared in accordance with the Duty to Cooperate, legal and procedural requirements, and whether it is sound. A local planning authority should submit a plan for examination which it considers is ‘sound’”, namely that it is:

1. Positively Prepared: based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements

This means that the Development Plan Document (DPD) should be based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development. The NPPF, together with the Marine Policy Statement (MPS) set out principles through which the Government expects sustainable development can be achieved.

2. Justified: the most appropriate strategy when considered against the reasonable alternatives, based on proportionate evidence

This means that the DPD should be based on a robust and credible evidence base involving:

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

- Research/fact finding: the choices made in the plan are backed up by facts.
- Evidence of participation of the local community and others having a stake in the area; and

The DPD should also provide the most appropriate strategy when considered against reasonable alternatives. These alternatives should be realistic and subject to sustainability appraisal. The DPD should show how the policies and proposals help to ensure that the social, environmental, economic and resource use objectives of sustainability will be achieved.

3. Effective: deliverable over its period based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic priorities

This means the DPD should be deliverable, requiring evidence of:

- Sound infrastructure delivery planning;
- Having no regulatory or national planning barriers to delivery;
- Delivery partners who are signed up to it; and
- Coherence with the strategies of neighbouring authorities, including neighbouring marine planning authorities.
- The DPD should be flexible and able to be monitored.

The DPD should indicate who is to be responsible for making sure that the policies and proposals happen and when they will happen. The plan should be flexible to deal with changing circumstances, which may involve minor changes to respond to the outcome of the monitoring process or more significant changes to respond to problems such as lack of funding for major infrastructure proposals. Although it is important that policies are flexible, the DPD should make clear that major changes may require a formal review including public consultation. Any measures which the Council has included to make sure that targets are met should be clearly linked to an Annual Monitoring Report.

4. Consistent with national policy: enabling the delivery of sustainable development

The demonstration of this is a 'lead' policy on sustainable development which specifies how decisions are to be made against the sustainability criterion (see the Planning Portal for a model policy www.planningportal.gov.uk). If you are not using this model policy, the Council will need to provide clear and convincing reasons to justify its approach.

The following table sets out the requirements associated with these four tests of soundness. Suggestions for evidence which could be used to support these requirements are set out, although these have to be viewed in the context of the plan being prepared. Please don't assume that you have got to provide all of these, they are just suggestions of what could be relevant.

In addition, the Legal Compliance checklist (a separate document, see www.pas.gov.uk) should be completed to ensure that this aspect is covered.

The Duty to Co-operate will also be assessed as part of the examination process.

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<i>Positively Prepared: the plan should be prepared based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development.</i>		

