



## New local plan for Cheshire East

# Draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

March 2024

Open

Fair

Green

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Front cover images (clockwise from top-left):

- Crewe Market Hall and Municipal Buildings
- Arclid north plant site and lake (image supplied by Bathgate Silica Sand Ltd)
- Jodrell Bank Observatory
- Lamberts Lane Bridge, Congleton
- Tabley Park, Northwich Road, Knutsford

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# 1 Introduction

## What is the Sustainability Appraisal?

**1.1** Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a process to assess the social, environmental and economic impacts of a plan, and is performed alongside the production of the Plan.

**1.2** The National Planning Policy Framework September 2023 (NPPF) (¶17) states that 'the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development'. NPPF ¶18 sets out the three overarching objectives to achieve sustainable development – economic, social, and environmental.

**1.3** SA is required under:<sup>1</sup>

- the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004
- the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004,<sup>2</sup> which places an obligation on the council to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment on land use and spatial plans

**1.4** The NPPF (¶32) requires that 'local plans and spatial development strategies should be informed throughout their preparation by a sustainability appraisal that meets the relevant legal requirements. This should demonstrate how the plan has addressed relevant economic, social and environmental objectives (including opportunities for net gains)'. Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) provides clarity on the need for SA and Strategic Environmental Assessment in relation to plan development.

**1.5** The integrated SA also incorporates the requirements of:

- **Strategic Environmental Assessment:** An assessment of the environmental implications of a plan. The purpose of this assessment is to 'identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of (a) implementing the plan; and (b) reasonable alternatives, taking into account the objectives and geographical scope.'<sup>3</sup> As Strategic Environmental Assessment is integrated into the SA, there is a need to make sure it addresses all the requirements of this process. This is achieved by using a checklist, available in Appendix C of this Report.
- **Equality Impact Assessment:** A tool for identifying the potential impact of a plan on those who live, work or access the borough. The Assessment also makes sure that the new local plan fulfils the requirements of anti-discrimination and equalities legislation.
- **Health Impact Assessment:** Predicts the health consequences of implementing a plan. It also identifies ways to enhance positive and minimise or avoid negative health impacts.
- **Rural Proofing Assessment:** The process of scrutinising a plan to make sure that impacts on rural areas are fully considered.

<sup>1</sup> The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act received Royal Assent on 26/10/23. The Act contains the requirement for an Environmental Outcomes Report to be produced as part of plan-making. However, in the absence of regulations it is considered that the production of an SA Scoping Report is appropriate as it helps to determine issues facing the borough that will need to be considered through local plan policies and objectives.

<sup>2</sup> Commonly referred to as the 'Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations'.

<sup>3</sup> The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulation, 2004



**1.6** In addition to the SA, the new local plan will be subjected to a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). This is required under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (Habitats Regulations) and seeks to identify the potential of the new local plan to impact upon the national site network (Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation) and Ramsar Sites. The council will undertake all the relevant HRA requirements to support the future development of the new local plan.

**1.7** SA and other associated forms of appraisal help to make sure that a plan delivers development that balances social, environmental, and economic considerations.

## What is this Report?

**1.8** This Report is the Draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report of the new local plan (SA Scoping Report), and its purpose is to identify the scope and methodology for the appraisal of the new local plan.

**1.9** The Report will:

- identify the key social, environmental and economic issues facing Cheshire East
- develop a series of social, environmental and economic objectives for Cheshire East, based on the issues facing the borough and the objectives of national, regional and local plans, policies and programmes
- develop a series of tools for the assessment of the sustainability of the new local plan

## The new local plan

**1.10** The new local plan will outline the development plan for Cheshire East. It will set out the vision, objectives, spatial strategy, and policies for the development of the area over a specified plan period. The new local plan will also assist in the delivery of the Cheshire East Corporate Plan 2021-2025.<sup>4</sup>

**1.11** The new local plan is intended to replace the Local Plan Strategy (LPS), and the Site Allocations and Development Policies Document. There may also be an option to replace the Cheshire Replacement Minerals Local Plan (1999) and the Cheshire Replacement Waste Local Plan (2007), which this Report reflects.

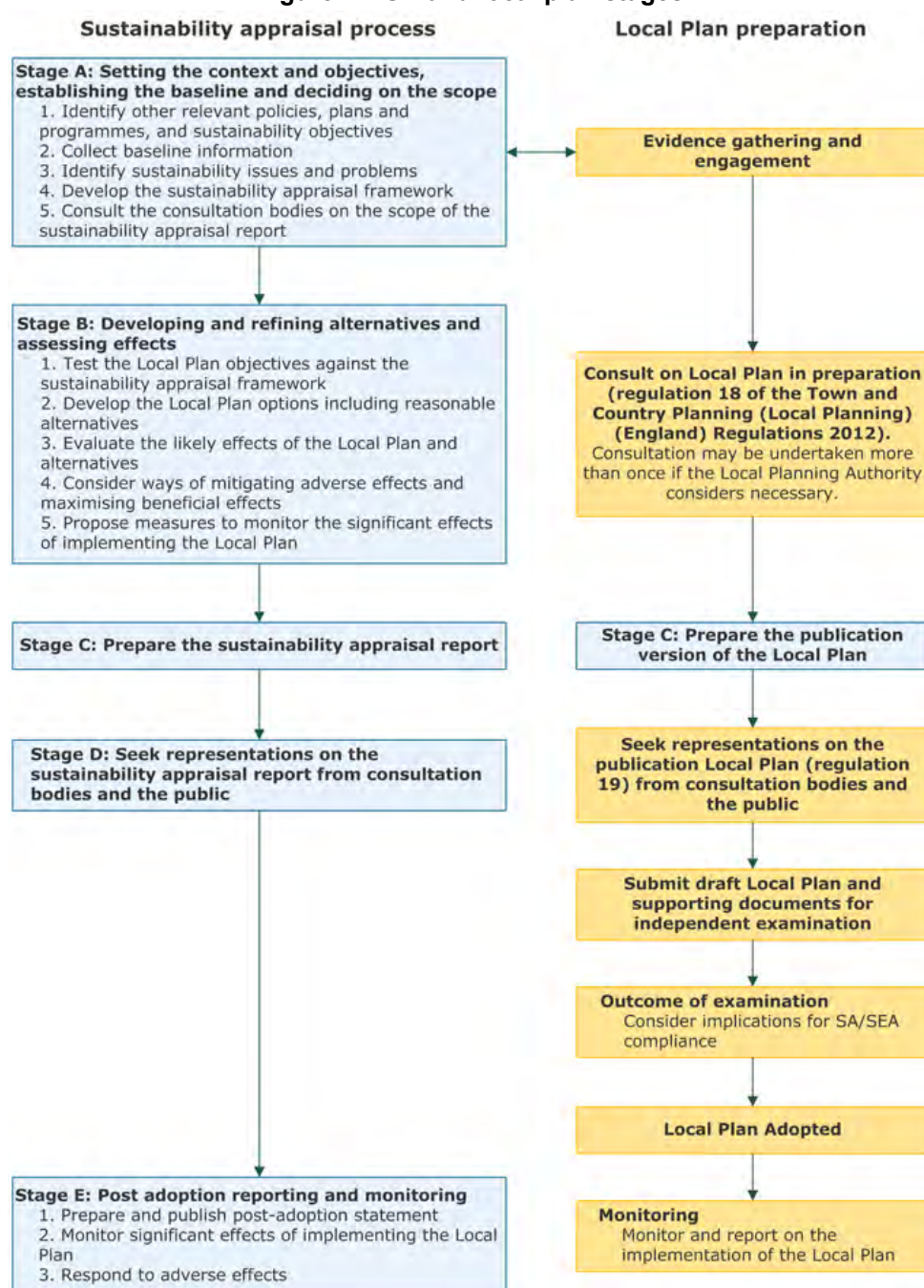
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<sup>4</sup> [https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council\\_and\\_democracy/your\\_council/council\\_finance\\_and\\_governance/corporate-plan.aspx](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/your_council/council_finance_and_governance/corporate-plan.aspx)

## 2 How is the Sustainability Appraisal performed?

**2.1** The SA is performed in five stages, which are carried out alongside the preparation of the local plan. The key stages of local plan preparation<sup>5</sup> and their relationship with the SA process are shown in Figure 2.1.<sup>6</sup>

**Figure 2.1 SA and local plan stages**



<sup>5</sup> The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 has introduced new stages in the preparation of local plans, however there are yet to be any regulations published.

<sup>6</sup> PPG Paragraph: 013 Reference ID: 11-013-20140306 [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/580027/sea1\\_013.Pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/580027/sea1_013.Pdf), accessed 8/12/23

## 3 Stage A1: Related plans and policies

**3.1** The SA process requires the review of relevant policies, plans and programmes. The purpose of this review is to:

- identify any external social, environmental or economic objectives that should be taken into account in the SA
- identify other external factors, including sustainability issues, which might influence the preparation of the new local plan
- determine whether other policies, plans and programmes might give rise to cumulative effects, either positive or negative, when combined with the new local plan
- make sure that the new local plan and its SA are in line with the requirements of relevant policies, plans and programmes and through this identify inconsistencies or constraints that will need to be addressed
- identify sustainability objectives, key indicators, and baseline data that should be reflected in the SA
- suggest ideas as to how any constraints can be addressed, and to help identify the sustainability objectives

**3.2** A detailed list of policies, plans and programmes that have been identified as part of this review is set out in Appendix A of this Report, and include national, regional and local policies, plans and programmes. The large range of international plans are considered to have been covered by national plans. Table 3.1 Includes a list of the regional/sub-regional and local policies, plans, and programmes that are reviewed in Appendix A of this Report.

**Table 3.1 Regional/sub-regional and local policies, plans and programmes**

Regional/sub-regional policies, plans and programmes
Draft Regional Plan for consultation: Water Resources West (2022)
Strategic and Economic Plan. Cheshire and Warrington Matters (2017)
North West River Basin District River Basin Management Plan (2022)
North West River Basin District Flood Risk Management Plan 2021 to 2027
Cheshire Historic Landscape Characterisation Project (2007)
Cheshire Historic Towns Survey (2003)
Local Plans of adjacent Authorities
Local Transport Plans of adjacent Authorities
Places for everyone submission plan, (2021)
Shaping the future of water in the North West from 2025



Local policies, plans and programmes
Connected Communities Strategy 2021-2025
Cheshire East Council Corporate Plan 2021-2025
Cheshire East Local Transport Plan 2019-2024
Cheshire East Rights of Way Improvement Plan (2011)
Rights of Way Improvement Plan Implementation Plan 2015
Housing Strategy 2018 to 2023
Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2021-2025
Vulnerable and Older Persons' Housing Strategy 2020-2024
Cheshire East Borough Council Air Quality Action Plan 2020-2025
Local Air Quality Strategy for Cheshire East Council 2018
Low Emission Strategy (2018)
Cycling Strategy 2017-2027
2023-2028 Cheshire East Visitor Economy Strategy
Crewe Town Centre Regeneration Delivery Framework for Growth (2015)
A Cultural Strategy for Crewe 2019-29
Macclesfield Town Centre Regeneration Framework (2019)
Macclesfield Heritage and Culture Strategy (2014)
Village design statements produced in Cheshire East
Neighbourhood plans made in Cheshire East
Cheshire East local plan evidence base documents
Cheshire East Council Municipal Waste Management Strategy to 2030 (2014) revised 2020
Jodrell Bank Observatory Management Plan (2019)
Conservation area appraisals
Local List of Historic Buildings Supplementary Planning Document (2010)
Environment Strategy 2020-24
The joint local health and wellbeing strategy for the population of Cheshire East 2023/28
Cheshire East Local Aggregate Assessment 2023
Cheshire East Rural Action Plan 2022-26

## 4 Stage A2: Baseline information

**4.1** The SA process requires the collection of baseline information focusing on the social, economic, and environmental characteristics of the borough. This information is collected to:

- identify current baseline conditions in the area
- find out trends in the data for the area
- identify sustainability problems and opportunities
- identify ways of dealing with problems and taking opportunities that exist in the area
- predict likely effects resulting from the implementation of the new local plan
- inform the development of the new local plan

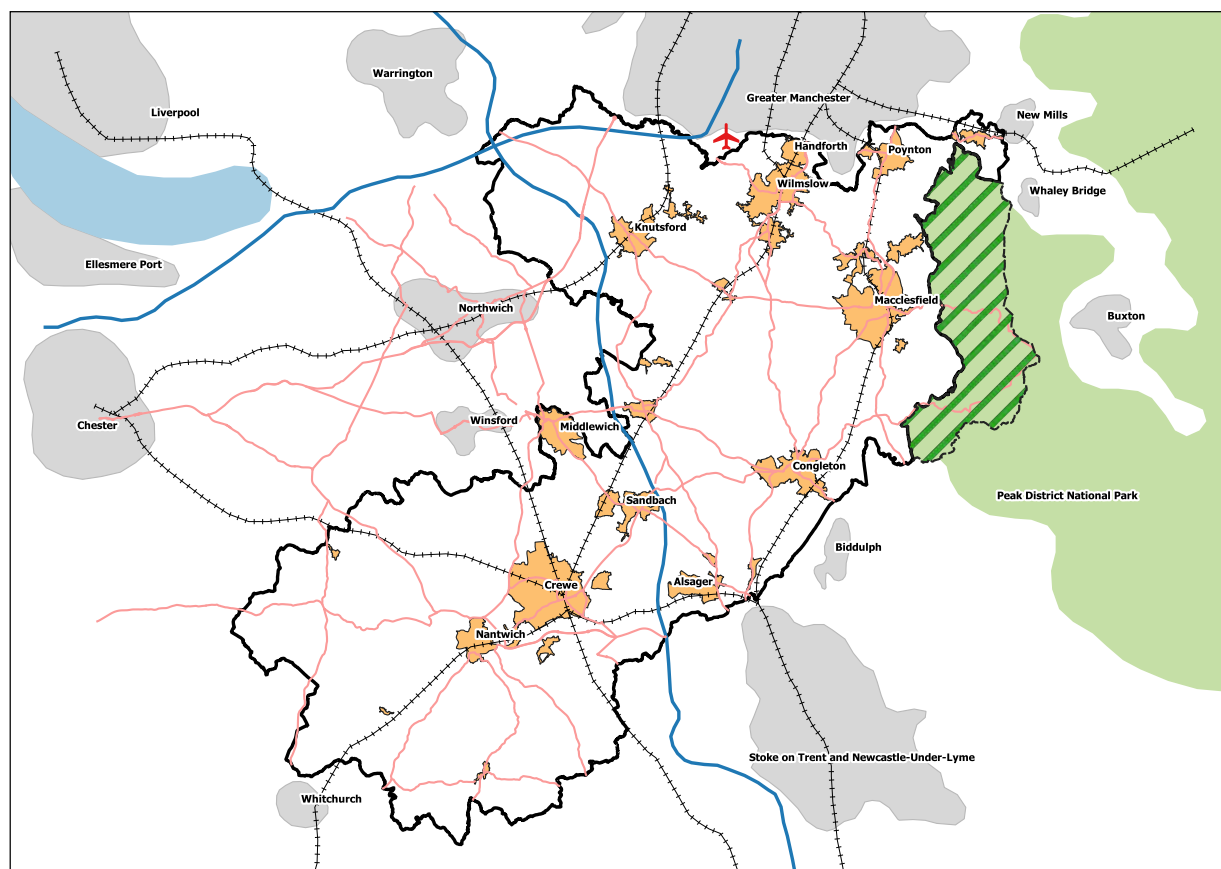
**4.2** Once the new local plan is implemented, selected baseline data will also provide the basis for monitoring the sustainability effects resulting from the plan. This list is subject to revision as the plan progresses. Monitoring is performed to enable a clearer understanding of how situations are changing and will assist in identifying problems and alternative ways of dealing with them.

**4.3** The baseline data collected for Cheshire East has been classified into nine topics, reflecting key areas for consideration identified in the Strategic Environmental Assessment guidance, and are either social, environmental, or economic. These are:

- biodiversity, flora and fauna (environmental)
- population and human health (social)
- water and soil (environmental)
- air (environmental)
- climatic factors (environmental)
- transport (environmental)
- cultural heritage and landscape (environmental)
- social inclusiveness (social)
- economic development (economic)

**4.4** The borough of Cheshire East is bounded by Cheshire West and Chester to the west, Warrington and the Manchester conurbation to the north, Shropshire and The Potteries conurbation to the south, and the Peak District National Park to the east. Figure 4.1 shows the borough in its context.

Figure 4.1 Cheshire East in context



**4.5** Cheshire East contains four categories of settlement: principal towns (PTs), key service centres (KSCs), local service centres (LSCs), and other settlements and rural areas (OSRA).

**4.6** The two PTs are Crewe and Macclesfield; the KSCs are Alsager, Congleton, Handforth, Knutsford, Middlewich, Nantwich, Poynton, Sandbach and Wilmslow; the LSCs are Alderley Edge, Audlem, Bollington, Bunbury, Chelford, Disley, Goostrey, Haslington, Holmes Chapel, Mobberley, Prestbury, Shavington and Wrenbury; the OSRA are the remaining settlements/areas in the borough.

## Biodiversity, flora and fauna

**4.7** The borough benefits from a diverse range of flora and fauna, much of which require conservation due to threats to their numbers nationally. There are several species and habitats that are considered conservation priorities in Cheshire (in addition to England's priorities). These local priority species and habitats are set out in Table 4.1.<sup>7</sup>

**Table 4.1 Cheshire local biodiversity action plan (local priority) species and habitats (2023)**

Category	Species/habitats
Birds	Barn owl, black necked grebe.

Category	Species/habitats
Invertebrates	Club-tailed dragonfly, cuckoo bee, downy emerald, lesser silver water beetle, mining bee, ringlet, sand wasp, variable damselfly.
Mammals	Atlantic grey seal, common pipistrelle, whiskered, brandts, daubentons, leislars, natterers, serotine.
Plants	Black poplar, bluebell, isle of man cabbage, ivy-leaved water-crowfoot, mackay's horsetail, river water-crowfoot, rock sea-lavender.
Local priority habitats	Dry stone walls, gardens and allotments, limebeds, roadside verges, waxcap grasslands.

**4.8** The flora and fauna exist in a range of varying environments, many of which have received some form of environmental designation in recognition of their importance.

**4.9** The most prominent environmental designations in Cheshire East (2023) are:

- 400 **local wildlife sites** - locally valued sites of biological diversity<sup>8</sup>
- 23 **local geological sites** - locally valued sites of geological or geomorphological value<sup>8</sup>
- eight **local nature reserves** - locally important sites established to protect the most important areas of wildlife habitat and geological formations in Britain<sup>9</sup>
- 33 **sites of special scientific interest** - nationally important sites, designated as they are felt to represent the very best wildlife and geological sites in the Country<sup>10</sup>
- two **national nature reserves** - nationally important sites established to protect the most important areas of wildlife habitat and geological formations in Britain<sup>11</sup>
- one **special protection area** - designated because of its importance as a habitat for rare and vulnerable birds and is of international importance<sup>12</sup>
- two **special areas of conservation** - designated due to their potential to contribute towards the conservation of habitats and species identified as requiring conservation at a European level (excluding birds). These sites are internationally valued<sup>13</sup>
- three **Ramsar** designations - wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention<sup>14</sup>
- one **national park** designation (Peak District National Park) - due to its outstanding beauty, and its ecological, archaeological, geological and recreational value<sup>15</sup>

**4.10** The distribution of key environmental designations is illustrated in Figure 4.2.

8 Cheshire East Council Environmental Planning Team

9 Cheshire East Council Environmental Planning Team [https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/environment/heritage\\_natural\\_environment/nature\\_conservation/nature\\_conservation.aspx](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/environment/heritage_natural_environment/nature_conservation/nature_conservation.aspx)

10 Natural England <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteList.aspx?siteName=&countyCode=5&responsiblePerson=&DesignationType=SSSI>

11 Natural England

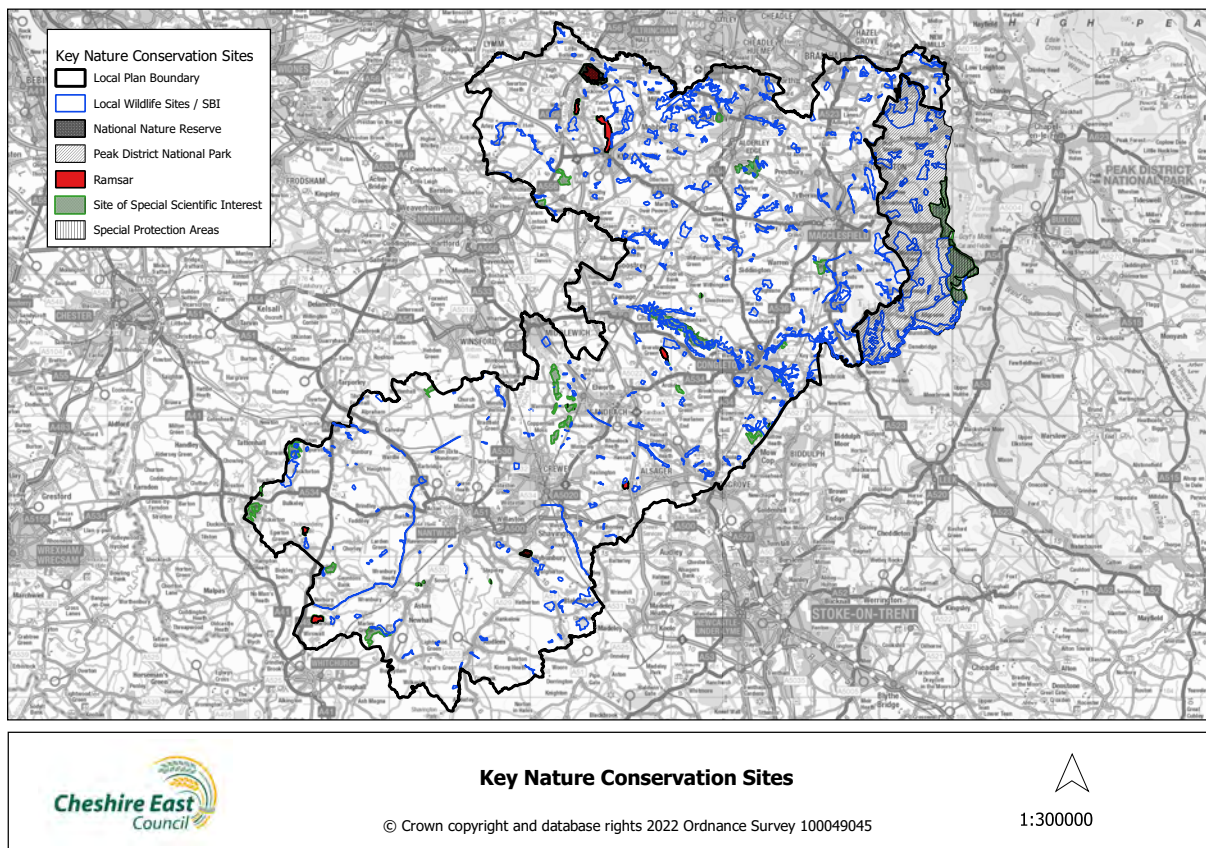
12 <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/special-protection-areas/>

13 <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/special-areas-of-conservation/>

14 <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/ramsar-sites/#england>

15 Peak District National Park

**Figure 4.2 Key nature conservation sites in Cheshire East (2022)**



**4.11** There are several issues that are currently affecting European sites within the influence of the new local plan:<sup>16</sup>

- hydrological changes
- inappropriate water levels
- water pollution
- managed rotational burning
- low breeding success/poor recruitment
- inappropriate management practises
- public access/disturbance
- air pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen distribution
- wildfire/arson
- vehicles
- overgrazing
- undergrazing
- invasive species
- changes in species distributions
- inappropriate scrub control
- game management: pheasant rearing
- forestry and woodland management

<sup>16</sup> Site improvement plans: North West (Natural England) <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/6329101765836800>



- habitat fragmentation
- fertiliser use
- inappropriate weirs, dams and other structures
- disease
- climate change
- direct impact from third party
- planning permissions
- peat extraction
- siltation

## Key issues

- there are local priority species and habitats in the borough, most of which need conservation measures due to threats to their numbers
- there are habitats and species identified as requiring conservation at a European level in the borough boundary, as well as Ramsar sites

## Summary of future baseline

**4.12** Habitats and species have the potential to come under increasing pressure from the provision of new housing, employment, and infrastructure in the borough, including at designated sites. This could be from increased disturbance (recreational, noise and light induced) and atmospheric pollution, as well as the loss of habitats and fragmentation of biodiversity networks. The loss and fragmentation of habitats will be exacerbated by the effects of climate change, which has the potential to lead to changes in the distribution and abundance of species and changes to the composition and character of habitats.

