

Appendix 2 – Summary of responses to the Core Spatial Strategy Sustainability Appraisal

Comments from Environment Agency

Source of Response	Summary of Response	Action
Environment Agency	Include following in Appendices A/B: - Stoke-on-Trent Rivers Strategy; River Trent Strategy (EA); 'The Climate is Changing: Time to Get Ready' (EA); State of the Environment Report 2001 (EA); Policy Regarding Culverts (EA); Policy and Practice for the Protection of Groundwater (EA); Water Framework Directive	All included in updated Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report
Environment Agency	Include following indicator in Appendix C: Number of planning applications approved against EA advice on flood risk grounds	Included as additional indicator in all subsequent SA reports

Source of Response	Summary of Response	Action
Environment Agency	Ensure that key sustainability issues (Appendix D) are sub-headed or numbered	Appendix D of SA Scoping Report amended accordingly
Environment Agency	Amendments to the issues within Appendix D relating to: Climate change; Land, water and soil quality; and Air quality; As set out in the table below -	All additional issues, objectives and indicators incorporated into all subsequent SA reports

Key Sustainability Issues	Possible Objectives	Possible Indicators
The Borough and City Councils need to contribute to a reduction in greenhouse gases. The Borough and City Councils also need to adapt to future climate change.	To increase the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency in existing and new development and redevelopment.	Amount of development incorporating renewable energy and energy efficiency. Reduction in energy consumption. Percentage of energy created from renewable sources.
	To reduce the amount of development within the floodplain and promote the use of sustainable drainage systems (SUDS).	Number of applications contrary to EA advice on flood risk grounds/ number of applications supporting SUDS

Key Sustainability Issues	Possible Objectives	Possible Indicators
	To increase the efficient use of water resources.	Number of developments incorporating water efficient features.
Land, water and soil are environmentally sensitive resources and should be protected and enhanced.	To restore and protect contaminated and damaged land.	Percentage of developments taking place on brownfield land.
	To improve water quality and meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.	Improvements in water quality.
The Borough and City Councils need to contribute to the improvement of air quality.	To improve air quality, creating cleaner and healthier air. To reduce emissions of chemical pollutants into the air.	Achievement of air quality standards. Detrimental effects on human health, plants and animals minimised. No new air quality effects identified due to the implementation of the plan.

Comments from English Heritage

Source of Response	Summary of Response	Action
English Heritage	Including following in Appendices A/B: 'The Historic Environment: A Force for Our Future' (DCMS); PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development; Regional Visitor Economic Strategy; Any relevant conservation area appraisals	All included in updated Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report
English Heritage	Use following datasets in relation to Appendix C: Number of listed buildings, and number at risk; Number and area of parks and gardens; Number and area of conservation areas; Local lists of buildings of historic and/or archaeological interest, not currently listed; Archaeological features and remains	All incorporated as indicators in subsequent SA reports
English Heritage	Review Appendix D in light of consideration of datasets listed above	Taken into account in updating SA Scoping Report
English Heritage	Regarding indicator on unfit private sector dwellings, clearly differentiate between proportion of dwellings made fit and those demolished, instead of presenting combined total	No change

Comments from Natural England (English Nature)

Source of Response	Summary of Response	Action
English Nature	Include following in Appendices A/B: DEFRA's Public Service Agreement Target; Restoring the Region's Wildlife – Regional Biodiversity Strategy for the West Midlands	Taken into account in updating SA Scoping Report
English Nature	Include following in Appendices C/D, as set out in the tables below:	Taken into account for in subsequent SA reports

Indicator	Quantified Data	Comparators and Targets	Trend	Problem/Issues/Actions
Area of land in SSSIs classified as being in an 'unfavourable' condition	English Nature assess that 62 ha of SSSI land is in a favourable condition, out of a total of 82 ha	Bring 95% of all SSSIs into a favourable condition by 2010	Improving, but a further 20% of SSSI land requires improvement by 2010 to meet target	Diffuse pollution from agriculture in the catchment areas of wetland SSSIs and lack of active scrub management
				Promote environmentally sustainable land use in wetland catchment areas
Number, size and quality of Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)	5 in Stoke, 0 in Newcastle. No available data on condition	LNR provision of 1 ha per thousand population	Requires assessment by LA	Establish LNRs in Newcastle, and identify further sites in Stoke

Indicator	Quantified Data	Comparators and Targets	Trend	Problem/Issues/Actions
Number, size and quality of SBIs and RIGs	No available data		For period 1979-2000, 18% of Grade 1 SBIs in Newcastle had declined to Grade 2, and 12% had been destroyed	Neglect and inappropriate management by owners
				Encourage active favourable management, including via use of conditions/planning obligations
				Ensure effective protection for development via LDF
Accessible, natural green space		At least one green space of 20 ha with in 20 km of home, one 100 ha site within 5 km of home and one 500 ha site within 10 km of home		Increase the number of areas of natural open space
Status of EU and UK protected species	Known distribution data held by Staffs Local Biological Record	Maintain EU protected species at a favourable conservation status in their natural range	Local trends unknown; natural trends known only in a few cases	Loss and decline of quality habitats

Indicator	Quantified Data	Comparators and Targets	Trend	Problem/Issues/Actions
				Presence of species not known about prior to development
				Provision of adequate, long-term mitigation measures
				Changing patterns of land use in the countryside
Farmland birds	Known distribution data held by Staffs Local Biological Record	Reversal of the long-term decline in the number of farmland birds by 2020	Indicator calculated on the breeding populations of 20 species – collective decline of 40% nationally since mid 1970s, though rate of decline has slowed recently	Agricultural intensification driven by CAP incentives
BAP habitats and species	Individual action plans form part of SBAP	Prevent further loss and degradation of wild places, and reverse trends of fragmentation and isolation by enhancing areas and restoring these to semi-natural habitats	National trends show 6 habitats and 25 species are increasing	

Indicator	Quantified Data	Comparators and Targets	Trend	Problem/Issues/Actions
			6 habitats and 76 species are stable	
			17 habitats are in decline, but this is slowing for 14 of them	
			97 species are in decline, but this is slowing for 30 of them	

Biodiversity Objectives	Indicators
Bring 95% of SSSIs into a favourable condition by 2010	Area and number of SSSIs in a favourable condition
Ensure that there is no loss in the extent and quality of SBIs and RIGs	Percentage loss of SBIs and number of Grade 1 sites downgraded
Increase the amount of accessible natural green space	Combined area of Council owned and other land managed for biodiversity, related to accessibility criteria
	Hectarage of LNR per 1000 head of population

Biodiversity Objectives	Indicators
Retain and enhance species and habitats targeted for improvement in the LBAP	No reduction in the abundance and distribution of protected and BAP species
	Increase in the area of native broadleaved woodland
	Reversal of the long-term decline in the number of farmland birds by 2020
	Maintain and enhance BAP habitats

Other comments

Source of Response	Summary of Response	Action
Highways Agency	Regarding the objective 6, the following indicator should be included: The percentage of new residential development within 400 km of a local bus service	No change
Cllr. Ashley Howells	Include the Kyoto Protocol in Appendix A	Included in updated Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report
	Include the number of ASBOs/ABCs(?) per 1000 households	No change