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p><i>Vision and Objectives</i></p> <p>Has the LPA clearly identified what the issues are that the DPD is seeking to address? Have priorities been set so that it is clear what the DPD is seeking to achieve?</p> <p>Does the DPD contain clear vision(s) and objectives which are specific to the place? Is there a direct relationship between the identified issues, the vision(s) and the objectives?</p> <p>Is it clear how the policies will meet the objectives? Are there any obvious gaps in the policies, having regard to the objectives of the DPD?</p> <p>Have reasonable alternatives to the quantum of development and overall spatial strategy been considered?</p> <p>Are the policies internally consistent?</p> <p>Are there realistic timescales related to the objectives?</p> <p>Does the DPD explain how its key policy objectives will be achieved?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections of the DPD and other documents which set out (where applicable) the vision, strategic objectives, key outcomes expected, spatial portrait and issues to be addressed. • Relevant sections of the DPD which explain how policies derive from the objectives and are designed to meet them. • The strategic objectives of the DPD, and the commentary in the DPD of how they derive from the spatial portrait and vision, and how the objectives are consistent with one another. • Sections of the DPD which address delivery, the means of delivery and the timescales for key developments through evidenced infrastructure delivery planning. • Confirmation from the relevant agencies that they support the objectives and the identified means of delivery. • Information in the local development scheme, or provided separately, about the scope and content (actual and intended) of each DPD showing how they combine to provide a coherent policy structure. 	<p>Chapter 2- 'Context, Vision and Objectives' outlines the issues the Local Plan seeks to address. Section 2.22 'Spatial Vision' which defines what Rugby will be like in 2031. All policies contained within the Local Plan work towards the Spatial Vision</p> <p>Section 2.23 'Spatial Objectives' defines the overall objectives which each policy is working to achieve</p> <p>Each chapter is grouped by theme, with details of the policy's context, core objective and delivery mechanisms to achieve the intended policy objective.</p> <p>Reasonable alternatives to the quantum of development have been considered throughout the various stages of the plan. This is evidenced by the variation on housing numbers proposed since the core strategy and changes to the distribution strategy which saw the introduction of Policy DS10.</p> <p>All policies are considered internally consistent</p> <p>Appendix 1 (Implementation and Monitoring Framework), Appendix 2</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		<p>(Housing Trajectory) and Appendix 3 (Infrastructure Delivery Plan.)</p> <p>The Infrastructure Delivery Schedule demonstrates the framework to measure policy effectiveness relative to meeting overall objectives.</p>
<p><i>The presumption in favour of sustainable development (NPPF paras 6-17)</i></p> <p>Plans and decisions need to take local circumstances into account, so that they respond to the different opportunities for achieving sustainable development in different areas.</p> <p>Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs, with sufficient flexibility to adapt to rapid change, unless:</p> <p>—any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this Framework taken as a whole; or</p> <p>—specific policies in this Framework indicate development should be restricted.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An evidence base which establishes the development needs of the plan area (see Justified below) and includes a flexible approach to delivery (see ‘Section 3 Effective’, below). • An audit trail showing how and why the quantum of development, preferred overall strategy and plan area distribution of development were arrived at. • Evidence of responding to opportunities for achieving sustainable development in different areas (for example, the marine area) 	<p>It is considered that the Local Plan is based on a robust, proportionate evidence which has been consistently updated and made publically available throughout every stage of the Plan. The evidence base identified the Boroughs development requirements over the next 15 years and informed the development of the spatial strategy and quantum of development.</p> <p>Policy GP1- Securing Sustainable Development- places NPPF Paras 6-17 at the heart of the spatial strategy.</p> <p>The Sustainability Appraisal has informed the Local Plans distribution strategy.</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p>Policies in Local Plans should follow the approach of the presumption in favour of sustainable development so that it is clear that development which is sustainable can be approved without delay. All plans should be based upon and reflect the presumption in favour of sustainable development, with clear policies that will guide how the presumption should be applied locally.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A policy or policies which reflect the principles of the presumption in favour of sustainable development (see model policy at www.planningportal.gov.uk) 	<p>Policy GP1 establishes the principle in favour of sustainable development as the guiding principle behind the plans development strategy</p>
<p><i>Objectively assessed needs</i></p> <p>The economic, social and environmental needs of the authority area addressed and clearly presented in a fashion which makes effective use of land and specifically promotes mixed use development, and take account of cross-boundary and strategic issues.</p> <p>Note: Meeting these needs should be subject to the caveats specified in Paragraph 14 of the NPPF (see above).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Background evidence papers demonstrating requirements based on population forecasts, employment projections and community needs. Technical papers demonstrating how the aspirations and objectives of the DPD are related to the evidence, and how these are to be met, including from consultation and associated with the Duty to Co-operate. 	<p>The Spatial Objectives serve to address economic, social and environmental need.</p> <p>The evidence base has been published on the Local Plan 'Reviews, studies and assessments' section of the Rugby Borough Council website.</p> <p>The SHMA, SHLAA and Employment Land Studies and all other papers relating to objectively assessed need have all been made available online. A statement of Compliance with the Duty to Cooperate setting out the Councils engagement with other authorities is available online</p>
NPPF Principles: Delivering sustainable development		
1. Building a strong, competitive economy (paras 18-22)		
<p>Set out a clear economic vision and strategy for the area which positively and proactively</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Articulation of a clear economic vision and strategy for the plan area linked to the Economic Strategy, LEP Strategy and marine 	<p>Rugby's existing employment land</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p>encourages sustainable economic growth (21),</p>	<p>policy documents where appropriate.</p>	<p>stock is characterised by a range of employment sites in terms of age, size and quality/condition. The Boroughs central location makes Rugby an attractive location for industrial development of all kinds.</p> <p>It is important that the diverse range of sectors that make up employment provision within the borough are protected and maintained to offer choices of employment opportunities to both employers and potential employees. The most effective way to achieve this is protecting different types of employment land within the context of a flexible policy that is able to deal with potentially challenging economic conditions over the plan period. Policy ED1 seeks to protect employment sites unless marketing evidence can demonstrate no serious demand by 'B' use class occupiers.</p> <p>Policy ED2 seeks to direct new employment sites to within the urban area to ensure employment land is provided in close proximity to residential development to enable good access and encourage redevelopment of previously developed sites. Policy ED3 allows for circumstances whereby employment development would be permitted</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		<p>outside the Rugby Urban Area. Policy ED4 considers employment development in the wider urban area and rural economy.</p> <p>Chapter 6 (Economic Development) seeks to direct employment opportunities to the most sustainable locations within the Borough by protecting existing employment land where it continues to make a contribution to the local economy.</p> <p>The spatial vision sets out the need for high quality employment opportunities and the spatial objectives contain 3 economic objectives the Plan seeks to achieve.</p> <p>Chapter 6- details 4 economic policies designed to achieve the economic spatial objectives.</p>
<p>Recognise and seek to address potential barriers to investment, including poor environment or any lack of infrastructure, services or housing (21)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A criteria-based policy which meets identified needs and is positive and flexible in planning for specialist sectors, regeneration, infrastructure provision, environmental enhancement. • An up-to-date assessment of the deliverability of allocated employment sites, to meet local needs, (taking into account that LPAs should avoid the long term protection of sites allocated for employment use where there is no reasonable prospect of an allocated site being used for that purpose) para (22) 	<p>Policy ED1 seeks to ensure a good supply of suitable units for businesses of varying sizes. Changes of use resulting in the loss of business units will only be allowed where it has been proven that the unit is no longer in demand.</p> <p>The Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP)</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		<p>details the infrastructure required to deliver the employment land proposed to be allocated</p> <p>The Local Plan allocates land for an additional 110 ha of employment land to support economic growth within the Borough, in line with the 2015 Employment Land Study which forms a key part of the evidence base.</p> <p>Policy ED1 seeks to protect existing employment land.</p>
<p>2. Ensuring the vitality of town centres (paras 23-37)</p>		
<p>Policies should be positive, promote competitive town centre environments, and set out policies for the management and growth of centres over the plan period (23)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Plan and its policies may include such matters as: definition of networks and hierarchies; defining town centres; encouragement of residential development on appropriate sites; allocation of appropriate edge of centre sites where suitable and viable town centre sites are not available; consideration of retail and leisure proposals which cannot be accommodated in or adjacent to town centres. 	<p>Chapter 7 (Retail and Town Centre) identifies how Rugby Town Centre will adapt to the changing role of town centres by enhancing its offer in Rugby's independent shopping experience, leisure activities, cultural offerings and utilising historic assets.</p> <p>Policy TC1 outlines how new development within the town centre will demonstrate high quality design that compliments and enhances the existing environment and townscape.</p> <p>Policy TC2 outlines comparison and</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		<p>convenience floorspace requirements (defined by the 2015 retail study) in order to sustain and enhance the vitality and viability of the town centre.</p> <p>Policy TC3 pursues a sequential approach to new retail development, with the policy prioritising town centre development.</p>
<p>Allocate a range of suitable sites to meet the scale and type of retail, leisure, commercial, office, tourism, cultural, community services and residential development needed in town centres (23)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An assessment of the need to expand (the) town centre(s), considering the needs of town centre uses. • Primary and secondary shopping frontages identified and allocated. 	<p>Policy TC2 identifies town centre convenience and comparison retail floor space requirements.</p> <p>Policy TC3 seeks to direct development to the town centre in order to sustain its vitality and viability. New proposals for town centre uses will be permitted firstly within Rugby Town Centre, followed by Edge-of-Centre locations, then Out-of-Centre sites.</p> <p>Policy TC4 identifies the Primary Shopping Area and Secondary Shopping Frontages.</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
3. Supporting a prosperous rural economy (para 28)		
<p>Support sustainable economic growth in rural areas. Planning strategies should promote a strong rural economy by taking a positive approach to new development. (28)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where relevant include a policy or policies which support the sustainable growth of rural businesses; promote the development and diversification of agricultural businesses; support sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments, and support local services and facilities. 	<p>Policy ED4 (The Wider Urban and Rural economy) sets out provision for a wide range of development in the countryside in support of NPPF Paragraph 28. The Policy focuses on Tourism and Leisure uses and Farm Diversification. Whilst ED4 makes provision for a diverse range of development within the countryside all schemes will be assessed against any potential impacts to the character of the local area as well as benefits arising for rural communities, businesses and the wider local economy.</p>
4. Promoting sustainable transport (paras 29-41)		
<p>Facilitate sustainable development whilst contributing to wider sustainability and health objectives. (29)</p> <p>Balance the transport system in favour of sustainable transport modes and give people a real choice about how they travel whilst recognising that different policies will be required in different communities and opportunities to maximise sustainable transport solutions will vary from urban to rural areas. (29)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint working with adjoining authorities, transport providers and Government Agencies on infrastructure provision in order to support sustainable economic growth with particular regard to the facilities referred to in paragraph 31. Policies encouraging development which facilitates the use of sustainable modes of transport and a range of transport choices where appropriate, particularly the criteria in paragraph 35. A spatial strategy and policy which seeks to reduce the need to travel through balancing housing and employment provision. Policy for major developments which promotes a mix of uses and 	<p>Policy DS3: Rugby town is the most sustainable location within the Borough and therefore the Local Plan seeks to maximise the potential of the urban area and land immediately adjacent to it to accommodate growth.</p> <p>Policy D1: (Transport) All large scale developments which result in the generation of significant traffic</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p>Encourage solutions which support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and congestion (29) including supporting a pattern of development which, where reasonable to do so, facilitates the use of sustainable modes of transport. (30)</p> <p>Local authorities should work with neighbouring authorities and transport providers to develop strategies for the provision of viable infrastructure necessary to support sustainable development. (31)</p> <p>Opportunities for sustainable transport modes have been taken up depending on the nature and location of the site, to reduce the need for major transport infrastructure. (32)</p> <p>Ensure that developments which generate significant movement are located where the need to travel will be minimised and the use of sustainable transport modes can be maximised (34)</p> <p>Plans should protect and exploit opportunities for the use of sustainable transport modes for the movement of goods or people. (35)</p> <p>Policies should aim for a balance of land uses so that people can be encouraged to minimize journey lengths for employment, shopping, leisure, education and other activities. (37)</p> <p>For larger scale residential developments in particular, planning policies should promote a mix of uses in order to provide opportunities to undertake day-to-day activities including work on site. Where practical, particularly within</p>	<p>access to key facilities by sustainable transport modes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If local (car parking) standards have been prepared, are they justified and necessary? (39) • Identification and protection of sites and routes where infrastructure could be developed to widen transport choice linked to the Local Transport Plan. 	<p>movements should be supported by a Transport Assessment and where necessary a Travel Plan considering impacts of proposals upon existing infrastructure, site connectivity to public transport and safe and convenient access for pedestrians and cyclists.</p> <p>IDP: Infrastructure Delivery Plan (and Delivery Schedule) will seek to establish what additional infrastructure and service needs are required to support the level of growth proposed in the Local Plan. The IDP has been developed as a result of extensive dialogue with infrastructure and service providers. It will be a mechanism for improving delivery of facilities and services for the benefit of local communities.</p> <p>Policy D2: Provision of car parking needs to be carefully balanced to ensure that sufficient provision is made to meet needs whilst recognising that where there is good public transport provision, easy access to shops and services, less provision may be made. Appendix 5 contain minimum levels of cycle parking provision for different land uses to encourage cycling.</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p>large-scale developments, key facilities such as primary schools and local shops should be located within walking distance of most properties. (38)</p> <p>The setting of car parking standards including provision for town centres. (39-40)</p> <p>Local planning authorities should identify and protect, where there is robust evidence, sites and routes which could be critical in developing infrastructure to widen transport choice. (41)</p>		<p>Policy D3: Scale and pace of new development will be dependent on sufficient capacity being available in existing infrastructure to meet demands of new development. Where this cannot be demonstrated permission for new development will only be granted where additional capacity can be released through better management of existing infrastructure, or through the provision of new infrastructure. RBC will continue to work closely with WCC Highways and Highways England in developing evidence necessary to identify impacts on existing highway network and the measures required to mitigate those impacts. The Council has worked with WCC Highways to ensure necessary public transport, cycling and walking facilities form part of the IDP wherever they can be utilised instead of the private car.</p> <p>Policy DS9- A strategic spine road network essential to the delivery of the South West Rugby allocation. DS9 identifies the alignments which bring the greatest benefit to the surrounding road network, in particular Dunchurch Crossroads. No development which is likely to prejudice the delivery of this</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		infrastructure will be permitted.
5. Supporting high quality communications infrastructure (paras 42-46)		
<p>Support the expansion of the electronic communications networks, including telecommunications' masts and high speed broadband. (43)</p> <p>Local planning authorities should not impose a ban on new telecommunications development in certain areas, impose blanket Article 4 directions over a wide area or a wide range of telecommunications development or insist on minimum distances between new telecommunications development and existing development. (44)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy supporting the expansion of electronic communications networks, including telecommunications and high speed broadband, noting the caveats in para 44. 	<p>Policy SDC9: Developers of new residential, employment and commercial developments will be expected to facilitate and contribute towards the provision of suitable broadband infrastructure. Developers must ensure broadband services meet the ambitions of NPPF Paragraph 43, Digital Communications Infrastructure Strategy and the European Digital Agenda, wherever practical. The approach should be clearly identified in Planning Statements.</p>
6. Delivering a wide choice of high quality housing (paras 47-55)		
<p>Identify and maintain a rolling supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide five years' worth of housing against their housing requirements; this should include an additional buffer of 5% or 20% (moved forward from later in the plan period) to ensure choice and competition in the market for land. 20% buffer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) five years or more supply of specific deliverable sites; plus the buffer as appropriate • Where this element of housing supply includes windfall sites, inclusion of 'compelling evidence' to justify their inclusion (48) • A SHLAA 	<p>The Local Plan is considered to allocate an adequate supply of land for housing to ensure Rugby Borough will have a five year land supply as required by national policy. A five year land supply statement has been published and monitoring information</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
applies where there has been persistent under delivery of housing(47)		is published annually.
Identify a supply of developable sites or broad locations for years 6-10 and, where possible, years 11-15 (47).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of a supply of developable sites or broad locations for: a) years 6-10; b) years 11-15 	The Local Plan is considered to allocate an adequate supply of land to meet these requirements. Appendix 2 details proposed Housing Trajectory's.
Illustrate the expected rate of housing delivery through a trajectory; and set out a housing implementation strategy describing how a five year supply will be maintained. (47)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A housing trajectory • Monitoring of completions and permissions (47) • Updated and managed SHLAA. (47) 	<p>Appendix 2 of the Local Plan contains the Housing Trajectory. Housing completions are monitored and included in the annual monitoring report.</p> <p>Appendix 1 of the Local Plan identifies the implementation and monitoring framework. The Council will produce and publish an annual monitoring report containing information on the implementation of the Local Development Scheme and on the extent to which policies set out in the Local Plan are performing. The AMR will include an annual update and progress assessment of the IDP, which is seen as an evolving document which will require continual change in order to be effective and reflective of progress made towards infrastructure over the life of the Local Plan.</p> <p>The SHLAA was completed in December 2015 (with 2017</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		addendum).
Set out the authority's approach to housing density to reflect local circumstances (47).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy on the density of development. 	<p>Policy SDC1: The Council will consider appropriate density on a site by site basis with decisions informed by local context of the area in terms of design considerations, historic or environmental integration, local character, identified local need and where relevant a Neighbourhood Development Plan</p>
Plan for a mix of housing based on current and future demographic and market trends, and needs of different groups (50) and caters for housing demand and the scale of housing supply to meet this demand. (para 159)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy on planning for a mix of housing (including self-build, and housing for older people • SHMA • Identification of the size, type, tenure and range of housing required in particular locations, reflecting local demand. (50) • Evidence for housing provision based on up to date, objectively assessed needs. (50) • Policy on affordable housing and consideration for the need for on-site provision or if off-site provision or financial contributions are sought, where these can these be justified and to what extent do they contribute to the objective of creating mixed and balanced communities. (50) 	<p>The housing target has been informed by the evidence within the SHMA.</p> <p>Policy H1 (Informing Housing Mix): New residential development should contribute to the overall mix of housing in the locality, taking into account the current need- particularly for older people and first time buyers- current demand and existing housing stock.</p> <p>Large development proposals will be expected to consider the contribution self-build can make to the mix and type of development.</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		The mix of housing will be informed by local evidence provided by the Coventry and Warwickshire joint Housing Market Assessment (SHMA).
<p>In rural areas be responsive to local circumstances and plan housing development to reflect local needs, particularly for affordable housing, including through rural exception sites where appropriate (54).</p> <p>In rural areas housing should be located where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of allowing some market housing to facilitate the provision of significant additional affordable housing to meet local needs. • Consideration of the case for resisting inappropriate development of residential gardens. (This is discretionary)(para 53) • Examples of special circumstances to allow new isolated homes listed at para 55. 	<p>To achieve sustainable development in rural areas national policy is clear that LPAs should avoid isolated new homes in the countryside; only where exceptional circumstances apply will isolated housing be permitted.</p> <p>Policy H3 defines the criteria for a permanent dwelling, either new build or conversion, for occupation by a person engaged in an agricultural operation. In assessing such proposals the Council will seek to establish whether it is essential for the proper functioning of the enterprise for one or more workers to be readily available at most times.</p> <p>Policy H4: The development of affordable housing that meets the needs of local people will be permitted as a Rural Exception site adjacent to defined rural settlement boundaries based on criteria defined in Policy H4. The principle aim of Policy H4 is to provide affordable housing for local people which cannot be delivered within the adjacent</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		settlement boundary.
7. Requiring good design (paras 56-68)		
Develop robust and comprehensive policies that set out the quality of development that will be expected for the area (58).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of policy or policies which seek to increase the quality of development through the principles set out at para 58 and approaches in paras 59-61, linked to the vision for the area and specific local issues 	<p>Policy SDC1 seeks to promote development which will positively contribute to making the Borough a better place. New development should be of a high quality that is designed to reduce energy consumption and achieves an efficient use of resources.</p> <p>In determining applications, great weight will be given to outstanding or innovative designs which help raise the standard of design more generally in the area.</p>
8. Promoting healthy communities (paras 69-77)		
Policies should aim to design places which: promote community interaction, including through mixed-use development; are safe and accessible environments; and are accessible developments (69).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of a policy or policies on inclusive communities. Promotion of opportunities for meetings between members of the community who might not otherwise come into contact with each other, including through mixed-use developments which bring together those who work, live and play in the vicinity; safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion; and accessible developments, containing clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas. (69) 	The Council recognises the important role that spatial planning has in the creation of healthy, safe and inclusive communities. It is important that community needs are supported through appropriate physical and social infrastructure, as well as other facilities and services that contribute to improving peoples overall quality of life, psychical and mental health, and

