



South Lakeland Local Development Framework

Land Allocations

Sustainability Appraisal Report



May 2012



Submission Edition

Contents

<u>Section</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Page</u>
1	Non-technical summary	3
2	Introduction	11
3	Methodology	14
4	Context & Objectives	19
5	Appraisal of Strategic Objectives	24
6	Appraisal of Reasonable Alternatives and Proposed allocations	28
7	Likely Significant Effects of Proposed allocations	29
8	Recommendations	36
9	Implementation and Monitoring	38

Appendices

1:	Sustainability Appraisal Scores by settlement
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1 Non-technical summary

Introduction

- 1.1 South Lakeland District Council is preparing a Local Development Framework (LDF) that will replace the South Lakeland Local Plan and will apply to the area of South Lakeland outside both the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks. The LDF will contain a range of documents known as Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) detailing different aspects of spatial planning for the district. These DPDs and SPDs need to be subject to Sustainability Appraisal (SA) under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The SA must also fully adhere to all the requirements of the European Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive 2001/42/EC. The table below sets out the requirements and signposts where in this report it is demonstrated that these requirements have been met. Throughout this report the term 'SA' refers to Sustainability Appraisal that meets the requirements of the SEA Directive.
- 1.2 The Land Allocations DPD is the second DPD to be prepared as part of the South Lakeland LDF. It will identify sites across the District where development will be acceptable in principle up to 2025. The first DPD, the Core Strategy, was adopted on October 14th 2010 and sets out the overall strategy for development in the District and provides the strategic context for the production of the other more detailed documents, including the Land Allocations DPD.
- 1.3 This document is the SA Report for the Land Allocations DPD. It has been produced alongside the emerging Land Allocations DPD. The document is being published at the same time as the Land Allocations DPD – Publication Edition document to enable both the public and statutory consultees to use it as a reference point whilst commenting on that document.
- 1.4 The work detailed in this report has been undertaken based on the process set out in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) Guidance Paper "Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents" November 2005 and the sustainability appraisal guidance for DPDs in the Communities and Local Government Plan Making Manual launched in September 2009. The purpose of the SA is to promote sustainable development through the integration of sustainability considerations into the preparation and adoption of the DPD. The SA considers the DPD's social, economic and environmental implications by assessing the available options against baseline data and sustainability objectives (these can be found in Section 4 and Appendix 2 of the SA Scoping Report January 2012).

1.5 Table of requirements of SEA Directive and how this document meets them

Requirements	• Where covered in SA Report
Preparation of an environmental report in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme and reasonable alternatives, taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated. The information to be given is (Article 5 and Annex I);	
a) An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes ;	Section 2, Section 4, Section 6, see also Appendix 1 of the SA Scoping Report
b) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme;	Section 4
c) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;	Section 4
d) 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 areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC.;	Section 4
e) 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, consideration have been taken into account during its preparation;	Section 4, Section 6, Section 7, see also Appendix 1 of the SA Scoping Report
f) 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 factors. (Footnote: These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects);	Section 8
g) The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme;	Section 8 - Mitigation and Maximising Benefits paragraphs
h) An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with , and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information;	Section 3, Section 4, Appendix 1
i) A description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10;	Section 10
j) A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	Section 1
The report must include the information that may reasonably be required, taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme, its stage in the decision-making process and the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process to avoid duplication of the assessment (Article 5.2).	Throughout this SA report

<p>Consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorities with environmental responsibility, when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the environmental report (Article 5.4). 	Section 1, Section 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorities with environmental responsibility and the public shall be given an early and effective opportunity within the appropriate time frames to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and the accompanying environmental report before the adoption of the plan or programme (Article 6.1, 6.2). 	Section 1, Section 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other EU Member States, where the implementation of the plan or programme is likely to have significant effects on the environment of that country (Article 7). 	N/A
<p>Taking the environmental report and the result of the consultations into account in decision-making (Art. 8).</p>	
<p>Provision of information on the decision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • when the plan or programme is adopted, the public and any countries consulted under Article 7. must be informed and the following made available to those so informed: • the plan or programme as adopted. • a statement summarising how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme and how the environmental report of Article 5, the opinions expressed pursuant to Article 6 and the results of consultations entered into pursuant to Art. 7 have been taken into account in accordance with Art. 8, and the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and • the measures decided concerning monitoring (Article 9). 	To be provided on adoption of the DPD
<p>Monitoring of the significant environmental effects of the plan or programme's implementation (Article 10).</p>	To be undertaken following adoption and implementation of the DPD
<p>Quality Assurance: environmental reports should be of a sufficient standard to meet the requirements of the SEA Directive.</p>	This Table

The Process

- 1.6 The ODPM and CLG Guidance specify a number of stages that should be undertaken to ensure compliance with the SEA Directive. The first three stages have been completed and are documented in this SA Report.

Pre-Production

Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding the scope

- 1.7 The Land Allocations DPD Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (January 2012) sets out how this stage has been met through: -
- Identification and review of other relevant plans, programmes and sustainable development objectives that will influence the DPD;
 - Sets out relevant social, environmental and economic baseline information;
 - Identifies key sustainability issues for the SA to address;

- Establishes the SA Framework utilised to undertake the SA, consisting of sustainability objectives, methodology, indicators and targets;
- Production of the Scoping report and;
- Consultation with key stakeholders on the scope of the appraisal as well as key issues and possible solutions.

Production

Stage B: Developing and Refining Options

- 1.8 The Strategic Objectives for the Land Allocations DPD are those set out in the Core Strategy. In order to develop site-specific options, the Council has been accepting suggestions for potential sites for development since 2005. In addition, a formal 'call for sites' was undertaken in 2007-2008 as part of the preparation of the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment. Several other evidence base studies also identified potentially suitable sites for development. Further to this, when initial consultation was undertaken on the sites proposed during December 2008 – March 2009 (Discussion Paper stage) and when Emerging Options consultation was undertaken in January – April 2011, many more sites were suggested in response. Together, the sites identified through the 'call for sites', evidence base studies and consultations constitute all the site options considered. These options have been refined through taking into account detailed information in the evidence base studies, responses to consultation, including response from statutory bodies and other stakeholders, information gathered during site visits and the results of the SA itself. The sites put forward as proposed allocations in the Land Allocations DPD – Publication Edition are those that the Council consider to be the most appropriate sites to meet the development needs of the District up until 2025 based on all the information currently available.

Stage C: Appraising the Effects of the Options and of the Proposed Allocations

- 1.9 This stage has been completed through SA of all sites considered in accordance with the methodology set out in the Land Allocations DPD Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, excluding; sites below a threshold of 0.3 hectares¹ in Principle, Key and Local Service Centres and a threshold of 0.1 hectares in smaller villages, hamlets and in the open countryside; open space proposals and; sites that were known to be 'non-starters' such as garden sites². This has enabled the following: -
- Assessment of the predicted potential effects of each site considered, including of the proposed allocations, and thus the potential effects of the DPD;
 - The identification of measures to maximise beneficial effects and mitigate adverse effects;
 - Development of proposals for monitoring, to enable the assessment of the sustainability performance and effectiveness of the plan over time;
 - Preparation of this SA report concurrently with the preparation of the Land Allocations DPD – Publication Edition.

The primary output of Stages A-C is the production of this report.

Stage D: Consultation on the Draft DPD and SA Report

- 1.10 The Council seeks views on the SA Report alongside the Draft Land Allocations DPD during pre-submission public participation during February/March 2012.

¹ Except where smaller sites immediately adjoin another site and together, they form a site that is 0.3ha or above

² Except where the owners had informed the Council that they wanted their garden to be included

The Land Allocations DPD and the SA report, will then be submitted to the Secretary of State for Examination in Public incorporating any revisions necessary resulting from the consultation.

This document represents a revised SA report prepared to reflect changes made as a result of; comments made during the consultation process held from January to April 2011 and; additional appraisal carried out on new sites proposed during that consultation and sites proposed prior to that consultation but that were suggested to the Council too late to be assessed in time for the consultation.

Stage E: Monitoring Implementation of the DPD

- 1.11 This SA Report sets out recommendations for monitoring the sustainability effects of the Land Allocations DPD to identify at an early stage any unforeseen adverse effects. It is recommended that a procedure should be established with partners and key stakeholders in order that appropriate remedial action can take place where necessary as a result of such effects being identified.

Methodology

- 1.12 The SA Framework utilised to undertake the SA was developed in conjunction with Cumbria County Council, other Local Authorities in Cumbria and with agreement from the statutory consultation bodies³.
- 1.13 This framework, together with further details of how it was developed and the methodology for the appraisal are set out in the Land Allocations DPD Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (January 2012). The Framework also utilises a panel of professionals in each of the main sustainability fields - social, environmental, economic and natural resources. Panel members have been drawn upon during the appraisal process to offer their perspective, for example, on the scoring criteria and mechanisms.
- 1.14 This document presents the details and outcomes of the sustainability appraisal of the alternatives considered and of the proposed allocations for each settlement.

