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## **Sustainability Appraisal**

Uttoxeter Neighbourhood Plan (UNP)

Uttoxeter Town Council and  
Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

July 2016



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## 1. Purpose of this document

- 1.1. This sustainability appraisal has been prepared in support of the Uttoxeter Neighbourhood Plan (UNP).
- 1.2. At the beginning of this process, the Neighbourhood Plans Vision and objective were subjected to detailed screening and scoping study. This document now concludes the process by considering the eventual plan and its complete policies prior to submission to the LPA.
- 1.3. This document looks to the sustainability objectives set out by the adopted East Staffordshire Local Plan (2015) to produce sustainability objectives to consider the policies developed for the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.4. Uttoxeter is a Town located approximately 15 miles east of Stoke-on-Trent, and 20 miles south-west from Derby within East Staffordshire.
- 1.5. This document therefore seeks to link the neighbourhood plan in sustainability terms with the adopted Local Plan to steer the sustainability appraisal.
- 1.6. It is important that the methodology chosen is robust, but also proportionate taking account of the fact that the UNP does not seek to allocate sites, and is for a discrete area.
- 1.7. The sustainability appraisal will be carried out using the following broad method:
  - Stage 1 – Analysis of Sustainability Objectives of the adopted Local Plan.

- Stage 2 – Formulation of sustainability objectives for the Uttoxeter Neighbourhood Plan which take their lead from those set out in the Local Plan but are tailored to the local scale and characteristics of town.
- Stage 3 – Assessment of the Uttoxeter Neighbourhood Plan Vision and Objectives against the newly created Sustainability Objectives.
- Stage 4 – Assessment of the Uttoxeter Neighbourhood Plan policies with the newly created Sustainability Objectives.
- Stage 5 – Identification of areas where potential conflicts have been identified (as required)
- Stage 6 – Conclusion as to the overall compatibility of the Neighbourhood Plan with its Sustainability Objectives and the delivery of sustainable development.

### **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)**

- 1.8. ESBC have undertaken a SEA screening exercise and concluded that no SEA would not be required for this Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.9. For further detail on this and for the SEA Screening Report please see the Environmental Assessment Statement submitted in support of the Neighbourhood Plan.

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## 2. Setting the sustainability objectives

2.1. East Staffordshire Revised Sustainability Report (2014) specifies 12 sustainability objectives, covering key sustainability themes. For the purpose of this document East Staffordshire's sustainability objectives have been labelled ES01 to ES012.

2.2. The sustainable objectives which have been developed for the Uttoxeter Neighbourhood Plan are based closely on these sustainability objectives and are therefore labelled UNP01 to UNP012.

2.3. The East Staffordshire objectives are as follows:

- ES01- Housing: To provide a suitable mix of decent housing available and affordable to everyone
- ES02 - Economy: To achieve a prosperous and diverse economy, encourage high and stable levels of employment and sustain economic competitiveness.
- ES03- Transportation: To reduce the need to travel, encourage more sustainable modes of transport and make best use of existing transport infrastructure.
- ES04- Climate change, energy and air quality: To reduce the causes and impacts of climate change, improve air quality, promote energy efficiency and encourage the use of renewable energy.
- ES05 - High quality design and sustainability: To encourage sustainable design and

practice and create a high quality built environment.

- ES06 - Green infrastructure and open space: To protect, enhance and provide new Green Infrastructure assets.
- ES07 - Town centre: To sustain the vitality and viability of Burton and Uttoxeter town centres.
- ES08 - Rural communities: To sustain vibrant rural communities.
- ES09 - Flood risk: To reduce and manage the risk of flooding which would be detrimental to the public wellbeing, the economy and the environment.
- ES10 - Use of land: To deliver more sustainable use of land in more sustainable locations.
- ES011 - Natural resources: To ensure the prudent use of natural resources and the sustainable management of existing resources.
- ES012 - Quality of life: To improve the quality of life, including the health, safety and wellbeing of those living and working in the borough.

2.4. This concludes stage 1 of the methodology outlined.

### **The Uttoxeter Sustainability Objectives**

2.5. Clear themes are apparent within the sustainability objectives set for East Staffordshire. These themes form the basis of the Uttoxeter sustainability objectives (UNP-

SO). They have been expanded upon to create 12 sustainability objectives for the town.