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		<p>wellbeing.</p> <p>Policy HS1 seeks that all factors relating to healthy, safe and inclusive communities are considered where new development is proposed. The policy includes accessibility for older people and those with disabilities, high quality, safe and convenient walking and cycling network and seeks to provide “good access to local shops, employment opportunities, services, schools and community facilities” to facilitate a mix of uses.</p> <p>Policy HS1 should be read alongside Policy HS4 (safeguarding open spaces) with regard to ensuring sufficient land for good access to all for play, sport and recreation.</p> <p>Policy HS2: Development proposals will be required to assess their impact on the capacity of existing health services and facilities. All proposed C2 developments and C3 developments in excess of 150 units will need a Health Impact Assessment, which will measure wider impacts on health and well-being and the demands that are placed upon capacity of health services and facilities arising from development.</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		<p>Health Impact Assessments are an important tool to understanding the potential impact a development will have on existing health services and facilities. Such assessments will identify potential impact development may cause and proposed relevant measures to mitigate the impacts.</p>
<p>Policies should plan positively for the provision and use of shared space, community facilities and other local services (70).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of a policy or policies addressing community facilities and local service. • Positive planning for the provision and integration of community facilities and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments; safeguard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services; ensure that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernize; and ensure that housing is developed in suitable locations which offer a range of community facilities and good access to key services and infrastructure. 	<p>Policy HS3 seeks to prevent the significant or total loss of sites and/or premises currently or last used for a local shop, post office, public house, community or cultural facility or other facility or service that contributes towards the sustainability of a local settlement or the urban area.</p> <p>Policy HS3 requires applicant submitting any proposal to redevelop an existing local facility to an alternative use, which would not be of benefit to the community and would result in a significant or total loss of that service or facility, to either</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		provide alternative provision or demonstrate that there are no suitable, viable alternative community uses.
Identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities; and set locally derived standards to provide these (73).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. (73) • A policy protecting existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land from development, with specific exceptions. (74) • Protection and enhancement of rights of way and access. (75) 	Policy HS4: Dependent upon the size and layout of the development, the provision of open space may be required on site or may form part of a contribution towards off site provision or either new or improved facilities in a location which adequately services the new development.
Enable local communities, through local and neighbourhood plans, to identify special protection green areas of particular importance to them – ‘Local Green Space’ (76-78).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy enabling the protection of Local Green Spaces. (Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or reviewed, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period. The designation should only be used when it accords with the criteria in para 77). Policy for managing development within a local green space should be consistent with policy for Green Belts. (78) 	Policy HS4.C: Public space assets identified within the Open Space Audit evidence and/or defined on the proposals map will be protected unless applications accord with criteria defined within the policy.
9. Protecting Green Belt land (paras 79-92)		
Local planning authorities should plan positively to enhance the beneficial use of the Green Belt, such as looking for opportunities to provide access; to provide opportunities for outdoor sport and recreation; to retain and enhance landscapes, visual amenity and biodiversity; or to improve damaged and derelict land. (81) Local planning authorities with Green Belts in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where Green Belt policies are included, these should reflect the need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Enhance the beneficial use of the Green Belt. (81) ○ Accord with criteria on boundary setting, and the need for clarity on the status of safeguarded land, in particular. (85) ○ Specify that inappropriate development should not be approved except in very special circumstances. (87) 	Approximately two thirds of Rugby Borough is designated green belt as such green belt policies run throughout the plan. Coventry and Warwickshire Joint Green Belt Review Stage 1 2015

