

Appendix A2 – Sustainability issues, interrelationships and evolution without the Plan

SEA/ SA Topic	Sustainability Issues and Problems	Interrelationships	Evolution without the Plan
Economic Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The unemployment rate for Nuneaton and Bedworth (5.5%) is higher than national (5.1%) but lower than the regional (5.7%) averages. The economic active rate in Nuneaton and Bedworth (69.7%) is lower regional (74.8%) and national (77.8%) averages. Average gross weekly pay in Nuneaton and Bedworth (£488.70) is below the national (£492.50) and regional average (£529.60). Nuneaton and Bedworth is situated in the heart of the motorway network and both towns are easily accessible from the M6, M69, M42, M40, M1 and the A5 running north of Nuneaton. Residential uses within Nuneaton town centre are currently limited. Development and investment is required for the town centres to strengthen their position in light of the potential threats from competing centres. The evening economy is more geared towards younger people in pubs and bars and offers little variety. Enhancements to the A3 offer (restaurants and cafes) are seen as an opportunity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A good economic base creates opportunities for the local population and addresses employment issues and increases quality of life. In direct effects on health and well-being are also noted. Education qualifications have a direct impact on employment and skill development for the local economy. 	<p>Without the implementation of the plan, economic activity and employment rates and the breadth of employment opportunities in the Borough are likely to continue to be lower than regional and national averages as Nuneaton faces competition from adjoining Local Authority/City Areas.</p>
Social Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is very difficult for people to purchase houses, especially first time buyers. There is an annual need for 85 affordable homes across the Borough. There are no green spaces in Nuneaton and Bedworth managed to a Green Flag Award Standard. The Borough has a higher crime rate per 1,000 population than the county average. The number of people attaining NVQ levels 1 – 5 has increased over the past ten years. There has been a significant increase in the number of buildings that are open to the public which are also accessible to disabled people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low levels of education affect economic opportunities and thereby income levels, impacting the social status of people. Good access to various services like schools and health facilities reduce chances of social deprivation. Education, skills and unemployment are inter- related, hence should be assessed in a holistic way. Parks and green spaces make an important contribution to improving the quality of life of 	<p>The policies of the NPPF will still apply without the implementation of the Borough Plan but this will not target specific issues in the Borough regarding the need to ensure that 20-25% of all new homes built in the Borough are affordable and available for local residents.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of visits to the museum has decreased and there is potential to improve the tourist and cultural facilities in the Borough. Poorer perceptions of public safety than the county average. Nuneaton and Bedworth has the highest levels of deprivation in Warwickshire. 	<p>communities and provide a sense of place for local communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality open spaces also contribute to heritage and culture by providing venues for local festivals and civic celebrations, as well as offering a more varied townscape. A network of accessible high quality open spaces and recreation facilities fulfill an important function in terms of the structure of both urban and rural areas. 	
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Borough has 1 European Site, 2 SSSIs, 3 LNRs, 25 SINC. The two SSSI sites in the Borough are in favorable condition. Threat to biodiversity from development, land management and climate change. The Borough has the lowest number of local nature reserves in the County. Nuneaton and Bedworth has a lower accessibility to woodlands than county and regional levels. Threat to biodiversity from non-native species Threat to Ensor's Pool from bio-security risks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The diversity of habitats and species improves the quality of people's lives, health and wellbeing. Opportunities for 'low key' leisure and recreational activities. Contribute to the heritage and urban landscape of the Borough. Contribute to the attraction of the Borough for residents, visitors and potential investors and employees. Improves the sense of wellbeing for both residents and employees. Enhance education and health of residents. 	<p>The policies of the NPPF will still apply without the implementation of the Borough Plan but such sites may become more vulnerable to indirect adverse effects caused by development on adjacent land increasing the threat to the quality of the biodiversity sites.</p>
Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Borough currently has a relatively large working population (16-60) and has a slightly older population than the Warwickshire average. The population is an ageing one, which in future years is likely to create additional social care needs. Population is predicted to increase by 7.6% from 125,409 to 134,889 between 2011 – 2031, which is much lower than the national average at 14.6%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in population size can have a number of inter-related effects, including increased pressure on community facilities and infrastructure, increase of traffic and its effects on congestion and pollution (air and water quality) and increased demand for 	<p>Without the implementation of the plan, the ability of the Borough to plan, provide and fund sufficient homes, employment opportunities, social</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Just over 60% of the population are Christian, which is higher than both the regional and national average. 91.4% of the population in Nuneaton and Bedworth are white, which is higher than West Midlands and England’s average. 	<p>health and other public services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An increase in workforce size could positively affect investment potential and help economic diversity 	<p>care/health facilities (inc. homes) for all its population will be reduced.</p>
Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Male and female life expectancy remain below the England average and is one of the lowest in Warwickshire, although life expectancy in the Borough has increased for both male and females. The level of deprivation in Nuneaton and Bedworth varies widely, with some areas among the most deprived fifth of England areas and some among the least. There is a corresponding difference in life expectancy between least and most deprived areas with a gap of between 7.1 and 10.7 years for men, and between 3.2 and 6.6 years for women. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The benefits of improved human health include a healthy workforce, a reduced burden on social and health services and contributions to the local economy through training and research opportunities. In direct effects on economic output, housing provision/quality and social exclusion are also noted. 	<p>Without the implementation of the plan, the ability of the Borough to plan, provide and fund sufficient social care/health facilities (inc. including homes) for all its population will be reduced and the trends in terms of life expectance will continue.</p>