## Population and human health

**4.13** Cheshire East has a population of 406,500 (2022);<sup>17</sup> 51.0% (207,300) are female and 49.0% (199,200) are male. The borough has a population density of 3.4 people per hectare (2022).<sup>18</sup>

**4.14** 0-15 year-olds make up 17.5% of the population (lower than the North West, and England and Wales figures of 18.7% and 18.5% respectively). 22.5% of Cheshire East residents are aged 65 and above – a much higher figure than in the North West (18.8%) or England and Wales (also 18.8%). The proportions of the population in all older age groups (45-54, 55-64, 65-74, 75-84 and 85 and above) are all higher in Cheshire East than in the North West or England & Wales as a whole. Conversely, all the younger age groups (0-15, 16-24, 25-34 and 35-44) make up a lower share of the population in Cheshire East than in the North West or England and Wales; this is particularly so for the 16-24 and 25-34 bands. The population estimates also indicate that Cheshire East

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17 Office for National Statistics (ONS) mid-year population estimates up to mid-2022 (November 2023 release). ONS Crown Copyright.

18 ONS mid-year population estimates up to mid-2022 (November 2023 release). ONS Crown Copyright.

has an ageing population: for example, between 2012 and 2022, the population aged 65 and above grew by 21.5%, whilst the number aged 16-64 increased only 5.5% and the 0-15 population rose by only 7.7%.<sup>19</sup>

**4.15** Current population forecasts indicate that Cheshire East's population will increase by 58,000 between 2010 and 2030, leading to an overall population figure of 427,100.<sup>20</sup>

**4.16** There is generally less ethnic diversity amongst Cheshire East's population than in many other parts of the UK. The 2021 Census results indicate that 89.6% of residents are White British (compared to figures of 81.2% and 74.4% for the North West, and England and Wales respectively). A further 4.8% are from Other White groups, 2.4% are Asian/Asian British, 0.6% are Black/Black British, 1.8% are of mixed/multiple ethnicity and 0.8% are from other ethnic groups.<sup>21</sup>

**4.17** The 2021 Census results show that most of the borough's population is Christian (54%, compared to 53% for the North West and 46% for England and Wales). However, a large minority (38%) say they have no religion (as do 33% in the North West and 37% in England and Wales). Of the remainder, 5% did not answer the Census question on religion, 1.0% are Muslim, 0.5% are Hindu and the proportions made up by other religious groups (Buddhist, Jewish, Sikh and other religions) are each 0.5% or less.<sup>22</sup>

**4.18** In 2022, 6,200 children aged under 16, or 9.0% of all children in this age group, were living in low-income families (down from 6,300 children, or 9.1%, in 2021). This is lower than the proportion for the UK as a whole (15.3%).<sup>23</sup>

**4.19** Life expectancy for both men and women in 2018-20 was higher than the England average, at 80.3 and 83.8 years respectively.<sup>24</sup> This is a slight improvement for men from 2016-18, but a slight decline for women from the same period. However, the inequality in life expectancy at birth for males in Cheshire East is 9.5 years and for females 7.2. This is the difference in life expectancy between Lower layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in the most deprived deciles compared with those in the least deprived.<sup>25</sup>

19 ONS mid-year population estimates up to mid-2022 (November 2023 release). ONS Crown Copyright.

20 Population forecasts produced by Opinion Research Services (ORS) for the Cheshire East Housing Development Study 2015, ORS, June 2015

21 Table TS021 (Ethnic group), 2021 Census, ONS Crown Copyright.

22 Table TS030 (Religion), 2021 Census, ONS. ONS Crown Copyright.

23 Children in Low Income Families: local area statistics, United Kingdom, financial years ending 2015 to 2022, Department for Work and Pension (DWP), March 2023. The figures reported here relate to absolute low income. Absolute low income is defined as a family in low income Before Housing Costs in the reference year in comparison with incomes in financial year ending 2011. A family must have claimed Child Benefit and at least one other household benefit (Universal Credit, tax credits, or Housing Benefit) at any point in the year to be classed as low income in these statistics.

24 Public Health Outcomes

Framework. <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/public-health-outcomes-framework#page/1/gid/1000049/pat/15/ati/502/are/E06000049/iid/90362/age/1/sex/1/cat/-1/ctp/-1/yr/3/cid/4/tbm/1>

25 Public Health Outcomes

Framework <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/public-health-outcomes-framework#page/1/gid/1000049/pat/15/ati/502/are/E06000049/iid/90362/age/1/sex/1/cat/-1/ctp/-1/yr/3/cid/4/tbm/1>

**4.20** The report accompanying the latest sub-regional fuel poverty data (the 2021 data published in 2023) notes that “Estimates at the sub-regional level should only be used to look at general trends and identify areas of particularly high or low fuel poverty. They should not be used to identify detailed trends over time.” Therefore, the commentary that follows does not assess changes over time.

**4.21** Based on the Low Income High Costs (LIHC) indicator of fuel poverty,<sup>26</sup> 16,400 (9.8%) of Cheshire East’s 167,000 households were in fuel poverty in 2018. This is below the proportions for the North West (12.1%) and England (10.3%).<sup>27</sup>

**4.22** More recent data are available (up to 2021), but these are based only on the Low Income Low Energy Efficiency (LILEE) indicator,<sup>28</sup> for which statistics are available only for 2019 onwards. Based on the LILEE measure, 20,800 (11.6%) of Cheshire East’s 178,500 households were in fuel poverty in 2021, which is below the proportions for the North West (14.6%) and England (13.1%).<sup>29</sup> The number of people of working age (16-64) who are classified as Equality Act core or work limiting disabled<sup>30</sup> is 44,500 (20.1% of working age residents) as of 2022/23, which is lower than in the North West (27.2%) or UK (24.8%) and is down from 51,200 (23.0%) in 2021/22.<sup>31</sup>

**4.23** According to the 2021 Census data Cheshire East residents aged 16 and above, 163,200 (49.5%) were married, of whom 800 (0.2%) were in a same-sex marriage. A further 600 (0.2%) were in registered civil partnerships (of which 400 were same sex and 200 opposite sex civil partnerships). 6,700 residents (2.0% of the 16 and above age group) were separated but still legally in a marriage or civil partnership.<sup>32</sup>

**4.24** There were 4,798 conceptions<sup>33</sup> in 2021, which is an increase on the previous year’s figure (4,718 in 2020).<sup>34</sup>

26 The LIHC indicator considers a household to be fuel poor if: they have required fuel costs that are above average (the national median level): and were they to spend that amount, they would be left with a residual income below the poverty line.

27 ‘Sub-regional Fuel Poverty England 2020 (2018 data)’ and ‘Fuel Poverty Statistics England’ data tables, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (DBEIS) (now the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ)), April 2020: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fuel-poverty-statistics>

28 The LILEE indicator considers a household to be fuel poor if: it is living in a property with an energy efficiency rating of band D, E, F or G as determined by the most up-to-date Fuel Poverty Energy Efficiency Rating Methodology; and its disposable income (income after housing costs and energy needs) would be below the poverty line.

29 ‘Sub-regional Fuel Poverty England 2023 (2021 data)’ data tables, DESNZ, April 2023: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fuel-poverty-statistics>

30 Work limiting disabled includes people who have a long-term disability which affects the kind of work or amount of work they might do (ONS, Nomis <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/forum/posts.aspx?tid=82&fid=2>)

31 Annual Population Survey Apr 2021-Mar 2022 and Apr 2022-Mar 2023, ONS, NOMIS. ONS Crown Copyright.

32 Table TS002 (Legal partnership status), 2021 Census, ONS, NOMIS. ONS Crown Copyright.

33 Conceptions data combine information from registrations of births and notifications of legal abortions occurring in England and Wales for women who are usually resident there.

34 Table 5: Conceptions (numbers and rates) 1,2,3 and outcome: age of woman at conception and area of usual residence, 2009 to 2021. ONS. Crown Copyright 2023. ONS licensed under the Open Government Licence v. 3.0 <https://www.ons.gov.uk/file?uri=/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/conceptionandfertilityrates/datasets/conceptionstatisticsenglandandwalesreferencetables/2021/conceptions2021dataset.xlsx>

**4.25** 21.2% of Reception age children and 32.1% of Year 6 children were overweight or obese in 2022/23. This is similar to the England average for Reception, and lower for year 6. This equates to a 0.1% increase for reception and a 1.6% decrease for year 6 since the previous year.<sup>35</sup>

**4.26** An estimated 9.4% of adults smoke (2022), which is significantly better than the England average, and is a decrease from the previous year (13.5% in 2021). In 2021/22 62.5% of adults in Cheshire East were classed as overweight or obese. This is similar to the national average of 63.8% and is an improvement on the 2018/19 figure of 64.9%.<sup>36</sup> During the same period, 67.3% of adults were physically active, which is the same as the national average and higher than the regional average. This is a decline from the 2018/19 figure of 68.3%.<sup>37</sup>

**4.27** 23 of Cheshire East's 234 LSOAs rank among the top (most deprived 20%) of English LSOAs for health deprivation and disability. 10 of these are in Crewe, four in Macclesfield, three in Congleton, two in Sandbach and one each in Alsager, Middlewich, Poynton and Wilmslow.<sup>38</sup>

**4.28** Overall, incidence of and mortality from all cancers in Cheshire East is significantly lower than the England average, which is an improvement from 2018. Incidence of and mortality from lung cancer in Cheshire East is also significantly lower than the England average, though for breast and bowel cancer these rates are similar to England. However, this masks the differences across Cheshire East, with higher incidence and mortality rates for some cancers in more deprived areas.<sup>39</sup> In 2021 Cheshire East had lower rates of mortality from cardiovascular and respiratory disease in those aged under 75, when compared with England and the North West.<sup>40</sup>

**4.29** The overall crime trend (for All Crime) in Cheshire East shows a decrease in 2022/23.<sup>41</sup> The number of violence, sexual offences, criminal damage, burglary, and public order offences have fallen, with all other offences recording an increase.

**4.30** Table 4.2 displays crime trends from Cheshire Constabulary over the last 4 years and compares percentage changes between 2020/21 with 2022/23.

35 National Child Measurement Programme, NHS Digital, <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/national-child-measurement-programme/2022-23-school-year>

36 Sport England Active Lives Survey, Public Health Outcomes Framework. <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/physical-activity#page/1/gid/1938133001/pat/15/ati/402/are/E06000049/iid/93881/age/168/sex/4/cat/-1/ctp/-1/yr/1/cid/4/tbm/1>

37 Sport England Active Lives Survey, Public Health Outcomes Framework. <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/physical-activity/data#page/1/gid/1938132899/pat/6/ati/402/are/E06000049/iid/93014/age/298/sex/4/cat/-1/ctp/-1/yr/1/cid/4/tbm/1>

38 English Indices of Deprivation 2019, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), September 2019.

39 Public Health England, Public Health Outcomes Framework. <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/search/cancer>

40 Public Health England, Public Health Outcomes Framework. <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/mortality-profile#page/1/gid/1938133009/pat/6/ati/402/are/E06000049/iid/108/age/163/sex/4/cat/-1/ctp/-1/yr/1/cid/4/tbm/1/page-options/car-do-0>

41 Cheshire Constabulary

Table 4.2 Number of crimes

Type of crime	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Annual % change
Violence/person	12,457	12,261	13,571	12,432	-8.39
Drug offences	447	621	520	586	12.69
Sexual offences	862	881	1,190	1,171	-1.60
Robbery	180	115	117	144	23.08
Criminal damage and arson	3,247	2,520	2,580	2,347	-9.03
Burglary	1,667	1,386	1,265	1,216	-3.87
Vehicle offences	1,422	739	941	964	2.44
Possession/weapons	114	88	113	217	92.04
Public order	5,040	4,513	4,677	4,028	-13.88
Theft/stolen goods	5,144	3,472	3,648	3,943	8.09
Other offences	586	589	516	637	23.45
Total	31,166	27,185	29,138	27,685	-4.99

## Key issues

- the borough has an ageing population
- there is limited ethnic diversity in the borough
- generally, the health of the borough's population is varied and correlates with deprivation in some areas
- the proportion of overweight or obese Reception age children has increased
- there is an association between deprivation and health inequality reflected in higher incidences and mortality rates for some cancers in more deprived areas
- there has been a decrease in the number of reported crimes

## Summary of future baseline

**4.31** Population increases experienced in the borough are likely to continue. Population trends are likely to result in a further increase in the proportion of older people in the borough.

**4.32** Broadly speaking, the health of the population in the borough is varied and this trend is likely to continue. Ongoing budget pressures to community services have the potential to impact health and wellbeing over the longer term.

**4.33** Obesity is seen as an increasing issue by health professionals, and one that will contribute to significant health impacts for individuals, including increasing the risk of a range of diseases (heart disease, diabetes and some forms of cancer).

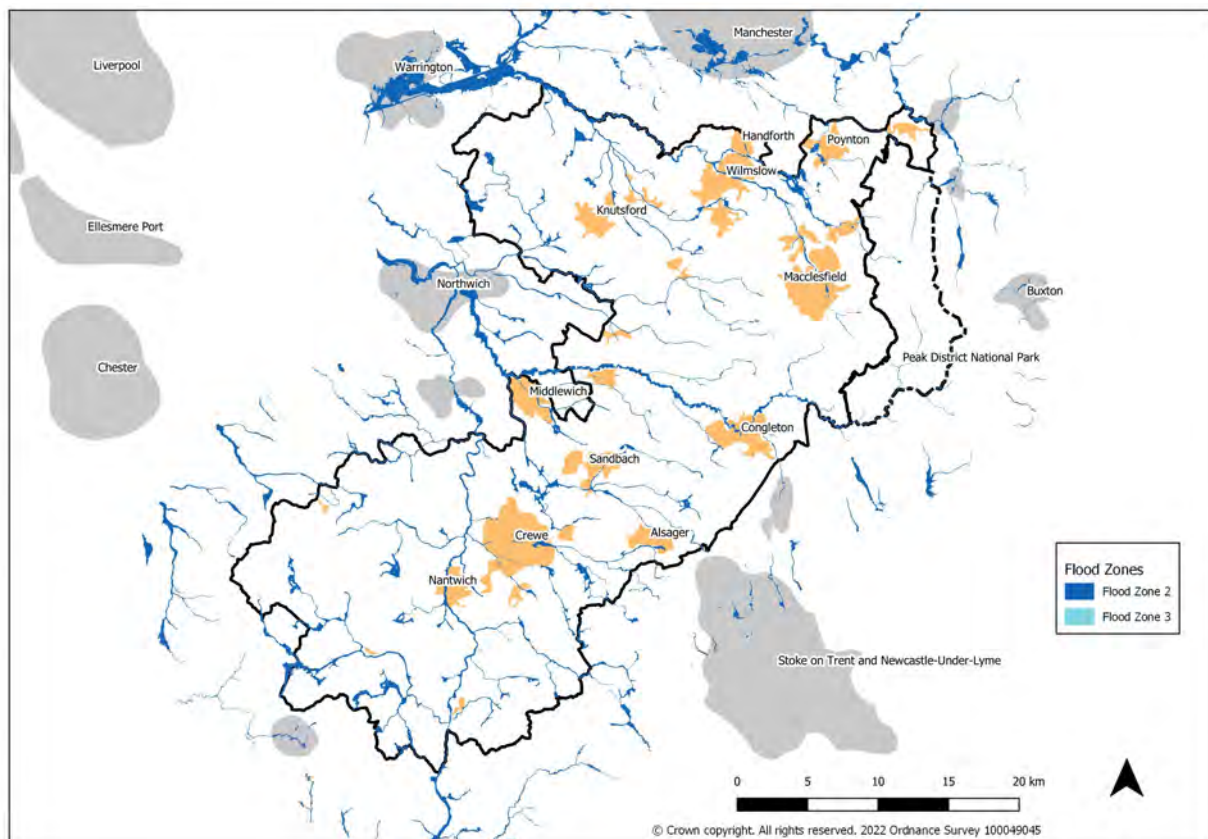


**4.34** The borough has an ageing population; this trend is likely to continue and has the potential to increase pressures on healthcare services.

## Water and soil

**4.35** Cheshire East has a diverse aquatic environment focused on the range of larger and smaller rivers in the borough. Some of the borough's larger rivers include the Weaver, Wheelock, Croco, Dean, Bollin, and Dane. The location of these and other rivers and their tributaries, along with the areas of flood risk is indicated in Figure 4.3.

**Figure 4.3 Main Rivers and areas of flood risk in Cheshire East**



**4.36** The North West River Basin District River Basin Management Plan<sup>42</sup> describes the challenges that threaten the water environment and how these challenges can be managed. Public bodies, partnership groups, voluntary groups and water companies develop and implement catchment and local delivery plans to help achieve multiple outcomes, including the environmental objectives of the river basin management plans. These include catchment restoration plans produced by catchment partnerships.

**4.37** Cheshire East is in two river catchment areas; these are the Weaver Gowy and the Upper Mersey. The relevant catchment partnerships have identified catchment challenges for both river catchment areas:<sup>43</sup>

42 <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/north-west-river-basin-district-river-basin-management-plan-updated-2022>

43 <https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/v/c3-plan/CatchmentPartnerships#North%20West>

- Weaver Gowy - pollution from agriculture and rural areas, wastewater, and physical modifications
- Upper Mersey – physical modifications, pollution from agriculture and rural areas, and changes to the natural flow and water levels

**4.38** In terms of river quality, ecological river quality in 2019 is broadly the same as that in 2016 from 3% good, 57% moderate, 32% poor and 8% bad to 3% good, 56% moderate, 32% poor and 9% bad. In 2016 chemical river quality was 98% good and 2% fail.<sup>44</sup> For the 2019 assessment of chemical status the Environment Agency changed some methods and increased the evidence base. Due to these changes, all water bodies now fail chemical status and this assessment is not comparable to previous years assessments. The chemical status/health of rivers (relative to previous years) in Cheshire East is therefore unknown.<sup>45</sup>

**4.39** Natural England have advised the council that nutrient pollution is having an adverse effect on the West Midlands Mosses special area of conservation, and Rostherne Mere Ramsar. In freshwater habitats and estuaries, poor water quality due to nutrient enrichment from elevated nitrogen and phosphorus levels is one of the primary reasons for habitats sites being in unfavourable condition. Excessive levels of nutrients can cause the rapid growth of certain plants through the process of eutrophication. The effects of this look different depending on the habitat, however in each case, there is a loss of biodiversity, leading to sites being in 'unfavourable condition'. To achieve the necessary improvements in water quality, it is becoming increasingly evident that in many cases substantial reductions in nutrients are needed. In addition, for habitats sites that are unfavourable due to nutrients, and where there is considerable development pressure, mitigation solutions, such as nutrient neutrality are likely to be needed to enable new development to proceed without causing further harm. Nutrient neutrality is an approach that enables decision makers to assess and quantify mitigation requirements of new developments. It allows new developments to be approved with no net increase in nutrient loading within the catchments of the affected habitats site.

**4.40** The underlying geology of Cheshire means that there is a broad range of mineral deposits and resources present. Within Cheshire East, these include clay, peat, coal, hydrocarbons, salt, sandstone, and sand. Not all minerals present in the borough are currently worked; mineral resources presently extracted in Cheshire East include silica (or industrial) sand, construction sand and gravel, and sandstone (this is mostly used to supply small quantities of building and dimension/ornamental stone rather than crushed rock for aggregate purposes), salt (brine) and peat. Permitted mineral extraction sites (mineral reserves) are situated across the borough.<sup>46</sup> The location of these sites is indicated in Figure 4.4.