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p>their area should establish Green Belt boundaries in their Local Plans which set the framework for Green Belt and settlement policy. (83)</p> <p>When drawing up or reviewing Green Belt boundaries local planning authorities should take account of the need to promote sustainable patterns of development. (84)</p> <p>Boundaries should be set using ‘physical features likely to be permanent’ amongst other things (85)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Specify the exceptions to inappropriate development (89-90) ○ Identify where very special circumstances might apply to renewable energy development. (91) 	<p>Policy GP2 states that “New Development will be resisted; only where national policy on greenbelt allows will development be permitted.”</p> <p>Policy GP3: “Where redevelopment of previously developed land or conversion of existing buildings is within the Green Belt, guidance is provided on the appropriateness (of the development) in national policy.”</p> <p>Policy DS6: Rural Allocations: “The appropriate treatment of greenbelt boundaries, where relevant, limiting the impact of the development on the green belt.”</p> <p>The urban boundary and some main rural settlement boundaries have been altered in order to accommodate housing allocations and this has therefore released land in the green belt.</p>
<p>10. Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change (paras 93-108)</p>		
<p>Adopt proactive strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change taking full account of flood risk, coastal change and water supply and demand considerations. (94)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Planning of new development in locations and ways which reduce greenhouse gas emissions. ● Support for energy efficiency improvements to existing building. ● Local requirements for a building’s sustainability which are consistent with the Government’s zero carbon buildings policy. 	<p>Policy GP2: Settlement Hierarchy. The hierarchy in Policy GP2 provides a clear sequential approach to the selection of sustainable locations for development. Rugby Town is the main</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
	<p>(95)</p>	<p>focus for all development in the Borough as it is considered to be the most sustainable location.</p> <p>Policy SDC1: Proposals relating to the enhanced energy efficiency of existing buildings will be supported in accordance with the most up to date national regulations.</p> <p>Policy SDC4: Sustainable buildings. National targets for achieving zero carbon for residential development by 2016 and for non-residential development by 2019 will be taken forward through the progressive tightening of Building Regulations.</p> <p>Policy SDC5: Flood Risk Management- A sequential approach to the location of suitable development will be undertaken by the Council based on the Environment Agency's flood zones as shown on the latest Flood Map for Planning and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA). This will steer new development to areas with the lowest probability of flooding, in order to minimise the flood risk to people and property and manage any residual risk.</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p>Help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy through a strategy, policies maximising renewable and low carbon energy, and identification of key energy sources. (97)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strategy and policies to promote and maximise energy from renewable and low carbon sources, • Identification of suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources, and supporting infrastructure, where this would help secure the development of such sources (see also NPPF footnote 17) • Identification of where development can draw its energy supply from decentralised, renewable or low carbon supply systems and for co-locating potential heat customers and suppliers. (97) 	<p>Policy SDC8 supports provision of new low carbon and renewable energy technologies (including associated infrastructure), subject to set criteria protecting adjacent land uses from adverse impact, residential amenity, landscaping, ecology and visual impacts; heritage assets and their settings;</p>
<p>Minimise vulnerability to climate change and manage the risk of flooding (99)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Account taken of the impacts of climate change. (99) • Allocate, and where necessary re-locate, development away from flood risk areas through a sequential test, based on a SFRA. (100) • Policies to manage risk, from a range of impacts, through suitable adaptation measures 	<p>10.2: Climate change is a major, global issue and Rugby Borough must take steps to reduce the causes and make plans to respond to the effects at the local level. New development in the Borough must also take into account the consequences of climate change and ensure development is adaptable to changing conditions over its lifetime.</p> <p>Policy SDC4: Applicants must submit a Sustainable Buildings Statement to demonstrate how requirements of Climate Change policies in this Local Plan have been met. SDC4 will be applied to all new developments of one dwelling or more and non-residential development of 1000 sq.m</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		or over (changes of use are exempt from this policy).
Take account of marine planning (105)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure early and close co-operation on relevant economic, social and environmental policies with the Marine Management Organisation • Review the aims and objectives of the Marine Policy Statement, including local potential for marine-related economic development • Integrate as appropriate marine policy objectives into emerging policy • Support of integrated coastal management (ICM) in coastal areas in line with the requirements of the MPS 	There are not considered to be any marine planning issues affecting the Rugby Borough Council Local Plan.
Manage risk from coastal change (106)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of where the coast is likely to experience physical changes and identify Coastal Change Management Areas, and clarity on what development will be allowed in such areas. • Provision for development and infrastructure that needs to be re-located from such areas, based on SMPs and Marine Plans, where appropriate. 	N/A
11. Conserving and enhancing the natural environment (paras 109-125)		
Protect valued landscapes (109)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strategy and policy or policies to create, protect, enhance and manage networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure. • Policy which seeks to minimise the loss of higher quality agricultural land and give great weight to protecting the landscape and scenic beauty of National Parks, the Broads and AONBs. 	Policy NE4: New development which positively contributes to landscape character will be permitted. The purpose of Policy NE4 is to ensure that significant landscape features are protected from harm and that landscape design is a key component