2.6. In undertaking this process regard has been had to the wider plans, programmes and policies specific to Uttoxeter, as well as a thorough assessment of the social, environmental and economic conditions which are fully outlined in the accompanying technical baseline.

2.7. The Uttoxeter Neighbourhood Plan sustainability objectives are as follows with reference to the East Staffordshire objectives shown in brackets:

- UNP01 – Housing (*ES01, ES05*) Meeting the housing needs and wants of the town's population, providing a suitable mix of high quality decent housing available and affordable to everyone with an appropriate mix to meet demographic trends
- UNP02 – Market Town Economy (*ES02, ES08*) To support a prosperous and diverse local economy and increase overall employment and economic growth at a level appropriate building on the town's role as a service centre and market town.
- UNP03 – Sustainable Transport (*ES03, ES04, ES05, ES07*) To reduce the need to travel, encourage sustainable modes of travel and make best use of existing transport infrastructure within the town and to key destinations (Burton, Derby and Stoke), in turn accessing and supporting the vitality and viability of the town centres..
- UNP04 – High Quality Design (*ES01, ES05*) To encourage high quality, sustainable design and to seek the creation of a high quality built

environment within the town respecting and enhancing the local built character.

- UNP05 – Heritage and Historic Environment (*ES05*) To protect and enhance the rich townscape fabric and wealth of historic buildings, archaeological sites and cultural features of importance to the community, including the wider cultural landscape, whilst protecting and maintaining vulnerable assets.
- UNP06 – Landscape (*ES06, ES010, ES011*) To protect, maintain and enhance the rural character and appearance of the landscape and townscape quality of Uttoxeter by maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness, visual amenity, landscape character, especially the river valleys and the sense of place these create.
- UNP07 – Flood Risk and Water Quality (*ES04, ES09, ES010*) To prioritise and at all times consider the safety and wellbeing of new and existing parish residents by reducing and managing the risk of flooding that would be detrimental to the local community whilst also ensuring the water quality of the towns rivers is maintained and enhanced.
- UNP08 – Community Facilities and Open Space (*ES06, ES08, ES011, ES012*) To protect and enhance existing community facilities within Newborough as well as provide new green infrastructure assets, open space areas and high quality facilities for the local community.
- UNP09 – Vibrant Communities (*ES08, ES012*) To sustain Uttoxeter as a vibrant market town community and promote a high

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quality of life for all who live, work and visit the town.

- UNP10 – Biodiversity and Geodiversity (*ES011*) To protect biodiversity and geodiversity within the town through protection, enhancement and management of habitats and their associated species with specific regard to river valleys.
- UNP11 – Climate Change, Energy and Air Quality (*ES04, ES05*) To seek to reduce the causes and impacts of climate change, improve air quality, promote energy efficiency, reduce emissions and encourage the use of renewable energy and sustainable transport by reducing reliance on the private car.
- UNP12 – Limited Resources (*ES011*) To ensure the effective use of natural and limited resources within the parish and manage these resources in a sustainable manner, e.g. land and energy.

2.8. This concludes stage 2 of the methodology outlined.

## 3. Sustainability Appraisal

### Detailed Assessment Methodology

- 3.1. Appendix 01 shows the full details of the sustainability appraisal undertaken for the vision, objectives and policies in the Uttoxeter Neighbourhood Plan. These are set out in tabular format, or matrix, to ensure that where possible all the sustainability objectives are addressed in some part.
- 3.2. Within the sustainability matrix each of the elements described above, were considered against the twelve sustainability objectives to check that there were no serious conflicts and that the policies and objectives set would have a positive influence or effect wider sustainability.
- 3.3. Each vision, objective and policy is assessed on a five point scale as shown below:

Strong Positive Influence or Effect	<b>2</b>
Positive Influence or Effect	<b>1</b>
Neutral Influence or Effect	<b>0</b>
Negative Influence or Effect	<b>-1</b>
Strong Negative Influence or Effect	<b>-2</b>

- 3.4. For a score of 2 to be given, the policy or objective must directly address a particular sustainability objective. For example, a policy dealing with sustainable transport would likely 2 against the sustainable transport sustainability objective.