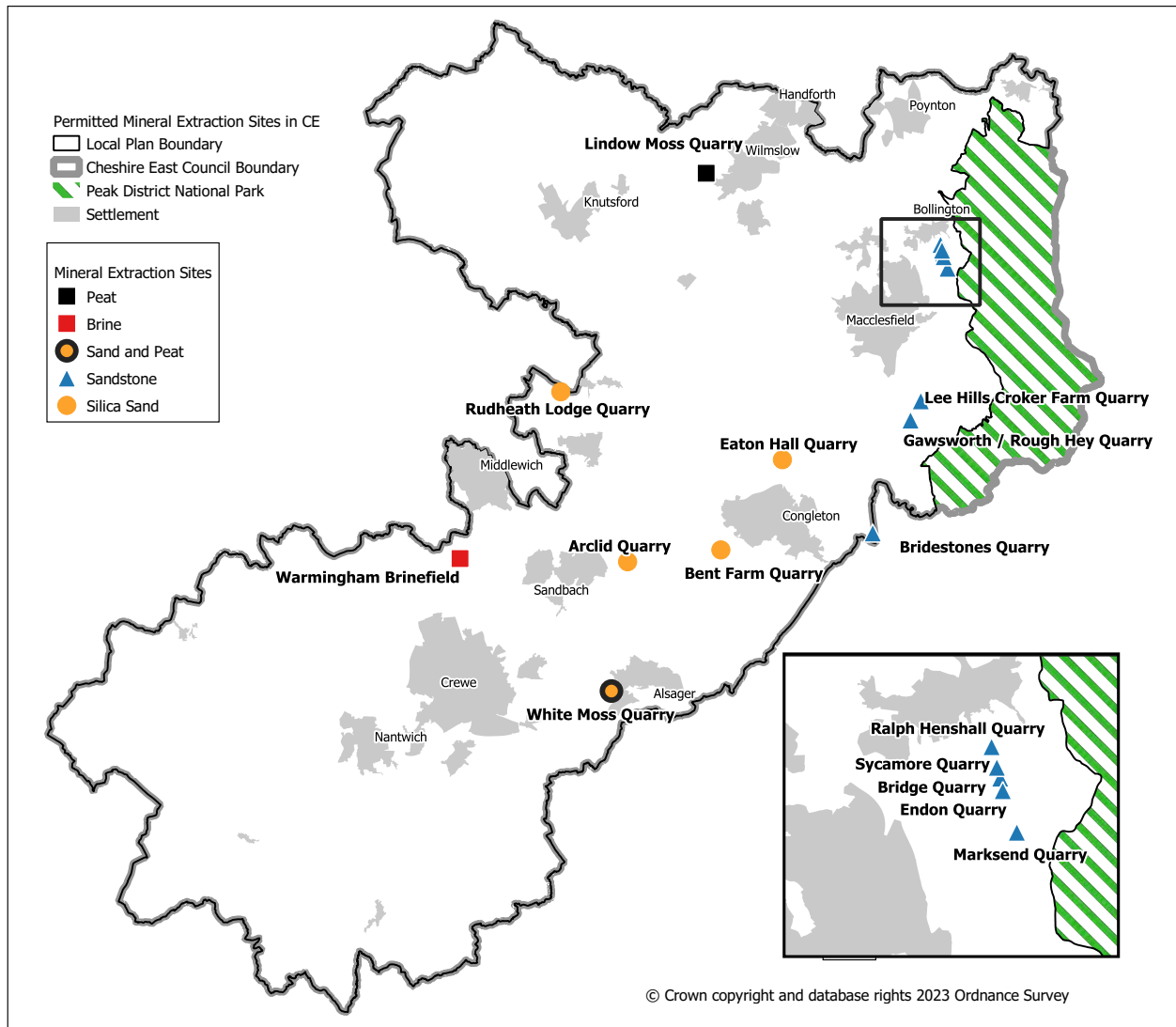
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44 Environment Agency (EA) <https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/RiverBasinDistrict/12>

45 <https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/help/usage#chemical-status>

46 Cheshire East Council Strategic Planning Service

Figure 4.4 Permitted mineral sites in Cheshire East (2023)



**4.41** The most recent Local Aggregate Assessment (LAA) 2023 reports on the sales of primary land-won aggregates (sand and gravel, and crushed rock). Sales of aggregate sand and gravel was 0.15 million tonnes (mt) at the end of 2022, the lowest figure for the last 10 years. Since the start of the plan period in 2010 sales have fluctuated with the overall trend being one of a steady decline from 0.42mt in 2010 to a low point in 2011 of 0.26mt, followed by a steady rise to a peak in 2014 of 0.75mt. Yearly sales since 2014 have continued to fluctuate rising in 2018 to 0.55mt and lower sales recorded in 2019 of 0.24mt. Since 2019 there has continued to be a decline, which could be due in part to the impacts of both Brexit and COVID-19.<sup>47</sup> The reserves of aggregate sand in 2022 were 1.9mt, providing a landbank of 4.11 years, which is less than the at least 7 years requirement in national planning policy and guidance. Whilst there is a crushed rock reserve of about 4.86mt, the quarry operations and past sales are very small and largely supply the local building/dimension and ornamental stone markets rather than supplying the crushed rock market. Cheshire East rely on the import of aggregate crushed rock from outside of the borough to meet its needs.

47 Cheshire East Local Aggregate Assessment 2023 LAA 2023 Cheshire East MPA Area [https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/spatial-planning/research\\_and\\_evidence/aggregate-mineral-supply.aspx](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/spatial-planning/research_and_evidence/aggregate-mineral-supply.aspx)

**4.42** Cheshire East (10.9%) has proportionately more grade 1 and 2 land than the North West (7.4%), but less than England (17.4%). In terms of grade 3 land however, the borough (67.4%) has proportionately more than both the North West (34.8%) and England (49.6%). In total, Cheshire East has proportionately more grade 1, 2 and 3 land than the North West and England.<sup>48</sup>

**4.43** As a waste planning authority, Cheshire East, through the Waste Needs Assessment (WNA 2023) quantifies and characterises all the waste streams arising in the plan area<sup>49</sup> and identifies which are the principal waste streams that require the production of forecasts or estimates of the amount of waste that needs to be managed for the plan period. Account is also taken of the potential contribution of the existing available waste management capacity in Cheshire East. The current plan period for the WNA is 2021 to the end of 2041, however information within this is likely to be revisited or refreshed in the future as the new local plan is progressed.

**4.44** The findings of the WNA 2023 identify that over 1.2mt of waste arose in the Cheshire East plan area in 2021 and the principal waste streams were: local authority collected waste 203,488 tonnes (t) (17%), commercial, demolition and excavation waste 579,569t (58%), commercial and industrial waste 246,604t (21%) and hazardous waste 50,883t (4%).

**4.45** During 2021/22, 203,489t of waste material was collected, with 199,826t collected from households across the borough. Over the period the amount of waste collected by Cheshire East has decreased slightly compared to 2020/21, although the percentage of waste disposed of for reuse or treatment has remained consistent. Of the total amount of waste collected in 2021/22, 56% was sent for either reuse, recycling or composting, 2% was sent to landfill and 41% incinerated (with energy generated).

**4.46** The amount of household waste collected per head in 2020/21 was 501.3kg. In 2021/22 the amount was 496.9kg; a small (less than 1%) decrease in line with the overall reduction of waste collected reported for the year.<sup>50</sup>

**4.47** Construction, demolition and excavation materials include concrete, stone and bricks, and are used for engineering works and restoration/recovery projects as well as creating secondary aggregates. An increase in the amount of construction, demolition and excavation waste being handled or produced in an area may represent an increase in the amount of recycled aggregate available for use. This reduces the requirement to produce new primary aggregates and need for disposal of construction, demolition and excavation materials. In Cheshire East, the amount of handled construction, demolition and excavation materials increased from 463,709t in 2018 to 736,556t in 2019. Production increased from 213,934t in 2018 to 623,608t in 2019.<sup>51</sup>

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48 Cheshire East Council - Report on the Role of the Best and Most Versatile Land in Cheshire East. [https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/spatial-planning/research\\_and\\_evidence/research\\_and\\_evidence.aspx](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/spatial-planning/research_and_evidence/research_and_evidence.aspx)

49 All waste streams arising in the plan area include waste water, agricultural waste, low-level radioactive waste, local authority collected waste, commercial and industrial waste, commercial, demolition and excavation waste and hazardous waste.

50 Department for Environment, Food & Rural affairs (DEFRA) Local Authority Collected Waste statistics - Local authority data (England).

51 North West Aggregate Working Party Annual Monitoring Report 2021 using 2019 and 2020 data (Table 5a). The data is supplied by the Environment Agency Waste Data Interrogator.

## Key issues

- pollution is an issue for the Weaver/Gowy and Upper Mersey river catchment areas
- ecological river quality in the borough has remained broadly the same and is still an issue, and the status of chemical river quality is unknown
- Cheshire East has a diverse mineral resource including 16 permitted mineral extraction sites with reserves of silica (or industrial) sand, construction sand and gravel, sandstone (hard/crushed rock), salt (brine) and peat
- there is a low landbank for aggregate sand and gravel
- the borough has proportionately more grade 1, 2 and 3 agricultural land than the North West and England
- over 1.2mt of waste arose in the Cheshire East plan area

## Summary of future baseline

**4.48** Existing planning policy encourages the efficient use of land and a preference for the development of brownfield land where possible. Future housing, employment and infrastructure growth is likely to result in further loss of greenfield and agricultural land. In line with the NPPF, the council should seek to use areas of poorer agricultural land in preference to those of higher quality.

**4.49** Due to increasing legislative and regulatory requirements, there are increasing pressures to improve recycling and composting rates and move towards zero waste to landfill. Furthermore, Defra's estimation for waste growth shows that national waste growth and estimates of future waste arisings are expected to remain consistent with current levels. This is because widespread initiatives to reduce waste and improve materials reuse and recycling are likely to reduce long-term production of waste.

**4.50** Water availability in the borough may be affected by external regional increases in population and an increased occurrence of drought, which is estimated to become increasingly prevalent because of climate change.

**4.51** Water quality is likely to continue to be affected by pollution incidents in the area and physical modifications to water bodies. In the short to medium term, the requirements of the Water Framework Directive are likely to lead to improvements to water quality in watercourses in the wider area. Additionally, the implementation of nutrient neutrality for developments could also improve water quality.

## Air

**4.52** There has been a growing body of evidence to suggest that poor air quality may have a negative effect on sensitive individuals. Air pollutants can also impact on vegetation, disrupt natural ecosystems and lead to the corrosion of buildings and monuments. Additionally, many pollutants are also greenhouse gases, which contribute to climate change.



**4.53** Those areas with the poorest air quality, with levels of nitrogen dioxide that relate to traffic levels and congestion, must be declared as Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs). Following this declaration, the local authority must produce an Air Quality Action Plan, showing how it intends to work towards achieving the national air quality objectives.

**4.54** In Cheshire East there are 12 AQMAs (2022).<sup>52</sup> These are shown in Table 4.3.

**Table 4.3 Air Quality Management Areas in Cheshire East**

A6 Market Street, Disley	A523 London Road, Macclesfield	A54 Rood Hill, Congleton	A34 Lower Heath, Congleton
A34 West Road, Congleton	A5022/A534 Sandbach	Hospital Street, Nantwich	Chester Road, Middlewich
Broken Cross, Macclesfield	Hibel Road, Macclesfield	A533 Lewin Street, Middlewich	A537 Chelford Road, Knutsford

**4.55** The main cause of air quality issues in Cheshire East is from road traffic.<sup>53</sup> 2021 Census data put the proportion of Cheshire East households with access to one or more cars or vans at 85%, which is significantly higher than the proportions for the North West (75%) and England and Wales (77%),<sup>54</sup> whilst the distances travelled to work driving a car or van are high compared to those for the region or England and Wales. Of those travelling 10km or more to work in 2021, 83% drove a car or van there, compared to 80% in the North West and 75% in England and Wales. However, these figures should be treated with care, due to the 2021 Census taking place during a COVID-19 lockdown and therefore affecting people's propensity to travel to workplaces outside their home and their methods of travel.<sup>55</sup>

## Key issues

- there are areas in the borough that suffer from poor air quality
- road traffic is the main source of air quality issues in the borough

## Summary of future baseline

**4.56** New housing and employment provision in the borough and sub-regionally have the potential to have adverse effects on air quality through increasing traffic flows and associated levels of pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide. Areas of sensitivity to increased traffic flows are likely to be routes with the largest congestion issues, including those with designated AQMAs.

## Climatic factors

<sup>52</sup> Cheshire East Council Environmental Protection Team

<sup>53</sup> Local Air Quality Strategy for Cheshire East Council 2018 <https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/pdf/environment/air-quality/cheshire-east-aqs-2018-review-final-signed-version-2.1amended.pdf>

<sup>54</sup> Table TS045 (Car or van availability), 2021 Census, ONS. ONS Crown Copyright 2020.

<sup>55</sup> Table RM077 (Method used to travel to work by distance travelled to work), 2021, ONS. NOMIS. ONS Crown Copyright.

**4.57** Climate change is the formal term given to the fluctuation of the Earth's temperature and the impact of this on the natural environment. Although some of this fluctuation is natural, the average temperature of the Earth's surface has risen by about 1.1°C since the pre-industrial period and will continue to rise further in the coming decades.<sup>56</sup>

**4.58** This change is largely the result of increasing emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, leading to a 'greenhouse effect' that warms up the Earth and its oceans and creates more extreme weather conditions. Scientific evidence demonstrates that these increased emissions are almost entirely due to human activities, particularly the burning of fossil fuels, deforestation, agricultural activities, and certain manufacturing processes.<sup>57</sup> Responding to the climate emergency is one of the greatest challenges facing the world. Therefore, several targets have been set for the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (the most abundant greenhouse gas) and for limiting rises in global temperature; the UK government has set a legally binding target to reduce our emissions to net zero by 2050 and Cheshire East Council has pledged to make the council carbon neutral by 2025 and, the borough carbon neutral by 2045.

**4.59** Total emissions (including the domestic sector) fell by 9% between 2016 and 2021 (the latest year for which data are available). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from transport (which accounted for over two fifths of all CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in 2021) declined by 11% during 2016-21, while emissions from the commercial sector declined by 53% and domestic emissions fell by 7%. In contrast, emissions from industry, which made up nearly a fifth of all CO<sub>2</sub> emissions as of 2021, increased by 8%. Emissions from the public sector also rose (by 13%) as did those from agriculture (by 12%). However, the figures for 2020 and 2021 will have been affected by the reduced levels of economic activity arising from COVID-19 and associated government restrictions in those years. Hence the percentage changes between 2016 and 2021 may exaggerate the long-term rate of reduction in overall emissions, as well as the long-term rate of progress achieved in some specific sectors. Indeed, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in all the sectors listed above rose between 2020 and 2021, as did overall CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (up 7%), probably in response to increased economic activity as COVID-19 restrictions were removed.<sup>58</sup>

**Table 4.4 Emissions of carbon dioxide in Cheshire East**

Sector <sup>A</sup>	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Industry	442.1	433.1	467.5	452.8	442.1	477.2
Commercial	229.4	200.6	120.7	97.5	82.9	108.5
Public sector	59.9	61.4	74.8	68.6	61.8	67.5
Domestic	722.0	688.4	686.5	662.9	644.3	672.3
Transport	1,207.0	1,208.2	1,200.9	1,200.1	1,008.9	1,078.1

56 Local Air Quality Strategy for Cheshire East Council 2018 <https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/pdf/environment/air-quality/cheshire-east-aqs-2018-review-final-signed-version-2.1amended.pdf>

57 'Climate change explained', DESNZ, June 2023 <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/climate-change-explained>

58 UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics: 2005 to 2021, DESNZ, 2023 – revised (July 2023) data file: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-greenhouse-gas-emissions-national-statistics-2005-to-2021>

Sector <sup>A</sup>	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Land use, land use change and forestry	-30.9	-33.7	-34.3	-36.0	-34.3	-36.7
Agriculture	76.3	80.0	86.3	80.0	77.7	85.6
Waste management	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4
Total	2,706.3	2,638.5	2,602.9	2,526.3	2,283.8	2,453.0

A kt of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent)

**4.60** Reducing greenhouse gas emissions will primarily be achieved through a combination of reducing emissions from buildings, (through changes to building construction methods and materials, building uses and improved build standards), reducing emissions from transport (encouraging modal shift and reducing need to travel), and energy use (shifting to low carbon forms of energy and reducing energy consumption) and changes to manufacturing processes (to make them less carbon-intensive). The draft Cheshire East Borough-wide Carbon Neutrality Action Plan<sup>59</sup> sets out a range of actions (covering the period 2024 to 2029) to support stakeholders and deliver on identified opportunities to achieve the borough's target of carbon neutrality by 2045.

## Key issues

- there is a climate emergency
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from transport in the borough (most of which is from road transport) have fallen relatively slowly, with transport continuing to emit the most CO<sub>2</sub> out of eight sectors

## Summary of future baseline

**4.61** Climate change has the potential to increase the occurrence of extreme weather events in the borough, with increases in mean summer and winter temperatures, increases in mean precipitation in winter and decreases in mean precipitation in summer. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are likely to decrease as energy efficiency measures, renewable energy production and new technologies become more widely adopted. This relates to transport for example, as increased take up of more energy efficient vehicles and electric vehicles takes place. However, increases in the built footprint of the borough may lead to increases in overall emissions if efficiency measures do not keep pace.

## Transport

**4.62** Transport crosses over several SA topics and therefore baseline information relating to transport may be reported elsewhere in the Report, as well as in this section.

59 Cheshire East Council, December 2023, draft Borough-wide Carbon Neutrality Action Plan, 2024-2029 Priority Actions

**4.63** The extensive road network in the borough includes the M6, which runs north to south through the centre of Cheshire East, and the M56 running east to west. The M56 links to the M6 in the north of the borough. There are also 14 primary 'A' roads in Cheshire East.

**4.64** The rail network is accessible from 22 railway stations<sup>60</sup> across the borough, most of which are located on one or more of the rail lines radiating from Crewe. These are the West Coast Main Line to Glasgow and London, the Stoke-on-Trent/Derby Line, the Shrewsbury/South Wales Line, the Chester/Holyhead Line, and the Greater Manchester line. Macclesfield is on the West Coast Main Line - Stoke-on-Trent route, giving access to Greater Manchester and London Euston.

**4.65** The reliance on private transport remains high. The estimated vehicle miles driven by cars and taxis in Cheshire East was 2.318 billion (bn) in 2019. This was up from 2.247bn in 2018 and was the highest figure recorded in the 2010s (2010-19), continuing the general upward trend seen since 2009. There was a sharp fall, to 1.673bn in 2020. This was by far the lowest figure since before 2009, but the decline is likely to be in large part to travel and other restrictions arising from COVID-19 restrictions and may not therefore indicate a change to the previous trend. Indeed, the removal of COVID-19 restrictions during 2021 may account for the cars and taxis vehicle miles figure rising to 1.881bn in that year and increasing again in 2022, to 2.132bn.<sup>61</sup>

**4.66** The existing network for pedestrians in Cheshire East comprises just over 1,900km of public rights of way (PROW) - nearly 1,800km of public footpaths and around 150km of public bridleways, restricted byways and byways open to all traffic.<sup>62</sup> There is generally good provision for walkers but gaps continue to exist for cyclists, horse riders and users who are less mobile, including disabled persons, and those who use a wheelchair or pushchair.<sup>63</sup> In addition to PROW, the borough is also home to over 115km of canals running through it: the Macclesfield, Peak Forest, Shropshire Union (including the Llangollen and Middlewich branches), and Trent and Mersey canals.<sup>64</sup> However, there is limited access to canal towpaths for users who are less mobile.<sup>65</sup>

## Key issues

- there is a high reliance on private transport in the borough
- the PROW network and canal towpaths are not fully accessible for users who are less mobile

60 All Stations Route Map, National Rail, December 2020: [https://www.nationalrail.co.uk/stations\\_destinations/rail-maps.aspx](https://www.nationalrail.co.uk/stations_destinations/rail-maps.aspx)

61 Department for Transport (DfT) traffic counts data (obtained in October 2023 from <https://roadtraffic.dft.gov.uk/local-authorities/73>). Pre-2009 figures not shown on this web page.

62 [https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/leisure\\_culture\\_and\\_tourism/public\\_rights\\_of\\_way/what\\_are\\_public\\_rights\\_of\\_way/what\\_are\\_public\\_rights\\_of\\_way.aspx](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/leisure_culture_and_tourism/public_rights_of_way/what_are_public_rights_of_way/what_are_public_rights_of_way.aspx)

63 Cheshire East Local Transport Plan 2019-2024 <https://moderngov.cheshireeast.gov.uk/ecminutes/documents/s72327/Local%20Transport%20Plan%20-%20app%201.pdf>

64 Cheshire East Council (2022) Site Allocations and Development Policies Document [https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/spatial-planning/cheshire\\_east\\_local\\_plan/site-allocations-and-policies/sadpd-examination/documents/examination-library/adopted-sadpd.pdf](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/spatial-planning/cheshire_east_local_plan/site-allocations-and-policies/sadpd-examination/documents/examination-library/adopted-sadpd.pdf)

65 Canal & River Trust (2022) Accessibility map <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/enjoy-the-waterways/walking/accessibility-map>

## Summary of future baseline

**4.67** Given the rural nature of most of the borough and high levels of ownership and access to private vehicles, the car is likely to remain a dominant form of transport in the borough over the coming years. New housing and employment provision also have the potential to increase traffic flows without appropriate locational policies and interventions. As such, congestion is likely to continue to be an issue for parts of the borough. Whilst negative effects of new development on the transport network are likely to be mitigated to a degree, there will be a continuing need for development to be situated in accessible locations that limit the need to travel by private car.