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		<p>in the design of new development. Planning Applications will be required to submit a landscape analysis and management plan in appropriate cases.</p> <p>Policy NE3: Recognises that it is not only important to protect the existing Green Infrastructure (GI) network in its current role but also to enhance both its function and its physical extent. The principal assets of the Strategic Green Infrastructure Network are watercourse corridors, disused railway lines and local sites.</p> <p>Policy ED4 on Farm Diversification: Proposals that would support the ongoing viability of farms and other agricultural operations will be encouraged, subject to development on best quality agricultural land being avoided.</p>
Prevent unacceptable risks from pollution and land instability (109)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy which seeks development which is appropriate for its location having regard to the effects of pollution on health, the natural environment or general amenity. 	Policy HS5: Any development that results in significant negative impacts on health and wellbeing of people in an area as a result of pollution will not be permitted unless effective

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p>Planning policies should minimise impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity (117)</p> <p>Planning policies should plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries (117)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification and mapping of local ecological networks and geological conservation interests. • Policies to promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the recovery of priority species 	<p>mitigation can be achieved.</p> <p>Policy NE1 defines the Boroughs wealth of habitat and species of national and local importance. Development with the potential to harm biodiversity assets and sites of geological interest will not be permitted unless the circumstances within Policy NE1 apply. Levels of protection given to such features will be proportionate to their status and importance both individually and as part of a wider network.</p> <p>Policy NE2: New development will be permitted provided that it protects, enhances and/or restores habitat biodiversity. Helping to secure improvements to biodiversity is one of the key roles in achieving sustainable development. Developers will be required to take measures during the development process to prevent the disturbance of wildlife and to make provision for the protection and subsequent retention of natural features and necessary supporting habitats. Where loss of habitat is unavoidable, adequate mitigation measures should be undertaken and only where this is not possible, adequate compensation measures should be implemented.</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p>12. Conserving and enhancing the historic environment (paras 126-141)</p>		
<p>Include a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk (126)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strategy for the historic environment based on a clear understanding of the cultural assets in the plan area, including assets most at risk. • A map/register of historic assets • A policy or policies which promote new development that will make a positive contribution to character and distinctiveness. (126) 	<p>Policy SDC3 seeks to protect, sustain and enhance designated and non-designated heritage assets in accordance with the NPPF definition of such. Heritage assets with archaeological interest will require the submission of a relevant assessment.</p> <p>Designs need to be sensitive and complimentary to their surroundings built and natural environment has a significant effect on the character and appearance of an area. Securing new development that can positively contribute to the character of its local environment is therefore of key importance.</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
13. Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals (paras 142-149)		
<p>It is important that there is a sufficient supply of material to provide the infrastructure, buildings, energy and goods that the country needs. However, since minerals are a finite natural resource, and can only be worked where they are found, it is important to make best use of them to secure their long-term conservation (142)</p> <p>Minerals planning authorities should plan for a steady and adequate supply of industrial materials (146)</p>	<p>Account taken of the matters raised in relation to paragraph 143 and 145, including matters in relation to land in national / international designations; landbanks; the defining of Minerals Safeguarding Areas; wider matters relating to safeguarding; approaches if non-mineral development is necessary within Minerals Safeguarding Areas; the setting of environmental criteria; development of noise limits; reclamation of land; plan for a steady and adequate supply of aggregates. This could include evidence of co-operation with neighbouring and more distant authorities.</p>	<p>Warwickshire County Council is currently consulting on the publication draft of its Minerals Plan (existing document the 2009 Minerals Core Strategy).</p>
<p>Justified: <i>The plan should be the most appropriate strategy, when considered against the reasonable alternatives, based on proportionate evidence.</i></p> <p>To be 'justified' a DPD needs to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founded on a robust and credible evidence base involving: research / fact finding demonstrating how the choices made in the plan are backed up by facts; and evidence of participation of the local community and others having a stake in the area. • The most appropriate strategy when considered against reasonable alternatives. 		
<p><i>Participation</i></p> <p>Has the consultation process allowed for effective engagement of all interested parties?</p>	<p>The consultation statement. This should set out what consultation was undertaken, when, with whom and how it has influenced the plan. The statement should show that efforts have been made to consult hard to reach groups, key stakeholders etc. Reference SCI</p>	<p>Consultation documents were produced at each stage of the consultation process; these are contained within the Regulation 22 statement. It is considered that the documents submitted fulfil the statutory requirement and all</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		<p>consultation was conducted in line with the Councils adopted Statement of Community Involvement.</p> <p>The range of stakeholders who responded and volume of responses (7,133 responses from 2,261 respondents) is considered to demonstrate that the consultation process was effective in reaching local residents.</p>
<p><i>Research / fact finding</i></p> <p>Is the plan justified by a sound and credible evidence base? What are the sources of evidence? How up to date, and how convincing is it?</p> <p>What assumptions were made in preparing the DPD? Were they reasonable and justified?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The studies, reports and technical papers that provide the evidence for the policies set out in the DPD, the date of preparation and who they were produced by. <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections of the DPD (at various stages of development) and SA Report which illustrate how evidence supports the strategy, policies and proposals, including key assumptions. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A very brief statement of how the main findings of consultation support the policies, with reference to: reports to the council on the issues raised during participation, covering both the front-loading and formulation phases; and any other information on community views and preferences. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For each policy (or group of policies dealing with the same issue), a very brief statement of the evidence documents relied upon and how they support the policy (where this is not already clear in the reasoned justification in the DPD). 	<p>The Local Plan is supported by a comprehensive, robust and up-to-date evidence base which has been published on the Councils website.</p> <p>Elements of the evidence base such as the STA have been updated to ensure decisions have been made based on the most up-to-date data available.</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p><i>Alternatives</i></p> <p>Can it be shown that the LPA's chosen approach is the most appropriate given the reasonable alternatives? Have the reasonable alternatives been considered and is there a clear audit trail showing how and why the preferred approach was arrived at? Where a balance had to be struck in taking decisions between competing alternatives, is it clear how and why the decisions were taken?</p> <p>Does the sustainability appraisal show how the different options perform and is it clear that sustainability considerations informed the content of the DPD from the start?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports and consultation documents produced in the early stages setting out how alternatives were developed and evaluated, and the reasons for selecting the preferred strategy, and reasons for rejecting the alternatives. This should include options covering not just the spatial strategy, but also the quantum of development, strategic policies and development management policies. • An audit trail of how the evidence base, consultation and SA have influenced the plan. • Sections of the SA Report showing the assessment of options and alternatives. • Reports on how decisions on the inclusion of policy were made. • Sections of the consultation document demonstrating how options were developed and appraised. • Any other documentation showing how alternatives were developed and evaluated, including a report on how sustainability appraisal has influenced the choice of strategy and the content of policies. 	<p>Alternatives to the development strategy have been considered during previous stages of the Local Plan consultation.</p> <p>The SA process can help identify where there may be other 'reasonable alternatives' to the options being considered for the policies and site allocations to be included in the plan. The reasonable alternative options that have been considered for the Rugby Borough Local Plan have included potential sites for new housing, employment development and alternative policy approaches. The Sustainability Appraisal and SHLAA have considered all reasonable alternatives throughout the various stages of the Plan.</p>
<p><i>Effective: the plan should be deliverable over its period and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic priorities.</i></p> <p>To be 'effective' a DPD needs to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be deliverable • Demonstrate sound infrastructure delivery planning • Have no regulatory or national planning barriers to its delivery • Have delivery partners who are signed up to it • Be coherent with the strategies of neighbouring authorities • Demonstrate how the Duty to Co-operate has been fulfilled • Be flexible 		