Characterisation of South Lakeland and Key Sustainability Issues

- 1.15 South Lakeland is the second largest district in the county of Cumbria; it has an area of 1,545km² and a population of 103,700⁴, giving it a low population density of 68 people per km². The District borders districts of Lancashire and North Yorkshire to the South and East and the Cumbrian districts of Eden, Barrow-in-Furness, Copeland and Allerdale to the North, South and West.
- 1.16 The two principal towns of Kendal and Ulverston, with populations of 27,841 and 11,437 respectively, account for almost 40% of the total population of the District and over half that of the LDF area. Three other key service centres, Grange over Sands, Kirkby Lonsdale and Milnthorpe combined host another 8% of the population, leaving over 50% of the population living in much smaller settlements across the District, though some such settlements do act as Local Service Centres with a range of services available.
- 1.17 The District is essentially rural in character, with a dispersed settlement pattern of market towns, villages and hamlets, but does benefit from good accessibility to main national transport links including the M6 Motorway and the West Coast Main Line Railway, providing direct access to cities such as Preston, Manchester and London.

³ There were 4 statutory consultation bodies when the preparation of the Land Allocations document began; there are now 3, Natural England, The Environment Agency and English Heritage.

⁴ LDF area population is estimated to be 78,200

- 1.18 From the contextual information available, a number of key social, environmental, natural resource and economic issues have been identified for the District.

Results of the SA

- 1.19 The findings of the Sustainability Appraisal on the many site options considered can be found at Appendix 1, which details the findings by settlement.
- 1.20 Most site options demonstrated clear individual strengths and weaknesses, although some sites were evidently weaker or stronger scorers in terms of sustainability than others. Some settlements had sites that scored clearly more favourably than others, whereas for other settlements, it was difficult to establish which sites scored best overall due to similar scores or cases where poor scores balanced off positive scores.

Strategic Objectives

- 1.21 The Core Strategy Strategic Objectives also serve as the strategic objectives for the Land Allocations DPD. A full SA was carried out on these Strategic Objectives as part of the preparation of the Core Strategy. The results of this appraisal can be found in the Submission Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Addendum (November 2009).
- 1.22 In summary, the appraisal demonstrated that all the Strategic Objectives scored positively against the sustainability objectives overall.
- 1.23 It should of course be remembered that some policy areas will tend to conflict with some sustainability objectives, for example a policy directly related to economic development is likely to score less well against environmental objectives, and a policy on protecting the environment may be considered to hamper economic development if taken in isolation. It is therefore important that objectives are considered together against all sustainability objectives.

Developing Proposed allocations

- 1.24 Production of the proposed allocations for the Land Allocations DPD has involved the consideration, appraisal and evolution of a number of alternative sites in relation to each settlement. Building on the earlier 'Discussion Paper' and 'Emerging Options' consultations, site options have progressed taking into account the spatial strategy, area strategies and policies set out in the Core Strategy as well as consultation responses, site visits, information provided by evidence base studies and the findings of the SA.
- 1.25 A full SA of the range of alternative sites for all settlements has been carried out. The results of the appraisal are set out in Appendix 1. A full assessment of all the alternatives considered, presenting all the available information for each is detailed in the Settlement Fact Files, which are also available as part of this pre-submission consultation.
- 1.26 As a result of the thorough assessment and appraisal of all the options considered, taking into account the full range information described above, the proposed allocations for each settlement were generated. The proposed allocations constitute the sites that the Council believes to be the most suitable, most appropriate and most sustainable based on all the information currently available. Some proposed allocations are variations of sites proposed, for example, where site assessment showed that part of a proposed site is likely to be suitable for development but the remainder is not.

- 1.27 In many cases, the proposed allocations scored generally higher than non-preferred alternatives considered in the SA. There are however cases where other information such as consultation responses, evidence base studies and site visits showed that although a site scored well in the SA, it could not or should not be considered as an emerging site option and vice versa.

Furthermore, the sustainability of the proposed allocations can be strengthened based on the results of the appraisal and other information. A number of recommendations are made to facilitate this. Recommendations on how SA performance could be strengthened can be found in Appendix 1, which details the results of the SA and recommendations on a settlement basis whilst mitigation and improvement measures for proposed allocations can be found in the settlement fact files.

Likely significant effects of the proposed allocations for the Land Allocations

Significant Positive and Negative Effects

- 1.28 Below are details of the most likely significant positive and negative effects of the Land Allocations DPD against the sustainability objectives identified for the SA Framework.
- 1.29 An assessment of the expected significant positive and negative effects of the proposed allocations can be found in Section 8 and in the SFFs.
- 1.30 In summary, both positive and negative impacts were expected against many objectives, however, as site selection has been guided by the results of the SA and the development of such sites will be guided by the approach and policies set out in the Core Strategy, it was anticipated that most negative effects could be minimised, mitigated against or avoided and that many positive effects could be maximised.

Implementation and Monitoring

- 1.31 Implementation of the Land Allocations DPD will be the key not only to the success of the policies and proposals within it but importantly, of those in the Core Strategy too. A number of key issues will be crucial to the successful implementation of the Land Allocations DPD and thus of the Core Strategy including:
- The need for a positive working relationship with key partners, on whom the Council will rely heavily to deliver many of the significant positive effects identified and also to help to address/overcome any negative effects;
 - The need for a strong commitment to the sustainable development principles and other policies set out in the Core Strategy to ensure that new developments deliver the positive effects identified and help to meet the strategic objectives;
 - The need for judgements to be made in relation to the value of the potential overall benefits of individual schemes and to the weight that should be given to particular positive or negative effects of individual sites or schemes.

The implementation of the policies and proposals in the Land Allocations DPD will need to take place in the context of the LDF as a whole to ensure that new developments are contributing positively to the strategic objectives and vision for the District.

Monitoring

- 1.31 A key element of the SA process is to establish how the significant effects resulting from the implementation of the DPD can be monitored.
- 1.32 The proposed allocations and the Land Allocations DPD – Publication Edition have been based on a comprehensive review of the baseline information available, a thorough

review of policies, programmes and plans at all levels and sound spatial development principles and Core Strategy policies.

This information will be used as a basis from which to develop methods for monitoring the effects of the Land Allocations DPD. These methods will be detailed in the Land Allocations DPD itself and finalised on adoption of the DPD.

Statement on the differences the process has made to date

- 1.33 The SA process and preparation of the Land Allocations DPD have been carried out in accordance with regulatory requirements, guidelines and best practice. They are also intended to ensure that the DPD builds upon and complies with the overall strategy, vision and strategic objectives set out in the Council's Core Strategy.
- 1.34 A number of changes have been made to the Sustainability Appraisal Framework and Methodology in relation to the Land Allocations DPD as the SA process has developed and since the original SA Scoping Report was prepared and consulted upon between October 2008 and February 2009. Some changes were the result of consultation responses, whilst others were made as the need arose.
- 1.35 The SA process has helped to inform the process of site selection that has led the Council to select particular sites as proposed allocations along with other evidence gained from studies, site visits and discussions with the statutory bodies and other stakeholders.

How to comment on this document

- 1.36 This document, alongside the Land Allocations DPD – Publication Edition, will be subject to consultation which will take place in February/March 2012.
- 1.37 Anyone may comment on the document by completing the comment form that is available on the South Lakeland District Council website at www.southlakeland.gov.uk/ldf, at libraries across the LDF area and at the Council's offices in Kendal and Ulverston. Please return the form to the Development Plans Team preferably electronically using the email address developmentplans@southlakeland.gov.uk or by post to The Development Plans Team, South Lakeland District Council, South Lakeland House, Lowther Street, Kendal, Cumbria, LA9 4UF.
A list of those we will contact directly to invite them to comment can be found at Appendix 8.

2 Introduction

Purpose of SA and the SA Report

- 2.1 Sustainability is the ability of something to operate or function in a way that does not jeopardise its own future ability to operate at an equal or improved standard. Sustainable Development therefore, refers to development⁵ that occurs in such a way that the social, environmental and economic needs of the present can be met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs, as defined by the UN World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987. The need for planning to contribute positively to Sustainable Development is at the heart of the planning system.
- 2.2 South Lakeland's Land Allocations DPD will aim to secure a sustainable approach to the development of the District by ensuring that site selection reflects the 4 basic objectives of the UK Strategy for Sustainable Development. These are:
- Social progress that meets the needs of everyone
 - Effective protection of the environment
 - Prudent use of natural resources
 - Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth
- It should be recognised however that the new Government may prepare new strategies that supersede the existing UK Sustainable Development Strategy.
- 2.3 The Core Strategy sets out 11 Sustainable Development Principles to guide the LDF in achieving sustainable development. The preparation of the Land Allocations DPD is being undertaken with these firmly in mind.
- 2.4 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 sets out the requirement for Local Planning Authorities to contribute to sustainability by ensuring that their plans for development are as sustainable as possible. One key process by which this is achieved is Sustainability Appraisal (SA), as prescribed by Planning Policy Statement 12 (PPS12). Again, it should be recognised that the new Government may alter these requirements but that currently, these requirements are still in force.
- 2.5 The European Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive 2001/42/EC requires that the environmental effects of particular plans and programmes, including Local Development Frameworks (LDFs), are fully assessed and taken into account. This Directive has been adopted into UK law as Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.
- 2.6 The method of SA set out by current government guidance incorporates and fulfils the requirements of SEA and involves examining the likely social, economic and environmental effects of plans. Having identified the likely effects of a plan, an evaluation of the significance of the impact on the District's environment needs to be made. The assessment of the significance of an impact is based on the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects including whether effects are secondary, cumulative or synergistic. The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects also requires consideration.
- 2.7 SLDC's Development Plans Team produced and consulted on a Land Allocations Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report which set out the framework and methodology

⁵ The term 'development' in the context of sustainable development does not refer specifically to physical development such as new houses and infrastructure, but to the wider progression and evolution of a place, whether that is a District, a nation or the planet as a whole.

for undertaking the SA of the sites proposed in the Land Allocations document as well as presenting the baseline information and key sustainability issues involved.