## Cultural heritage and landscape

**4.68** Cheshire East contains a valued, varied, and unique heritage, which includes several cultural and environmental assets. These assets include Macclesfield's industrial heritage, Little Moreton Hall, Crewe's railway heritage, Tatton Park, Lyme Park, Quarry Bank Mill, Tegg's Nose, the canal network, historic towns, and parts of the Peak District National Park, amongst others. Other unique attractions include a wealth of historic parks and gardens and Jodrell Bank Radio Telescope – a World Heritage Site.

**4.69** Formal cultural designations in Cheshire East (2023) include:

- one **World Heritage Site** inscribed in recognition of Jodrell Bank Observatory's Outstanding Universal Value<sup>66</sup>
- 76 **conservation areas** of varying size and scale designated because of the special character of development that has taken place in them. In and adjoining these areas there is a statutory duty to pay 'special attention' to development with the intention of preserving/enhancing its character or appearance<sup>67</sup>
- 2,649 **listed buildings** covering several different gradings - those of merit, for reason of architectural quality, their social or economic history, association with well-known characters or events or because of their group value with other listed buildings<sup>68</sup>
- 106 **scheduled monuments** that are historically important sites and monuments;<sup>68</sup>
- 17 **registered parks and gardens** viewed as a distinctive and much cherished part of our inheritance;<sup>68</sup>
- Ten **areas of archaeological potential** where it is deemed likely that buried archaeology has survived<sup>69</sup>
- One **registered battlefield** designated because of the importance of events that took place there.<sup>66</sup>

**4.70** There is also the potential for non-designated (or local heritage) assets, and unrecorded archaeology on some sites.

**4.71** Cheshire contains 12 historic land classifications,<sup>70</sup> based on the presence or absence of features in the landscape in 2007:

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66 <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/7397>

67 Cheshire East Council Environmental Planning Team

68 Historic England

69 Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service



- Settlement: about 12% (about 31,405ha)
- Woodland: about 3.4% (about 8,997ha)
- Non-improved: about 4.2% (about 11,116ha)
- Ornamental landscape: about 2.6% (about 6,797ha)
- Ancient fieldscapes: about 18.0% (about 46,586ha)
- Post medieval fieldscape: about 27.8% (about 73,049ha)
- Military: about 0.3% (about 829ha)
- C20th fieldscapes: about 16.0% (about 41,698ha)
- Communications: about 1.9% (about 4,889ha)
- Water bodies: about 0.5% (about 1,414ha)
- Industry: about 5.0% (about 123,991ha)
- Recreation: about 2.6% (about 6,943ha)

**4.72** Cheshire East's landscape is dominated by the flat topography of the Cheshire Plains, containing several meres, ponds and marshes; however, there is variety because of the closeness of the Peak District to the east and the Mid-Cheshire Ridge to the west. There were 14 landscape character types in Cheshire East in 2018: LCT 1 Sandstone ridge, LCT 2 Sandstone fringe, LCT 3 Undulating farmland, LCT 4 Cheshire Plain east, LCT 5 Wooded estates and meres, LCT 6 Woodland, heaths, meres and mosses, LCT 7 Lower wooded farmland, LCT 8 Salt flashes, LCT 9 Mossland, LCT 10 River valleys, LCT 11 Higher wooded farmland, LCT 12 Upland footslopes, LCT 13 Enclosed gritstone upland, LCT 14 Moorland hill and ridges.<sup>71</sup>

**4.73** Trees can offer many environmental, economic, social and climatic benefits by improving air quality, by acting as filters to pollution, absorbing CO<sub>2</sub> and therefore playing a key part in mitigating climate change. Trees provide shade, helping to reduce the urban heat island effect and help control water flow through the environment. They also contribute to biodiversity, amenity and provide benefits that help improve health and well being and improvements to quality of life.

**4.74** Additionally, trees contribute to the identified landscape character of an area, with the borough containing many areas where trees are subject to Tree Preservation Orders.

**4.75** Tree canopy cover percentage (TCC) is a land-cover class and a two-dimensional metric indicating the area of leaves, branches, and stems of trees viewed from above across a given area, regardless of what other land-cover classes may lie underneath. A minimum target of higher than 20% for UK settlements had been suggested, as has 30%.<sup>72</sup> The mean TCC for Cheshire East is 17.7+-1.2%, which is higher than for the North West (15.9+-0.3%) and England (17.5+-0.2%), but below the suggested targets.<sup>73</sup>

70 Cheshire County Council and English Heritage: The Cheshire Historic Landscape Characterisation (2007) [http://www.cheshirearchaeology.org.uk/?page\\_id=175](http://www.cheshirearchaeology.org.uk/?page_id=175)

71 Cheshire East Landscape Character Assessment, LUC, May 2018 <https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/spatial-planning/cheshire-east-local-plan/site-allocations-and-policies/sadpd-examination/documents/examination-library/ed10-cheshire-east-lca.pdf>

72 Taylor & Francis (2023) The canopy cover Webmap of the United Kingdom's towns and cities, *Aboriginal journal* 2023, Vol 45, No 4, 258-289 <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/epub/10.1080/03071375.2023.2233864?needAccess=true>

**4.76** 'Green gap' is a local designation, introduced to achieve similar objectives to Green Belt; Cheshire East has 1,238ha of land identified as 'strategic green gap' in the south of the borough (2023), compared to 1,212ha in 2017.<sup>74</sup>

**4.77** The borough contains large areas of designated open space, including within settlements, and 40,140ha of land designated as Green Belt (2023).<sup>75</sup>

## Key issues

- the borough contains several cultural and environmental assets, including designated heritage assets
- there are a variety of landscape types and historic land classifications in the borough
- there is a low level of tree canopy cover in the borough

## Summary of future baseline

**4.78** New development in the borough has the potential to impact on the fabric and setting of cultural heritage assets. This may occur through inappropriate design and layout. It should be noted, however, that existing historic environment designations will offer a degree of protection to cultural heritage assets and their settings. Also, new development need not be harmful to the significance of a heritage asset; new development may be an opportunity to enhance the setting of an asset and better reveal its significance. There may also be opportunities to enhance non-designated heritage assets through new development.

**4.79** New development has the potential to lead to incremental changes in landscape and townscape character and quality in and around the borough. This may occur through the loss of landscape features and visual impact. There may also be potential effects on landscape/townscape character and quality in the vicinity of the road network due to an incremental growth in traffic flows.

## Social inclusiveness

**4.80** In 2022, Cheshire East contained 186,400 dwellings (up from 183,800 in 2021). Of these, 88.4% were private sector, 11.6% were operated by a private registered provider and 0.1% were owned by the local authority or another public sector body.<sup>76</sup>

**4.81** The objectively assessed need (2015) for Cheshire East is 36,000 dwellings over the local plan period (2010 to 2030), which equates to an average of 1,800 dwellings per year.<sup>77</sup>

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73 Taylor & Francis (2023) The canopy cover Webmap of the United Kingdom's towns and cities, *Aboriginal journal* 2023, Vol 45, No 4, 258-289. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/epub/10.1080/03071375.2023.2233864?needAccess=true> +- figure is the standard error.

74 Cheshire East Council Strategic Planning Team

75 Local Authority Green Belt statistics for England: 2022 to 2023, Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-authority-green-belt-statistics-for-england-2022-to-2023>

76 Table 100 (Dwelling stock: number of dwellings by tenure and district, England), Live tables on dwelling stock, DLUHC, May 2023.

77 Cheshire East Housing Development Study 2015, Opinion Research Services, June 2015

**4.82** The average mean house price in the borough was £285,100 (March 2023). House prices in the borough remain below the England average but are still significantly higher than those in the North West. They have increased steadily in recent years, rising 25% between 2018 and 2022 and by a further 5% between 2022 and 2023.<sup>78</sup> However, the viability assessment prepared for the SADPD highlights that there are areas of low, medium, high and prime areas in the borough (in terms of 2020 residential price assumptions):<sup>79</sup>

- low – Crewe and Middlewich
- medium – Macclesfield, Alsager, Congleton. Sandbach and Nantwich
- high – Handforth
- prime – Knutsford, Poynton and Wilmslow, Alderley, Mobberley and Prestbury

**4.83** However, these figures are based only on properties that are sold during the period in question. In addition, the reported changes in average house prices between 2020 and 2022 should be interpreted with caution. In particular, the March 2020 and March 2021 prices are likely to reflect in part the impact of COVID-19 (which has affected the volumes and perhaps the types of properties that are bought and sold). They are also likely to reflect some of the government's policy responses to COVID-19 (which included temporary changes to Stamp Duty – in place from July 2020 to September 2021 - and other tax breaks that temporarily reduced buyers' transaction costs and enabled to sellers to secure higher sales prices).

**4.84** According to the most recent (2019 English Indices of Deprivation, 24 of Cheshire East's 234 LSOAs rank among the most deprived 25% of English LSOAs for overall deprivation (up from 23 in 2015) and four of these are among England's most deprived 10% (down from six in 2015).<sup>80</sup>

**4.85** 109 of the borough's LSOAs are amongst England's least deprived 25% (down from 120 in 2015) and 66 of these are within England's least deprived 10% (up from 63 in 2015).

**4.86** The statistics suggest little change (between 2015 and 2019) in the relative deprivation of Cheshire East (compared to other parts of England). However, these statistics do not measure absolute deprivation and it is not possible to draw conclusions from them about how deprivation has changed in absolute terms.

**4.87** Table 4.5 lists the 24 most deprived LSOAs in 2019.

78 Land Registry House Price Index. Data obtained on 5/10/23 from <http://landregistry.data.gov.uk/app/ukhpi/explore>. Note: Figures relate to March of each year.

79 Local Plan Site Allocations and Development Policies Viability Assessment 2020 update and refresh [https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/spatial-planning/cheshire\\_east\\_local\\_plan/site-allocations-and-policies/sadpd-examination/documents/examination-library/ed52-cec-sadpd-viability-update.pdf](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/spatial-planning/cheshire_east_local_plan/site-allocations-and-policies/sadpd-examination/documents/examination-library/ed52-cec-sadpd-viability-update.pdf)

80 Index of Multiple Deprivation data from the 2019 English Indices of Deprivation, MHCLG, Sept 2019, <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019> and 2015 English Indices of Deprivation, DCLG (now DLUHC) Sept 2015 <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2015>.

**Table 4.5 Cheshire East LSOAs that fall within England's most deprived 25%**

LSOA code (2011)	Settlement <sup>A</sup>	Percentile <sup>B</sup>
E01018476	Crewe	3.82
E01018462	Crewe	7.54
E01018466	Crewe	7.81
E01018640	Macclesfield	9.14
E01018400	Congleton	10.43
E01018445	Crewe	11.32
E01018459	Crewe	11.94
E01018485	Crewe	12.28
E01018486	Crewe	13.16
E01018645	Macclesfield	13.39
E01018596	Wilmslow	13.87
E01018388	Alsager	14.36
E01018498	Crewe	15.06
E01018463	Crewe	15.82
E01018467	Crewe	16.66
E01018484	Crewe	17.32
E01018477	Crewe	18.26
E01018478	Crewe	19.06
E01018423	Middlewich	20.97
E01018497	Crewe	22.27
E01018631	Macclesfield	23.15
E01018487	Crewe	23.31
E01018461	Crewe	23.47
E01018464	Crewe	24.60

A The geographical definitions used for each settlement are those set out in Appendix 6 of the Cheshire East 'LDF Background Report: Determining the Settlement Hierarchy', Cheshire East Council, November 2010.

B These percentiles indicate the proportion of English LSOAs that are more deprived than the LSOA in question. For example, LSOA E01018640 in Macclesfield has a percentile value of 9.14, which means it is outside England's most deprived 9%, but inside England's most deprived 10%.

**4.88** There is little difference between deprived areas and other parts of Cheshire East in terms of the gender breakdown; in the Cheshire East LSOAs that rank among England's most deprived 20% for overall (IMD<sup>81</sup>) deprivation, 50.7% of residents were female as of 2019, which is only slightly below the average for the borough as a whole (51.0%).<sup>82</sup>

**4.89** The proportion of households with no access to a car was significantly higher (39.0%) in deprived areas than in Cheshire East as a whole (16.1%).<sup>83</sup>

**4.90** At the time of the 2011 Census, 8.4% (30,953) of Cheshire East's residents were living in deprived areas. People from non-white ethnic groups (mixed, Asian, Black, or other non-white groups) accounted for 5.3% of the population in these deprived areas but made up only 3.3% of the population in Cheshire East as a whole. It is also notable that the proportion of people from the 'Other White' group (any white people other than British/Irish Gypsy/Irish Traveller) was much greater (7.3%) in these deprived areas than in Cheshire East as a whole (2.5%).<sup>84</sup>

**4.91** In Cheshire East as a whole, women were much more likely to travel to shorter distances to work; as of 2021, 36.4% of female workers travelled less than 10km, whereas only 25.5% of male workers did so. Looking only at those workers who travelled to work in the UK (that is, excluding people who worked mainly from home, in no fixed place or offshore/abroad), 62.3% of females travelled less than 10km, whereas only 53.0% of males did so.<sup>85</sup> However, these figures should be treated with care, due to the 2021 Census taking place during a COVID-19 lockdown and therefore affecting people's work locations and their propensity to travel to workplaces outside their home.

**4.92** There are no reliable local, Cheshire East, estimates for the proportion of residents identifying as lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB). However, the latest national survey data shows that, as of 2022, 3.3% of the UK population aged 16 and over identified as LGB (a continued increase from 2.1% in 2017).<sup>86</sup> If the LGB proportion were the same in Cheshire East as it is nationally, that would imply that 11,000 of the borough's population were LGB as of 2022.<sup>87</sup> This is a higher estimate than the one (of "more than 6,000") cited in the Cheshire East Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy 2021-2025,<sup>88</sup> which is derived from the national LGB share of the 16+ population as of 2017 (2.0%). However, calculations based on national proportions do not take account

81 Index of multiple deprivation

82 [1] ONS mid-year population estimates for small areas (September 2020 release). ONS Crown Copyright. ONS licensed under the Open Government Licence v. 3.0. [2] Index of Multiple Deprivation data from the 2019 English Indices of Deprivation, MHCLG, Sept 2019

83 [1] 2019 English Indices of Deprivation, MHCLG, Sept 2019 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019>). "Deprived areas" defined here as those LSOAs that are among the most deprived 20% in the 2019 Indices' Index of Multiple Deprivation. [2] Table KS404EW (Car or van availability), 2011 Census, ONS. ONS Crown Copyright.

84 [1] 2019 English Indices of Deprivation, MHCLG, Sept 2019 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019>). "Deprived areas" defined here as those LSOAs that are among the most deprived 20% in the 2019 Indices' Index of Multiple Deprivation. [2] Table QS201EW (Ethnic group), 2011 Census, ONS. ONS Crown Copyright.

85 'Upper tier local authorities, Distance travelled to work (8 categories) and Sex (2 categories)' data table, 2021 Census, ONS. ONS Crown Copyright. Data obtained via ONS' 'Create a custom dataset' web tool (<https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/create>) in October 2023.

86 'Sexual orientation, UK: 2021 and 2022', ONS, September 2023.

87 3.3% of the Cheshire East population aged 16 and over (335,400 as of 2022, according to ONS mid-year estimates published in November 2023) equates to 11,000 people as of 2022.



of LGB people being more concentrated in some geographical areas of the UK than others. Given this, and the fact that the UK LGB statistics are classified by ONS as “experimental” rather than accredited “National Statistics” figure, the estimate of 11,000 should probably be treated with some caution.

**4.93** There is no accurate figure for how big the transgender community is. The Cheshire East Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy 2021-2025 notes that research funded by national government, carried out by the Gender Identity Research and Education Society, estimated the trans population as approximately 0.6% to 1% of the UK adult population. If this proportion were the same in Cheshire East, then, according to the Strategy, this would equate to 1,900 to more than 3,000 of Cheshire East adult residents. If the latest (mid-2022) population estimates are applied to the 0.6% to 1% range, this also indicates a similar range (a little under 2,000 to a little over 3,000). However, these figures do not take account of any geographical differences in the UK in the proportion of local people who are transgender. The Strategy also notes that:

- the Equality and Human Rights Commission reported that 100 people out of 10,000 (1%) said they were undergoing part of the process of changing from the sex you were described as at birth to the gender you identify with or intended to
- gender variant people present for treatment at any age, but nationally the median age is 42

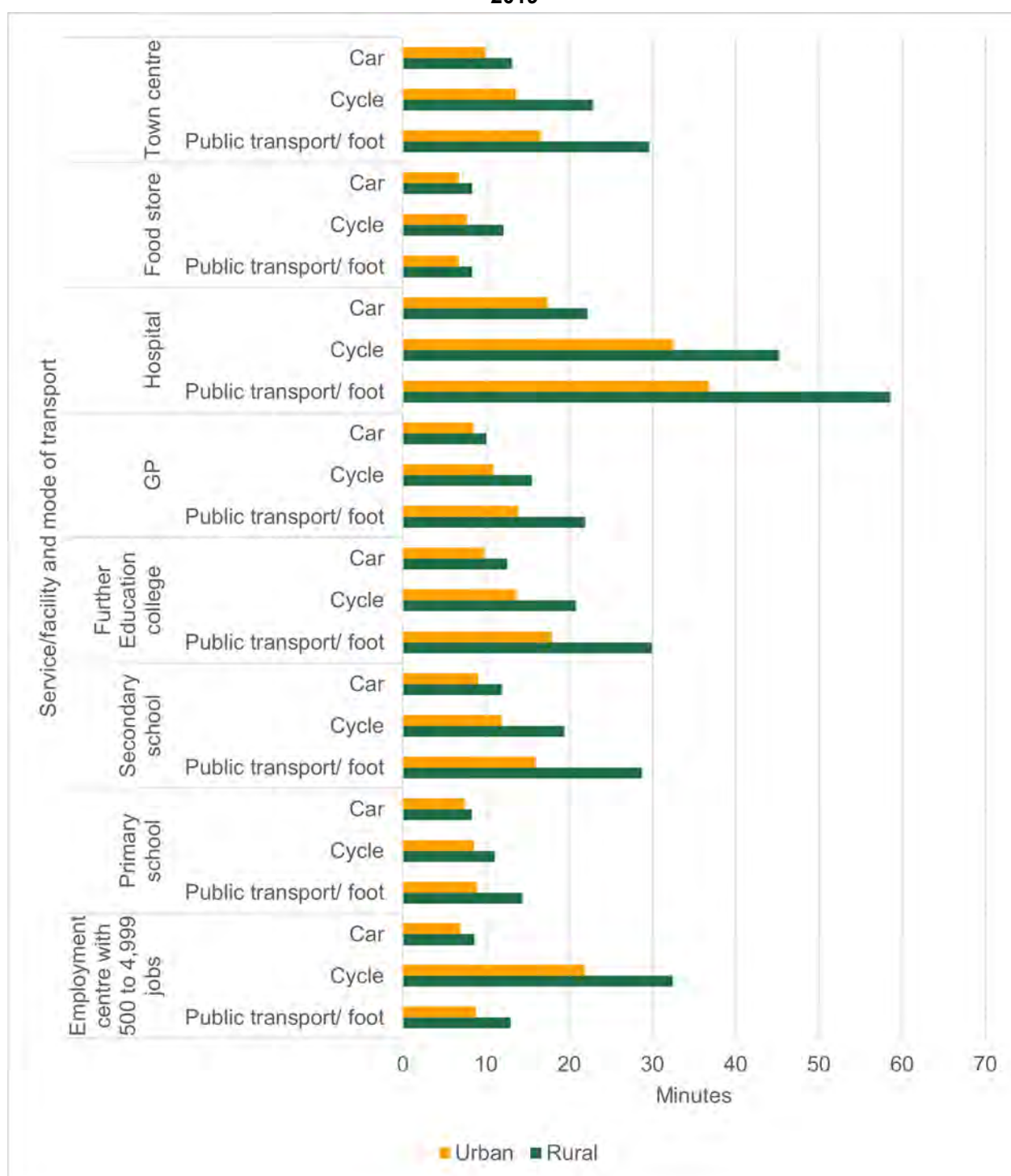
**4.94** Figure 4.5 shows that the average minimum travel times to key services is higher in rural areas compared to urban areas, using public transport/foot, cycling and by car.<sup>89</sup>

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88 [https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council\\_and\\_democracy/council\\_information/equality-and-diversity/equality\\_objectives.aspx](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/council_information/equality-and-diversity/equality_objectives.aspx)

89 Tables JTS0501 to JTS0508, Journey Time Statistics: 2019 (revised), DfT, November 2021 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/journey-time-statistics>). Notes: [1] The rural and urban statistics in this sheet are based on Cheshire East Council's updated (2015) Rural-Urban Classification. This classification system assigned each of Cheshire East's 234 LSOAs to one of six narrow rural-urban categories and one of two broad rural-urban categories. The statistics presented here are based on the two-category classification. [2] The figures shown above are weighted averages, with the travel times for each LSOA weighted according to the number of service users (the population aged 16-74 in the case of employment centres, population aged 5-10 in the case of primary schools, population aged 11-15 in the case of secondary schools, population aged 16-19 in the case of further education colleges and the number of households in the case of GPs, hospitals, food stores and town centres).

**Figure 4.5 Travel times to nearest key service, by Cheshire East LSOA and rural urban typology, 2019**



**4.95** Community facilities and amenities can make a positive contribution to the social or cultural life of the community. Facilities such as public houses, places of worship, village halls and other meeting places, schools, and local shops are important to the communities that they serve, and they improve the sustainability of towns, villages, and rural areas. Cheshire East has a variety of different communities, ranging from large towns to villages and rural settlements. There is also a network of formal and informal community groups, which together provide an enormous range of activities, support, and services.

## Key issues

- average house prices in the borough are higher than the North West, but lower than the England average
- most dwellings in the borough are private sector
- the borough contains LSOAs that are some of the most deprived in England
- there is an association between deprivation and car access reflected in lower incidences of access in deprived areas
- women are likely to travel shorter distances to work
- the borough contains community services and facilities in rural and urban areas

## Summary of future baseline

**4.96** The suitability of housing for local requirements depends in part on the successful implementation of appropriate housing policies taken forward through the new local plan. However, without interventions, the affordability, suitability, and quality of housing in the borough may continue to be an issue. Unplanned development may also have wider implications in terms of transport and access to infrastructure or the natural environment.