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be able to be monitored 		
<p><i>Deliverable and Coherent</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is it clear how the policies will meet the Plan's vision and objectives? Are there any obvious gaps in the policies, having regard to the objectives of the DPD? Are the policies internally consistent? Are there realistic timescales related to the objectives? Does the DPD explain how its key policy objectives will be achieved? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sections of the DPD which address delivery, the means of delivery and the timescales for key developments and initiatives. Confirmation from the relevant agencies that they support the objectives and the identified means of delivery, such as evidence that the plans and programmes of other bodies have been taken into account (e.g. Water Resources Management Plans and Marine Plans). Information in the local development scheme, or provided separately, about the scope and content (actual and intended) of each DPD showing how they combine to provide a coherent policy structure. Section in the DPD that shows the linkages between the objectives and the corresponding policies, and consistency between policies (such as through a matrix). 	<p>Chapter 2 (Context, Vision and Objectives) defines a clear spatial vision for Rugby up to 2031 with a set of 9 spatial objectives of how to achieve the spatial vision.</p> <p>Policies are set out around key themes throughout the document and are considered internally consistent.</p>
<p><i>Infrastructure Delivery</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have the infrastructure implications of the policies clearly been identified? Are the delivery mechanisms and timescales for implementation of the policies clearly identified? Is it clear who is going to deliver the required infrastructure and does the timing of the provision complement the timescale of the policies? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A section or sections of the DPD where infrastructure needs are identified and the proposed solutions put forward. A schedule setting out responsibilities for delivery, mechanisms and timescales, and related to a CIL schedule where appropriate. Confirmation from infrastructure providers that they support the solutions proposed and the identified means and timescales for their delivery, or a plan for resolving issues. Demonstrable plan-wide viability, particularly in relation to the delivery of affordable housing and the role of a CIL schedule. 	<p>The Infrastructure Delivery Plan will seek to establish the additional infrastructure and service needs required to support and accommodate the level of development and growth proposed in the Local Plan. The IDP has been developed as a result of extensive dialogue and consultation with infrastructure and service providers.</p>
<p><i>Co-ordinated Planning</i></p> <p>Does the DPD reflect the concept of spatial planning? Does it go beyond traditional land use planning by bringing together and integrating policies for the development and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sections of the DPD that reflect the plans or strategies of the local authority and other bodies Policies which seek to pull together different policy objectives Expressions of support/representations from bodies responsible for other strategies affecting the area 	<p>The Plan's Development Strategy has been developed in relation to health, heritage and environmental issues as evidenced by respective policies.</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
use of land with other policies and programmes from a variety of agencies / organisations that influence the nature of places and how they function?		
<p><i>Flexibility</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the DPD flexible enough to respond to a variety of, or unexpected changes in, circumstances? • Does the DPD include the remedial actions that will be taken if the policies need adjustment? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections of the DPD setting out the assumptions of the plan and identifying the circumstances when policies might need to be reviewed. • Sections of the annual monitoring report and sustainability appraisal report describing how the council will monitor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the effectiveness of policies and what evidence is being collected to undertake this b. changes affecting the baseline information and any information on trends on which the DPD is based • Risk analysis of the strategy and policies to demonstrate robustness and how the plan could cope with changing circumstances • Sections within the DPD dealing with possible change areas and how they would be dealt with, including mechanisms for the rate of development to be increased or slowed and how that would impact on other aspects of the strategy and on infrastructure provision • Sections of the DPD identifying the key indicators of success of the strategy, and the remedial actions which will be taken if adjustment is required. 	<p>The Local Plans allocation of sites going forward into the next plan period and varied size and location of sites demonstrates the plans flexibility.</p> <p>Chapter 12 (and associated appendices including appendix 1 Implementation and Monitoring framework and Appendix 3 IDP) outlines how the plan will be delivered and the response mechanisms should future amendment be required.</p>
<p><i>Co-operation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the Duty to Co-operate has been undertaken appropriately for the plan being examined? • Is it clear who is intended to implement each part of the DPD? Where the actions required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A succinct Duty to Co-operate Statement which flows from the strategic issues that have been addressed jointly. A 'tick box' approach or a collection of correspondence is not sufficient, and it needs to be shown (where appropriate) if joint plan-making arrangements have been considered, what decisions were reached and why. • The Duty to Co-operate Statement could highlight: the sharing of 	<p>A background paper detailing how the Council has fulfilled the Duty to Cooperate has been produced. RBC is signed up to the Memorandum of Understanding between Warwickshire Authorities on housing and employment issues.</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
are outside the direct control of the LPA, is there evidence that there is the necessary commitment from the relevant organisation to the implementation of the policies?	ideas, evidence and pooling of resources; the practical policy outcomes of co-operation; how decisions were reached and why; and evidence of having effectively co-operated to plan for issues which need other organisations to deliver on, common objectives for elements of strategy and policy; a memorandum of understanding; aligned or joint core strategies and liaison with other consultees as appropriate.	
<p><i>Monitoring</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the DPD contain targets, and milestones which relate to the delivery of the policies, (including housing trajectories where the DPD contains housing allocations)? • Is it clear how targets are to be measured (by when, how and by whom) and are these linked to the production of the annual monitoring report? • Is it clear how the significant effects identified in the sustainability appraisal report will be taken forward in the ongoing monitoring of the implementation of the plan, through the annual monitoring report? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections of the DPD setting out indicators, targets and milestones • Sections of the current annual monitoring report which report on indicators, targets, milestones and trajectories • Reference to any other reports or technical documents which contain information on the delivery of policies • Sections of the current annual monitoring report and the sustainability appraisal report setting out the framework for monitoring, including monitoring the effects of the DPD against the sustainability appraisal 	Appendix 1 (Implementation and Monitoring framework). The Council produces an annual monitoring report containing information on the implementation of the Local Development Scheme and on the extent to which policies set out in the Local Plan are performing.
<p><i>Consistent with national policy: the plan should enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in the Framework.</i></p> <p>The DPD should not contradict or ignore national policy. Where there is a departure, there must be clear and convincing reasoning to justify the approach taken.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the DPD contain any policies or proposals which are not consistent with national policy and, if so, is there local justification? • Does the DPD contain policies that do not add anything to existing national guidance? If so, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections of the DPD which explain where and how national policy has been elaborated upon and the reasons. • Studies forming evidence for the DPD or, where appropriate, other information which provides the rationale for departing from national policy. • Evidence provided from the sustainability appraisal (including 	It is not considered that the Local Plan contains any policies which constitute a departure from national policy.

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
why have these been included?	reference to the sustainability report) and/or from the results of community involvement. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where appropriate, evidence of consistency with national marine policy as articulated in the UK Marine Policy Statement• Reports or copies of correspondence as to how representations have been considered and dealt with.	