- 2.8 This report constitutes the SA Report (incorporating the Environmental Report) for the Land Allocations DPD. It has been produced alongside the emerging Land Allocations DPD and is being published for consultation at the same time as the Land Allocations DPD – Publication Edition to provide the public and statutory consultees with an opportunity to express opinions on the SA Report and to use it as a reference point whilst commenting on the Land Allocations DPD – Publication Edition.

The South Lakeland Local Development Framework

- 2.9 The South Lakeland Local Development Framework (LDF) will contain a series of Local Development Documents, including a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and Development Plan Documents (DPDs). All DPD's will be subject to Sustainability Appraisal (SA). The South Lakeland LDF, together with saved South Lakeland Local Plan and Cumbria and the Lake District Joint Structure Plan policies will form the Development Plan for South Lakeland. The North West Regional Spatial Strategy also remains part of the Development Plan for South Lakeland, albeit temporarily until the Localism Bill, which proposes to abolish the document comes into force.

The Land Allocations DPD

- 2.10 Preliminary work on the preparation of the Land Allocations DPD started in 2005 with potential sites for development put forward to the Council leading to an Allocations of Land Discussion Paper consultation in December 2008 inviting comments on sites under consideration together with the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. Considerable consultation was undertaken on these documents and maps and many more sites for consideration have been suggested and many comments on the suitability of sites have been received. New site suggestions and comments on sites have since fed into the site selection process and thus, the preparation of the Land Allocations DPD – Publication Edition.
- 2.12 The Allocations of Land Discussion Paper set out the key planning issues to be resolved in South Lakeland and all the sites under consideration at that time.
- 2.13 Following consultation, out of which many new suggested sites arose, a full SA of all the original and new sites proposed was undertaken and the results helped to shape and influence the site selection process, contributing to the decisions that led the Council to propose particular sites as 'emerging site options'. Further new sites were proposed during the Emerging Options consultation and these too have been assessed, subjected to SA and consulted upon. Again, the SA results, along with wider information, helped to inform the selection of the proposed allocations. The full results of the SA process for all sites considered are included in Appendix 1.
- 2.14 The Land Allocations DPD will set out sites allocated for housing and employment as well as identifying which land will be protected for other uses such as open spaces and sports facilities. The Land Allocations DPD must reflect and be in conformity with the Core Strategy and be supportive of the overall vision, objectives and spatial strategy set out in it.
- 2.15 The proposed allocations set out in the Land Allocations Proposed allocations document include proposed site allocations for:
- Housing;
 - Employment;
 - Mixed uses and;
 - Community uses

as well as showing proposed development boundaries.

Land that will be protected as

- Green gap
- Open Space
- Outdoor Sports Facilities

Areas of existing employment land to be protected are also identified as are biodiversity designations, flood risk areas, scheduled monuments and conservation area boundaries.

- 2.16 The Council is seeking formal representations on both the Land Allocations DPD – Publication Edition and the SA Report in terms of the soundness of the document and the processes employed in it's preparation. Once the period for representations is complete, the documents will be submitted to the Secretary of State for Examination in Public.

3 Methodology

Approach taken to SA

- 3.1 The Council prepared and consulted upon a Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report alongside the Allocations of Land Discussion Paper. The Scoping Report set out the sustainability appraisal framework and methodology proposed for the undertaking of the SA on the Land Allocations DPD. Comments received during the consultation, including those from the statutory bodies, helped to finalise the approach taken to the SA.
- 3.2 Once the framework and methodology were finalised, SA was undertaken on all sites proposed, including those proposed originally as a result of the call for sites and those proposed as part of the consultation on the Allocations of Land Discussion Paper and the Emerging Options.

3.3 Sites excluded from SA were:

- Sites below 0.3ha in settlements defined as Principal, Key or Local Service Centres in the Core Strategy;
- Sites below 0.1ha in settlements defined as small villages, hamlets or open countryside in the Core Strategy;
- Sites proposed for open space uses as it is not considered that these are likely to result in negative impacts on sustainability and few criteria would apply to them;
- Garden sites where the owner had contacted the Council to confirm that they did not want the site included in further consideration

Some sites listed in the fact files as ‘excluded from further consideration’ on the basis of size were still appraised as they adjoin larger sites and may be considered to form part of sites proposed as emerging options, such as where they are required to enable access to another site.

Each site was assessed against the following criteria (in brackets, the source of information or evidence used to decide upon a score is given);

- Access to a village hall
- Access to a shop
- Access to a primary School
- Access to a secondary school
- Biodiversity considerations
- Access to a GP’s surgery
- Flood risk (fluvial)
- Flood risk (surface water)
- Location in relation to existing communities
- Landscape character impact
- Built environment impact
- Air quality impact
- Water supply and sewerage capacity
- Whether the site is greenfield or brownfield land
- Access to recycling facilities
- Access to further education and training facilities
- Access to existing employment areas
- Access to open spaces
- Potential for incorporating energy efficiency and/or renewable energy measures
- Access to culture and leisure facilities
- Potential for incorporating recycling building materials

- Potential to cause coalescence

and scored against them in accordance with the scoring mechanism set out in Section 7 of the SA Scoping Report (January 2012).

The scores were then studied on a settlement by settlement basis to assess which sites scored best and least well overall in each settlement.

The SA results and assessment of scores fed into the site selection process. However, other factors also had to be taken into account, such as the evidence base studies, site visits and discussions with statutory bodies and other stakeholders. As such, in some cases, even where a site scores best overall in a settlement, it has not been suggested as an emerging site option and vice versa.

It is recognised that since the SA was undertaken, circumstances may have changed with regards to the availability of some services and facilities e.g. we are aware that in some villages, local shops or post offices have shut and/or bus services may have changed or been removed and as such, scores reflect a single point in time and the information that was available to the Council at that time and may not now reflect current circumstances in every case. The SA was not repeated as the Council does not have access to complete sets of revised information and as such, any re-scoring would have been incomprehensive.

Difficulties encountered and lessons learnt

Scoping

- 3.4 Consultation with SA panel members on the Scoping Report prior to the publication of the Allocations of Land Discussion Paper resulted in a number of comments and these were taken into account in producing the version of the Scoping Report (and the SA framework and methodology set out therein) that was published alongside the Discussion Paper for public consultation in December 2008 - March 2009. Further comments were made as a result of the public consultation and these also fed into the version of the Scoping Report that accompanied the Emerging Options consultation. Copies of the comments made at each stage are available to view by contacting the Council.
- 3.5 Working with Cumbria County Council and other Cumbrian LPAs has not contributed to the Scoping process as positively as anticipated. This was largely due to the fact that authorities are working on different stages of LDF preparation but also because Cumbria County Council's agreed role of providing data required by districts for indicators could not be easily fulfilled. As a result of data availability problems in relation to particular indicators, some gaps remain in the indicator data.
- 3.6 As the Land Allocations DPD performs a very different role to that of the Core Strategy, the approach to SA used for the Core Strategy, which had been developed jointly with other Cumbrian authorities, had to be adapted to ensure that it was applicable to the Land Allocations DPD. No other Cumbrian authorities, and few across the country, have reached the stage whereby SA on Land Allocations has been undertaken. As such, the approach taken has had little to draw on in the way of lessons learnt from other areas. The Council is confident however that the approach taken provides a comprehensive assessment of the sustainability sites based on the information available.

The Appraisal Process in Operation

- 3.7 Overall, the appraisal went well. A team of 3 officers undertook appraisal of all sites under consideration in accordance with the methodology set out above and in the SA

Scoping Report. GIS layers, aerial photographs, maps, evidence base information and local knowledge were used to assign a score to each site against each of the appraisal criteria. The final SA Scoping report, including the methodology used to undertake the appraisal, was sent to the three statutory bodies for approval. They were also invited to review the scoring of sites.