- 3.5. In many cases, the impact will be neutral, as the sustainability objective and the policy topic may be completely unrelated. However, care must be taken to ensure that residual effects (for example effects of surface runoff from new developments) are not ignored.
- 3.6. Not all of the objectives will be relevant to all of the policies however, it is important that the vision, objectives and policies each meet at least one objective. The table in Appendix 3 demonstrates that the neighbourhood plan as a whole will contribute positively to the meeting of all of the sustainability objectives.


### Findings

- 3.7. All of the objectives and policies tested arrived at a positive score with only objective 7 being notable for possible negative impacts. This is to be expected given the number of new houses and the scale of the developments / allocations proposed as part of the Local Plan.
- 3.8. The development of new homes is likely to have a negative effect on green infrastructure biodiversity and the wider landscape given that all of the large strategic sites are currently greenfield in nature. However, policies within this plan, and the local plan act as a 'check' to this possible negative impact.
- 3.9. In the main, many of the policies developed are predicted to have a strong positive benefit to achieve the sustainability objectives. The plan positively addresses objectives UNP02 and UNP09 which is to be expected given the overarching vision and the spatial strategy developed to guide the policies.
- 3.10. This completed items 2 and 4 of the methodology.



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## 4. Conclusion

- 4.1. Overall, the assessment identifies a limited number of potential conflicts with the sustainability objectives.
- 4.2. The policies, objectives and the vision are considered to comply with the UNP Sustainability Objectives and subsequently those set globally by the ES Local Plan (2015). As a result stage 5 of the methodology is considered to not be required in this instance.
- 4.3. In areas where a specific conflict occurs, it is considered that policies and programmes at the local level are able to satisfactorily address these concerns. The Neighbourhood Plan will work alongside the guidance in the East Staffordshire Local Plan, and decisions made considering both documents, as such the Neighbourhood Plan should not repeat guidance or controls elsewhere.
- 4.4. As a result, it is considered that the UNP (its vision, objectives and policies) positively contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development in line with the requirements set by the Basic Conditions of the Town and County Planning Act 1990. 



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Appendix 01: Appraisal Matrix

**Uttoxeter Sustainability Appraisal Table**

Strong positive influence / effect	2
Positive influence / effect	1
Neutral influence / effect	0
Negative influence / effect	-1
Strong negative influence / effect	-2

**UNP Sustainability Objective**

<b>UNP01 – Housing: Meeting the housing needs and wants of the town's population, providing a suitable mix of high quality decent housing available and affordable to everyone with an appropriate mix to meet demographic trends.</b>	<b>UNP02 – Market Town Economy: To support a prosperous and diverse local economy and employment and economic growth at a level appropriate building on the town's role as a service centre and market town.</b>	<b>UNP03 – Sustainable Transport: To reduce the need to travel, encourage sustainable modes of travel and make best use of existing transport infrastructure within the town and to key destinations (Burton, Derby and Stoke), in turn accessing and supporting the vitality and viability of the town centres.</b>	<b>UNP04 – High Quality Design: To encourage high quality, sustainable design and to seek the creation of a high quality built environment within the town respecting and enhancing the local built character.</b>	<b>UNP05 – Heritage and Historic Environment: To protect and enhance the rich townscape fabric and wealth of historic buildings, archaeological sites and cultural features of importance to the community, including the wider cultural landscape, whilst protecting and maintaining vulnerable assets.</b>	<b>UNP06 – Landscape: To protect, maintain and enhance the rural character and appearance of the landscape and townscape quality of Uttoxeter by maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness, visual amenity, landscape character, especially the river valleys and the sense of place these create.</b>	<b>UNP07 – Flood Risk and Water Quality: To prioritise and at all times consider the safety and wellbeing of new and existing parish residents by reducing and managing the risk of flooding that would be detrimental to the local community whilst also ensuring the water quality of the towns rivers is maintained and enhanced.</b>	<b>UNP08 – Community Facilities and Open Space: To protect and enhance existing community facilities within Newborough as well as provide new green infrastructure assets, open space areas and high quality facilities for the local community.</b>	<b>UNP09 – Vibrant Communities: To sustain Uttoxeter as a vibrant market town community and promote a high quality of life for all who live, work and visit the town.</b>	<b>UNP10 – Biodiversity and Geodiversity: To protect biodiversity and geodiversity within the town through protection, enhancement and management of habitats and their associated specie with specific regard to river valleys.</b>	<b>UNP11 – Climate Change, Energy and Air Quality: To seek to reduce the causes and impacts of climate change, improve air quality, promote energy efficiency, reduce emissions and encourage the use of renewable energy and sustainable transport by reducing reliance on the private car.</b>	<b>UNP12 – Limited Resources: To ensure the effective use of natural and limited resources within the parish and manage these resources in a sustainable manner, e.g. land and energy.</b>
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Total