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Planning policy for traveller sites

Planning Policy for Traveller Sites was published in 23 March 2012 and came into effect on 27 March 2012. Circular 01/06: Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites and Circular 04/07: Planning for Travelling Showpeople have been cancelled. Planning Policy for Traveller Sites should be read in conjunction with the National Planning Policy Framework, including the implementation policies of that document.

The government's aim in relation to planning for traveller sites is:

'To ensure fair and equal treatment for travellers, in a way that facilitates the traditional and nomadic life of travellers whilst respecting the interests of the settled community'.

Government's aims in respect of traveller sites are:

- That local planning authorities (LPAs) make their own assessment of need for the purposes of planning
- That LPAs work collaboratively, develop fair and effective strategies to meet need through the identification of land for sites
- Plan for sites over a reasonable timescale
- Plan-making should protect green belt land from inappropriate development
- Promote more private traveller site provision whilst recognising that there will always be those travellers who cannot provide their own sites
- Aim to reduce the number of unauthorised developments and encampments and make enforcement more effective.

In addition local planning authorities should:

- Include fair, realistic and inclusive policies
- Increase the number of traveller sites in appropriate locations with planning permission, to address under provision and maintain an appropriate level of supply
- Reduce tensions between settled and traveller communities in plan-making and decision-taking
- Enable provision of suitable accommodation from which travellers can access education, health, welfare and employment infrastructure
- Have due regard to protection of local amenity and local environment

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Policy Expectations	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
Policy A: Using evidence to plan positively and manage development (para 6)		
Early and effective community engagement with both settled and traveller communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early and effective engagement undertaken, including discussing travellers' accommodation needs with travellers themselves, their representative bodies and local support groups. 	<p>The 2014 Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (November 2014) identifies the housing needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople from across the Borough.</p> <p>It is considered that travelling communities were effectively engaged during the development of the study.</p>
Co-operate with travellers, their representative bodies and local support groups, other local authorities and relevant interest groups to prepare and maintain an up-to-date understanding of likely permanent and transit accommodation needs of their areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration of a clear understanding of the needs of the traveller community over the lifespan of your development plan. • Collaborative working with neighbouring local planning authorities. • A robust evidence base to establish accommodation needs to inform the preparation of your local plan and make planning decisions. 	<p>It is considered that travelling communities, their representative bodies and local support groups were effectively engaged during the development of the study.</p>
Policy B: Planning for traveller sites (paras 7-11)		
Set pitch targets for gypsies and travellers and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification, and annual update, of a supply of specific, 	Policy DS2 (Sites for Gypsy,

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Policy Expectations	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p>plot targets for travelling showpeople which address the likely permanent and transit site accommodation needs of travellers in your area, working collaboratively with neighbouring LPAs.</p> <p>Set criteria to guide land supply allocations where there is identified need.</p> <p>Ensure that traveller sites are sustainable economically, socially and environmentally.</p>	<p>deliverable sites sufficient to provide 5 years worth of sites against locally set target. Identification of a supply of specific, developable sites or broad locations for growth for years 6-10, and, where possible, for years 11-15.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An assessment of the need for traveller sites, and where an unmet need has been demonstrated a supply of specific, deliverable sites been identified. • Policy which takes into account criteria a-h of para 11 	<p>Travellers and Travelling Showpeople) will allocate land to accommodate requirements as identified by the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) 2014.</p> <p>The GTAA will be updated on a regular basis and as such the pitch allocations will be updated through the GTAA process.</p> <p>A Gypsy and Traveller site allocations DPD is identified for development with an anticipated adoption date of March 2019.</p>
<p>Policy C: Sites in rural areas and the countryside (para 12)</p>		
<p>When assessing the suitability of sites in rural or semi-rural settings LPAs should ensure that the scale of such sites do not dominate the nearest settled community.</p>		<p>Policy DS2 states “The development is appropriate in scale compared with the size of the existing settlement.”</p> <p>“The development will provide a high quality frontage onto the street which maintains or enhances the street scene and which integrates the site into</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Policy Expectations	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		the community”.
Policy D: Rural exception sites (para 13)		
If there is a lack of affordable land to meet local traveller needs, LPAs in rural areas, where viable and practical, should consider allocating and releasing sites solely for affordable travellers’ sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a rural exception site policy is used, and if so clarity that such sites shall be used for affordable traveller sites in perpetuity. 	N/A
Policy E: Traveller sites in Green Belt (paras 14-15)		
<p>Traveller sites (both permanent and temporary) in the Green Belt are inappropriate development.</p> <p>Exceptional limited alteration to the defined Green Belt boundary (which might be to accommodate a site inset within the Green Belt) to meet a specific, identified need for a traveller site ... should be done only through the plan-making process.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Belt boundary revisions made in response to a specific identified need for a traveller site, undertaken through the plan making process. 	TBC
Policy F: Mixed planning use traveller sites (paras 16-18)		
Local planning authorities should consider, wherever possible, including traveller sites suitable for mixed residential and business uses, having regard to the safety and amenity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration of the need for sites for mixed residential and business use (having regard to safety and amenity of the occupants and neighbouring residents), or separate sites in close proximity to one another. 	TBC

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Policy Expectations	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
of the occupants and neighbouring residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N.B. Mixed use should not be permitted on rural exception sites 	
Policy G: Major development projects (para 19)		
Local planning authorities should work with the planning applicant and the affected traveller community to identify a site or sites suitable for relocation of the community if a major development proposal requires the permanent or temporary relocation of a traveller site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where a major development proposal requires the permanent or temporary relocation of a traveller site, the identification of a site or sites suitable for re-location of the community. 	N/A

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Integration of marine and terrestrial planning

As the UK marine area and marine plan area boundaries extend up to the level of mean high water spring tides while terrestrial planning boundaries generally extend to mean low water spring tides (including estuaries), the marine plan area will physically overlap with that of some terrestrial plan. Local authorities with any tidal frontage, even if far inland and not conventionally regarded as coastal, must therefore take full account of the MMO, the MPS and

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

marine plans under S.58 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act and the Duty to Co-operate in Section 110 of the Localism Act 2011. A full list of the local planning authorities whose areas overlap with the UK marine area appears in Appendix One.

Furthermore, the Duty to Co-Operate requires all local planning authorities, even if landlocked, to take account, where relevant, of the MMO's plans and activities when preparing their Local Plans. Finally, the NPPF requires LPAs to take the MPS into account under the tests of soundness (specifically, to test if an emerging DPD is consistent with national policy, which includes the MPS).

The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (the Act) provided for the introduction of a marine planning system for England's inshore and offshore marine area, establishing the Secretary of State as the Marine Planning Authority for these areas. The Act also provided for the establishment of the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and for the Secretary of State to delegate various planning functions. The planning functions including preparation and review were delegated to the MMO in 2010. The Act also provided for the adoption of the UK Marine Policy Statement (MPS). The MPS was adopted on 18 March 2011 and provides the policy framework for marine planning and for all decisions likely to affect the marine area.

There are eleven plan areas in English waters, for each of which a Marine Plan will be prepared by the MMO and adopted by the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

In practical terms, all activities undertaken in the marine area require land based infrastructure, without which our ability to benefit economically and socially from activities in the marine area would be extremely limited.

The UK Government's vision for the marine environment, as articulated in the MPS, is:

'clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas'.

In the absence of a marine plan prepared by the MMO and adopted by the Secretary of State the MPS is the relevant marine policy document. Where a marine plan has been adopted both the MPS and the Marine Plan are relevant marine policy documents for the marine plan area.

As articulated in the Marine and Coastal Act and the MPS, the Government aims for the MPS and marine planning systems to sit alongside and interact with existing planning regimes across the UK. Specifically, s.58 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act requires all¹ public bodies to:

¹ Like the Duty to Co-Operate, no distinction is made by the Marine and Coastal Access Act between public authorities with a tidal frontage and those without. Emphasis is placed on the likelihood of the decision being made affecting the marine area.