3.8 A number of issues became apparent as the appraisal was undertaken and these should be taken into account when considering the scores assigned to each site and in future LDF SA work;

- Regarding biodiversity, the term 'various key species' has been used where the GIS information indicated that several key species have been recorded on that site. However, this can include species that have special protection such as badgers, otters, water voles and bats and UK/Cumbria BAP species. Biodiversity impacts have been considered as part of sites visits and consultation with organizations such as Natural England and Cumbria Wildlife Trust. More detailed investigation will need to take place before allocating or developing a site.
- Regarding water supply United Utilities did not comment on every original site proposed and additionally, many sites have been proposed since the appraisal took place. United Utilities have now made comments on the more recently proposed sites, including all the sites proposed as proposed allocations and thus this information will be taken into account to establish whether a site is acceptable or not re. water supply/sewer capacity etc.
- As the appraisal progressed, it became clear that some facilities that were not mapped on the GIS layers e.g. some shops and village halls and thus have not been accounted for in saying whether sites are within x distance of a shop, village hall etc. We added these to the maps where we knew there were facilities missing but there may be other facilities that we were not aware of and thus have not been taken into account. Poor scores in relation to access to culture and leisure facilities in the Grange area should not be used against a site as there are cultural/leisure facilities that we know are there but that did not appear on the GIS layers.
- The open space accessibility scores do not account for cases where the development of a site would actually remove the provision of open space – there is a note next to instances where this is the case – or where a new open space designation is now proposed.
- Also regarding open spaces, many sites that were identified by members of the public as 'civic spaces' as part of the consultation undertaken for the open space study were not actually assessed in the study and were thus not mapped on the GIS layers. There were also several play areas and cemeteries (and probably sites of other types) that were not assessed and thus not mapped. This means that sites may well fall within the catchment of an open space in reality, even though the GIS layer indicated otherwise.
- Consideration will need to be given to sites in settlements that fall close to boundaries with other areas (Barrow, Lancaster, National Parks) as scores have not taken into account facilities that fall within other areas as these were not shown on the GIS layers.
- Flood risk scores are based on the flood risk zones indicated in the latest available Environment Agency flood risk data (Summer 2011).
- Nearly all sites were scored X or XX in relation to air quality as it was considered that any additional development would be likely to increase car movements in an area and thus emissions. Where existing air quality problems exist and the development of a site would clearly require residents/workers to travel through the problem area to access the site, XX was given. X was used for the majority of sites. Some sites were given ~ in cases where any development would be replacing an existing use of the site that already generates a level of traffic similar to that that could reasonably be expected of a new development on that

site OR where the use that the site has been proposed for is not a particularly traffic-generating use e.g. open space.

- Nearly all sites scored ~ in relation to potential to incorporating energy efficiency. It was very difficult to make a judgement on suitability of most technologies without knowing the number, type and size of dwellings, type of employment use, layout of site, wind speed on site etc. As such it was assumed that most sites would have some potential for including most types. Where a site was next to a beck or river however, the potential for hydro seemed more obvious, specific mention of hydro does not mean no other technologies would be suitable, just that there was clearer evidence of potential for hydro. No proposed change.

Consultation

- 3.9 Consultation on the Land Allocations document began in 2005 when the Council began accepting suggestions of potential development sites from members of the public, communities, landowners, developers and organisations.
- 3.10 Between November 2008 and February 2009, public consultation took place for 6 weeks on the Allocations of Land Discussion Paper, including all the site suggestions under consideration at the time. All those whose details were recorded on the Council's LDF consultation database at the time were consulted directly; this included all the statutory bodies and a range of other stakeholder organisations as well as members of the public. The document was also made available on the Council's website and at the Council's usual inspection points – all libraries and Council offices. A press release informing people of the consultation and where they could access the document was also issued to local newspapers. Letters or emails were sent to all District and County Councillors and to parish, District and County Councils covering or adjoining the area. 5 briefing sessions were held for parish and town Councils and we also posted an article about the consultation and the LDF in general in the Council's newsletter, South Lakeland News and in the LDF newsletter.
- 3.11 Consultees were encouraged to comment on the suitability of potential development sites identified and the spatial issues set out in the document as well as to suggest any further potential sites not already identified. Comments could be sent in by post or email.
- 3.12 Everyone on the Council's LDF consultation database at the time was directly invited to respond to the consultation. A total of 1,450 responses were received from residents, individuals, businesses and interest groups as well as local, regional and national agencies.
- 3.13 Prior to the consultation, an informal consultation on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report was held with a small number of key stakeholders. Although this was not officially part of the consultation on the Allocations of Land Discussion Paper, a small number of changes were made to the document as a result and these influenced the final methodology used to undertake the appraisal.
- 3.14 As a result of consultation on the Discussion paper and sites under consideration, many more potential development sites were suggested for consideration. The Council undertook a thorough assessment of all sites considered (excluding; sites below a threshold of 0.3 hectares⁶ in Principal, Key and Local Service Centres and a threshold of 0.1 hectares in smaller villages, hamlets and in the open countryside; open space proposals and; sites that were considered to be 'non-starters' such as garden sites⁷). This included visiting all sites, informal but detailed consultation with key stakeholders

⁶ Except where smaller sites immediately adjoin another site and together, they form a site that is 0.3ha or above

⁷ Except where the owners had informed the Council that they wanted their garden to be included

and service providers, Appropriate Assessment⁸ and Sustainability Appraisal. Findings from this work formed the basis of the selection of sites as 'emerging site options' are detailed in the SFFs.

- 3.15 As part of consultation on emerging options in January-April 2011, new suggestions for sites continued to be put forward. These have been visited and assessed, subjected to SA and were consulted upon in Further Options Consultation in Summer 2011. Comments received at all stages of consultation along with SA results, evidence base and site visit information and information from key stakeholders and statutory bodies have all fed into the decisions as to which sites form the proposed allocations.

Further details of the consultation undertaken as part of the preparation of the Land Allocations DPD can be found in the Land Allocations Consultation Report (January 2012).

⁸ Appropriate Assessment is required under the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) for any proposed plan or project which may have a significant effect on one or more European sites and which is not necessary for the management of those sites. See associated screening report Appropriate Assessment Screening of South Lakeland District Council's Allocations of Land DPD.

4 Context & Objectives

Links to other policies, plans and programmes

- 4.1 The content and objectives of a number of local, sub-regional, regional, national and international plans, programmes and policies have informed the SA process and are reflected in the developing Land Allocations document.
- 4.2 The influence of these documents was sought throughout the preparation of the Core Strategy and has therefore also fed through to the preparation of the Land Allocations document since this document sits beneath the Core Strategy. The context set by these documents has been considered throughout the SA process to ensure that the approach taken is compliant and consistent with statutory requirements and wider policy direction. The content of any relevant forthcoming and updated or revised versions of these documents will be or has also been taken into account. Further details of how other documents have helped set the context for the Core Strategy are set out in the Scoping Report. The list of policies, programmes and plans reviewed is included at Appendix 1 of the Scoping Report.

Baseline Data

Social, environmental and economic baseline characteristics and projections

- 4.3 Before undertaking an appraisal of the impact proposed site options are likely to have on sustainability, it is imperative to understand the current position of the District by establishing a set of baseline data. Without this information, it would be difficult to assess the key issues for the District and difficult to predict the nature of any possible impacts of developing particular sites. It would also be impossible to accurately measure in the future whether the implementation of a site option had had a positive or negative effect in terms of addressing key sustainability issues and working towards sustainability objectives.
- The collection of baseline data has been closely linked to the development of sustainability appraisal objectives and indicators. As gaps in indicator data are filled and more information becomes available, further information may be added to the baseline assessment over time. The baseline data can be found in Appendix 2 of the SA Scoping Report (January 2012).

Limitations of the information and assumptions made

- 4.4 A number of difficulties were faced in accessing relevant and comprehensive datasets when compiling the baseline data, trends and comparators.
- 4.5 Datasets available to SLDC have been found to be, in a number of instances, incompatible with the data requirements of SA. Sometimes desirable data and information is completely unavailable, is only available at national or regional levels or is not available in an appropriate or useful format or type of measurement. Sometimes suitable data is available but is out of date or is one off data that is not collected on a regular basis, meaning that it would not be useful for monitoring change over time. Some data found was unreliable as conflicting figures were found for the same indicator or the source did not make it clear that the data had been obtained by accurate means.
- 4.6 There is a lack of trend data as many sources do not go back more than a few years, also, there is an issue that some comparator data does not provide an entirely accurate comparison, due to the measurement figures are given in. When comparing figures

against other areas, the figures need to be expressed as percentages to offer a valuable comparison.

4.7 As a result of these difficulties, the baseline data used in relation to this appraisal is not fully comprehensive. The data used, including trend and comparator data, is however the most recent and appropriate available to the Council. The baseline dataset will evolve over time as new data sources and updated data become available.

4.8 Some of the baseline information and data obtained may mask the reality of the situation in the District. For instance, the figures for house price ratio are calculated on average household income, which could be the income of several people e.g. two or more working adults. This does not reflect rises in single person households i.e. the same calculation based on average individual income would be much higher. Similar situations arise in other areas where low unemployment hides the problems of a heavy reliance on low paid jobs for instance.

Changing circumstances, such as those relating to the plans of the Government and the national economic situation also impact upon the District and could affect the value of some data projections.

Key Issues identified for the District

4.9 Key social issues for South Lakeland include: -

- A continuing high demand to live in and purchase property the District, due to its attractiveness as a place to retire to, work in, or have a second home, although this has been affected to some degree by the economic downturn;
- A high level of need for affordable housing for local people, partly due to above-average house prices, resulting from factors listed above;
- Increasing number of elderly as a proportion of the population – with implications for service provision, particularly health and transport;
- Loss of young people, particularly graduates, many of whom move away to take up university places or find work or a home they can afford and do not return;
- The fear of crime is disproportionate to actual incidence, particularly among the elderly and in rural areas. There are however localised areas (and times) of nuisance and disorder;
- Access to services and facilities is a problem in rural areas, linked to income, age and inadequate public transport in more remote areas;
- Relative affluence can disguise smaller areas of relative deprivation;
- A significant minority of the population have low or no qualifications;
- The potential contribution of arts, culture and heritage to the well being of the District is not adequately recognised.

4.10 Key environmental Issues for South Lakeland include: -

- Protecting a rich cultural heritage from unsympathetic alterations, development, and activity securing resources for its repair and improvement;
- Protecting and enhancing nationally important nature conservation and landscape designations, including the Arnside and Silverdale AONB and its special qualities, from inappropriate development as well as leisure and recreation pressures;
- Overall long term decline in wider characteristic habitats and species, including that resulting from changing farming or land management practices;
- Vulnerability of landscape to erosion of character – also loss of tranquillity and impact of lights on night sky;
- Bland or poor design can harm distinctiveness of local built character.