## Economic development

**4.97** Jobs density is defined as the number of filled jobs in an area divided by the number of working-age residents in that area. High job densities indicate that demand for labour exceeds supply. The shortfall may be met by inward commuting. Conversely, many of those living in areas with a low jobs density may have to commute to work in other areas. The latest (2021) figures put the borough's jobs density at 0.91, which is higher than that in the North West (0.84) and the UK (0.85).<sup>90</sup>

**4.98** The percentage of working-age (16-64 year-old) residents in employment (81.9% in 2022/23) exceeds both the regional and UK averages (73.6% and 75.4% respectively) by a statistically significant margin (that is, it is not just due to survey sampling error).<sup>91</sup>

**4.99** 2.9% (5,800 people) of economically active residents aged 16+ were unemployed<sup>92</sup> (April 2022 to March 2023). Unemployment rates in the Borough are below those in the North West and Great Britain, and have remained between 2.5% and 4.5% in recent years. They rose significantly in 2020/21, to 4.1% - which probably reflects to some extent the economic impact of COVID-19 - before falling back in 2021/22 and 2022/23.<sup>93</sup>

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90 Jobs density data, ONS, NOMIS. ONS Crown Copyright <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

91 Annual Population Survey, April 2017- March 2018 to April 2022 – March 2023, ONS, NOMIS. Crown Copyright.

92 People who are available for and actively seeking work, but not necessarily claiming out-of-work benefits.

93 Cheshire East data: Model-based estimates of unemployment, April 2017 - March 2018 to April 2022 - March 2023, ONS, NOMIS. ONS Crown Copyright <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>. NW and GB data: Annual Population Survey, April 2017 - March 2018 to April 2022 - March 2023, ONS, NOMIS. ONS Crown Copyright.

**4.100** The claimant count rate (the proportion of working-age people claiming out-of-work benefits) is low: 2.4% in Cheshire East in March 2023, against 4.3% and 3.7% for the North West and UK respectively.<sup>94</sup>

**4.101** The percentage of the working age population whose highest qualification is NVQ Level 4 and above is (as of 2021) higher than that in the North West or the UK. However, these gaps are not statistically significant, that is, they may just be the result of survey sampling error. The Cheshire East proportion is higher than in 2020, though this change is not statistically significant. The percentage of the working age population with no qualifications is lower (though not by a statistically significant margin) than those in the North West and UK.<sup>95</sup>

**4.102** An estimated 55.6% of Cheshire East's workers are in management/professional occupations, which is higher than the North West and UK averages. The proportion employed in personal service/sales occupations is also above the regional and national averages. Conversely, the estimated proportions of Cheshire East workers in admin/skilled and operative/elementary occupations are lower than the regional and national averages. The statistics shown below indicate that the proportion of Cheshire East workers in management/professional and personal service/sales occupations was slightly higher in 2022/23 than in 2021/22, while the opposite is true for the admin/skilled occupational group and the proportions in the personal service/sales and operative/elementary occupations have barely changed. However, these statistics are based on the results of a national employment survey, and survey sampling error margins (due to samples of workers not being completely representative of the whole working population) are much larger for small geographical areas such as local authorities. Therefore, some of the reported year-on-year changes in employment in different occupational groups reflect survey sampling error, rather than actual changes in the occupational mix of jobs in the borough.<sup>96</sup>

**4.103** In Cheshire East 19,800 residents travelled at least 20km to work (2021), which equates to 10.3% of the borough's working residents, and is significantly higher than for the North West (7.3%), and England and Wales (8.4%). Looking only at those who travelled to a workplace in the UK (that is, excluding those who worked mainly from home, at no fixed workplace or offshore/abroad), 19.3% travelled 20km or more, compared to 12.4% for the North West, and 15.5% for England and Wales.<sup>97</sup>

94 Claimant Count, ONS, NOMIS. Crown Copyright. Notes: [1] This claimant count data series counts the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance plus those who claim Universal Credit and are required to seek work and be available for work. [2] Rates calculated by ONS using the mid-2021 resident population aged 16-64.

95 Annual Population Survey (residence-based dataset), Jan-Dec 2020 to Jan-Dec 2021, ONS, NOMIS. ONS Crown Copyright <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>.

96 Annual Population Survey (residence-based dataset), April 2021 – March 2022 and April 2022 – March 2023, ONS, NOMIS. ONS Crown Copyright <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>. Note: Figures are residence-based, that is, they relate to employed people living (but not necessarily working) in the geographical area in question. The analysis described above is based on SOC2020 (Standard Occupational Classification 2020) Major Group occupational classes: "management/professional" occupations means SOC2010 Major Groups 1-3, "admin/skilled" means Groups 4-5, "personal service/sales" is Groups 6-7 and "operative/elementary" covers Groups 8-9.

97 Table TS058 (Distance travelled to work), 2021 Census, ONS, NOMIS. ONS Crown Copyright.

**4.104** ONS business counts data<sup>98</sup> indicate that, of the 19,540 businesses located in Cheshire East as of 2022 (an increase from the 19,510 businesses there were in 2021), 10,300 (52.7%) were based in Middle layer Super Output Areas (MSOAs) that were part rural and part urban, 4,455 (22.8%) were in completely rural MSOAs and 4,785 (24.5%) were in completely urban MSOAs.<sup>99</sup>

**4.105** A breakdown of businesses by industry (see Table 4.6) shows that agriculture, forestry and fishing accounts for a much greater proportion of the business population in completely rural MSOAs than elsewhere in the borough. Conversely, wholesale and retail firms and businesses in the accommodation and food services sector make up a much larger share of the business population in completely urban MSOAs than they do elsewhere. This reflects the fact that many companies in these latter sectors serve consumers (households) rather than other businesses and so are relatively likely to locate in urban areas because of the higher number of people (potential customers) living in close proximity.<sup>100</sup>

**Table 4.6 Businesses by rural-urban typology and industry in 2022**

SIC2007* section(s) and industry	Industry share (%) of total - rural	Industry share (%) of total - mixed	Industry share (%) of total - urban	Industry share (%) of total – all Cheshire East
A: Agriculture, forestry and fishing	19.6	4.0	0.8	6.8
B: Mining and quarrying	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
C: Manufacturing	4.0	4.7	5.5	4.8
D: Electricity, gas, steam, and air conditioning	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.2

98 'UK Business Counts - Enterprises' data, ONS, NOMIS. ONS Crown Copyright. Note: Figures relate to enterprises, not local units. Hence an enterprise with 2 sites in Cheshire East (and none elsewhere) would be counted only once (under the location of its main site or HQ). Figures include public as well as private sector organisations.

99 These statistics are based on Cheshire East Council's 2015 Rural-Urban Classification developed by the Council's corporate research team. This classification system assigned each of Cheshire East's 234 LSOAs to one of six narrow rural-urban categories and one of two broad rural-urban categories. The statistics presented here are based on the two-category classification. However, the business count data are available only at and above MSOA level. Therefore, the resulting statistics are split into three categories: "rural only" MSOAs (those containing only rural LSOAs); "mixed" MSOAs (those containing both rural and urban LSOAs); and "urban only" MSOAs (those containing only urban LSOAs).

100 These statistics are based on Cheshire East Council's 2015 Rural-Urban Classification developed by the Council's corporate research team. This classification system assigned each of Cheshire East's 234 LSOAs to one of six narrow rural-urban categories and one of two broad rural-urban categories. The statistics presented here are based on the two-category classification. However, the business count data are available only at and above MSOA level. Therefore, the resulting statistics are split into three categories: "rural only" MSOAs (those containing only rural LSOAs); "mixed" MSOAs (those containing both rural and urban LSOAs); and "urban only" MSOAs (those containing only urban LSOAs).



SIC2007* section(s) and industry	Industry share (%) of total - rural	Industry share (%) of total - mixed	Industry share (%) of total - urban	Industry share (%) of total – all Cheshire East
E: Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation services	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4
F: Construction	10.0	10.5	10.6	10.4
G: Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles	12.2	13.9	18.3	14.6
H: Transportation and storage	2.0	2.9	5.5	3.4
I: Accommodation and food service activities	3.7	4.6	7.4	5.1
J: Information and communication	4.8	7.6	6.6	6.7
K: Financial and insurance services	1.6	2.9	2.8	2.6
L: Real estate activities	5.5	4.2	3.7	4.4
M: Professional, scientific and technical activities	17.5	21.9	16.4	19.5
N: Administrative and support service activities	9.0	9.4	7.8	9.0
O: Public administrative and defence; social security	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.4
P: Education	0.8	2.0	1.8	1.7
Q: Human health and social work activities	2.5	3.9	4.2	3.6
R: Arts, entertainment and recreation	3.0	2.3	2.3	2.5
S: Other service activities	2.2	4.0	5.4	4.0

**4.106** Rural areas accounted for an estimated 72,000 jobs as of 2022 (down from 80,000 in 2021). This equates to 37.1% of Cheshire East's employment total: a proportion that is slightly lower than the rural areas' share of the borough's population (38.9% in 2021).<sup>101</sup> However, it should be noted that the employment statistics cited here for rural areas do not include farm agriculture, so to some extent they are likely to understate the proportion of employment located in rural areas.

**4.107** The UK has now left the European Union (EU). It is not possible to predict the impact of the UK leaving the EU (commonly termed as 'Brexit') as the future trading relationship is emerging at the time of drafting this report.

**4.108** COVID-19 was first reported in China, in December 2019 and was declared a pandemic in March 2020. There are real material uncertainties around the economic impacts of COVID-19 and Brexit in terms of severity and duration of impacts. However, according to the viability assessment prepared for the SADPD, it is difficult at this stage to predict what the long-term impact of Brexit and COVID-19 will be on the economy.<sup>102</sup> It will be important for objectives around supporting a sustainable, competitive and low carbon economy to be included in the appraisal framework.

**4.109** Town centres remain the focal point for much retailing, leisure and commerce. The borough contains two PTs, nine KSCs and 13 LSCs, most of which have defined retail centres relevant to their role, function, and character. Additionally, local urban centres and neighbourhood parades are identified throughout the borough.

**4.110** According to the 'Cheshire East Retail Study Partial Update, 2020' (the 2020 Retail Study),<sup>103</sup> most of the borough's centres are vital and viable. Crewe and Macclesfield have benefitted from recent investment, while the KSC of Nantwich, Poynton and Sandbach in particular were performing well.

**4.111** Tourism has a vital role to play in the continuing economic success and development of both Cheshire East and the North West region. In 2022 the economic activity of the visitor economy in Cheshire East was £879m – an increase of 44.7% on the previous year.<sup>104</sup>

## Key issues

- the borough has a high jobs density
- the proportion of 16 to 64 year olds in the borough with a NVQ level 4 and above is higher than that in the North West and UK, but the gaps may just be the result of sampling error
- just over half of the people working in the borough are employed in high-skill occupations
- there is a relatively high proportion of working-age residents in employment and a low proportion of economically active population aged 16 and above who are unemployed

101 [1] Business Register and Employment Survey open access data series for 2022, ONS, NOMIS. Crown Copyright. Note: Figures are for employment and include self-employed people registered for VAT and PAYE schemes as well as employees. [2] 2021 Census table TS001 (Number of usual residents in households and communal establishments), ONS, NOMIS. Crown Copyright. [3] 2015 Rural-Urban Classification for Cheshire East (at LSOA level), Research and Consultation Team, Cheshire East Council.

102 Local Plan Site Allocations and Development Policies Viability Assessment 2020 update and refresh [https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/spatial-planning/cheshire\\_east\\_local\\_plan/site-allocations-and-policies/sadpd-examination/documents/examination-library/ed52-cec-sadpd-viability-update.pdf](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/spatial-planning/cheshire_east_local_plan/site-allocations-and-policies/sadpd-examination/documents/examination-library/ed52-cec-sadpd-viability-update.pdf)

103 [https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/spatial-planning/cheshire\\_east\\_local\\_plan/site-allocations-and-policies/sadpd-examination/documents/examination-library/ed17-wyg-retail-study-update.pdf](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/spatial-planning/cheshire_east_local_plan/site-allocations-and-policies/sadpd-examination/documents/examination-library/ed17-wyg-retail-study-update.pdf)

104 Cheshire East "STEAM" <https://www.globaltourismsolutions.co.uk/steam-model/>, 2022

- agriculture, forestry and fishing businesses make up a relatively high proportion of businesses in rural areas; wholesale and retail firms and businesses in the accommodation and food services sector make up a relatively high proportion of businesses in urban areas
- not all centres are vital and viable

## Summary of future baseline

**4.112** The borough has a high proportion of people employed in high-skill occupations though the proportions in each broad occupational group are similar to the UK average; this situation is likely to continue in the absence of a major shift in the nature of the local economy.

**4.113** The rural economy will continue to play a large part in the economic vitality of the borough.

**4.114** The borough also has an important tourism offer and historic legacy, which provides significant opportunities for the economy.

**4.115** An increasing trend of homeworking, self-employment and home-based businesses is likely to have influence on the borough's economic landscape in forthcoming years.

## Conclusion

**4.116** The baseline data collected provides the basis for predicting and monitoring effects and helps to identify sustainability problems and alternative ways of dealing with them.

**4.117** The baseline data highlights several areas where policies may be produced along with issues that should be considered to make sure the social, economic, and environmental benefits outweigh the negatives.

## Difficulties in collecting data and limitations of the data

**4.118** Ideally the baseline information would be entirely up to date, unfortunately due to a combination of the time it takes to collate data and data availability, this has not been possible. As far as possible the most up to date information has been used for each set of data provided.

## 5 Stage A3: (Part 1) Issues

**5.1** The SA process requires the identification of environmental, economic, and social issues affecting Cheshire East. This is informed by information from a range of sources including:

- issues and objectives identified in relevant plans and policies
- baseline data for Cheshire East
- community and stakeholder consultation

**5.2** The social, environmental, and economic issues identified in the SA will inform the development of the SA Framework and the scope of the new local plan.

**5.3** The key sustainability issues identified in Cheshire East fall under the nine sustainability topics identified in Chapter 4 of this Report and are set out in Table 5.1.

**Table 5.1 Key sustainability issues**

Topics		Sustainability issues
Biodiversity, flora, and fauna	1	There are local priority species and habitats in the borough, most of which need conservation measures due to threats to their numbers.
Biodiversity, flora, and fauna	2	There are habitats and species identified as requiring conservation at a European level in the borough boundary, as well as Ramsar sites.
Population and human health	3	The borough has an ageing population.
Population and human health	4	There is limited ethnic diversity in the borough.
Population and human health	5	Generally, the health of the borough's population is varied and can be linked to deprivation in some areas.
Population and human health	6	The proportion of overweight or obese Reception age children has increased.
Population and human health	7	There is an association between deprivation and health inequality reflected in higher incidences and mortality rates for some cancers in more deprived areas.
Population and human health	8	There has been a decrease in the number of reported crimes.
Water and soil	9	Pollution is an issue for the Weaver/Gowy and Upper Mersey river catchment areas.
Water and soil	10	Ecological river quality in the borough has remained broadly the same and is still an issue, and the status of chemical river quality is unknown.

Topics		Sustainability issues
Water and soil	11	Cheshire East has a diverse mineral resource including 16 permitted mineral extraction sites with reserves of silica (or industrial) sand, construction sand and gravel, sandstone (hard/crushed rock), salt (brine) and peat.
Water and soil	12	There is a low landbank for aggregate sand and gravel.
Water and soil	13	The borough has proportionately more grade 1, 2 and 3 agricultural land than the North West and England.
Water and soil	14	Over 1.2 million tonnes of waste arose in the Cheshire East plan area.
Air	15	There are areas in the borough that suffer from poor air quality.
Air	16	Road traffic is the main source of air quality issues in the borough.
Climatic factors	17	There is a climate emergency.
Climatic factors	18	Carbon dioxide emissions from transport in the borough (most of which is from road transport) have fallen relatively slowly, with transport continuing to emit the most carbon dioxide out of eight sectors.
Transport	19	There is a high reliance on private transport in the borough.
Transport	20	The public rights of way network and canal towpaths are not fully accessible for users who are less mobile.
Cultural heritage and landscape	21	The borough contains several cultural and environmental assets, including designated heritage assets.
Cultural heritage and landscape	22	There are a variety of landscape types and historic land classifications in the borough.
Cultural heritage and landscape	23	There is a low level of tree canopy cover in the borough.
Social inclusiveness	24	Average house prices in the borough are higher than the North West, but lower than the England average.
Social inclusiveness	25	Most dwellings in the borough are private sector.
Social inclusiveness	26	The borough contains Lower layer Super Output Areas that are some of the most deprived in England.



Topics		Sustainability issues
Social inclusiveness	27	There is an association between deprivation and car access reflected in lower incidences of access in deprived areas.
Social inclusiveness	28	Women are likely to travel shorter distances to work.
Social inclusiveness	29	The borough contains community services and facilities in rural and urban areas.
Economic development	30	The borough has a high jobs density.
Economic development	31	The proportion of 16 to 64 year olds in the borough with an NVQ level 4 and above is higher than that in the North West and UK, but the gaps may just be the result of sampling error.
Economic development	32	Just over half of the people working in the borough are employed in high-skill occupations.
Economic development	33	There is a relatively high proportion of working-age residents in employment and a low proportion of economically active population aged 16 and above who are unemployed.
Economic development	34	Agriculture, forestry, and fishing businesses make up a relatively high proportion of businesses in rural areas; wholesale and retail firms and businesses in the accommodation and food services sector make up a relatively high proportion of businesses in urban areas.
Economic development	35	Not all centres are vital and viable.

## 6 Stage A3: (Part 2) Objectives

**6.1** Following on from the identification of key issues, the SA requires the development of a series of social, environmental, and economic objectives for the borough.

**6.2** The SA objectives were chosen to address the predominant sustainability issues present in the borough, whilst also ensuring that a balance between social, economic, and environmental considerations are established. These objectives focus on outcomes (or ends), not on how the outcomes will be achieved (inputs or means).

**6.3** The objectives aim to make sure that the new local plan will create a place that people can and want to live, work and play. The objectives can be seen in Table 6.1 and fall under the nine topics set out in Chapter 4 of this Report.

**Table 6.1 Sustainability objectives**

Topics		Sustainability objectives
Biodiversity, flora, and fauna	1	Protect, maintain, and enhance biodiversity, habitats, soils, species, geodiversity, and important geological features; particularly those that are designated.
Population and human health	2	Create an environment that promotes healthy and active lifestyles and reduce inequalities in health.
Population and human health	3	Meet the health and social care needs of an ageing population.
Population and human health	4	Create a safe environment and reduce levels of and the fear of crime.
Water and soil	5	Positively address the issues of water quality and quantity, and manage flood risk
Water and soil	6	Achieve sustainable waste management through adhering to the principles of the waste hierarchy.
Water and soil	7	Manage sustainable mineral extraction, and encourage their recycling and/or re-use, to provide a sufficient supply to meet social and economic needs, whilst minimising impacts on the environment and communities and safeguarding resources for future generations.
Water and soil	8	Reduce the consumption of natural resources, protect, enhance and provide green infrastructure (GI), protect and enhance high quality agricultural land, and optimise the re-use of previously developed land (PDL), buildings, and infrastructure.
Air	9	Manage the impacts of development and associated activities to positively address pollution, and make sure that air quality improves and falls below objective limits.
Climatic factors	10	Adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change, including carbon dioxide emissions.

Topics		Sustainability objectives
Climatic factors	11	Minimise energy use, promote energy efficiency, and increase the generation of energy by decentralised, renewable or low carbon energy supply systems.
Transport	12	Reduce reliance on private transport.
Cultural heritage and landscape	13	Conserve and enhance the area's heritage (including its setting), landscape character, and townscapes; particularly those that are designated.
Social inclusiveness	14	Provide an appropriate quantity and quality of housing to meet the needs of the borough. This should include a mix of housing types, tenures, and affordability.
Social inclusiveness	15	Consider the needs of all sections of the community to achieve high levels of equality, diversity, and social inclusion.
Social inclusiveness	16	Maintain and enhance community services and amenities to sustain the existing and future communities in rural and urban areas.
Social inclusiveness	17	Address levels of deprivation by improving access to education and training, and the links between these resources and employment opportunities.
Economic development	18	Promote a sustainable, competitive, and low-carbon economy in rural and urban areas that benefits from a range of innovative and diverse businesses.
Economic development	19	Maintain and enhance the vitality and viability of town and village centres with a balanced provision of retail, leisure, visitor, and cultural facilities.
Economic development	20	Increase the supply of labour through improving access to job opportunities in rural and urban areas.

## Coverage of objectives

**6.4** The SA objectives are intended to work towards the improvement of the sustainability issues identified in the borough. The coverage of sustainability issues by objectives is identified in Appendix B.

## Compatibility of objectives

**6.5** To make sure that the identified objectives can all be achieved and are complementary there is a need to assess their compatibility. This assessment is performed by considering the likely implications of working towards the achievement of the objective, although it is acknowledged that likely impacts are affected by implementation, which cannot always be predicted at this stage.