<b>Vision</b> Uttoxeter strives to be an attractive and friendly historic market town with a vibrant and bustling town centre, offering excellent opportunities for housing, employment and education, located within a highly valued rural landscape setting and supported by appropriate infrastructure.	2	2	1	1	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	11
<b>Objectives</b> <b>1 - TOWN CENTRE</b> To rejuvenate Uttoxeter's centre, increasing footfall by making it a more attractive place to visit, shop and hold community events.	0	2	0	2	2	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	9
<b>2. DESIGN &amp; HERITAGE</b> Safeguard the quality of the built environment and heritage assets that can be celebrated as a key part of Uttoxeter's history, character and identity.	2	2	1	2	2	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	13
<b>3. BUSINESS &amp; ECONOMY</b> To promote and protect economic activity appropriate to the character of Uttoxeter and encourage job opportunities, particularly for the young.	0	2	2	2	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	10
<b>4. TRANSPORT</b> To improve and retain key local connections to ensure that there is appropriate transport infrastructure and improved public transport to meet the proposed growth of Uttoxeter.	1	2	2	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	12
<b>5. LEISURE &amp; RECREATION</b> The plan will support the delivery of improved and new leisure and recreation facilities, specifically sports pitches and amenities for young people where they are easily accessible to residential areas and offer opportunities for health and exercise.	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	15
<b>6. ENVIRONMENT</b> To support, protect and enhance Uttoxeter's rural character and landscape value.	0	1	0	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	16
<b>7. HOUSING</b> To provide the right mix and type of new housing to meet the particular needs of Uttoxeter, supported by appropriate infrastructure, whilst enhancing the character and identity of the town.	2	1	1	2	2	-1	-1	1	1	-1	-1	-1	5
<b>8. COMMUNITY FACILITIES</b> To provide additional community facilities and opportunities for wider community uses, particularly for young people, older people, and for sports and activities.	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	6
<b>Policies</b>													
<b>A - Town Centre Policies</b>													
Policy TC1 – Shop Frontages	0	2	0	2	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	8
Policy TC2 – Key Town Centre Sites	0	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	7
Policy TC3 – Other Sites	0	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	10
Policy TC4 – Outdoor Spaces	0	2	0	2	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	
<b>B - Design and Heritage Policies</b>													
Policy D1 – Residential Design	2	2	1	2	2	-1	0	0	1	0	0	0	7
Policy D2 – Non-residential Development	0	2	1	2	2	-1	0	0	1	0	0	0	11
Policy D3 – Space between buildings	2	2	1	2	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	8
Policy D4 – Heritage Assets	0	2	0	2	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	
<b>C - Business and Economic Policies</b>													
Policy T1 – Sustainable Transport	0	2	2	1	1	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	10
Policy T2 – Links to the Town Centre	1	2	2	1	1	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	
Policy T3 – Parking Standards	0	2	2	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	
Policy T4 – Traffic and the Town Centre	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	
Policy T5 – Railway Provision	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	7
Policy T6 – Electric Communication	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	7
<b>D - Leisure and Recreation Policies</b>													
Policy L1 – The Uttoxeter Racecourse	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	7
Policy L2 – Local Green Spaces	0	1	0	0	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	16
Policy L3 – Public Open Space	1	1	0	0	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	17
Policy L4 – Cultural Activities	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	7
<b>E - Environment Policies</b>													
Policy E1 – Uttoxeter's Network of Green Infrastructure	0	2	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	20
Policy E2 – Landscape and Setting	0	2	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	20
Policy E3 – Green Links	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	23
<b>F - Housing Policies</b>													
Policy H1 – Housing on Brownfield Sites	2	2	2	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	2	2	15
Policy H2 – Housing Mix and Standards	2	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	9
<b>G - Community Policies</b>													
Policy C1 – Community Hubs	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	6
Policy C2 – Health Provision	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	6
Policy C3 – Education and Childcare Provision	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	6



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