4.11 Key natural resource Issues for South Lakeland include: -

- Seeking to minimise air pollution and reduce pressure on pockets of poor air quality;
- Growing demand for water and continuing threats of pollution to water resources;
- Few long term opportunities to develop brown field sites in preference to greenfield sites;
- Risk of flooding of property in some low lying areas of the district;
- Increasing production of domestic waste compromising the benefits of improved recycling rates;
- Taking opportunities to exploit renewable energy resources, where acceptable in terms of landscape and wider planning policy;
- Overall long-term impact of climate change.

4.12 Key economic issues for South Lakeland include: -

- Over dependence on distribution, tourism and service sectors and relative weakness in other sectors, particularly financial and ICT services;
- A low wage, low skilled economy with a lack of choice and quality of employment resulting from loss of better-paid professional/commercial employment in the past. People forced to commute out of District for work;
- Tourism, arts and culture are important but have potential to make a greater contribution to the local economy through higher value outputs and higher wages;
- Declining supply of local labour and some shortages – coupled with an apparent mismatch between training needs and workforce development;
- Continuing relative low level of wealth creation compared to regional and national averages (although this situation may have been affected by the economic downturn);
- Acute shortage of quality strategic and local employment sites;
- High house prices affecting recruitment and retention of employees;
- Need for town centres to remain attractive and competitive against larger regional centres and out of town developments;
- Need to facilitate continued diversification of farm enterprises on an appropriate scale;
- Opportunities and challenges arising from a number of ambitious regeneration proposals in the District.

The Sustainability Appraisal Framework

4.13 The 16 sustainability objectives were developed by Cumbria County Council along with the Cumbrian LPAs for use by all. The objectives used by South Lakeland differ slightly from the original list as a result of consultation on the Core Strategy SA Scoping report. The objectives are structured around the four national objectives for sustainable development set out in the UK's Sustainable Development Strategy, as follows.

4.14 **Social Objectives**

<p><u>Social progress that recognises the needs of everyone</u></p> <p>SP1 To increase the level of participation in democratic processes SP2 To improve access to services and facilities, the countryside and open spaces SP3 To provide everyone with a decent home SP4 To improve the level of skills, education and training SP5 To improve the health and sense of well-being of people SP6 To create vibrant, active, inclusive and open-minded communities with a strong sense of local history</p>

4.15 This set of objectives aims to address the social aspects of sustainability in South Lakeland. They seek to ensure that residents of the District are able to enjoy a good standard of living in communities where they have a say in what goes on, have access to the things they need and access to things that may help to improve their lives. Currently, many families and individuals in South Lakeland find it impossible or very difficult to afford a suitable home. Others, particularly those in the most rural areas, can find themselves isolated from adequate services and facilities, including educational and training facilities. In meeting these objectives, problems of affordability and lack of access to services and facilities should be reduced; communities should become increasingly inclusive, meeting the needs of residents more fully and presenting new opportunities.

4.16 **Environmental Objectives**

Effective Protection of the Environment

EN1 To protect and enhance biodiversity
EN2 To conserve and enhance landscape quality and character
EN3 To improve the quality of the built environment

4.17 This set of objectives seeks to protect and enhance the unique manmade and natural environments of South Lakeland. Currently, although South Lakeland boasts a high quality landscape and many areas of environmental and landscape designation, development pressures are a threat to the District’s environmental features. Meeting these objectives should ensure that whether subject to formal protection or not, the District’s wildlife, habitats, geology, landscape and distinctive character are retained for the benefit of future residents and visitors alike. In particular, areas such as the Arnside and Silverdale AONB require special consideration.

4.18 **Natural Resource Objectives**

Sustainable use and management of natural resources

NR1 To improve local air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote renewable energy and energy efficiency and reduce the need to travel
NR2 To improve water quality and water resources
NR3 To restore and protect land and soil
NR4 To manage mineral resources sustainably, minimise waste and encourage recycling

4.19 This set of objectives aims to encourage and support prudent patterns of natural resource use and waste management. Currently, South Lakeland has better than average water and air qualities and increasing recycling rates, however, it is vital that this continues and that the District strives to reduce its environmental footprint. In meeting these objectives, new development, existing building stock and travel should become more environmentally sound and negative environmental effects should be minimised.

4.20 **Economic Objectives**

Building a sustainable economy in which all can prosper

EC1 To retain existing jobs and create new employment opportunities
EC2 To improve access to jobs
EC3 To diversify and strengthen the local economy

- 4.21 These objectives aim to improve the District's economy by preventing losses of existing jobs and expanding the job market in the District in order to move away from the current heavy reliance on low paid, low skilled jobs and attract higher value employment opportunities, including knowledge based industries. Meeting these objectives will also support and encourage entrepreneurship and rural diversification.
- 4.22 The Sustainability Appraisal Framework reflects the key issues identified in South Lakeland as set out above.
- 4.23 Each of the objectives above is linked to several appraisal questions, which are used to assist considerations during the SA process. Objectives are also linked to a number of indicators and associated baseline data to demonstrate the current position of the District in relation to each objective and how progress towards that objective will be measured over time following plan implementation. A set of criteria is used against which each site is scored. All the objectives have at least one relevant criteria to allow each site to be appraised with regards to the extent it meets each objective. In addition, there are several cross-cutting criteria that help to assess sites against a range of objectives.

Further details of the framework, including tables setting out the sustainability objectives, questions and scoring criteria can be found in Sections 6 and 7 of the SA Scoping Report (January 2012).

- 4.24 In addition to these SA Objectives, supplementary questions and the associated scoring criteria, a range of other considerations is applied during SA to ensure compliance with the SEA Directive. These include assessing the nature and extent of potential impacts in terms of:
- Timescale
 - Geographic Scale
 - Cumulative effects
 - Likelihood, and
 - Permanence

5 Appraisal of Strategic Objectives

- 5.1 The Strategic objectives for the Core Strategy also serve as the Strategic Objectives for the Land Allocations document

These are: -

The Economy

We aim to deliver a step-change in the local economy and contribute towards the enhancement of the wider Cumbrian economy by:

- Making provision for a range of types and sizes of employment land to meet local need and promote new business creation across the plan area;
- Working with stakeholders and partners to create a cluster of knowledge-based industries to strengthen the local economy and meet sub-regional economic needs in Kendal;
- Ensuring that economic development in areas close to the National Parks benefits not only local residents but also communities within the parks;
- Enabling opportunities for economic development and regeneration to be brought forward in the Furness Peninsula and develop the area's potential for tourism;
- Supporting diversification of the agricultural and wider rural economy, including allowing small-scale economic development in rural settlements outside service centres;
- Promoting the vitality and viability of town and local centres through addressing obstacles to growth (such as town centre congestion in Kendal) and working with partners to reduce vacancy levels;
- Supporting the development of further and higher education in the district, in particular the University of Cumbria and Kendal College, and the provision of training and life-long learning;
- Developing stronger relationships between local businesses and local education establishments;
- Using developer contributions to support sustainable employee travel to and from work and also to provide recruitment and training to ensure that the benefits of economic development are targeted at local residents;
- Supporting the development of the low carbon economy.

Housing

We aim to achieve a balanced housing market by:

- Securing the provision of a range of housing types and sizes to meet the needs of all sectors of the community;
- Ensuring that the scale and type of housing in the Furness peninsula helps to support regeneration in Barrow-in-Furness;
- Ensuring that housing developments are required to make provision for an element of affordable housing;
- Continuing to work with partners to maximise the provision of publicly-funded affordable housing;
- Optimising the sustainability of the housing stock;
- Requiring new developments to respect and be sympathetic to the character of the locality, enhance the existing built environment and create a "sense of place".

The Environment

We aim to protect the unique character of the District by:

- Helping to mitigate against and adapt to the cause and impacts of climate change;
- Promoting prudent use of resources, minimising the generation of waste, promoting recycling and preventing where possible or mitigating against the effects of air, water and soil pollution, noise, smells and fumes, and making adequate provision for contamination mitigation;
- Minimising the risk of flooding;
- Reviewing green gaps between individual settlements in order to ensure that they are kept distinct and maintain their individual character;
- Limiting development in rural settlements outside service centres and protecting the countryside from inappropriate development;
- Providing a coordinated network of green infrastructure;
- Ensuring that new development safeguards and enhances the natural and built environment, notably the Natura 2000 sites within the area such as Morecambe Bay;
- Protect the historic environment from harmful change, including listed buildings, buildings of local importance, conservation areas, scheduled ancient monuments and historic parks and gardens. Undertaking a programme of conservation area appraisals and management plans together with potentially designating new conservation areas.
- Increase the resilience of ecosystem services (the processes by which the environment produces resources utilised by humans) by protecting against harm to biodiversity and taking opportunities to enhance and create ecologically-diverse habitats in all locations.