Table 6.2 Compatibility of objectives

1	Biodiversity and geodiversity																				
2	Healthy, active lifestyles and inequalities	.																			
3	Ageing population	.	√																		
4	Safety, crime and the fear of crime	.	.	.																	
5	Water quality, quantity, and flood risk	√	√	.	.																
6	Waste management	?	.	.	.	√															
7	Minerals	?	.	.	.	√	√														
8	Natural resources, GI, agriculture, and PDL	√	√	.	.	√	√	?													
9	Pollution	√	√	√	.	√	√	?	√												
10	Climate change	√	√	√	.	√	√	?	√	√											
11	Energy use and efficiency, and energy supply	?	.	.	.	?	?	.	.	√	√										
12	Private transport	√	√	?	.	.	.	.	.	√	√	?									
13	Heritage, landscapes, and townscapes	√	.	?	.	?	?	?	√	.	.	?	?								
14	Quantity and quality of housing	?	√	√	.	?	.	√	?	.	?	?	.	?							
15	Equality, diversity, and social inclusion	.	√	√	?	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	?	?	√						
16	Community services and amenities	.	√	√	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	√						
17	Deprivation and access to education and training	.	?	?	?	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	?	.	.	√	.				
18	Sustainable, competitive, and low carbon economy	?	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	?	√	√	?	.	.	.	.	.			
19	Town and village centres	.	.	√	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	?	.	.	√	.	?		
20	Job opportunities	.	.	.	?	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	√	.	√	√	√		
		Biodiversity and geodiversity	Healthy, active lifestyles and inequalities	Ageing population	Safety, crime and the fear of crime	Water quality, quantity, and flood risk	Waste management	Minerals	Natural resources, GI, agriculture, and PDL	Pollution	Climate change	Energy use and efficiency, and energy supply	Private transport	Heritage, landscapes, and townscapes	Quantity and quality of housing	Equality, diversity, and social inclusion	Community services and amenities	Deprivation and access to education and training	Sustainable, competitive, and low carbon economy	Town and village centres	Job opportunities
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

Key to Table 6.2 Compatibility of objectives:

√ Compatible	X Incompatible	.	? Dependent on implementation
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**6.6** The assessment of potential conflict, required by the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, indicates that the majority of issues are either compatible or not linked; however there are several objectives where there is uncertainty as to whether there will be conflict, with this being dependent on the focus and method of implementation of policies.



## 7 Stage A4: Sustainability Appraisal Framework

**7.1** The Sustainability Appraisal Framework (SAF) is at the centre of the SA process. It provides a way in which the social, economic, and environmental effects of a plan can be described, analysed, and compared, with the intention of delivering sustainable communities.

**7.2** The aim of the SAF is to offer a consistent methodology for the appraisal of the effects of the plan and should produce results that allow direct comparison between various options.

**7.3** The SAF consists of the sustainability objectives identified for Cheshire East along with a series of criteria for the assessment of how a plan performs against each of the objectives.

**Table 7.1 Proposed Sustainability Appraisal Framework**

Topics		Objective	Criteria
Biodiversity, flora, and fauna	1	Protect, maintain, and enhance biodiversity, habitats, soils, species, geodiversity, and important geological features; particularly those that are designated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will it protect or enhance biodiversity?</li> <li>Will it minimise the fragmentation of habitats?</li> <li>Will it help protect any species at risk?</li> <li>Will it protect or enhance geodiversity and geological sites and features?</li> <li>Will it protect or enhance designated sites or species?</li> </ul>
Population and human health	2	Create an environment that promotes healthy and active lifestyles and reduce inequalities in health.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will it improve human health?</li> <li>Will it provide good opportunities to access facilities that encourage an active lifestyle, helping to reduce obesity?</li> </ul>
Population and human health	3	Meet the health and social care needs of an ageing population.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will it provide for the needs of an ageing population?</li> </ul>
Population and human health	4	Create a safe environment and reduce levels of and the fear of crime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will it secure design that discourages crime and anti-social behaviour?</li> <li>Will it promote the safety of the community and so reduce the fear of crime?</li> </ul>
Water and soil	5	Positively address the issues of water quality and quantity, and manage flood risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will it encourage the re-use and recycling of water, for example grey water and/or rain water harvesting?</li> <li>Will it maintain and improve the quality of ground and surface waters?</li> <li>Will it minimise risk to people, property, and ecosystems from flooding?</li> </ul>

Topics		Objective	Criteria
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will it prevent development of the floodplain?</li> <li>Will it encourage the use of sustainable drainage systems?</li> </ul>
Water and soil	6	Achieve sustainable waste management through adhering to the principles of the waste hierarchy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will it make sure that the treatment of waste has regard to the principles of the waste hierarchy?</li> <li>Will it encourage sustainable methods of construction and use?</li> <li>Will it result in the provision of appropriately designed waste management facilities in line with the waste hierarchy?</li> <li>Will it encourage the disposal of waste as close to the point of origin as possible?</li> <li>Will it balance the need to manage waste with social and environmental issues?</li> </ul>
Water and soil	7	Manage sustainable mineral extraction, and encourage their recycling and/or re-use, to provide a sufficient supply to meet social and economic needs, whilst minimising impacts on the environment and communities and safeguarding resources for future generations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will it encourage the reuse and/or recycling of minerals?</li> <li>Will it protect nationally, regionally, and locally important mineral resources?</li> <li>Will it allow for the delivery of a sufficient supply of minerals?</li> <li>Will it balance the need to deliver minerals with social and environmental issues?</li> </ul>
Water and soil	8	Reduce the consumption of natural resources, protect, enhance and provide green infrastructure, protect and enhance high quality agricultural land, and optimise the re-use of previously developed land, buildings, and infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will it reduce the use, or result in efficient consumption, of natural resources?</li> <li>Will it protect, enhance, create, or connect green infrastructure assets?</li> <li>Will it protect or enhance the best quality agricultural land?</li> <li>Will it encourage the re-use of previously developed land, buildings, and infrastructure?</li> </ul>
Air	9	Manage the impacts of development and associated activities to positively address pollution, and make sure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will it positively contribute to the management of air pollution, particularly in Air Quality Management Areas?</li> <li>Will it positively contribute to the management of water pollution?</li> <li>Will it positively contribute to the management of contaminated</li> </ul>

Topics		Objective	Criteria
		that air quality improves and falls below objective limits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>land and/or make sure additional contamination does not occur?</li> <li>Will it encourage positive remediation of sites?</li> </ul>
Climatic factors	10	Adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change, including from carbon dioxide emissions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will it reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide and methane?</li> <li>Will it reduce the heat island effect?</li> <li>Will it increase resilience to extreme weather events and longer term rising temperatures?</li> <li>Will it prevent or mitigate flooding and rising sea levels?</li> </ul>
Climatic factors	11	Minimise energy use, promote energy efficiency, and increase the generation of energy by decentralised, renewable or low carbon energy supply systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will it encourage the efficient use of energy?</li> <li>Will it result in energy efficient development?</li> <li>Will it result in the high quality design and layout of development?</li> <li>Will it promote and encourage the use of decentralised, renewable, or low carbon energy?</li> </ul>
Transport	12	Reduce reliance on private transport.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will it provide footpaths and/or cycleways</li> <li>Will it provide cycle storage?</li> <li>Will it encourage the use of public transport?</li> </ul>
Cultural heritage and landscape	13	Conserve and enhance the area's heritage (including its setting), landscape character, and townscapes; particularly those that are designated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will it protect or enhance the landscape?</li> <li>Will it protect or enhance the townscape?</li> <li>Will it complement the existing built and natural environment, making sure that the area remains distinctive?</li> <li>Will it conserve and/or enhance heritage assets (both designated and non-designated), their setting, and the wider historic environment?</li> <li>Will it contribute to the better management of heritage assets and tackle heritage at risk?</li> <li>Will it impact on the Green Belt or strategic green gap?</li> </ul>
Social inclusiveness	14	Provide an appropriate quantity and quality of housing to meet the needs of the borough. This	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will it provide an appropriate quantity and quality of housing?</li> </ul>

Topics		Objective	Criteria
		should include a mix of housing types, tenures, and affordability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will it provide an appropriate mix of housing types and tenures?</li> <li>Will it deliver sufficient affordable housing?</li> </ul>
Social inclusiveness	15	Consider the needs of all sections of the community to achieve high levels of equality, diversity, and social inclusion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will it increase equality?</li> <li>Will it increase social inclusion?</li> <li>Will it create a cohesive community?</li> <li>Will it reduce poverty?</li> </ul>
Social inclusiveness	16	Maintain and enhance community services and amenities to sustain the existing and future communities in rural and urban areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will it maintain or enhance necessary infrastructure?</li> <li>Will it maintain or enhance necessary services and facilities?</li> <li>Will it increase the accessibility of the countryside?</li> <li>Will it provide infrastructure to support the existing community?</li> <li>Will it provide the infrastructure to support the future community, considering cumulative impacts?</li> </ul>
Social inclusiveness	17	Address levels of deprivation by improving access to education and training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will it increase access to education and training opportunities?</li> </ul>
Economic development	18	Promote a sustainable, competitive, and low-carbon economy in rural and urban areas that benefits from a range of innovative and diverse businesses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will it result in sustainable economic growth?</li> <li>Will it contribute to the achievement of a competitive and low-carbon economy?</li> <li>Will it allow a diverse range of business types?</li> <li>Will it positively affect both the rural and urban economy?</li> </ul>
Economic development	19	Maintain and enhance the vitality and viability of town and village centres with a balanced provision of retail, leisure, visitor, and cultural facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will it enhance the viability and vitality of town centres?</li> <li>Will it enhance the viability and vitality of village centres?</li> <li>Will it create a balanced provision of retail, leisure, visitor and cultural facilities?</li> </ul>
Economic development	20	Increase the supply of labour through improving access to job opportunities in rural and urban areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will it increase access to job opportunities in rural or urban areas?</li> </ul>

#### 7.4 When utilising the SAF the following considerations should be considered:

- the likely effects: social, environmental, and economic

- the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects
- the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of population likely to be affected)
- the cumulative nature of the effects
- the trans-boundary nature of the effects
- risks to human health
- risks to the environment

**7.5** It is intended that the objectives that form the SAF in this Report will be broadly consistent throughout all SA's that the council undertakes. As the SA evolves there may be situations that require the SAF to be reviewed. These situations could include:

- new baseline information emerging that better reflects the current objectives in the SAF
- changes to the objectives in the SAF
- direction from a consultation body that information in the SAF needs amending



## 8 Next steps

**8.1** The SA Scoping Report has identified a SAF that will enable the social, economic, and environmental effects of the new local plan to be assessed. It also identifies a series of sustainability objectives and sub-objectives that can be monitored over time. Alternatives will be considered in emerging draft plans and will be considered against the SAF.

### Consulting relevant authorities

**8.2** This SA Scoping Report was prepared in accordance with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

**8.3** In accordance with these Regulations this Report will be sent to the statutory Strategic Environmental Assessment Consultation Bodies with environmental responsibilities. These are:

- Environment Agency
- Natural England
- Historic England

**8.4** The purpose of this consultation is to:

- make sure the SA is comprehensive and robust enough to support the new local plan
- make sure that the assessment methodology is comprehensive
- advise on the appropriateness of the sustainability objectives
- advise on the appropriateness of the key sustainability issues
- advise on the comprehensiveness of the baseline data

**8.5** Consultation on this SA Scoping Report will run for xx weeks between xx and time on xx YYYY.

### Contacting the Strategic Planning Team

**8.6** You can contact the Strategic Planning Team by:

- email: [localplan@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:localplan@cheshireeast.gov.uk)
- website: [www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/newlocalplan](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/newlocalplan)
- telephone: 01270 685893
- post: Strategic Planning, Cheshire East Council, c/o Delamere House, Delamere Street, Crewe CW1 2LL

# A Appendix A: Related plans and policies

**Table A.1 Related plans, policies and programmes: national**

Document	Overview	Target/indicator	SA topic	New local plan implications
National Planning Policy Framework (DLUHC, 2023) (NPPF)	Sets out the government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied. It provides a framework in which locally prepared plans for housing and other development can be produced.	Sets out three overarching objectives for the planning system (economic, social, and environmental), which should be delivered through the preparation and implementation of plans and the application of the policies in the NPPF. At the heart of the NPPF is the presumption in favour of sustainable development.	All	The new local plan will need to be consistent with the policies and objectives of the NPPF.
Planning Practice Guidance (DLUHC) (PPG)	Provides detailed policy guidance and sets out how the government envisages the planning system will operate.	None identified.	All	The policies of the new local plan should take the PPG into account.
Planning policy for Traveller sites (DLUHC and MHCLG, 2015) (PPTS)	Sets out the government's planning policy for Traveller sites.	Sets out 11 aims to ensure fair and equal treatment for Travellers, in a way that facilitates the traditional and nomadic way of life of Travellers while respecting the interests of the settled community.	Social inclusion	The new local plan will need to be consistent with the policies and aims of the PPTS.
National Planning Policy for Waste (DLUHC and MHCLG, 2014) (NPPW)	Sets out detailed waste planning policies.	None identified.	Water and soil	The new local plan will need to be consistent with the policies and aims of the NPPW.

Document	Overview	Target/indicator	SA topic	New local plan implications
Securing the Future: UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy (DEFRA, 2005)	<p>Sets out five principles that form the basis for policy in the UK. For a policy to be sustainable, it must respect all five of these principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• living within environmental limits</li> <li>• ensuring a strong, healthy and just society</li> <li>• achieving a sustainable economy</li> <li>• promoting good governance</li> <li>• using sound science responsibly</li> </ul>	A range of national indicators. More relevant strategies exist at regional and local levels.	Economic development; population and human health; biodiversity, flora and fauna	The new local plan should include policies that are socially, economically, and environmentally balanced and that promote sustainable development.
The growth plan 2022 (HM Treasury)	Sets out the government's plan to achieve sustainable growth, which will lead to higher wages, greater opportunities and provide sustainable funding for public services. This includes Investment Zones, liberalising the planning system, reform of the Nationally Significant Infrastructure planning system, bringing onshore wind planning policy in line with other infrastructure.	Government's primary economic objective is to boost trend growth to 2.5%.	Economic development	Policies of the new local plan should provide for sustainable economic growth.
National Policy Statements (NPS)	Gives reasons for the policy set out in the statement and includes an explanation of how the policy	Includes several national objectives.	Climatic factors; water and soil; air; transport	The new local plan will need to consider and be consistent with the policies and

Document	Overview	Target/indicator	SA topic	New local plan implications
	<p>takes account of government policy relating to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change. They comprise the government's objectives for the development of nationally significant infrastructure in a particular sector and state. The NPS are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EN-1 Overarching Energy</li> <li>• EN-2 Fossil Fuel Electricity Generation Infrastructure</li> <li>• EN-3 Renewable Energy Infrastructure</li> <li>• EN-4 Gas Supply Infrastructure and Gas and Oil Pipelines</li> <li>• EN-5 Electricity Networks Infrastructure</li> <li>• EN-6 Nuclear Power Generation</li> <li>• Ports</li> <li>• National Networks</li> <li>• Airports</li> <li>• Waste Water</li> <li>• Hazardous Waste</li> <li>• Water Resources Infrastructure</li> <li>• Geological Disposal Infrastructure</li> </ul>			objectives of the NPS where applicable.

Document	Overview	Target/indicator	SA topic	New local plan implications
Planning for sport guidance (Sport England, 2019)	Guidance on how the planning system can help to provide opportunities for all to take part in sport and be physically active.	To help provide active environments that maximise opportunities for sport and physical activity for all, enabling the already active to be more so and the inactive to become active.	Population and human health	The new local plan will need to promote healthy communities.
The Climate Change Act 2008	Sets out the legally binding target for emissions reductions.	UK emissions to fall by 34% by 2020, and at least 80% by 2050.	Climatic impact	The new local plan should contribute to the achievement of this legislation.
UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2022 (DEFRA)	The risk assessment considers 61 UK-wide climate risks and opportunities cutting across multiple sectors of the economy and it prioritises risk areas for action in the next two years.	<p>Prioritises eight risk areas for action in the next two years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>risks to the viability and diversity of terrestrial and freshwater habitats and species from multiple hazards</li> <li>risks to soil health from increased flooding and drought</li> <li>risks to natural carbon stores and sequestration from multiple hazards</li> <li>risks to crops, livestock and commercial trees from multiple climate hazards</li> <li>risks to supply of food, goods and vital services due</li> </ul>	Water and soil; climatic impact; population and human health	The new local plan should consider the results of this assessment.



Document	Overview	Target/indicator	SA topic	New local plan implications
		<p>to climate-related collapse of supply chains and distribution networks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>risks to people and the economy from climate-related failure of the power system</li> <li>risks to human health, wellbeing and productivity from increased exposure to heat in homes and other buildings</li> <li>multiple risks to the UK from climate change impacts overseas</li> </ul>		
British energy security strategy (DESNZ, Prime Minister's Office 10 Downing Street, and DBEIS, 2022)	A plan to bring clean, affordable, secure power to the people for generations to come. This includes using wind and solar power, increasing hydrogen production, nuclear reactors, energy efficient homes and businesses.	Sets out energy plan objectives and key measures for oil and gas, nuclear, solar, wind, hydrogen, and demand	Climatic impact; population and human health	The new local plan should contribute to the achievement of this strategy.
Taking charge: the electric vehicle infrastructure strategy (DfT, 2022)	Strategy setting out the government's vision and action plan for the rollout of electric vehicle charging infrastructure.	None identified.	Climatic factors; air	Polices in the new local plan should seek to facilitate and support the installation of

Document	Overview	Target/indicator	SA topic	New local plan implications
				electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
Clean Air Strategy (DECC, 2019) <sup>105</sup>	<p>Sets out the comprehensive actions required across all parts of government and society to improve air quality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• protect the nation's health</li> <li>• protect the environment</li> <li>• secure clean growth and innovation</li> <li>• reduce emissions from transport, homes, farming and industry</li> <li>• monitor our progress</li> </ul>	<p>The government to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reduce the harm to human health from pollution</li> <li>• reduce people's exposure to PM2.5 by reducing by 50% the number of people living in locations above 10µg/m3 by 2025</li> </ul>	Population and human health; air; biodiversity, flora and fauna; climatic factors; water and soil	The new local plan should contribute to the achievement of this strategy.
Build Back Better: our plan for growth (HM Treasury, 2021)	Sets out the government's plans to support growth through significant investment in infrastructure, skills and innovation, and to pursue growth that levels up every part of the UK, enables the transition to net zero, and supports its vision for Global Britain. This includes streamlining the planning system.	Three core pillars of growth are identified under which are several objectives: infrastructure; skills; innovation.	All	The policies of the new local plan should take this plan into account.
Environmental Improvement Plan (DEFRA, 2023)	Sets out goals for improving the environment over 25 years.	<p>Goals and targets set under the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• clean air</li> <li>• clean and plentiful water</li> </ul>	Biodiversity, flora and fauna; air; water and soil; population	The new local plan should contribute to the achievement of this plan.

Document	Overview	Target/indicator	SA topic	New local plan implications
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>thriving plants and wildlife</li> <li>reducing the risks of harm from environmental hazards</li> <li>using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently</li> <li>enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment</li> <li>mitigating and adapting to climate change</li> <li>minimising waste</li> <li>managing exposure to chemicals</li> <li>enhancing biosecurity</li> </ul>	and human health; cultural heritage and landscape; climatic factors	
Waste management plan for England (DEFRA, 2021)	Sets out the government's ambition to work towards a more sustainable and efficient approach to resource use and management.	<p>Waste management plans must include the measures to be taken so that, by 2035:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the preparing for re-use and the recycling of municipal waste is increased to a minimum of 65% by weight</li> <li>the amount of municipal waste landfilled is reduced to</li> </ul>	Water and soil	The new local plan should contribute to the achievement of this plan.

Document	Overview	Target/indicator	SA topic	New local plan implications
		10% or less of the total amount of municipal waste generated (by weight)		
England Peat Action Plan (DEFRA, 2021)	<p>Sets out the government's long-term vision for the management, protection and restoration of our peatlands, so that they provide a wide range of benefits to wildlife, people and the planet. To implement this vision, the plan includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the announcement of the Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme through the Nature for Climate Fund</li> <li>a commitment to end the use of peat in the amateur horticulture sector</li> <li>a new spatial map of England's peatlands</li> </ul>	Secure our peatlands' carbon store so they meet their contribution to net zero by 2050.	Water and soil; climatic factors	The new local plan should consider the value of peatlands. Some areas of peatland are potentially susceptible to development pressure, and it is vital that planning policies reflect the importance of managing peatlands and avoid detrimental climate, water and biodiversity impacts from development.
Meeting our Future Water Needs: a National Framework for Water Resources (EA, 2020)	A framework to provide a strategic direction to long-term water resource planning built on a shared vision to leave the environment in a better state than we	None identified.	Water and soil; economic development; population and human health	The new local plan should take account of water sustainability.

Document	Overview	Target/indicator	SA topic	New local plan implications
	found it, improve the nations resilience to drought, minimise interruptions to water supplies for all users and support growth while underpinning a thriving economy.			
Environment Act 2021	This Act seeks to improve air and water quality, tackle waste, increase recycling, halt the decline of species, and improve the natural environment.	<p>Statutory targets in four priority areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• air quality</li> <li>• biodiversity</li> <li>• water</li> <li>• waste</li> </ul> <p>50% reduction in residual waste per person by 2042 with an interim reduction in tonnage by January 2028 of 21%, would require going beyond the above national recycling target, around 73% at 2042. The government has recently stated a desire to eliminate the landfilling of biodegradable municipal waste by 2028.</p>	Biodiversity, flora and fauna; air; water and soil	The policies of the new local plan will be expected to comply with this Act.
Biodiversity duty: public authority duty to have regard to conserving biodiversity (DEFRA, updated 2022)	A public authority has a duty to have regard to conserving biodiversity as part of policy or decision making. Conserving biodiversity can include restoring or enhancing a population or habitat.	None identified.	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	New local plan policies should seek to conserve biodiversity.
By All Reasonable Means: Least restrictive access to the	Designed to help improve the accessibility of sites, routes and facilities.	None identified.	Cultural heritage and landscape; population	New local plan policies should consider the advice in this document to



Document	Overview	Target/indicator	SA topic	New local plan implications
outdoors (Sensory Trust, 2020)			and human health; social inclusiveness	make sure that sites, routes and facilities are accessible to all.
Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England (EA, 2020)	Describes what needs to be done by all risk management authorities involved in flood and coastal erosion risk management for the benefit of people and places.	Three long-term ambitions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• climate resilient places</li> <li>• today's growth and infrastructure resilient in tomorrow's climate</li> <li>• a nation ready to respond and adapt to flooding and coastal change</li> </ul>	Climatic impact; water and soil	The new local plan should take full account of flood risk.
Opening Doors, Breaking Barriers: A Strategy for Social Mobility (Cabinet Office and Deputy Prime Minister's Office, 2011)	<p>Sets out that a well-functioning housing market can promote social mobility and increase fairness in the distribution of wealth. Social mobility is defined as the degree to which the patterns of advantage and disadvantage in one generation are passed onto the next.</p> <p>The government intends to provide more housing and improve choice by increasing the supply of suitable housing, stabilising of the housing market and build confidence for buyers, sellers, house builders</p>	<p>Provides lead indicators that support the government's action plan for improving social mobility in each life stage (foundation years, school years, transition years and adulthood):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• low birth weight</li> <li>• child development</li> <li>• school attainment</li> <li>• employment and participation in education of 18-24 year olds</li> <li>• further education</li> </ul>	Social inclusiveness; population and human health	The new local plan should seek to provide a mix of housing, including affordable homes.