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The percentage of new homes being built on previously developed land increased from 06/07 to 12/13 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soil resources are key to sustaining life and the agricultural economy. Biodiversity effects are also noted. 	<p>The policies of the NPPF will still apply without the implementation of the Borough Plan but land that is not previously developed may become more vulnerable to development pressures resulting in a loss of soil resources in the Borough.</p>
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There has been a gradual improvement in chemical water quality nationally but this has not mirrored in Nuneaton and Bedworth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change is resulting in more extreme weather conditions and will heighten flood risk and demands on water resources. 	<p>The policies of the NPPF will still apply without the implementation of</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nuneaton and Bedworth has the lowest percentage of good chemical water quality through 2001 and 2006 compared to other local authorities in Warwickshire. The Borough average is significantly lower than both Warwickshire and England. Nuneaton and Bedworth has the lowest percentage of good biological water quality through 2001 to 2006 compared to other local authorities in Warwickshire. The average is significantly lower than both Warwickshire and England. A number of weirs, engineered channels and culverted sections of watercourse in Nuneaton and Bedworth are preventing natural processes from improving the river habitat. These create impoundments; promote sediment and siltation deposits which degrade the habitat affecting WFD status, while also creating barriers to fish movement. Nuneaton and Bedworth has a number of Main River and ordinary watercourses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood risk from watercourses will increase as a result of increasing extreme weather events brought about by climate change. Flood risk is also influenced by upstream land use and watercourse maintenance regimes. New development should pay due regard to supporting the delivery of 'good ecological status', and nil deterioration. 	<p>the Borough Plan but water resources and water quality may become more vulnerable to development pressures resulting in increased flood risk and a loss of water quality in the Borough.</p>
<p>Air</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air pollutant levels in the Borough have steadily decreased and it is anticipated that this trend will continue. Car ownership levels are generally in line with both regional and national averages The majority of people travel to work by car , with 44.0% of the Borough's population travelling to work by car, which is above the national average of 34.9% The number of residents commuting over 30km in the Borough has increased by a third. A high dependency on private car for commuting results in congestion and negative impacts on air quality. A low volume of public transport use is a major contributor to reduced air quality. The National Air Quality Objective for the level of nitrogen dioxide is likely to be exceeded in the declared AQMA around the Leicester Road traffic gyratory system. Around 4,000 residents are commuting over 30km to work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air quality influences human health which affects quality of life. Local residents and businesses experience air quality at the local level, which affects both health and amenity. Increasing public transport use reduces vehicular emissions and in turn CO² emissions. 	<p>The policies of the NPPF will still apply without the implementation of the Borough Plan but actions to encourage a modal shift from the use of the private car in the Borough and provide employment, facilities and services in the Borough to discourage the need to travel will not be</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 49% of the Borough’s population travels to work by car for journeys under 2km. Journeys of this distance are the most likely to be transferred to more sustainable forms of transport. 		achieved.
Climatic Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carbon emissions per capita is lower than regional and national averages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the international, national and local level, climate change is believed to potentially affect the environmental, economic and social aspects of human life. Climate change is likely to lead to extreme weather conditions resulting in a change in heating and cooling requirements and incidences of water shortage 	The policies of the NPPF will apply without the implementation of the Borough Plan and this issue is likely to be less thoroughly addressed.
Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The percentage of household waste being recycled and composted is increasing steadily. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste is recognised as being an opportunity for resource recovery (through re-use and recycling for example). 	Without the implementation of the Plan, the trend is likely to continue as at present in most areas as waste planning and management is a County Matter.
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are two buildings at risk in the Borough which are: Park Farmhouse in Arbury Park and The Tea House in Arbury Park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural heritage contributes to the overall diversity and value of the Borough’s townscape A diverse historical environment also provides economic benefits by helping attract new businesses. 	The policies of the NPPF will still apply without the implementation of the Borough Plan but designated sites may become more vulnerable to development pressures resulting in a loss in the number or quality



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			of heritage assets in the Borough.
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Additional dwellings could place further pressures on the green belt and surrounding landscape.• The countryside surrounding the Borough is protected by green belt, area of restraint or countryside designations, which direct development pressures away from sensitive landscapes and help to protect biodiversity.	<p>Landscape areas provide biodiversity habitats and informal leisure/ recreation opportunities for local residents</p> <p>An attractive landscape also provides indirect economic benefits by helping attract new businesses.</p>	<p>The policies of the NPPF will still apply without the implementation of the Borough Plan but such areas may become more vulnerable to development pressures resulting in a loss in the importance landscape areas in the Borough.</p>