Accessibility

We aim to improve accessibility to services by:

- Concentrating development in the Principal Service Centres of Kendal and Ulverston, then in the other Key Service Centres of Grange-over-Sands, Kirkby Lonsdale and Milnthorpe, followed by a number of designated Local Service Centres throughout the rural hinterland;
- Working with partners to improve sustainable rural transport and maintain rural services, including between Local Service Centres and their rural hinterland and also links to nearby centres outside the District, such as Barrow and Carnforth;
- Focusing the majority of new development in locations that are accessible by a variety of modes of transport, particularly public transport, walking and cycling;
- Improving access across the district by supporting the development and enhancement of an integrated transport network, including footpaths and cycleways;
- Supporting improvements to rural accessibility and lobbying to improve broadband access in rural areas;
- Supporting essential road infrastructure improvements to accommodate development, most notably the A590 between the Principal Service Centres of Kendal and Ulverston;
- Considering the development of park-and-ride/park-and-stride sites and provision of improved coach parking in Kendal;
- Working with local communities to improve local services – supporting emerging Local Area Partnerships in order to deliver more tailored services at the neighbourhood level;
- Delivering an Access to Services Programme in partnership with other organisations.

Health and Wellbeing

To improve health and wellbeing for all by

- Ensuring that all development is sustainable and makes prudent use of resources, so as not to compromise the wellbeing of future generations;
- Providing incentives for young people who have left the area to return – namely skilled jobs, training opportunities and a good spread of housing that meets their needs;
- Protecting and enhancing existing social and community infrastructure – such as education, health, cultural and leisure facilities – to improve community wellbeing in line with an understanding of predicted future needs and current gaps in infrastructure;
- Working with partners to deliver sport and recreation schemes, developing community facilities such as multi use games areas for young people and creating opportunities for healthier lifestyles;
- Supporting the Kendal Sports Village Project and the development of local sport facilities as a legacy of the 2012 Olympics;
- Working with partners to develop and deliver health and wellbeing initiatives, including working with the PCT to identify new sites for integrated health facilities;
- Working with partners to reduce the perception of anti-social behaviour and supporting projects including Together We Can/Street Safe;
- Support independent living for older and disabled people, including giving grants and assistance to adapt people's homes;
- Enhancing green infrastructure and providing a comprehensive network of high quality open spaces such as parks and gardens, natural green spaces and allotments.

5.2 These strategic objectives were subject to sustainability appraisal at Core Strategy pre-submission stage. The results of this appraisal can be found in the Submission Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Addendum (November 2009). In summary, the appraisal demonstrated that all the Strategic Objectives scored positively against the

sustainability objectives overall, though it highlighted a number of areas that could be strengthened.

- 5.3 It should of course be remembered that some policy areas will tend to conflict with some sustainability objectives, for example a policy directly related to economic development is likely to score less well against environmental objectives, and a policy on protecting the environment may be considered to hamper economic development if taken in isolation. It is therefore important that objectives are considered together against all sustainability objectives.

6 Appraisal of Reasonable Alternatives and Proposed allocations

- 6.1 This section sets out the main findings from the detailed appraisal of the sites considered.
- 6.2 The identification of the proposed allocations for the Land Allocations DPD has been undertaken through the evolution and appraisal of almost 1000 potential site options. In accordance with the latest SA guidance, the SA Framework provided the basis for appraising, describing, analysing and comparing the sustainability effects of all the alternative site options.
- 6.3 Each site was scored against all the criteria as set out in Section 4 and a basic statistical comparison of scores identified which sites scored the best and least well of all in each settlement. The results of the appraisal can be found at Appendix 1.

Choice of Proposed allocations

- 6.4 The sustainability appraisal of all sites considered has shown that some of the sites proposed offer significant sustainability advantages over others considered. However, whilst in many cases, the sites identified as proposed allocations are those that scored amongst the best overall in terms of SA, factors other than the SA scores also had to be taken into account, such as the evidence base studies, findings of sites visits and discussions with statutory bodies and other stakeholders and as such, in some cases, even where a site scores best in a settlement, it has not been proposed as an emerging site option and vice versa.
- 6.5 In many cases the proposed allocations scored well in comparison to alternatives considered, though there are also areas where it is considered that the likely impact of the proposed allocations can be made more positive, based on the results of the appraisal and in light of the other factors listed above. A number of recommendations are made to facilitate this. Recommendations on how SA performance could be strengthened can be found in Sections 8 and 9 and in Appendix 1, which details the results of the SA and recommendations on a settlement basis whilst mitigation and improvement measures for proposed allocations can be found in the SFFs, which are also available as part of this consultation. The full results of the SA can be found in Appendix 1.
- 6.6 An important element of the SA process is the assessment of the impact of the preferred options against the following considerations to ensure compliance with the SEA Directive: -
- Timescale
 - Geographic Scale
 - Cumulative effects
 - Likelihood, and
 - Permanence

These considerations have been made during the SA process when assigning scores to sites, as well as when taking an overall view of each site and the overall set of proposals for each settlement, including taking account of information gathered when visiting sites, in evidence base studies and in consultation with key stakeholders and service providers.

7 Likely Significant Effects of Proposed allocations for the Land Allocations DPD

- 7.1 The significant positive and negative effects of the proposed allocations, and thus the Land Allocations DPD against the sustainability criteria identified for the SA Framework are as follows.

To increase the level of participation in democratic processes

- 7.2 The Production of a DPD involves extensive consultation. Consultation has already taken place on an Allocations of Land Discussion Paper (December 2008 – March 2009); an Emerging Site Options consultation took place from January – April 2011 and Further Options Consultation took place in Summer 2011. The opportunity to make final, formal representations will enable the public and other stakeholders to be further involved. Further details of consultation undertaken to date can be found in the Land Allocations Consultation Report (January 2012).
- 7.3 The SEA Directive clearly sets out the consultation requirements for each stage of the development of a DPD, involving key stakeholders and the public throughout. This process ensures that many individuals, groups and stakeholders have a say in the process of identifying where future development will take place in the District.
- 7.4 Further to this, the SA assessed the existing accessibility of each site to a village hall or other civic building on the basis that access to such a building provides a measure of people's access to a polling station and community events. Sites have been proposed as proposed allocations taking into account the results of the SA and other available evidence.

To improve access to services and facilities, the countryside and open spaces

- 7.5 The SA assessed the existing accessibility to a range of services and facilities, as well as open spaces, available at each site. Sites have been proposed as proposed allocations taking into account the results of the SA and the approach to the distribution of development and settlement hierarchy set out in the Core Strategy.
- 7.6 The Core Strategy requires that development is focused in existing service centres with a range of facilities to ensure that the majority of new developments have good access to services and facilities. The proposed allocations also take into account the protection of the countryside and open spaces as well as accessibility through Core Strategy policies such as CS8.1, CS8.2, CS8.3a and b and CS10.1. New development will help to improve accessibility through the incorporation of new open spaces and sports facilities in areas where there are deficiencies in provision, the improvement of existing spaces and sports facilities and links to foot and cycle routes through developer contributions.
- 7.7 The development needs in the District will mean that many new dwellings will have to be built on greenfield land and this will reduce physical access to the countryside for some residents, who will have to travel further to get to the edge of their settlement, whilst increasing it for others.

To provide everyone with a decent home

- 7.8 The distribution of proposed allocations and the number and capacity of sites proposed in each settlement aligns with the approach set out in Core Strategy policy CS1.2. This approach will help to ensure that new housing is provided throughout the plan period and in a way that meets the varying needs across the LDF area. Policy CS1.2 is supported in this by CS6.1. Whilst it is difficult to determine the exact amount and type

of housing each emerging site option might deliver, policies CS6.2, CS6.3 and CS6.4 will be applied when sites come forward for development to ensure that sites deliver an appropriate mix of types and tenures of housing to help meet local needs as well as securing affordable housing.

Sites have been proposed as proposed allocations taking into account the approach set out in the Core Strategy as well as other available evidence such as housing needs surveys.

- 7.9 Whilst the development of new dwellings throughout the plan period should help to provide a range of housing, the level of need identified continues to be high and is expected to remain so. The potential impact on development viability contributed to a reduction in the level of affordable housing required by the Core Strategy and the removal of the requirement for local occupancy housing, presenting a challenge to the meeting of local housing needs. This is exacerbated by evidence that the affordable housing requirement alone exceeds the total housing target. Providing for housing needs is likely to present conflicts with other objectives such as those seeking to protect the environment.

To improve the level of skills, education and training

- 7.10 The SA assessed the existing accessibility to primary and secondary schools and other education and training facilities available at each site. Sites have been proposed as proposed allocations taking into account the results of the SA as well as other available evidence. This will help to ensure that residents of new developments will have good physical access to schools and other education and training facilities.
- 7.11 The Core Strategy includes a policy on education and skills and allows for developer contributions to be sought for education and training initiatives. As such, although no allocations are proposed for these uses, new development should help to support local needs for education and training provision. The development of housing sites is likely to increase demand for school places and other education and training facilities. On the one hand, this should help to support such facilities but it may also result in a need for further capacity, the provision of which will be heavily dependent on other partners. The development of employment sites may help to both stimulate and meet demand for new training and education facilities, contributing positively to the overall education and skills base of the area's residents.