Document	Overview	Target/indicator	SA topic	New local plan implications
	and lenders, and increasing housing affordability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>higher education</li> <li>social mobility in adulthood</li> </ul>		
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990	Sets out legislation behind the process of heritage protection.	None identified.	Cultural heritage and landscape	The policies of the new local plan will be expected to comply with this Act.
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979	Sets out legislation behind the process of heritage protection.	None identified.	Cultural heritage and landscape	The policies of the new local plan will be expected to comply with this Act.
Levelling up and Regeneration Act 2023	The Act seeks to, amongst other things, build homes in areas most in need, produce more local infrastructure, build beautifully, address inequality and enhance the natural environment.	None identified.	Biodiversity, flora and fauna, population and human health, cultural heritage and landscape, social inclusiveness	The policies of the new local plan will be expected to comply with this Act.
Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006	Places a duty on public bodies and statutory authorities to ensure due regard to the conservation of biodiversity. Section 41 of the Act refers to a published list of habitats and species that are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England.	None identified.	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	The policies of the new local plan will be expected to comply with this Act.
Net Zero Strategy: Build back greener (DECC and DBEIS, 2021)	Sets out policies and proposals for decarbonising all sectors of the UK	Net zero by 2050.	Climatic factors	The new local plan should contribute to the achievement of net zero.

Document	Overview	Target/indicator	SA topic	New local plan implications
	economy to meet the net zero target by 2050.			
Land use: Reducing emissions and preparing for climate change (Climate Change Committee, 2018)	Assess the role of land use change in meeting climate change mitigation and adaptation objectives.	None identified.	Climatic factors	The new local plan should consider the link between land use and climate change.
Our waste, our resources: A strategy for England (DEFRA, EA, 2018)	Sets out how material resources will be preserved by minimising waste, promoting resource efficiency and moving towards a circular economy in England.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>double resource productivity and eliminate avoidable waste by 2050</li> <li>minimise damage caused to the natural environment by reducing waste safely and carefully deal with waste crime</li> </ul>	Water and soil	The new local plan should contribute to the achievement of this strategy.
Water abstraction plan (DEFRA, 2021)	Sets out how the government will reform water abstraction management over the coming years and how this will protect the environment and improve access to water.	Around 90% of surface water bodies and 77% of groundwater bodies meet the required standards by 2021.	Water and soil	The new local plan should contribute to the achievement of this plan.
National flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy (EA, 2020)	Describes what needs to be done by all risk management authorities involved in flood and coastal erosion risk management for the benefit of people and places.	None identified.	Population and human health, water and soil	The new local plan should seek to manage flood risk.

Document	Overview	Target/indicator	SA topic	New local plan implications
National and regional guidelines for aggregates provision in England 2005-2020 (MHCLG)	Guidelines to inform the provision of aggregates through the planning system.	Sets out guidelines at a regional level.	Water and soil	The new local plan should consider these guidelines.
Safeguarding our soils. A strategy for England (DEFRA, 2009)	Highlights areas that will be prioritised in tackling degradation threats.	Sustainable management of soils and degradation threats tackled successfully by 2030.	Water and soil	The new local plan should seek to manage soil sustainably.
National design guide (DLUHC and MHCLG, 2021)	Sets out the characteristics of well-designed places and demonstrates what good design means in practice.	None identified.	Population and human health, cultural heritage and landscape, economic development	The new local plan should seek to achieve good design.
Clean growth strategy (DESNZ and DBEIS, 2017)	Sets out proposals for decarbonising all sectors of the UK economy through the 2020s. It explains how the whole country can benefit from low carbon opportunities, while meeting national and international commitments to tackle climate change.	Key policies and proposals are set out in the strategy.	Climatic factors	The new local plan should support low carbon opportunities.
Health equity in England: The Marmot review 10 years on (The Health Foundation, 2020)	Explores what has happened to health inequalities and social determinants of health in the decade since the Marmot Review. It also sets out an agenda for the government and local authorities to	None identified.	Population and human health	The new local plan should seek to reduce health inequality.

Document	Overview	Target/indicator	SA topic	New local plan implications
	take action to reduce health inequalities in England.			
Equality Act 2010	Legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and in wider society. The Act defines 'protected characteristics' <sup>106</sup> for which it is unlawful to discriminate against indirectly or directly, harass, or victimise. The public sector equality duty, which came into force in April 2011, requires public authorities to have due regard to the need to achieve the objectives set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act in carrying out their function.	None identified.	Social inclusiveness	The policies of the new local plan will be expected to comply with this Act.
Decarbonising transport: A better, greener Britain (DfT, 2021)	Sets out the government's commitments and the actions needs to decarbonise the UK's transport system.	Sets out a list of commitments for the government.	Climatic factors	The new local plan should contribute to the achievement of this strategy.
Better planning, better transport, better places (Chartered Institute of Highways & Transportation, 2019)	Provides advice to encourage a more sustainable approach to transport.	Sets out recommendations for improving current practice.	Transport	The new local plan should support sustainable transport opportunities.

<sup>106</sup> 'Age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex, sexual orientation. For marriage and civil partnership, the public sector equality duty (which came into force in April 2011) means having due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination in employment. There is no obligation to advance equality nor foster good relations as far as this protected characteristic is concerned.



Document	Overview	Target/indicator	SA topic	New local plan implications
Flood and Water Management Act (2010)	Provides for better, more comprehensive management of flood risk for people, homes and businesses, helps safeguard community groups from unaffordable rises in surface water drainage charges, and protects water supplies to the consumer.	None identified.	Water and soil	The policies of the new local plan will be expected to comply with this Act.

Table A.2 Related plans, policies and programmes: regional/sub-regional

Document	Overview	Target/indicator	SA topic	New local plan implications
Draft Regional Plan for consultation (Water Resources West, 2022)	A framework to provide a strategic direction to long-term water resource planning built on a shared vision to leave the environment in a better state than we found it, improve the nation's resilience to drought, minimise interruptions to water supplies for all users and support growth while underpinning a thriving economy.	None identified.	Water and soil; economic development; population and human health	The new local plan should take account of water sustainability.
Strategic and Economic Plan. Cheshire and Warrington Matters (Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership, 2017)	Sets out the key opportunities to drive growth ambitions across the Cheshire and Warrington sub-region: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>science, technology and innovation assets</li> </ul>	Grow the Cheshire and Warrington's sub-region economy's GVA to £50billion per annum by 2040.	Economic development	The new local plan will need to consider the contents of this document.

Document	Overview	Target/indicator	SA topic	New local plan implications
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HS2</li> <li>• cross-border opportunities</li> </ul>			
North West River Basin District River Basin Management Plan (EA, 2022)	Describes the challenges that threaten the water environment and how these challenges can be managed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weaver Goww challenges: pollution from agriculture and rural areas, wastewater, and physical modifications</li> <li>• Upper Mersey challenges: physical modifications, pollution from agriculture and rural areas, and changes to the natural flow and water levels</li> </ul>	Water and soil	The new local plan will need to consider the river catchment challenges.
North West River Basin District Flood Risk Management Plan 2021 to 2027 (EA, 2022)	A plan to manage significant flood risks in the North West River Basin District. It focuses on areas that have been designated as being at particular risk of flooding from either rivers and sea or surface water	None identified.	Water and soil	The new local plan should seek to manage flood risk.
Cheshire Historic Landscape Characterisation Project (Cheshire County Council and English Heritage, 2007)	Provides guidance for the sustainable management of historic landscapes in Cheshire.	None identified.	Cultural heritage and landscape	The new local plan must take account of historic landscape and buildings in the borough and potentially neighbouring authorities.
Cheshire Historic Towns Survey (Cheshire County Council)	Survey of 37 historic towns in Cheshire to produce	None identified.	Cultural heritage and landscape	The new local plan must take account of

Document	Overview	Target/indicator	SA topic	New local plan implications
Council and English Heritage, 2003)	a detailed synthesis of their historical and archaeological backgrounds. The survey assists in identifying the unique character of each town to ensure the sustainable management of each area's archaeological urban heritage. It proposes areas of archaeological potential and archaeological character zones, where possible, for each town.			historic landscapes (including areas of archaeological potential) and buildings in the borough and potentially neighbouring authorities.
Local plans of adjacent authorities	These documents contain the development plan for the relevant area. They will specify a vision, objectives and policies.	None identified.	All	These documents contain the social, environmental and economic policies and objectives for each of the adjacent local authorities. The new local plan will need to consider the content of neighbouring authorities policies.
Local transport plans (LTPs) of adjacent authorities	Strategic plans to maintain and improve transport in the area.	None identified.	All	The new local plan will need to consider the content of neighbouring authorities' LTPs.
Places for everyone submission plan, (Greater	A joint plan of nine Greater Manchester districts for jobs, new homes, and sustainable growth.	Policy JP-S 2 requires net zero carbon from 2028.	All	The new local plan will need to consider the

Document	Overview	Target/indicator	SA topic	New local plan implications
Manchester Combined Authority, 2021)				policies contained in this plan.
Shaping the future of water in the North West from 2025 (United Utilities)	Sets out a strategy to make sure there is an adequate supply of water to meet demand from 2025 to 2050 and beyond.	None identified.	Water and soil	The new local plan will need to consider this strategy.

Table A.3 Related plans, policies and programmes: local

Document	Overview	Target/indicator	SA topic	New local plan implications
Connected Communities Strategy 2021-2025 (CEC <sup>107</sup> )	<p>Sets out our aims and key delivery areas we want to focus on with our partners to better connect with our communities over the next three years. The Strategy covers three key areas that identify ambitions and key indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>connecting people</li> <li>connecting services</li> <li>connecting places</li> </ul>	<p>Set of shared principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>be fairer by connecting you to other people</li> <li>be more connecting with you to services</li> <li>be greener together connecting you to your local place</li> </ul>	All	The new local plan should seek to deliver social value and the spatial priorities set out in the Strategy.
Cheshire East Council Corporate Plan 2021-2025 (CEC)	An overarching strategic document that covers the full range of the council's responsibilities and sets out ambitions for the borough.	<p>Sets out three broad aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>an open and enabling organisation</li> <li>a council which empowers and cares about people</li> <li>a thriving and sustainable place</li> </ul>	All	The new local plan should help to achieve these aims.

Document	Overview	Target/indicator	SA topic	New local plan implications
Local Transport Plan 2019-2024 (CEC)	A strategy that considers all form of transport over the five year period of 2019-2024. It is a framework for how transport will support wider policies to improve our economy, protect our environment and make attractive places to live, work and play. The vision is that Cheshire East's transport network will enable growth through improved connectivity, a better quality of life and enhanced quality of place.	<p>Six outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• our local communities are strong and supportive</li> <li>• Cheshire East has a strong and resilient economy</li> <li>• people have the life skills and education they need to thrive</li> <li>• Cheshire East is a green and sustainable place</li> <li>• people live well for longer</li> <li>• a responsible, effective and efficient organisation</li> </ul>	Air; population and human health; transport; social inclusiveness; biodiversity flora and fauna; cultural heritage and landscape; climatic factors	The new local plan will need to consider and reflect this document.
Cheshire East Rights of Way Improvement Plan (CEC, 2011)	<p>Developed to assess:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the extent which the local rights of way network meets the present and future needs of the public</li> <li>• opportunities provided by the local rights of way networks for exercise and other forms of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the local authority area</li> <li>• the accessibility of local rights of</li> </ul>	It contains a statement of the actions that the authority propose to take for the management of local rights of way, and for securing an improved network of local rights of way.	Air; population and human health	The new local plan will need to consider and reflect the wider objectives of this document.

Document	Overview	Target/indicator	SA topic	New local plan implications
	way for blind or partially sighted persons and other with mobility problems			
Housing Strategy 2018 to 2023 (CEC)	Looks forward to what our ambitions and priorities should be for the next five years and how we should focus our resources. It supports the council's aims and objectives for housing in the borough, working to improve the quality, choice and supply of housing for current and future residents.	The Strategy sets out challenges and opportunities.	Social inclusiveness	The new local plan will need to make sure that the appropriate levels and types and tenures of housing are available to meet the needs of the local population.
Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2021-2025 (CEC)	Outlines how we will prevent homelessness, giving residents the ability to access and sustain affordable housing and an improved quality of life.	Sets out four strategic priorities: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. enabling people to remain in in their own home</li> <li>2. provide interventions to prevent/reduce rough sleeping</li> <li>3. enable people who are homeless to secure appropriate accommodation</li> <li>4. ensure adequate support is in place to help maintain and secure accommodation</li> </ol>	Social inclusiveness	This document should be considered when developing relevant planning policies and objectives to try and reduce homelessness in the borough.



Document	Overview	Target/indicator	SA topic	New local plan implications
Vulnerable and Older Persons' Housing Strategy 2020-2024 (CEC)	Sets the priorities, direction and actions designed to improve the performance and choice of housing and related accommodation services for vulnerable and older people.	Sets out key priorities for older adults, learning disabilities, mental health, young people in need, cared for children and care leavers, drugs and alcohol, physical and sensory disabilities, domestic abuse, and homelessness.	Social inclusiveness; population and human health	The new local plan will need to make sure that the appropriate levels and types and tenures of housing are available to meet the needs of the local population.
Cheshire East Borough Council Air Quality Action Plan 2020-2025 (CEC, 2021)	Details the measures the council proposes to take in improving air quality in the Air Quality Management Areas.	Sets out key priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• development and planning</li> <li>• traffic management</li> <li>• alternative travel</li> <li>• active travel</li> <li>• low emission transportation</li> <li>• transportation</li> <li>• public awareness</li> <li>• green infrastructure</li> </ul>	Air; population and human health; biodiversity, flora and fauna; climatic factors	The new local plan should integrate air quality into its policies and objectives.
Local Air Quality Strategy for Cheshire East Council (CEC, 2018)	Aims to support the achievement of how the council will undertake its air quality responsibilities and how it will work both across internal departments and other relevant external partners.	Sets out air quality objectives for pollutants and the date to which they should be achieved.	Air; population and human health; biodiversity, flora and fauna; climatic factors	The policies and objectives in the local plan should take account of the spatial planning and air quality commitments set out in the document.
Low Emission Strategy (CEC and Amec Foster Wheeler, 2018)	Policy that includes a plan of actions designed to lower the emissions from transport and encourage developers to implement sustainable	Sets out air quality objectives for pollutants and the date to which they should be achieved.	Air; population and human health; biodiversity, flora and fauna; climatic factors	The policies in the new local plan should reflect those set out in the document.

Document	Overview	Target/indicator	SA topic	New local plan implications
	planning systems/developments to improve air quality.			
Cycling Strategy 2017-2027 (CEC)	Provides a framework to guide future investment in cycling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>double the number of people cycling once per week for any journey purpose in Cheshire East by 2027 from a 2014 baseline</li> <li>improve public perception of cycling by ensuring that annually measured highway satisfaction scores are improving over time</li> </ul>	Air; population and human health; biodiversity, flora and fauna; climatic factors	The new local plan will need to consider and reflect the wider objectives of this document.
2023-2028 Cheshire East Visitor Economy Strategy (CEC)	Sets the strategic direction for Cheshire East's visitor economy.	Sets out several strategic priorities and actions.	Economic development; cultural heritage and landscape	The content of this document should be considered when developing relevant planning policies and objectives.
Crewe Town Centre Regeneration Delivery Framework for Growth (CEC, 2015)	Sets out a vision for Crewe town centre and identifies how key sites could be brought forward for redevelopment. It outlines how the town centre can be transformed alongside new investments in the town centre.	<p>The vision is supported by objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>stimulate new investment in the town centre</li> <li>increase the number of town centre users, dwell time and spend</li> <li>diversify the housing stock in and around Crewe and</li> </ul>	Economic development; cultural heritage and landscape; social inclusiveness; transport	This document should be considered when developing relevant planning policies and objectives.

Document	Overview	Target/indicator	SA topic	New local plan implications
		<p>increase the town centre's catchment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• make it easier to get into and around the town centre by foot, bicycle, bus and car</li> <li>• improve the quality and amount of public space and public realm that links key spaces, buildings and the town's heritage and cultural offer in the town centre and to the railways station/ proposed HS2 hub</li> </ul>		
A Cultural Strategy for Crewe 2019-29 (Crewe Cultural Forum)	Sets the level and ambition for Crewe's cultural offer for the next 10 years.	Sets out an action plan for six outcomes related to young people, confidence and distinctiveness, heritage, creative and digital sector, health and wellbeing, economic success and appeal.	Cultural heritage and landscape; population and human health; economic development	The new local plan will need to consider this document.
Macclesfield Town Centre Regeneration Framework (CEC, 2019)	Sets a vision for the future regeneration of the town centre that celebrates its quirkiness, identifies seven character areas, suggesting three of these as priorities and nine strategic objectives for the town centre as a whole.	<p>Sets out strategic action for the objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• grow our town centre populations</li> <li>• grow and diversify our leisure and evening economy</li> <li>• enhance the retail offer</li> <li>• make more of our connectivity</li> </ul>	Cultural heritage and landscape; economic development	This document should be considered when developing relevant planning policies and objectives.

Document	Overview	Target/indicator	SA topic	New local plan implications
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• support businesses to create jobs and develop skills</li> <li>• harness our distinctiveness</li> <li>• cherish our historic buildings and repurpose underutilised assets</li> <li>• enhance the town centre environment</li> <li>• raise aspirations and change perceptions</li> </ul>		
Macclesfield Heritage and Culture Strategy (CEC and Make it Macclesfield Forum, 2014)	Seeks to promote the opportunities that exist in Macclesfield in terms of heritage and culture.	None identified.	Economic development; cultural heritage and landscape.	This document should be considered when developing relevant planning policies and objectives.
Village design statements produced in Cheshire East	A practical tool to help influence decisions on design and development in a town or village centre.	None identified.	All	These documents should be considered when developing the new local plan.
Neighbourhood plans made in Cheshire East	Provides a powerful set of tools for local people to make sure that they get the right types of development for their community where the ambition of the neighbourhood is aligned with the strategic needs of the priorities of the wider local area.	Contains policies on the development and use of land.	All	These documents form part of the development plan.

Document	Overview	Target/indicator	SA topic	New local plan implications
New local plan for Cheshire East evidence base documents	Documents will be produced to form the evidence base for the new local plan.	They will contain information to be considered in the local plan process	All	The documents should be considered when developing relevant policies and objectives.
Cheshire East Council Municipal Waste Management Strategy to 2030 (CEC, 2014 (revised 2020))	Sets out how CEC intend to reduce, reuse, recycle, recover and dispose of municipal waste between 2014 and 2030. Its strategy sets out key aims and objectives for the management of waste.	Contains key performance indicators under the categories of service delivery, waste reduction and re-use, recycling, residual waste manage, and working together	Water and soil	The new local plan should seek to manage waste sustainably.
Jodrell Bank Observatory Management Plan (2019)	Seeks the strategic long-term protection of the Jodrell Bank Observatory World Heritage Site (WHS). It lays out a framework for decision-making and managing change in the context of the WHS including management goals, objectives and both long-term and day-to-day actions required to protect, conserve and present the Site.	Sets out actions and timescales for policies.	Cultural heritage and landscape	The new local plan should seek to preserve those elements of significance that contribute to Jodrell Bank's Outstanding Universal Value.
Conservation area appraisals (CEC)	An assessment of existing and proposed conservation areas. They are also intended to highlight the implications for future preservation	Contains information to be considered in the local plan process.	Cultural heritage and landscape	These documents should be considered when developing

Document	Overview	Target/indicator	SA topic	New local plan implications
	and enhancement of conservations areas and provide a useful basis for publication of proposals for their preservation and enhancement.			relevant policies and objectives.
Local List of Historic Buildings Supplementary Planning Document (CEC, 2010)	Identifies buildings and structures in Cheshire East that are of local importance, yet without another form of national historic environment designation.	Contains information to be considered in the local plan process.	Cultural heritage and landscape	This document should be considered when developing relevant policies and objectives.
Environment Strategy 2020-24 (CEC, 2020)	Sets out the council's priority actions to reduce emissions and become a carbon neutral council by 2025.	Carbon neutral by 2025.	Climatic factors; air; water and soil; transport; biodiversity, flora and fauna; population and human health	The new local plan should integrate carbon neutrality into its policies and objectives.
The joint local health and wellbeing strategy for the population of Cheshire East 2023/28 (NHS and CEC)	Sets out the vision and aspirations to improve health and wellbeing whilst reducing health inequalities across the borough.	Sets out four outcomes relating to good health and wellbeing, children and young people, mental health and wellbeing, and independent living. These outcomes are accompanied by indicators.	Population and human health	The new local plan should seek to improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequality.
Cheshire East Local Aggregate Assessment 2023 (CEC, 2023)	A yearly assessment that monitors the aggregate supply position and assesses the demand for, and supply of, aggregates in the authority area.	The report contains many indicators.	Water and soil	The new local plan should take the findings of this document into account when developing policies and objectives.



Document	Overview	Target/indicator	SA topic	New local plan implications
Cheshire East Rural Action Plan 2022-26 (CEC)	A plan to help inform strategic choices, focusing on the economy in rural areas as well as the environment, health, and connectivity.	Contains indicative performance indicators for digital connectivity (broadband and mobile), access for residents, business and visitors, rural housing, strong, supportive rural places and communities, planning for a green and sustainable place, visitor and cultural economy, and rural based businesses.	Cultural heritage and landscape, social inclusiveness, economic development	The new local plan should consider the needs of rural areas.