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

- take authorisation or enforcement decisions that affect or might affect the UK marine area in accordance with the MPS and relevant Marine Plans, unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise
- state their reasons where authorisation or enforcement decisions are not taken in accordance with the MPS and relevant Marine Plans
- have regard to the MPS and relevant Marine Plans when taking decisions that affect or might affect the UK marine area which are not authorisation or enforcement decisions²

In addition, the MPS seeks integration of marine planning and the terrestrial planning system through:

- Consistency between marine and terrestrial policy documents and guidance
- Liaison between respective responsible authorities for terrestrial and marine planning, including in plan development, implementation and review stages
- Sharing the evidence base and data where relevant and appropriate so as to achieve consistency in the data used in plan making and decisions

These aims are further supported by footnote 36 in the NPPF.

² For example, decisions about what representations they should make as a consultee or about what action they should carry out themselves.

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Policy Expectations	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
Key requirements under the Duty to Co-Operate		
Consistency between marine and terrestrial policy documents and guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration of consistency of aim between relevant local plan policies and marine policy documents (i.e. the MPS and any relevant adopted marine plans) • Proof of collaborative working with the MMO and that the MPS has been taken into account. 	N/A
Liaison between respective authorities responsible for terrestrial and marine planning, including in plan development, implementation and review stages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early and effective policy development engagement undertaken, including discussions with the MMO • Evidence of iteration of policies and plans as a result of engagement with the MMO • Evidence of engagement with the MMO in relation to monitoring, implementation and throughout the policy cycle • Support of integrated coastal management (ICM) in coastal areas in line with the requirements of the MPS 	N/A
Sharing the evidence base and data where relevant and appropriate so as to achieve consistency in the data used in plan making and decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence that the LPA has shared or provided relevant data to the MMO that can help inform Marine Plans or MPS review • Demonstration that local plan policy has been underpinned by data provided by the MMO or the MPS • Explicit cross-referencing in local plan to MPS, the MMO, their 	N/A

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Policy Expectations	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
	roles, and relevant marine plans	
Marine Policy Statement- Chapter 2: General Principles for Decision-Making³		
Sections 2.1 -2.2: The UK vision for the marine environment		
<p>The UK vision for the marine environment ('clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas')</p> <p>Achieving the vision through marine planning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reference in DPD where appropriate to UK vision for the marine environment Contribution to the vision through local plan policies and supporting text 	N/A
Section 2.4: Considering benefits and adverse effects in marine planning		
<p>Consider benefits and adverse effects of plan policies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration of benefits and adverse effects of policy on the marine area as appropriate within the DPD's sustainability appraisal 	N/A
Section 2.5: Economic, social and environmental considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	
<p>Contribute to the objectives of relevant</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reference to relevant EU Directives in DPD and sustainability 	N/A

³ As the Marine Policy Statement was not targeted specifically at terrestrial planning authorities, some of its sections are, in practice, relevant to marine planning authorities only and/or there is already a comprehensive policy framework governing terrestrial development (e.g. energy infrastructure), Where this is considered to be the case, i.e. where it is considered likely that a terrestrial planning DPD would be found sound without referencing that section, the section in question has been omitted from this checklist.

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Policy Expectations	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
EU Directives (Marine Strategy Framework Directive and Water Framework Directive)	appraisal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of contribution of DPD policies to the objectives of relevant EU Directives 	
Marine Policy Statement- Chapter 3: Policy Objectives for Key Activities		
3.1 Marine Protected Areas		
Incorporate identified areas and features of importance for nature conservation Activities or developments that may result in adverse impacts on biodiversity should be designed or located to avoid such impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of relevant areas and features of importance for nature conservation within relevant marine plan area(s) • Consideration of impacts of policy and/or terrestrial development on those areas and features of importance • Measures to mitigate, monitor and manage negative impacts on those areas and features of importance 	N/A
3.4 Ports and shipping		
Take into account and seek to minimise any negative impacts on shipping activity, freedom of navigation and navigational safety Protect the efficiency and resilience of continuing port operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence that policy with potential impact on ports and shipping minimises negative impacts on sector • Where relevant, evidence that economic, employment and transport policies are protective of ports and shipping sector 	N/A
3.8 Fisheries		
Consider potential economic, social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where relevant, evidence that other policies minimise negative 	N/A

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Policy Expectations	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
and environmental impacts of other developments on fishing activity	impacts on fishing activity and/or aquaculture	
3.9 Aquaculture		
Consider the benefits of encouraging the development of efficient, competitive and sustainable aquaculture industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where relevant, evidence that the benefits of aquaculture industry development have been considered 	N/A
3.10 Surface water management and waste water treatment and disposal		
Maximise opportunities for co-existence of waste water infrastructure with other activities in the marine environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reference to and consideration of the co-existence of waste water infrastructure with other marine activities, including the potential for waste water infrastructure to mitigate marine impacts through design or location 	N/A
3.11 Tourism and recreation		
Consider the potential for tourism and recreation in the marine environment and the benefits this will bring to the economy and local communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where relevant, reference to marine tourism and recreation Evidence that the potential for marine tourism and recreation has been recognised in plan-making 	N/A

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Appendix One

This is an alphabetical list of all local planning authorities in England whose area overlaps with the UK marine area.

Adur	City of Westminster	Havant	North Tyneside
Allerdale	Colchester	Havering	North York Moors National Park
Arun	Copeland	Horsham	Northumberland
Babergh	Cornwall	Hounslow	Norwich
Barking and Dagenham	County Durham	Huntingdonshire	Poole
Barrow-in-Furness	Dartford	Ipswich	Preston
Basildon	Doncaster	Isle of Wight	Purbeck
Bassetlaw	Dover	Isles of Scilly	Redcar and Cleveland
Bexley	East Cambridgeshire	Kensington and Chelsea	Richmond upon Thames
Blackpool	East Devon	King's Lynn and West Norfolk	Rochford
Boston	East Lindsey	Lake District National Park	Rother
Bournemouth	East Riding of Yorkshire	Lambeth	Scarborough
Broadland	Eastbourne	Lancaster	Sedgemoor
Broads Authority	Eastleigh	Lewes	Sefton
Canterbury	Exeter	Lewisham	Selby
Carlisle	Exmoor National Park	Liverpool	Shepway
Castle Point	Fareham	Maidstone	South Cambridgeshire
Chelmsford	Fenland	Maldon	South Downs National Park
Cheshire West and Chester	Fylde	Medway	South Gloucestershire
Chichester	Gateshead	Middlesbrough	South Hams
Chorley	Gloucester	New Forest	South Holland
Christchurch	Gosport	New Forest National Park	South Lakeland
City of London	Gravesham	Newark and Sherwood	South Norfolk
City of Brighton and Hove	Great Yarmouth	Newcastle upon Tyne	South Ribble
City of Bristol	Greenwich	Newham	South Somerset
City of Kingston upon Hull	Halton	North Devon	South Tyneside
City of Peterborough	Hambleton	North East Lincolnshire	Southend-on-Sea
City of Plymouth	Hammersmith and Fulham	North Lincolnshire	Southwark
City of Portsmouth	Hartlepool	North Norfolk	Stockton-on-Tees
City of Southampton	Hastings	North Somerset	

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Stroud
Suffolk Coastal
Sunderland
Swale
Taunton Deane
Teignbridge
Tendring
Test Valley
Thanet
Thurrock
Tonbridge and Malling
Torbay
Torridge
Tower Hamlets
Wandsworth
Warrington
Waveney
Wealden
West Devon
West Dorset
West Lancashire
West Lindsey
West Somerset
Weymouth and Portland
Winchester
Wirral
Worthing
Wyre
York