To improve the health and sense of well-being of people

- 7.12 The SA assessed the existing accessibility to doctors' surgeries available at each site. Sites have been proposed as proposed allocations taking into account the results of the SA as well as other available evidence. This will help to ensure that residents of new developments will have good physical access to basic health care facilities. The Core Strategy includes a policy section on health and wellbeing and allows for developer contributions to be sought for health care facilities. As such, although no allocations are proposed for these uses, new development should help to support local needs for health care provision.
- 7.13 There are also strong synergies with other Core Strategy policies, the implementation of which will be supported through the development of sites. For example, the policy on Green Infrastructure (CS8.1) - Green Infrastructure can help to maintain a feeling of health and well-being and new development will help to provide new or improve existing green infrastructure; CS10.1 Accessing services - this aims to promote walking and cycling links, supported through new development, which in turn have health benefits. The development of housing sites is likely to increase demand for places at doctors' surgeries and other health facilities. This may result in a need for further capacity, the provision of which will be heavily dependent on other partners.

To create vibrant, active, inclusive and open-minded communities with a strong sense of local history

- 7.14 The SA assessed each site for its accessibility to a village hall or other civic building and a range of other services and facilities including culture and leisure facilities as well as assessing sites' locations in relation to existing communities. Sites have been suggested as proposed allocations taking into account the results of the SA as well as other available evidence. A range of Core Strategy policies will support this objective and help to ensure that new developments contribute to creating vibrant, active and inclusive communities. A range of economic policies such as CS7.5 will help to ensure that developments contribute to vibrant and active settlement centres, whilst other policies such as CS8.2 and CS9.1 will contribute to maintaining an active, inclusive, open minded communities and an appreciation of local distinctiveness.

To protect and enhance biodiversity

- 7.15 The SA assessed each site against information on the location and type of biodiversity resource, such as designated sites of special scientific importance or records of the presence of particular species. Sites have been suggested as proposed allocations taking into account the results of the SA as well as other available evidence. This will help to ensure that new developments avoid or minimise negative impacts upon biodiversity and maximise any potential benefits. It is the case however that some negative impacts may not be avoidable and it is not possible to assess sites in this way in relation to none designated biodiversity resources as these are not available in a spatial format such as GIS.
- 7.16 Core Strategy policy CS8.4 specifically seeks to protect and enhance the biodiversity assets of the District. Where development may affect biodiversity or conservation, the policy requires that action will be taken to ensure that species and habitats will be protected and new habitats created where possible. This objective will be further supported through the process of Appropriate Assessment, which has been undertaken on all sites considered⁹.

To conserve and enhance landscape quality and character

- 7.17 The SA assessed each site against potential landscape impacts based on the size of the site and the character and topography of the landscape. Where sites are within the AONB, this and the special landscape character of the AONB were taken into account in scoring them in terms of landscape impacts. Sites have been proposed as proposed allocations taking into account the results of the SA as well as other available evidence. This will help to ensure that new developments avoid or minimise negative impacts upon landscape character and maximise any potential benefits, such as redevelopment of brownfield sites. The Core Strategy includes policy CS8.2 on the protection and enhancement of landscape and settlement character to ensure that these are not harmed by development. The development needs in the District will mean that many new dwellings will have to be built on greenfield land and this will mean that there will inevitably be some impacts on the landscape. However, careful site selection and

⁹ Appropriate Assessment is required under the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) for any proposed plan or project which may have a significant effect on one or more European sites and which is not necessary for the management of those sites. See associated Appropriate Assessment documents for the South Lakeland Allocations of Land DPD.

consideration of the design and scale of new development sites will help to minimise these impacts.

To improve the quality of the built environment

- 7.17 The SA assessed each site against potential impacts on the built environment, based on the size and scale of the site, the character of the surrounding built environment and potential impacts of the site's development on nearby listed buildings or scheduled monuments. Sites have been proposed as proposed allocations taking into account the results of the SA as well as other available evidence. This will help to ensure that new developments avoid or minimise negative impacts upon landscape character and maximise any potential benefits, such as redevelopment of brownfield sites. Whilst there is potential for new developments to impact negatively on the built environment, policies in the Core Strategy such as CS8.6 on the Historic Environment and CS8.10 on Design will support the contribution to the site selection process made by the SA and will further ensure that new developments enhance the quality of the built environment.

To improve local air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote renewable energy and energy efficiency and reduce the need to travel

- 7.18 The SA assessed each site against its accessibility to a range of services and facilities, the likely impacts that developing it would have on air quality and also against its potential for any development to incorporate renewable energy or energy efficiency measures. Sites closer to services and facilities are considered to be more sustainable, as the need to travel and distance required to reach them is reduced. Judgements on air quality impacts and opportunities for energy efficiency and renewables were based on the location, size and scale of the site and the proximity of the site to renewable energy opportunities such as rivers and streams for hydro electric power.
- 7.19 Sites have been proposed as proposed allocations taking into account the results of the SA as well as other available evidence, such as the findings of site visits. This will help to ensure that new developments avoid or minimise negative impacts upon air quality and that opportunities for energy efficiency and renewables are recognised.
- 7.20 Development will inevitably have an impact on this objective through increased car journeys, use and greenhouse gas emissions. However, development should contribute to an increase in the use of renewable energy technologies in the District and will provide opportunities for the incorporation of energy efficiency measures. Specific policies are set out in the Core Strategy to support this including CS1.1 Sustainable Development Principles, CS7.7 Opportunities provided by energy and the low carbon economy, CS8.7 Sustainable construction, energy efficiency and renewable energy and CS10.1 on Accessing Services, which seeks to reduce the need to travel.

To improve water quality and water resources

- 7.21 The SA assessed each site against information on fluvial and surface water flood risk and against comments received from United Utilities regarding water supply capacity, presence of water supply/sewerage capacity apparatus and wastewater/sewerage capacity. Sites have been proposed as proposed allocations taking into account the results of the SA as well as other available evidence. This will help to ensure that sites with significant and/or insurmountable flood risk, water supply or sewerage capacity constraints can be avoided or appropriate measures incorporated to reduce such constraints as part of new development.
- 7.22 New development is likely to increase demands on existing water and wastewater capacity and can affect flood risk through the alteration of drainage and run-off regimes.

Policies in the Core Strategy will further ensure that new developments do not negatively impact upon flood risk and water quality and resources; CS8.1 Green Infrastructure, CS8.5 Coast, CS8.7 Sustainable construction, energy efficiency and renewable energy, CS8.8 Development and Flood Risk.

To restore and protect land and soil

- 7.23 The SA assessed each site against whether or not they are greenfield or brownfield and whether or not they fall within or outside existing development boundaries, thus assessing the potential take-up of greenfield land by sites and their impact on the land footprint of settlements. Sites have been proposed as proposed allocations taking into account the results of the SA as well as other available evidence and the approach set out in the Core Strategy, which gives priority to previously developed land for development and requires that ensure that the countryside outside settlements is protected from development unless proposals serve a specific need such as those of farming and forestry. It is inevitable however given the level of identified need for new development in the District and the low number of brownfield sites in the District that significant greenfield land will have to be allocated for development.

To manage mineral resources sustainably, minimise waste and encourage recycling

- 7.24 The SA assessed each site against its accessibility to recycling bring sites and their potential to utilise recycled building materials in their construction. Sites have been proposed as proposed allocations taking into account the results of the SA as well as other available evidence. New development will inevitably increase the area's waste production but in addition to recycling bring site provision, a District-wide doorstep recycling scheme for paper, glass and cans is in place and new developments will be incorporated into this service. Prioritising brownfield sites for development should mean that opportunities for the use of recycled materials in construction are maximised. Core Strategy policy CS8.9 on Minerals and Waste will help to support this.

To retain existing jobs and create new employment opportunities & To improve access to jobs

- 7.25 The SA assessed each site against its accessibility to existing employment areas and to further and higher education opportunities and training facilities. Sites have been proposed as proposed allocations taking into account the results of the SA as well as other available evidence. New development will help to support the retention of existing jobs by ensuring employer confidence in the availability of a workforce through the provision of housing for a range of needs, enabling those of working age to stay in the area and will encourage the creation of new employment opportunities by attracting new businesses to the area, for example through developing new premises and new market opportunities. New development will help to improve access to jobs as sites for new development will be selected taking into account the SA results in terms of accessibility to employment areas. In addition, new development will help to provide new employment areas and expand existing areas, thus further helping to improve access to jobs as well as stimulating further business demand and interest. New development will also help to support the viability of existing training and further/higher education facilities and potentially create demand for new courses strengthening of the local skills base. Several Core Strategy policies will help to support this objective, including CS7.1 Meeting the employment requirement, CS7.2, Type of employment land required and sectoral split, CS7.3, Education and Skills, CS7.4, Rural economy and CS7.7, Opportunities provided by energy and the low carbon economy.

To diversify and strengthen the local economy

- 7.26 As in relation to retaining existing jobs and creating new employment opportunities and improving access to jobs, the SA assessed each site against its accessibility to existing employment areas and to further and higher education opportunities and training facilities. Sites have been proposed as proposed allocations taking into account the results of the SA as well as other available evidence. New development will help to diversify and strengthen the local economy, for example by enabling existing business to expand into new premises, attracting new businesses and supporting the strengthening of the local skills base and supporting rural and/or start-up businesses. Several Core Strategy policies will help to support this objective, including CS7.1 Meeting the employment requirement, CS7.2, Type of employment land required and sectoral split, CS7.3, Education and Skills, CS7.4, Rural economy, CS7.5, Town Centre and Retail Strategy, CS7.6, Tourism Development and CS7.7, Opportunities provided by energy and the low carbon economy.