## B Appendix B: Issues and objectives

**Table B.1 Sustainability issues and objectives**

	Sustainability issues		Sustainability objectives
1	There are local priority species and habitats in the borough, most of which need conservation measures due to threats to their numbers.	1	Protect, maintain, and enhance biodiversity, habitats, soils, species, geodiversity, and important geological features; particularly those that are designated.
2	There are habitats and species identified as requiring conservation at a European level in the borough boundary, as well as Ramsar sites.	1	Protect, maintain, and enhance biodiversity, habitats, soils, species, geodiversity, and important geological features; particularly those that are designated.
3	The borough has an ageing population.	3	Meet the health and social care needs of an ageing population.
4	There is limited ethnic diversity in the borough.	15	Consider the needs of all sections of the community to achieve high levels of equality, diversity, and social inclusion.
5	Generally, the health of the borough's population is varied and can be linked to deprivation in some areas.	2	Create an environment that promotes healthy and active lifestyles and reduce inequalities in health.
6	The proportion of overweight or obese Reception age children has increased.	2	Create an environment that promotes healthy and active lifestyles and reduce inequalities in health.
7	There is an association between deprivation and health inequality reflected in higher incidences and mortality rates for some cancers in more deprived areas.	2	Create an environment that promotes healthy and active lifestyles and reduce inequalities in health.
8	There has been a decrease in the number of reported crimes.	4	Create a safe environment and reduce levels of and the fear of crime.
9	Pollution is an issue for the Weaver/ Gowy and Upper Mersey river catchment areas.	5	Positively address the issues of water quality and quantity, and manage flood risk
10	Ecological river quality in the borough has remained broadly the same and is still an issue, and the status of chemical river quality is unknown.	5	Positively address the issues of water quality and quantity, and manage flood risk
11	Cheshire East has a diverse mineral resource including 16 permitted mineral extraction sites with reserves of silica (or industrial) sand, construction sand and gravel, sandstone (hard/crushed rock), salt (brine) and peat.	7	Manage sustainable mineral extraction, and encourage their recycling and/or re-use, to provide a sufficient supply to meet social and economic needs, whilst minimising impacts on the environment and communities and safeguarding resources for future generations.

	Sustainability issues		Sustainability objectives
12	There is a low landbank for aggregate sand and gravel.	7	Manage sustainable mineral extraction, and encourage their recycling and/or re-use, to provide a sufficient supply to meet social and economic needs, whilst minimising impacts on the environment and communities and safeguarding resources for future generations.
13	The borough has proportionately more grade 1, 2 and 3 agricultural land than the North West and England.	8	Reduce the consumption of natural resources, protect, enhance and provide green infrastructure, protect and enhance high quality agricultural land, and optimise the re-use of previously developed land, buildings, and infrastructure.
14	Over 1.2 million tonnes of waste arose in the Cheshire East plan area.	6	Achieve sustainable waste management through adhering to the principles of the waste hierarchy.
15	There are areas in the borough that suffer from poor air quality.	9	Manage the impacts of development and associated activities to positively address pollution, and make sure that air quality improves and falls below objective limits.
16	Road traffic is the main source of air quality issues in the borough.	9	Manage the impacts of development and associated activities to positively address pollution, and make sure that air quality improves and falls below objective limits.
17	There is a climate emergency.	11	Minimise energy use, promote energy efficiency, and increase the generation of energy by decentralised, renewable or low carbon energy supply systems.
18	Carbon dioxide emissions from transport in the borough (most of which is from road transport) have fallen relatively slowly, with transport continuing to emit the most carbon dioxide out of eight sectors .	10	Adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change, including carbon dioxide emissions.
19	There is a high reliance on private transport in the borough.	12	Reduce reliance on private transport.
20	The public rights of way network and canal towpaths are not fully accessible for users who are less mobile.	15	Consider the needs of all sections of the community to achieve high levels of equality, diversity, and social inclusion.
21	The borough contains several cultural and environmental assets, including designated heritage assets.	13	Conserve and enhance the area's heritage (including its setting), landscape character, and townscapes; particularly those that are designated.

	Sustainability issues		Sustainability objectives
22	There are a variety of landscape types and historic land classifications in the borough.	13	Conserve and enhance the area's heritage (including its setting), landscape character, and townscapes; particularly those that are designated.
23	There is a low level of tree canopy cover in the borough.	13	Conserve and enhance the area's heritage (including its setting), landscape character, and townscapes; particularly those that are designated.
24	Average house prices in the borough are higher than the North West, but lower than the England average.	14	Provide an appropriate quantity and quality of housing to meet the needs of the borough. This should include a mix of housing types, tenures, and affordability.
25	Most dwellings in the borough are private sector.	14	Provide an appropriate quantity and quality of housing to meet the needs of the borough. This should include a mix of housing types, tenures, and affordability.
26	The borough contains Lower layer Super Output Areas that are some of the most deprived in England.	17	Address levels of deprivation by improving access to education and training, and the links between these resources and employment opportunities.
27	There is an association between deprivation and car access reflected in lower incidences of access in deprived areas.	15	Consider the needs of all sections of the community to achieve high levels of equality, diversity, and social inclusion.
28	Women are likely to travel shorter distances to work.	15	Consider the needs of all sections of the community to achieve high levels of equality, diversity, and social inclusion.
29	The borough contains community services and facilities in rural and urban areas.	16	Maintain and enhance community services and amenities to sustain the existing and future communities in rural and urban areas.
30	The borough has a high jobs density.	20	Increase the supply of labour through improving access to job opportunities in rural and urban areas.
31	The proportion of 16 to 64-year olds in the borough with an NZQ level 4 and above is higher than that in the North West and UK, but the gaps may just be the result of sampling error.	17	Address levels of deprivation by improving access to education and training, and the links between these resources and employment opportunities.
32	Just over half of the people working in the borough are employed in high-skill occupations.	20	Increase the supply of labour through improving access to job opportunities in rural and urban areas.

	Sustainability issues		Sustainability objectives
33	There is a relatively high proportion of working-age residents in employment and a low proportion of economically active population aged 16 and above who are unemployed.	20	Increase the supply of labour through improving access to job opportunities in rural and urban areas.
34	Agriculture, forestry, and fishing businesses make up a relatively high proportion of businesses in rural areas; wholesale and retail firms and businesses in the accommodation and food services sector make up a relatively high proportion of businesses in urban areas.	18	Promote a sustainable, competitive, and low-carbon economy in rural and urban areas that benefits from a range of innovative and diverse businesses.
35	Not all centres are vital and viable.	19	Maintain and enhance the vitality and viability of town and village centres with a balanced provision of retail, leisure, visitor, and cultural facilities.

## C Appendix C: Regulatory requirements

**C.1** This SA will be fulfilling the requirements of the SEA Regulations - Schedule 2 explains the information that must be contained in the SA Report; it is therefore important to make sure that all the requirements have been met and fully integrated into the SA process. This will be done using a checklist (Table C.1) to signpost where the regulatory requirements are met in this Report.

**Table C.1 Checklist on where in this Report the regulatory requirements have been met**

Regulatory requirement	Discussion of how requirement is met
<b>Schedule 2 of the regulations lists the information to be provided in the SA Report</b>	
1. An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.	The purpose of the new local plan is set out in Chapter 1, ¶¶ 1.8 to 1.9 of this Report. Its relationship with other plans and programmes is set out in Section 3 and Appendix A of this Report.
2. The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.	A summary of the baseline information is provided in Chapter 4 of this Report. The current state of the environment is set out along with relevant comparators and trends. The likely evolution of the baseline without the new local plan or 'future baseline' is also set out in Chapter 4.
3. The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	The environmental characteristics of the areas likely to be affected are set out in Chapter 4 of this Report.
4. Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as a European site (within the meaning of regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulation 2017).	The summary of the baseline information provided in Chapter 4 of this Report identifies several existing environmental problems that are relevant to the new local plan. This includes identifying internationally valued sites for bird habitats, and those that contribute towards the conservation of certain habitats and species. Key sustainability issues are identified in Chapter 5 of this Report.



Regulatory requirement	Discussion of how requirement is met
5. The environmental protection, objectives, established at international, Community or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental, considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.	A comprehensive range of plans and programmes have been reviewed and the implications for the new local plan and SA are clearly set out in Appendix A. A list of regional/sub-regional and local plans are included in Chapter 3.
6. The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above issues. <sup>108</sup>	-
7. The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.	-
8. An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information.	-
9. A description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with regulation 17.	-
10. A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	-
<b>The SA Report must be published alongside the draft plan, in line with the following regulations</b>	
As soon as reasonably practicable after their preparation, the draft plan or programme and environmental report shall be sent to the consultation bodies and brought to the attention of the public, who should be invited to express their opinion. The period within which opinions must be sent must be of such length as will ensure an effective opportunity to express their opinion in accordance with regulation 13.	-
<b>The SA Report must be taken into account, alongside consultation responses, when finalising the plan</b>	
The environmental report prepared pursuant to regulation 12, the opinions expressed pursuant to regulation 13 and the results of any transboundary consultations entered into pursuant to regulation 14 shall be taken into account	-

<sup>108</sup> These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium, and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects.

Regulatory requirement	Discussion of how requirement is met
during the preparation of the plan or programme and before its adoption or submission to the legislative procedure.	

## D Appendix D: Glossary of terms

<b>Accessibility</b>	The ability of people to move around an area and reach places and facilities, including elderly and disabled people, those with young children and those encumbered with luggage or shopping.
<b>Affordable housing</b>	Housing for sale or rent, for those whose needs are not met by the market (including housing that provides a subsidised route to home ownership and/or is for essential local workers); and which complies with one or more of the following: affordable housing for rent, starter homes, discounted market sales housing, other affordable routes to home ownership.
<b>Aggregates</b>	Sand, gravel, crushed rock and other bulk materials used by the construction industry.
<b>Agricultural land classification</b>	Provides a method for assessing the quality of farmland to enable informed choices to be made about its future use in the planning system. Land is classified into five grades, with grade 3 subdivided into subgrades 3a and 3b. The best and most versatile land is defined in the NPPF as grades 1, 2 and 3a.
<b>Air Quality Management Area</b>	Areas designated by local authorities because they are not likely to achieve national air quality objectives by the relevant deadline.
<b>Biodiversity</b>	The whole variety of life encompassing all genetics, species and ecosystem variations, including plants and animals.
<b>Biodiversity action plan</b>	A strategy prepared for a local area aimed at conserving and enhancing biological diversity.
<b>Brownfield land</b>	Previously developed land that is or was occupied by a permanent structure, including the curtilage of the developed land and any associated fixed surface infrastructure. Also see 'Previously developed land'.
<b>Character</b>	A term relating to conservation areas or listed buildings, but also to the appearance of any rural or urban location in terms of its landscape or the layout of streets and open spaces, often giving places their own distinct identity.
<b>Climate change</b>	Long-term changes in temperature, precipitation, wind and all other aspects of the Earth's climate. Often regarded as a result of human activity and fossil fuel consumption.
<b>Composting</b>	The process that converts biodegradable material such as garden or kitchen waste, in the presence of oxygen (aerobic) into a stable material that can be used as a soil improver. Composting can be done at different scales, from home composting to a large centralised facility.
<b>Conservation area</b>	Local authorities have the power to designate as conservation areas any area of special architectural or historic interest. This means the planning authority has extra powers to control works and demolition of buildings to protect or improve the character

	or appearance of the area. Conservation area consent has been replaced by planning permission for relevant demolition in a conservation area.
<b>Consultation body</b>	Authorities which, because of their environmental responsibilities, are likely to be concerned by effects of implementing plans and programmes and must be consulted at specific stages of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The consultation bodies designated in the SEA regulations are Historic England, Natural England, and the Environment Agency.
<b>Contaminated land</b>	Land that has been polluted or harmed in some way making it unfit for safe development and usage unless cleaned.
<b>Crushed rock</b>	Hard types of rock that have been quarried, fragmented and graded for use as aggregate.
<b>Cumulative impact</b>	A number of developments in a locality or a continuous activity over time that together may have an increased impact on the environment, local community or economy.
<b>Development</b>	Defined under the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act as 'the carrying out of building, engineering, mining or other operation in, on, over or under land, or the making of any material change in the use of any building or other land.' Most forms of development require planning permission.
<b>Development plan</b>	Is defined in section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, and includes adopted local plans, neighbourhood plans that have been made and published spatial development strategies, together with any regional strategy policies that remain in force. Neighbourhood plans that have been approved at referendum are also part of the development plan unless the local planning authority decides that the neighbourhood plan should not be made.
<b>Economic development</b>	Development, including those in the B use classes and some in the E use class, public and community uses, and main town centre uses (but excluding housing development).
<b>Environment Agency</b>	A government body that aims to prevent or minimise the effects of pollution on the environment and issues permits to monitor and control activities that handle or produce waste. It also provides up-to-date information on waste management matters and deals with other matters such as water issues including flood protection advice.
<b>Fauna</b>	All the animal life of a given place or time.
<b>Flora</b>	Plant life occurring in a particular region or time.
<b>Fossil fuels (non-renewable)</b>	Carbon-rich fuel (coal, oil and natural gas) formed from the remains of ancient animals and plants. Their combustion is considered to contribute to the 'greenhouse effect'.
<b>Green Belt</b>	A designation for land around certain cities and large built-up areas, which aims to keep this land permanently open or largely undeveloped. The purposes of the Green Belt are to

	check the unrestricted sprawl of large built up areas; to prevent neighbouring towns from merging into one another; to assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment; to preserve the setting and special character of historic towns; and assist urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land. Green Belts are defined in a local planning authority's development plan.
<b>Greenfield land or site</b>	Land, or a defined site, usually farmland, that has not previously been developed.
<b>Greenhouse gases</b>	Naturally occurring examples include water vapour, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and ozone. Some human activities increase these gases, including fossil fuel combustion in motor vehicles and some power stations.
<b>Habitat</b>	An area of nature conservation interest.
<b>Historic England</b>	Government advisors with responsibility for all aspects of protecting and promoting the historic environment.
<b>Historic landscape character</b>	A picture of the entire landscape, including that which is most recent, presenting a comprehensive view of the sequence of changes that have contributed to the character of the landscape.
<b>Infrastructure</b>	Basic services necessary for development to take place, for example, roads, electricity, sewerage, water, education and health facilities.
<b>Key service centre (KSC)</b>	Towns with a range of employment, retail and education opportunities and services, with good public transport. The KSCs are Alsager, Congleton, Handforth, Knutsford, Middlewich, Nantwich, Poynton, Sandbach, and Wilmslow.
<b>Landfill (including land raising)</b>	The permanent disposal of waste into the ground, by the filling of man-made voids or similar features, or the construction of landforms above ground level (land-raising).
<b>Landscape character assessment</b>	A method of assessing appearance and essential characteristics of a landscape.
<b>Landscape character</b>	The distinct and recognisable pattern of elements that occur consistently in a particular type of landscape. It reflects particular combinations of geology, landform, soils, vegetation, land use and human settlement.
<b>Listed building</b>	A building of special architectural or historic interest. Listed buildings are graded I, II* or II with grade I being the highest. Listing includes the interior as well as the exterior of the building, and any buildings or permanent structures in its curtilage.
<b>Local nature reserve</b>	Non-statutory habitats of local significance designated by local authorities where protection and public understanding of nature conservation is encouraged (see also local wildlife site).

<b>Local plan</b>	The plan for the future development of the local area, drawn up by the local planning authority in consultation with the community. In law this is described as development plan documents adopted under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. A local plan can consist of either strategic or non-strategic policies, or a combination of the two.
<b>Local planning authority</b>	The public authority whose duty it is to carry out specific planning functions for a particular area.
<b>Local service centres (LSC)</b>	Smaller centres with a limited range of employment, retail and education opportunities and services, with a lower level of access to public transport. The LSCs are Alderley Edge, Audlem, Bollington, Bunbury, Chelford, Disley, Goostrey, Haslington, Holmes Chapel, Mobberley, Prestbury, Shavington, and Wrenbury.
<b>Local wildlife sites (LWS)</b>	Locally important sites of nature conservation adopted by local authorities for planning purposes.
<b>Mineral</b>	Rock or other material that has a commercial value when extracted.
<b>Mineral resource</b>	A potential mineral deposit where the quality and quantity of material present has not been tested.
<b>Mitigation measures</b>	Measures designed and intended to reduce adverse environmental effects that cannot be avoided.
<b>National nature reserve</b>	Areas designated with the aim of securing protection and appropriate management of the most important areas of wildlife habitat, and to provide a resource for scientific research. All national nature reserves are sites of special scientific interest.
<b>National park</b>	The statutory purposes of national parks are to conserve and enhance their natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage and to promote opportunities for public understanding and enjoyment of their special qualities. National parks are designated by Natural England, subject to confirmation by the Secretary of State under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.
<b>Natural England</b>	The government's statutory adviser on landscape in England, with responsibility for landscape designations such as national parks, areas of outstanding natural beauty and heritage coasts. Natural England is also concerned with England's future landscapes, with involvement in planning policy and a range of environmental land management projects.
<b>Neighbourhood parade of shops</b>	Defined area comprising a small group of shops and other facilities serving the day-to-day needs of residents generally within a very localised catchment. Neighbourhood parades of shops do not fall within the definition of town centres.
<b>Previously developed land</b>	Land which is or was occupied by a permanent structure, including the curtilage of the developed land (although it should not be assumed that the whole of the curtilage should be developed) and any associated fixed surface infrastructure. This excludes: land that is or has been occupied by agricultural or forestry buildings;



	land that has been developed for minerals extraction or waste disposal by landfill, where provision for restoration has been made through development management procedures; land in built-up areas such as residential gardens, parks, recreation grounds and allotments; and land that was previously-developed but where the remains of the permanent structure or fixed surface structure have blended into the landscape.
<b>Principal town</b>	The largest towns with a wide range of employment, retail and education opportunities and services, serving a large catchment area with a high level of accessibility and public transport. The principal towns are Crewe and Macclesfield.
<b>Ramsar Sites</b>	Wetlands of international importance, designated under the 1971 Ramsar Convention.
<b>Recovery</b>	Value can be recovered from waste by recovering materials through recycling, composting or recovery of energy.
<b>Recycled aggregates</b>	Aggregates produced from recycled construction waste such as crushed concrete and planings from tarmac roads.
<b>Registered parks and gardens</b>	A park or garden of special historic interest, graded I (highest quality), II* or II, and designated by Historic England.
<b>Renewable and low carbon energy</b>	Includes energy for heating and cooling as well as generating electricity. Renewable energy covers those energy flows that occur naturally and repeatedly in the environment - from the wind, the fall of water, the movement of the oceans, from the sun and also from biomass and deep geothermal heat. Low carbon technologies are those that can reduce emissions (compared to conventional use of fossil fuels).
<b>Restoration (in terms of minerals operations)</b>	Steps to return land to its original or former condition following mineral working by using subsoil, topsoil or soil-making material.
<b>Scheduled monument</b>	Nationally important monuments, usually archaeological remains, which enjoy greater protection against inappropriate development through the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.
<b>Scoping</b>	The process of deciding the scope and level of detail of a Sustainability Appraisal, including sustainability effects and alternatives that need to be considered, the assessment methods to be used, and the structure and contents of the Sustainability Appraisal Report.
<b>Secondary aggregates</b>	Aggregates from industrial wastes such as glass (cullet), incinerator bottom ash, coal derived fly ash, railway ballast, fine ceramic waste (pitcher), and scrap tyres; and industrial and minerals by-products, notably waste from china clay, coal and slate extraction and spent foundry sand. These can also include hydraulically bound materials.

<b>Site of special scientific interest (SSSI)</b>	Sites designated by Natural England under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
<b>Social inclusion</b>	Positive action taken to include all sectors of society in planning and other decision-making.
<b>Special area Of conservation</b>	Areas defined by regulation 3 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 which have been given special protection as important conservation sites.
<b>Special protection areas</b>	Areas classified under regulation 15 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 which have been identified as being of international importance for the breeding, feeding, wintering or the migration of rare and vulnerable species of birds.
<b>Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)</b>	A procedure (set out in the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004) which requires the formal environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes that are likely to have significant effects on the environment.
<b>Strategic green gap</b>	An area of land designated to maintain and enhance the character and separate identities of the borough's towns and villages. LPS Policy PG 5 'Strategic green gap' designates four strategic green gaps between Crewe and Nantwich and between Crewe and its surrounding villages. The purpose of these strategic green gaps is to provide long-term protection against coalescence, protecting the setting and separation of settlements and retaining the existing settlement pattern by maintaining the openness of land.
<b>Sustainability Appraisal</b>	An appraisal of the economic, environmental and social effects of a plan from the outset of the preparation process to allow decisions to be made that accord with sustainable development.
<b>Sustainable communities</b>	Places where people want to live and work, now and in the future.
<b>Sustainable development</b>	<p>A widely used definition drawn up by the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987: 'Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.'</p> <p>The Government has set out four aims for sustainable development in its strategy 'A Better Quality of Life, a Strategy for Sustainable Development in the UK'. The four aims to be achieved simultaneously are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• social progress that recognises the needs of everyone</li> <li>• effective protection of the environment</li> <li>• prudent use of natural resources</li> <li>• maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment</li> </ul>

<b>Sustainable drainage system</b>	An approach to managing rainfall in development that replicates natural drainage, managing it close to where it falls, maximising infiltration and minimising surface run-off.
<b>Sustainable transport modes</b>	Any efficient, safe and accessible means of transport with overall low impact on the environment, including walking and cycling, low and ultra low emission vehicles, car sharing and public transport.
<b>Topography</b>	A description (or visual representation on a map) of the shape of the land, for example, contours or changes in the height of land above sea level.
<b>Townscape</b>	The general appearance of a built-up area, for example a street, town or city.
<b>Viability</b>	In terms of retailing, a centre that is capable of commercial success.
<b>Vitality</b>	In terms of retailing, the capacity of a centre to grow or develop its likeliness and level of activity.
<b>Waste</b>	Any material or object that is no longer wanted and requires disposal. If a material or object is re-usable, it is still classed as waste if it has first been discarded.
<b>Waste hierarchy</b>	A framework for securing a sustainable approach to waste management. Waste should be minimised wherever possible. If waste cannot be avoided, then it should be re-used; after this value recovered by recycling or composting; or waste to energy; and finally landfill disposal.