Mitigation and Maximising Benefits

- 7.27 The Land Allocations document should, when finalised, provide a proposed set of sites for development that represents the most sustainable option for the future development of the District. The set of proposed allocations is based on the sound spatial development principles set out in the Core Strategy and on the results of a thorough assessment of the available evidence, including site visits, consultation with the public and key stakeholders and the results of Appropriate Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal.

In all settlements, there were sites that scored well overall and others that scored less well. Individually, almost all sites scored well against some criteria, indicating a positive contribution to sustainability objectives in those areas, and less well against others, showing areas where there would be potential negative impacts. A small number of sites were given no negative scores.

- 7.28 Overall, sites generally scored more positively on accessibility criteria such as access to a village hall, shop, schools, health services, recycling facilities, jobs, open spaces and culture and leisure facilities and the sustainability objectives they represent and less well on impact criteria such as impact on landscape, built environment, air quality and the take-up of greenfield land and the sustainability objectives they represent (See Sections 6 and 7 of the SA Scoping Report (January 2012) for details of which criteria relate to which sustainability objectives).
- 7.29 Potential mitigation measures at a settlement level have been identified in the summary of SA scores provided for each settlement at Appendix 1. These identify where site's scores show that in that settlement and surrounding area, there is a lack of a particular facility e.g. if all the sites in a settlement score poorly in terms of access to a village hall, it is recommended that the settlement would benefit from local provision of such a facility. The identification of where settlements are lacking in particular facilities could be used to inform requirements to be incorporated if development were to take place on sites within that settlement e.g. developer contributions could be sought towards particular services based on this information. At a settlement level, in order to maximise benefits, the sites scoring most positively overall should be selected, however, it is recognised that the SA cannot assess all aspects that need to be considered in the selection of sites for development and as such, other evidence must also be taken into account.
- 7.30 On an individual site basis, a similar approach can be taken to identify areas where mitigation may be required or where benefits could be maximised. Many opportunities for mitigation of the impacts and maximising the sustainability benefits of proposed

allocations are detailed in the tables assessing each site in the fact files. For example, if a site scores poorly on access to open spaces, requiring new open space provision as part of any future development on that site would improve that site's sustainability in relation to sustainability objective SP2. In order to maximise the benefits of a particular site, positive scores could be looked at to assess where there might be scope for that score to be improved. For example, if a site scored one tick against access to transport (measured by proximity to a bus service and the frequency of that service), it could be considered whether there is scope for changes to the bus route or additional stops; if a site scored single tick for energy efficiency and renewables (measured by the site's potential to incorporate such measures), it would indicate a need to ensure that that potential was investigated and, if feasible/viable, secured in the development of that site.

- 7.31 Despite the best intentions of any Local Planning Authority, it will not always be possible to secure development sites that meet all policy criteria or fulfil all aspects of sustainability, and frequently when decisions are made in relation to new developments, difficult choices will have to be made.
- 7.32 The major challenge was to identify a set of sites for development in the Land Allocations document that will secure the most appropriate and most sustainable available solution, minimising adverse impacts and maximising any potentially positive effects.

8 Recommendations

General

- 8.1 The results of the appraisal have highlighted the fact that there are many issues to be considered when seeking to identify the most appropriate and sustainable sites for development and that it is unlikely that any site will be perfect and have no potential for negative impacts on some aspect or other of sustainability. What must be achieved is the identification of those sites that offer the most sustainable solution to the development needs of the District. This can be done by taking into account not only the SA results, but the wider strategy, vision and objectives set out in the Core Strategy and all the other evidence available to and gathered by the Council through site visits, consultation with communities and other stakeholders, evidence base studies and Appropriate Assessment, before using that information to strike an appropriate balance between the many factors, issues and aspects that must be considered.
- 8.2 It should be remembered at all times that the Land Allocations document should be considered alongside the Core Strategy and that identified likely impacts of individual sites should be considered alongside the policies set out in that document, as it is the policies of the Core Strategy that potential sites for development would be required to comply with in order to achieve planning consent. For example, although a site might score poorly in relation to potential impact on the landscape or built environment, there are policies in the Core Strategy that would require the design, layout and type of new development on that site to take impacts on the landscape and built environment into account and thus minimise, mitigate or avoid any negative impacts.

Recommendation 1

- 8.3 Mitigation measures and opportunities for the maximisation of benefits can be identified using the site SA scores and summaries at a settlement level. It should be ensured that where particular impacts or lack of access to certain facilities are identified in particular settlements, measures to address this are considered in development briefs or requirements to be incorporated into the requirements of development of selected sites. Similarly, where sites scored 'neutral' or 'moderate positive', opportunities to increase the score and thus maximise sustainability benefits should be investigated and incorporated into development briefs or recommendations/requirements for the selected sites.

Recommendation 2

- 8.4 Mitigation measures and opportunities for the maximisation of benefits can be identified using the SA scores at an individual site level. It should be ensured that where a site's scores have demonstrated particular sustainability issues, these are considered in development briefs or requirements to be incorporated into the development of selected sites. Where sites scored 'neutral' or 'moderate positive', opportunities to increase the score and thus maximise sustainability benefits should also be investigated, and if feasible/viable incorporated into development briefs or recommendations/requirements for the selected sites.

Recommendation 3

- 8.5 Sites scored better generally on access criteria and less well generally on impact criteria. It is recommended that it is made clear in the final Land Allocations document that sites and their SA scores need to be considered alongside the Core Strategy. This will demonstrate that although sites may have scored less well overall on some criteria, these issues will be addressed at planning application stage as sites would be required to accord with the policies in the Core Strategy.

Recommendation 4

- 8.6 The SA is only one aspect of many that must be considered in the selection of sites for development. It is recommended that it is made clear in the final Land Allocations document that the sites selected offer the most appropriate available solution to the development needs of the District on the basis of having taken into account not only the SA results, but the wider strategy, vision and objectives set out in the Core Strategy and all the other evidence and information available to and gathered by the Council through site visits, consultation, evidence base studies and Appropriate Assessment.

Recommendation 5

- 8.7 It is recommended that the SA results are fully taken into account when making the final selection of sites for development. However, this should be done taking into account the issues highlighted on pages 16 and 17 and also taking full account of all the other evidence and information available to and gathered by the Council through site visits, consultation, evidence base studies and Appropriate Assessment.

9 Implementation and Monitoring

Implementation

- 9.1 Implementation of the Land Allocations DPD will be the key not only to the success of the policies and proposals within it but importantly, of those in the Core Strategy too. A number of key issues will be crucial to the successful implementation of the Land Allocations DPD and thus of the Core Strategy including:
- The need for a positive working relationship with key partners, on whom the Council will rely heavily to deliver many of the significant positive effects identified and also to help to address/overcome any negative effects;
 - The need for a strong commitment to the sustainable development principles and other policies set out in the Core Strategy to ensure that new developments deliver the positive effects identified and help to meet the strategic objectives;
 - The need for judgements to be made in relation to the value of the potential overall benefits of individual schemes and to the weight that should be given to particular positive or negative effects of individual sites or schemes.
- 9.2 The implementation of the policies and proposals in the Land Allocations DPD will need to take place in the context of the LDF as a whole. For example, other DPDs such as the Core Strategy must be fully taken into account when proposals are developed to ensure that development of proposed sites does not conflict with the overall objectives it is trying to achieve. SPDs (or similar supplementary documents) may be prepared to provide additional guidance on aspects such as design.
- 9.3 The Land Allocations DPD will need to give careful consideration to specific site selection, to ensure that the new developments that arise from the sites contribute as greatly as possible to the meeting of the strategic objectives as sustainably as possible.
- 9.4 Many assumptions have been made in carrying out the SA process and it is recognised that SA is a tool that should help to both identify adverse effects to be addressed but also help to maximise positive effects across a range of sustainability issues, ensuring a positive contribution to the sustainable development of the District into the foreseeable future. It must be recognised however that individual aspects of development and individual sites can not be expected to fulfil all sustainability objectives and difficult choices have to be made in order to secure the best available solution.

Monitoring

- 9.5 A key element of the SA process is to establish how the significant effects resulting from the implementation of the DPD can be monitored.
- 9.6 The proposed allocations and draft Land Allocations DPD have been based on a comprehensive review of the baseline information available, a thorough review of policies, programmes and plans at all levels and sound spatial development principles and Core Strategy policies.
- 9.7 The SA process adopted has contributed to the selection of the sites proposed as proposed allocations and it is therefore considered that the sites proposed and emerging DPD as a whole should make a net positive contribution to the sustainable development of South Lakeland. The proposals should result in primarily significant positive effects, and although a number of negative effects have also been identified these should be minimised through the policies in the Core Strategy, with which new development proposals when implemented (developed) must comply.

- 9.8 A wide range of potential indicators were identified in the Scoping Report and whilst many of these are based on data already collected at District level, it is recognised that further work may be required to ensure full collection of appropriate data by appropriate bodies. Key partners and stakeholders are invited to contribute to this process and the overall aims and methods for monitoring will be finalised on adoption of the Land Allocations DPD. Indicators will be assessed each year as part of the Council's Annual Monitoring Report.
- 9.9 Monitoring will aim to identify and assess any unforeseen significant effects and measure predicted significant effects. Methods will be developed to keep the data up to date, identify trends and add to the data where appropriate. Any predicted adverse effects will be responded to by seeking to implement mitigation measures, including those proposed as a result of the SA, at the earliest possible opportunity. Unforeseen effects will require mitigation measures to be sought and implemented as quickly as possible.